

Interpol says organised gangs behind internet crime boom

May 8 2012, by Steve Weizman



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Speaking to delegates at the opening of the France-based international police agency's European Regional Conference in Tel Aviv, Khoo quoted a study by London's Metropolitan University indicating that "80 percent of crime committed online is now connected to organised gangs operating across borders."

"[Criminal gangs](#) now find that transnational and [cyber crime](#) are far more rewarding and profitable than other, riskier forms of making money," he said.

"Experts have warned that the cost of cyber crime is larger than the combined costs of cocaine, marijuana and heroin trafficking. In Europe, the cost of [cybercrime](#) has apparently reached 750 billion euros (\$979 billion) a year," he said.

Khoo cited [illegal gambling](#) and credit card and banking fraud as examples.

He said that US banks reportedly lost \$900 million (690 million euros) to conventional robbers last year but \$12 billion (9.2 billion euros) to [cyber criminals](#).

He also warned of the dangers to global security of cyber attacks, saying that Interpol itself had been hit by the hacker collective Anonymous.

He said that in Israel "a reported number of over 1,000 cyber attacks take place every minute."

Israel has been undergoing a low-level [cyber war](#) since January, with purportedly Arab attackers targeting many sites, including those of the Tel Aviv stock exchange, the national airline El Al and the fire brigade.

Hackers also posted the credit cards details of tens of thousands of Israelis.

Israeli hackers have launched some counter attacks, although their government has asked them to show restraint.

Israel is hosting the May 8-10 [Interpol](#) European parley for the first

time.

Police chief Yohanan Danino said that Israel joined the organisation in 1949, a year after the foundation of the Jewish state, initially as part of the Asia region, where it is geographically located.

But in 2006 it was accepted into the agency's Europe region, reflecting its main international policing concerns.

"Seventy percent of our police activity is connected to European countries ...countries with which we have diverse ties in many fields," he said.

Israel has diplomatic ties with only Egypt and Jordan among its Arab neighbours.

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