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Money Laundering and Terrorist Financing: A National and International Perspective on Combating Financial Crimes

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Abstract

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Money laundering and terrorist financing have emerged as significant global threats affecting economic stability, financial integrity, and international security. While money laundering historically originated from efforts to conceal proceeds derived from criminal activities, particularly drug trafficking, terrorist financing has developed into a complex phenomenon involving both illegal and legitimate sources of funds. The increasing integration of financial systems, technological developments, and globalization have further intensified these risks.
This study examines the conceptual and legal dimensions of money laundering and terrorist financing from both national and international perspectives. International legal instruments, including the Vienna Convention, Palermo Convention, Warsaw Convention, and European Union Directives, are analyzed alongside the standards established by the Financial Action Task Force (FATF). In addition, the roles of international organizations such as the United Nations, the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank, the OECD, and the Egmont Group are evaluated.
The study also discusses the evolving financing methods of criminal and terrorist organizations, including donations, non-profit organizations, commercial activities, social networks, and illicit financial flows. Particular attention is given to contemporary challenges arising from technological developments, digital financial services, and increasingly sophisticated financial crime techniques.
Using a descriptive and comparative approach, this research aims to contribute to the understanding of

anti-money laundering and counter-terrorist financing mechanisms and to emphasize the importance of international cooperation in combating financial crimes. The findings demonstrate that effective prevention requires not only robust legal frameworks but also strong institutional cooperation and risk-based supervisory approaches.

Keywords: Money Laundering, Terrorist Financing, Financial Crimes, FATF, International Cooperation