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Issue:Fighting Against New Emerging Crimes

Since the beginning of the recorded human history our species has always tried to prevent crimes such as burglary, vandalism and violence from happening. As a result of the development of many new technologies in the last few decades new types of crimes started to take place all around the world. For instance in 2018 researchs published by many diffrent newspapers revealed that Cambridge Analytica an organization associated with Steve Bannon(one of Donald Trump’s formal advisors) had been using the datas of Facebook’s users without their permissions to create and show the users highly personalized political adds in order to change their political views1. Because a loophole in the Facebook’s program had allowed Cambridge Analytica to commit this act Facebook was fined by the U.S. Federal Trade Commision and this scandal came to be known as the one of the cases that shaped the internet.Another scandal in which hunderds of people’s personal information have been used without their aproval is the Pegasus Spyway Scandal. Pegasus is malicious software which can be installed remotely on mobile phones to access, among other things, people's microphones and cameras. The Isreali NSO Group , which sells the tech, has been accused of enabling authoritarian regimes to monitor journalists, activists and even political figures. Pegasus became a scandal in 2021 when a list of 50,000 phone numbers of suspected victims of hacking was leaked to major media outlets. From this list, global media identified the phone numbers of politicians and heads of state, business executives, activists, and several Arab royal family members, as well as more than 180 journalists2.

In order to fight with newly emerging crimes, Argentina has implemented a strategy combining legal reforms, technological advances, and international cooperation. In 2008, Law No. 26.388 was enacted to criminalize cybercrimes such as hacking, identity theft, and digital fraud. The Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU), strengthened in 2011 through reforms to Law No. 25.246, monitors suspicious financial activity to combat money laundering and terrorism financing. Specialized units like the UFECI (Unidad Fiscal Especializada en Ciberdelincuencia), created in 2015, focus on prosecuting cybercrime. Since 2017, Argentina has expanded the use of biometric systems and facial recognition in major urban areas, particularly Buenos Aires, to enhance law enforcement capabilities. In 2019, smart border control initiatives were launched to better detect human trafficking and drug smuggling. Argentina has also signed cybersecurity and criminal justice cooperation agreements with many countries such as U.S. (2016), Brazil (2019), and Europol (2020). Public education campaigns on digital safety have been introduced in schools and communities since 2018. Moreover, emerging threats like AI-based fraud and cryptocurrency crimes highlight the need for continuous legal and technological updates to ensure national security and effective crime prevention.

The United Nations has taken countless measures to combat newly emerging crimes such as illegal mining, hacking, ransomware, technology misuse and cybercrime. The UN formed the UNTOC(Unite Nations Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime) in 2000 in order toimprove the capacity of States Parties to combat transnational organized crime3. Moreover a part of UNTOC The Protocol to Prevent,Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons targets human traficking. Another thing that the UN has done was to help countries such as Mexico, Argentina and Brazil via UNODC(United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime)4. Most importantly the UN established the INTERPOL to help member states catch wanted criminals. There are countless examples in which international criminals like drug dealers or smugglers were caught as a result of the collobration of member states and INTERPOL.

Combating newly emerging crimes necessitates a multifaceted approach that integrates technological innovation, community engagement, and international collaboration. Advanced technologies such as predictive analytics, machine learning, and quantum computing are instrumental in detecting and preventing crimes like cyberattacks, financial fraud, and online exploitation. For instance, predictive policing uses algorithms to forecast crime hotspots, enabling law enforcement to allocate resources proactively . Simultaneously, community-based initiatives like the Safer Together program in Toowoomba have proven effective in reducing crime by fostering trust between police and residents . International cooperation is also crucial, with organizations like INTERPOL facilitating cross-border collaboration to tackle transnational crimes . Moreover, addressing the root causes of crime, such as mental health issues and social inequality, through integrated services can prevent criminal behavior before it starts. Investing in training for law enforcement ensures they are equipped to handle the complexities of modern crime. By combining these strategies, societies can create a robust framework to effectively combat emerging criminal threats.5

References:

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