

Church As Foreign War Front - Public Controversy

At this time in history, the continent's churches are able to receive taxpayer adjacent dollars through exemptions, grants, and public facing charitable structures. In many cases, these monies are then sent overseas to funds or charities. These systems can operate with limited transparency, creating environments where large sums move across borders with minimal public visibility or accountability.

There is evidence that such environments can be harshly exploited.

Investigations have shown that large land holdings connected to religious institutions may be used by outside criminal networks without direct involvement from the institution itself. Remote properties, limited oversight, and international positioning can create conditions where trafficking routes for drugs and cargo operate in parallel or remain undetected.

At the same time, separate investigations into the global trade of human remains reveal that human bodies and body parts are bought, sold, and shipped across international borders through largely unregulated systems. These operations are not inherently tied to churches, but they demonstrate how ethical boundaries can erode when oversight is weak and financial incentives are high.

Taken together, these realities raise serious concerns.

Where money moves without question, where land is vast and under monitored, and where international channels are normalized, systems become vulnerable. Not always by design, but by vulnerability. In these gaps, organized crime can embed itself, moving cargo, building routes, and operating within the shadows of religious institutions.

This is not to say that all churches are acting as trafficking networks. Although there is evidence to support these events, it is therefore reasonable to question whether the combination of financial opacity, international reach, and limited regulatory requirements creates conditions where exploitation occurs.

Where taxes allow for the shadow movement of money, goods, or human remains across borders, there must be stronger accountability, clearer oversight, and a refusal to ignore what can exist in the margins of these systems.

International Funds

During war time and as we work to address transnational slavery, publicly used church and nonprofit tax funds should be restricted to domestic use, with mandatory financial separation and full transparency for any organization operating internationally. This ensures that taxpayer dollars remain within national boundaries while preserving the ability of private entities to engage in global charitable or religious work. I would issue the same warning and advisory to Canada.

— D. Cowdrey