

THE **GINO GERMANI INSTITUTE FOR SOCIAL SCIENCES AND STRATEGIC STUDIES** PRESENTS:



- **LIVE WEBINAR** -

THE CHEKIST-GANGSTER NEXUS:

The Weaponization of Organized Crime by
Russian Secret Services in Russia and Abroad

Wednesday, 2 October 2024

12:30 PM US Eastern Standard Time / 18:30 PM Central European Time

LIVE ON YOUTUBE: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j7yEYL6hbpI>

PANELISTS:

- **Yuri Felshtinsky** (Historian and Author)
- **Olga Lautman** (Investigative Researcher and Senior Fellow, Center for European Policy Analysis (CEPA))
- **Dina Khapaeva** (Scholar of Historical Memory, Russian Program Director at the School of Modern Languages, the Georgia Institute of Technology)
- **Anastasia Kirilenko** (Investigative Journalist, The Insider)

MODERATOR:

Donald N. Jensen

Adjunct Fellow, Foundation for
Defense of Democracies (FDD)

CONCLUDING REMARKS:

Luigi Sergio Germani

Director, Gino Germani Institute

INTRODUCTION

Mafia groups and international criminal syndicates serve as tools of statecraft, hybrid warfare, and self-enrichment to those in the Putin regime. The KGB-organized crime nexus in Soviet times and its subsequent evolution is a neglected topic in Western analysis, but it is crucial for understanding the Putin system and its possible futures.

This alliance has expanded and become more deeply intertwined under Putin, according to open-source evidence. For example, the FSB's role in guarding regime security, controlling society, and fighting corruption has expanded while the FSB itself has become increasingly corrupt and criminalized. Western experts have also noted intensifying Russian secret service use of organized crime networks for intelligence gathering and influence operations in the West, including "strategic corruption" activities.

In this webinar, six experts will examine the Chekist-organized crime nexus, the impact of Russia's 2022 invasion of Ukraine, and the future – concerning both Putin's regime and Russian subversive activity abroad. The webinar is open to the public/free of charge

The Gino Germani Institute for Social Sciences and Strategic studies is a Rome-based think tank devoted to the defense and renewal of liberal democracy and the open society.