The interface of networked crime and governance in Dakar: some preliminary impressions

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Overview

1. Presentation of the city of Dakar

2. Criminal markets and networks in Dakar

3. Implications on urban governance: preliminary impressions

4. Conclusions

1. Presentation of the city of Dakar

❑ Situated on the westernmost cape of Africa, Dakar is the current capital of Senegal and the former capital of the French West Africa (AOF).

❑ The city covers a land area of 547 sq. km out of 196,712 (i.e. 0.3%), with a ppopulation of 2.5 millions of inhabitants (i.e. 1/5).

Source: ANSD 2010

1. Presentation of the city of Dakar

❑ Dakar consists of 4 departments (Dakar, Guédiawaye, Pikine & Rufisque) subdivided in 43 municipal districts in terms of Executive Order No. 96-745 of 30 August 1996:

➢ Dakar : 19 municipal districts;

➢ **Pikine:** 16 municipal districts;

➢ **Guédiawaye:** 5 municipal districts;

➢ **Rufisque:** 3 municipal districts.

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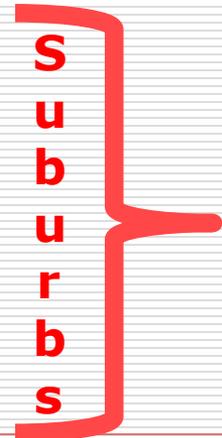
1. Presentation of the city of Dakar

Map of Dakar #1

Map data ©2013 Google

1. Presentation of the city of Dakar

Map of Dakar #2
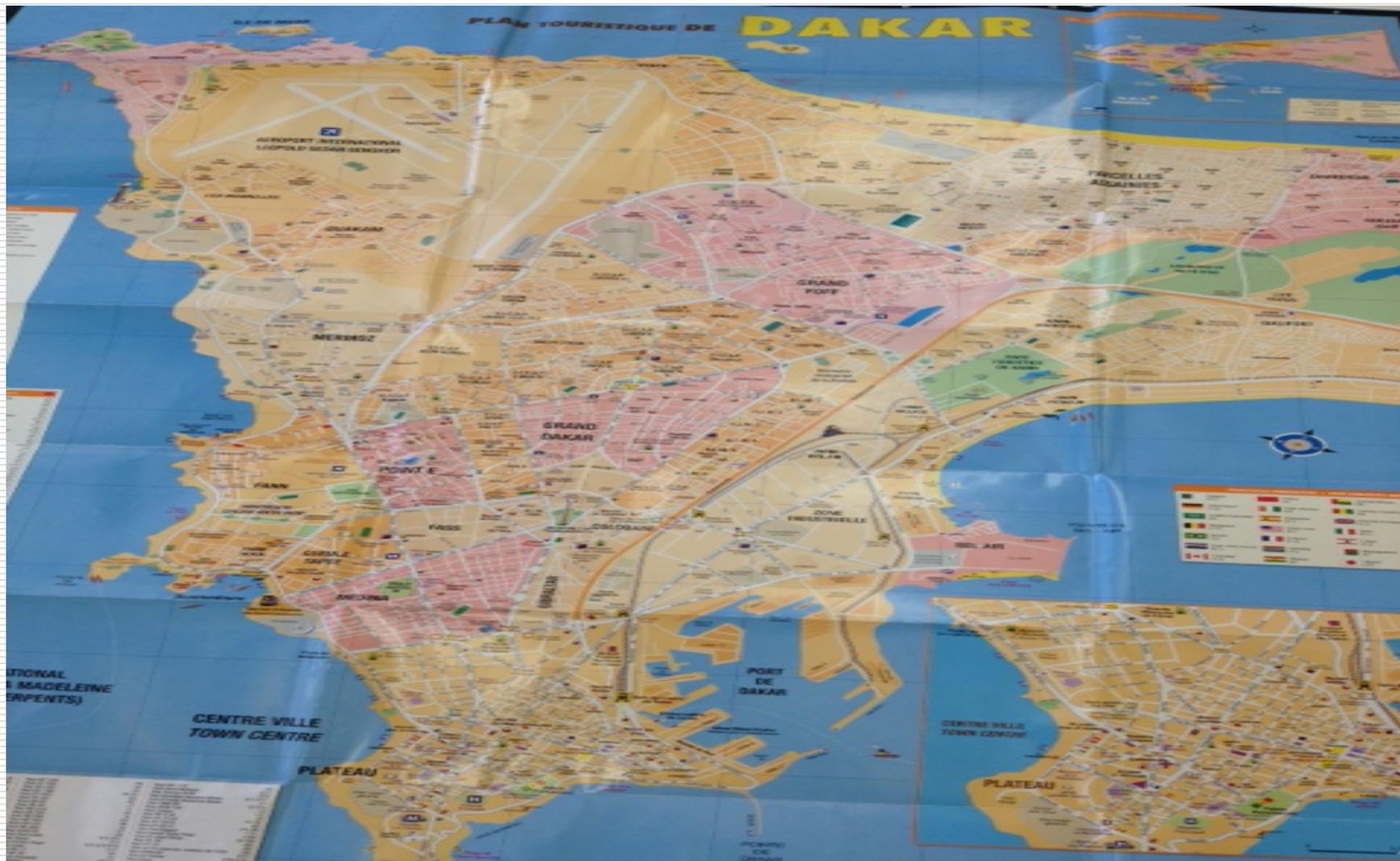
2. Criminal markets and networks in Dakar

2.1 – The official position

❑According the officials of the Police and the Gendarmerie, there is no active criminal network in Dakar.

❑Thus, thanks to the performance of the security forces, Dakar is not yet a criminal hub, but only a transit point for the drug produced in Nigeria or Guinea-Bissau.

2. Criminal markets and networks in Dakar

2.1 – The official position

❑Drug trafficking is the most important criminal market. And, as so far as it is concerned, cannabis is the most commonly used drug.

❑Indeed, during the discussion of an oral question in the National Assembly of Senegal on "the security of citizens and their property", the Minister of Interior, announced on 4 June 2013 that about 1.5 tons of cannabis, 12.448kg of cocaine and 36g of heroin were seized in 2012 by the Senegalese police.

2. Criminal markets and networks in Dakar

2.2 – The media and civil society's position

❏ But, according to the media and some of the other stakeholders, there are active crime networks operating in Dakar city.

❏ The criminal networks could concern drug-trafficking, corruption, counterfeit goods, money laundering, etc.

2. Criminal markets and networks in Dakar

2.2 – The media and civil society's position

"As for the Senegalese police, in the case of the Nigerian, Raymond Ike Akpo, who had the audacity to approach ORCTIS officials with a deal according to which the drugs confiscated from the traffickers would be handed to him to sell, a senior police officer has been implicated. High-profile drug burning ceremonies are described as a big joke because flour is said to be substituted for hard drugs to fool the Senegalese authorities". *(See the case study findings)*

3. Implications on urban governance : preliminary impressions

At this stage of the study, we have 2 positions regarding the existence of crime networks (official and non official one).

Depending on the position, there are two (2) possibilities:

❑ the failure of the public governance at certain times and in certain places;

❑ or the existence of criminal governance, even if it's in its starting stage.

3. Implications on urban governance : preliminary impressions

The failure of the public governance can be explained by the problems the city is facing or its interesting advantages :

❑ Problems arising from:

➢ the lack of means (HR, logistic, financial, etc.)
➢ accentuated by the impoverishment of the population following the rapid urbanization (rural-urban movement)
➢ the importance of immigration (Nigerians, etc.)

❑ Advantages:
➢ vantage geostrategic position;
➢ relative stability;
➢ economic and financial dynamism;
➢ recent developments (see problems in the Police & the wrestling sector)

3. Implications on urban governance : preliminary impressions

❑ Exploring the existence of crime governance is the key-point here because of the information from the media and the other stakeholders like the civil society.

❑ Drug traffickers, especially Nigerians, operate significantly more in suburban areas where poverty grows more and more and where there is a luck of public service delivery.

❑ So, the risk is important, if crime networks haven't started to substitute for the State.

4. Conclusions

❑ In addition of its various advantages, Dakar is getting bigger and bigger, with the development of suburban areas all around the city and an increase of the immigration of other Africans.

❑ Hence, there is a need to have a clear idea of the current situation in terms of urban governance so as to put in place the right public policies of governance.

❑ This study is aimed at dealing with this concern, in collaboration of all the stakeholders, especially the non-State actors.

Thank you !!!