

## DAR ES SALAAM (TANZANIA)

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The International Victimisation Survey in Tanzania was carried out in Dar es Salaam - the largest cosmopolitan city in the country with a population exceeding 1.6 million inhabitants (according to the National Population Census). The study, which is the second in the UNICRI sponsored series, covered all the socio-economic sectors of the burgeoning city in that it included areas deemed to be of high, middle and low residential status. The high status residential areas are exemplified by the areas of Oysterbay and Msasani which are inhabited by the top echelons of the state and ruling party (CCM) as well as by diplomats from foreign missions and other senior technocrats of external NGOs. The middle status residential areas are exemplified by the Regent Estate, Kurasini and Makongo North, while Msewe, Mabibo, Manzese, Buguruni, Kipawa and Kiwalani are examples of lower income areas canvassed in this study. These general differences are reflected in the crime data. The crimes identified include: theft of property, cars, motorcycles, bicycles, etc.; vandalism; sexual harassment; assaults and threats; corruption, etc.

A total of 1,004 questionnaires were completed. Despite a *de facto* identification of high, middle and low income residential areas, individual households that did not fit into the given socio-economic category of each area were nevertheless found.

Figures related to motorcycle and bicycle theft show that almost 30% of all motorcycles and 37% of all bicycles were reported stolen in the period 1987-91. According to the collected data, urban property theft crimes in the surveyed area are not confined to valuable property such as cars, motorcycles and bicycles. Household goods are also targeted by thieves and vandals. The data presented in Tables 1 show that a large proportion of interviewees had experienced a burglary; almost one-fifth of the respondents had experienced a robbery; and about half of them had experienced a personal theft. Protection of property and the recovery of lost property have both been found to be seriously lacking.

In conclusion, it must be stated that the survey has provided us with rich information and has often confirmed assumed information on crime and crime statistics. The general belief that all victims of a crime usually report the offence to the police has been discredited by the results of the survey, which have shown that this is not the case and that not all crimes are brought to the attention of the authorities. Furthermore, for various reasons which cannot be explained here, some of the respondents who had been victims of a crime did not hold a favourable view of the effectiveness of the police force in curbing crime. This single factor makes a statistical difference between reported and unreported crimes. It also makes a difference between those crimes that are solved and those that do not receive any attention on the part of the law enforcement agencies. Indeed, although all the respondents agreed that crime is obviously a menace to urban society in general,

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and expressed a wish not to become a victim of a crime, there was no unanimous agreement about how to behave if such a situation did occur. It is hardly surprising, therefore, that some members of the public called for tighter sentences than those implemented by the state and applied by the courts.

The task of making the urban city a safer place for all its inhabitants is a difficult one, not only for the police, the government and other state authorities, but also at the community and grass roots level. Among other things, the expedited jurisdiction of criminal cases would prove advantageous to all. In Tanzania, the first capital city citizen-level organisation is firmly rooted for the deployment of all interested parties, much more so state and state controlled organisations which endeavour to make life in the city worth living.

The police force will definitely be handicapped if it has to deal with criminal activity and the criminal population alone. In order to make the force more efficient, the agents need not only better and more adequate equipment, but also community assistance and solidarity. In order to work fairly and in a more efficient way the police must be kept better informed. Furthermore, they need to be trained in order to make them more aware of the current economic predicament of society. The opposite is also true, however, and the general public needs to be sensitised not only about the role of police in society and what the community's reciprocal role should be, but also about the current economic crisis of society at large and how each individual can help to alleviate this unfortunate situation.

The city's ecological and spatial organisation does not allow for fast access by the police in rescuing victims or pursuing the aggressors. However, the general depressed economic situation, including unemployment and poor purchasing power, are factors which are strongly conducive towards crimes and criminal acts of theft. It is our conviction, that a reversal of the depressed economic performance will bring about an improvement in the situation in general. An economic miracle of such magnitude would indeed be welcome everywhere on the Continent.

## TABLES

**Table 1: Prevalence victimisation rates (5 years)\***

	Victimisation rate (%)
Theft of car	7.2
Theft from car	23.4
Car vandalism	14.1
Theft of motorcycle	4.5
Theft of bicycle	7.1
(Owners)	
Theft of car	14.4
Theft from car	46.9
Car vandalism	28.3
Theft of motorcycle	28.8
Theft of bicycle	37.0

Burglary with entry	30.7
Attempted burglary	29.0
Robbery	19.5
Personal theft	43.1
Sexual incidents	23.9
Assault/threat	14.3

\* Prevalence - percentage of respondents who have been victims of a specific form of crime once or more.

**Table 2: Prevalence victimisation rates (1 year)\***

	Victimisation rate (%)
Theft of car	3.5
Theft from car	14.4
Car vandalism	9.0
Theft of motorcycle	1.8
Theft of bicycle	4.2
(Owners)	
Theft of car	7.0
Theft from car	28.9
Car vandalism	18.0
Theft of motorcycle	11.5
Theft of bicycle	12.3
Burglary with entry	21.2
Attempted burglary	14.7
Robbery	8.3
Personal theft	18.6
Sexual incidents	8.9
Assault/threat	6.6
Consumer fraud	29.9
Corruption	n.a.

\* Prevalence - percentage of respondents who have been victims of a specific form of crime once or more.

**Table 3: Reported crimes**

	%
Theft of car	100.0
Theft from car	71.1
Car vandalism	73.2
Theft of motorcycle	86.7
Theft of bicycle	81.7
Burglary with entry	74.3
Attempted burglary	53.3
Robbery	65.8
Personal theft	28.4
Sexual incidents	28.6
Assault/threat	66.0

**Table 4: Crime seriousness\***

	Theft of car %	Theft from car %	Car vandalism %	Theft of motorcycle %	Theft of bicycle %	Burglary with entry %	Robbery %	Personal theft %	Sexual incidents %	Assault/threat %
Very serious	78.9	73.2	70.2	56.9	59.8	80.9	82.1	74.9	75.0	80.0
Fairly serious	17.8	20.8	28.5	41.2	40.2	14.3	17.3	24.1	16.7	14.9

Not serious	3.3	1.3	1.3	2.0		4.8		1.0	8.3	5.2
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\* Percentage based on victims of specific crimes.

**Table 5: Crime prevention measures\***

	%
Installed burglar alarm	10.5
Installed door locks	38.0
installed window/door grills	63.9
Maintain watchdogs	29.6
High fence	32.9
House has a caretaker	24.2
None of these	
Others	
Ask somebody to watch home	52.6
Neighbours watch anyway	18.5
Possession of firearms	10.5
House is insured against burglary	

\* Percentages based on total sample of respondents.