

## Comparative Criminology: **ORGANIZED CRIME**

### Ranking Regions/Countries as Most Likely for Organized Crime

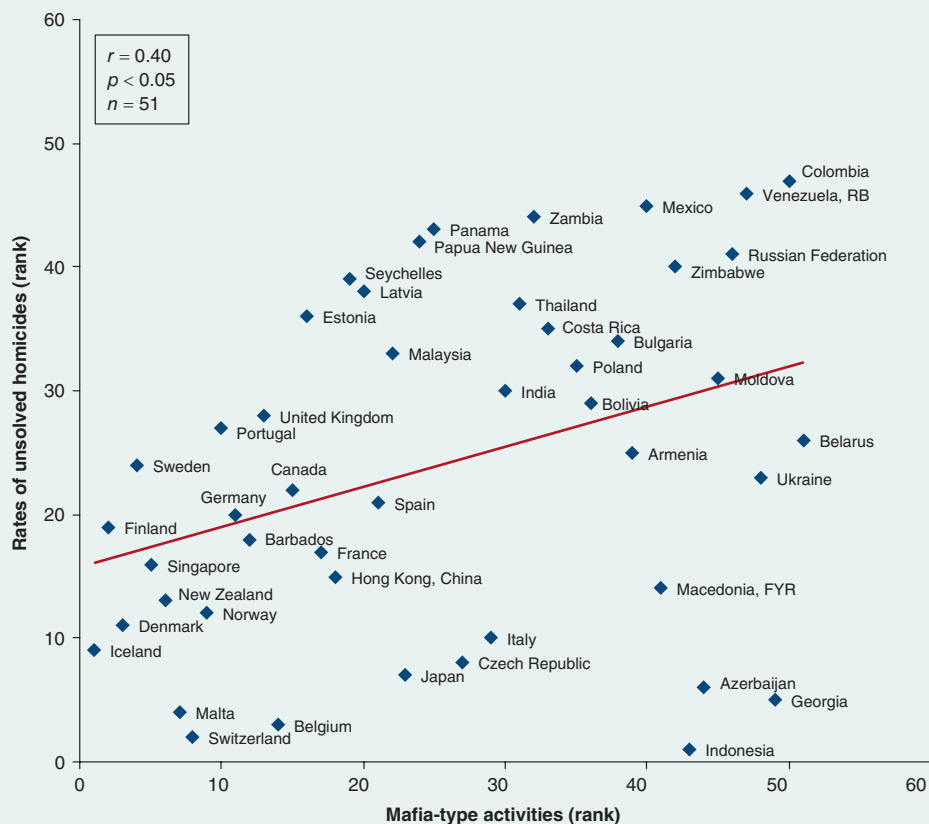
In this section, we examine the findings and conclusions of various studies regarding organized crime, which typically includes certain elements, such as use of extreme violence, corruption of public officials (such as police and judicial officers), penetration of the legitimate economy (often through money laundering), and interference in the political process.<sup>127</sup> The findings of these recent studies on prevalence of organized crime across various regions/countries are surprising in many ways.

One of the key measures of organized crime in the world is the Organized Crime Perception (OCP) Index, which is a

combined measure using data from various sources, such as the World Economic Forum (a survey of CEOs of large companies), the World Bank and European Bank of Reconstruction and Development, and The Merchant International Group Ltd (an internationally active security consultancy group). Although many factors go into the OCP Index, it is generally considered the most accurate measure to determine how much organized crime is perceived and how much is actually present in most regions/countries around the world.<sup>128</sup> According to the OCP Index, the traditional notion of Mafia-type activities being concentrated in Italy and other nearby locations can be largely dispelled. As seen in Figure 14.1, which plots the countries with the highest scores on the OCP Index against their rate of

**FIGURE 14.1**

Prevalence of Mafia-Type Activities as Perceived by Business Leaders and/or Security Experts and Rates of Unsolved Homicides (Ranked Variables)



Sources: World Economic Forum. (2005). *The Global competitiveness report 2004–2005*. Hampshire, UK: Palgrave Macmillan; Merchant International Group Limited. (2004). *Gray-area dynamics, organized crime figures 2004*. Special analysis commissioned by UNICRI; BEEPS. (2014). *Business environment and enterprise performance survey*. World Bank and the EBRD. United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. (2003). *The eighth United Nations survey on crime trends and the operations of criminal justice systems, 2001–2002*.