

THE ROLE OF POLICE IN THE MANAGEMENT OF PUBLIC SECURITY ENVIRONMENT

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ABSTRACT

Police is an important factor in the entire security environment; however, its role becomes more evident on issues related to public security. The main mission of police is to ensure public order and security, prevent crime, and provide support to all contributing factors to security in order to improve the quality of life of the society. State Police, apart from the responsibility of ensuring order, plays at the same time an important role in supporting the other agencies whose principal mission is to protect national security. In order to carry out successfully its duty and accomplish its mission, it is necessary that police increases the managing capacities, improve the structures, and accomplish its continuous modernization, etc. If society is concerned about the security situation, that means that there are factors which produce insecurity, in this security environment that is so complicated and global. Such national and international factors must be at first recognized and have ready-made plans to implement them, in order to control and manage the security environment. This is a mission for all the state agencies and institutions, but especially it is for the State Police, as a specialized structure, to play a main role in providing security.

Keywords: Public security, security environment, police mission, police management, national security.

INTRODUCTION

If we were to refer to the majority of security researchers, we find that security is more sensible when it is required for the *individual*, i.e. when each of us feels unsafe and is not guaranteed his/her life (Hope & Sparks, 2012: 202). Further, almost all of us connect such security with the collective security, with the security for the society, with what is called the security of the state – as an institutional guarantee for the security, for the society (state) and in a similar way, they also connect it to the international security. Therefore, security is individual, state (national) and international (Kelsen, 2001: 3). The new security challenges ask for more frequent risk analysis, analysis of particular criminal or mafia situations, non-prejudicial cooperation among police forces of regional countries and beyond, removal of bureaucratic barriers in exchanging information, and a direct cooperation (this requires mutual trust between police forces). All the above and other such issues should be the objects of the study in order to reveal the reasons and factors that cause them, with the purpose of defining the ways and identifying the instruments to have the upper hand on crime and to provide a safe environment for our citizens.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Individual vs. collective security

In the contemporary world there is not and there cannot exist, a life guarantee in socializing relatively small societies, without the participation of powerful unions in some Nations and States. This is a requirement for a general social development, for unavoidably putting small societies under the globalization umbrella, for the functioning of the individual in the

development of the producing mega-societies, as well as for the unimaginable discoveries that make the world now look *smaller* and more manageable, due to the development of technology (Cummings & Worley, 2009: 615). When we examine the impact that the high development of technology has over security, we need to take into account that technology serves equally to those who love security, as well as to those who are against it (U.S. Congress, Committee on Intelligence, 1999: 7).

What is common and different between the personal security of the individual, from that of the social, national security?

In order to answer such a question, we must define for each of them within ourselves, what is the source of the risk or what is security composed of? The security of the individual in our society is threatened by: criminality, economic crisis, quality of food and juices, accidents with transportation means, accidents at work, damaging the environment, epidemic illnesses, etc. (Kelsen, 2001: 1-5).

Every individual of the society seeks security in order to have a guaranteed life and that is the reason why he/she pays taxes. Thus, the institutions that are assigned by law, must guarantee such right. In this case, the majority of the criminal offences, such as for example, crimes against life, crimes against property, but also other moral crimes, etc, make the essence work of police specialists, who are trained to prevent crimes and beyond if they happen, take care of discovering them and take care of their procedural legal documenting, etc. But even if police does its work very well, still the individual is not safe enough, because of the factors we underlined above. As a consequence, it is necessary for securing life that all the members of the society take part, and they are even in some way involved in what is called policing - this term of 'policing' will be later explained (Encyclopaedia Britannica, Inc., 2012: 502-504). Police is an institution of the public administration, whose function is to serve the community by guarantying the rule of law. It is a unique organization with a centralized structure and a managing chain system.

The energy which this structure utilizes together with the community and the other law enforcement institutions to ensure an adequate public security constitutes what is referred to as "Policing". In other words, policing is the participation of all actors in ensuring public security. A community is considered safe and secure if its police force is professionally educated to weigh up the role it plays a standard service to the community and all actors intertwine their activity with that of the police. The community should regard public security as a collective responsibility and consider policing a civil obligation (Waddington, 1999: 3-8). The community will have a safe individual if the law enforcement institutions carry out their duties properly and security is considered an obligation not only of the individual but of the whole society.

What does collective (and state) security incorporate?

The armed forces in most of the countries are charged with protecting the integrity and sovereignty of their borders from external threats, in cooperation with the other agencies. The duties of the Armed Forces is to protect the territory and sovereignty of the country, but at the same time the system of the human democratic values which are sacred and sublime. The mission of the Armed Forces, as part of the international organizations, is similar for each member state, guarantee peace for the constituent countries. The Armed Forces are utilized in civil emergencies as well, assisting citizens in close cooperation with the State Police. The

security of the society (the country) is threatened by: wars, terrorism, massive epidemics, criminality, violation of constitutional order, breach of transmitting nets and strategic communication (Council of Europe, 2009: 238).

It is the constitutional duty of every citizen to participate in the protection of the country (Albanian Parliament, 1998: 38). The national security policy is closely related to the individual security policy as much as it is related to the international security policy. The security of borders and protection of sovereignty is a priority task of the Armed Forces in order to answer the external threats involved even in the security of the members of such society, because that is at the same time a security for life in general (Council of Europe, 2009: 40-41). In the period of the Cold War, we all connected the term security with that security of the state (nation), which composed even a greater risk and it was continues. After the end of the Cold War, the concept of security was more realist and closer to truths, and it was becoming more perceptible which were the factors that cased such social and individual insecurity (Foster, 1994: 9-18).

In this way, we are dealing with a more advanced meaning or conception, regarding the level of risk that causes insecurity, because at that time we could not think of studying the fact that insecurity comes from, for example, pollution of the environment. Today instead, this is a reality that we must take for granted, study and take it more seriously (Broadus & Vartanov, 1994: 9-18). Threats to the state are with social effects and therefore it is the task of the State Police to work in guaranteeing the life of the members of the society. Such threats if not controlled, are not prevented and may cause severe consequences for the society and even lead to the destruction of the constitutional order, which in turn means, social anarchy. In explaining the duality of the state security with that social one, we must say that:

If state security concerns the threat against its sovereignty (if a state loses its sovereignty that state can no longer survive as such), social security concerns threat made to its identity. Similarly, if a society loses its identity, that society may no longer survive as a society (Collins, 2009: 216).

Policing, starting from the threat comparison at a state level and at an individual level as well, is in our times a “mission” of the whole society and of a very vital importance. It is important to underline that protection of a *society* defines its *national politics*... because the first mission of the state is to secure the life of its own citizens. It is a kind of overlap the correlation between personal security (individual), national security and international security (Watson, 2008: 40). According to Michigan Sheriff Johannes F. Spreen, (a police officer extraordinary and a man who helped restructure and develop New York City Police Academy training leading to a college program, a 'West Point' for police officers-now John Jay College for Criminal Justice), as he told to some reporters: “The word POLICE, is an acronym for Protector Of Liberty for the *Individual*, the *Community*, and Everyone Equally” (Holloway, 2009: 75).

RESEARCH DISCUSSION

Police and the security objectives

Police comprise specialized structures which hold most of the burden in guaranteeing public security and that is the reason there is a demand that this structure consists of qualified and dedicated officers. Those who make up this structure are considered authorities acting in the name of law and for that reason “the police officer” is regarded as the protector of law (Spreen & Holloway, 2003: 108). Police defines short-term, mid-term, and long-term strategic objectives about public security. The accomplishment of these objectives aims at establishing

a fundamental and interactive correlation between national interests and the needs and capabilities of the country. Short-term and mid-term strategies entail commitment to accomplish the following key objectives:

Peace, security, and the internal stability of the country are by-products of the reinforcement of the rule of law in the country in order to protect its citizens, the civil society, and the whole country against illegal acts which is accomplished via efficient policing. A high level of security will create very favorable grounds for the consolidation of the democratic values of the society and the protection of the human rights (De Maillard, 2015: 176).

The consolidation of the state institutions is another guarantee impacting the development of a democratic society. A country with reliable and stable institutions offers guarantees for the enhancement of democracy in its society and the application of the legal standards and norms. State institutions must guarantee respecting human rights (constitutional requirement; Albania: Albanian Parliament, 2009: 16) since they offer assurance for a safe environment and a harmonious relation between the society and the individual. The individual, the society, and the state share common obligations to safeguard the country. Breach of these obligations by either party damages severely the security of the country. Non-governmental organizations play an active role for the security of the country and the consolidation of the democratic standards of the society by expressively and openly tackling and addressing the problems arising from violation of human rights. Their non-partisan and unbiased contribution is closer and relates to the concerns of the society, therefore should be considered as a commitment to act upon the interests of the society and a capacity for the protection of the national interests (International Business Publications, USA, 2013: 171).

All above comprise decisive factors for the enhancement of the democratic values and of the economy of the country which are supported and taken care of, via specialized public services provided by the State Police, through a well-planned and organized process, and the accomplishment of the action plans. The mid-term and long-term plans will focus on the following objectives:

The integration in the European and Euro-Atlantic structures; EU membership is an ultimate target for the benefit of which, the country's security policy is conducted; the approximation of legislation with European Union standards, for the functioning of the rule of law as long-term guarantees and the protection of the national interests and the integration of Albania. Stability is deemed an essential pre-condition towards EU integration of the regional countries. Albania intends to be an active partner of the regional political theatre. Within this framework, the Albanian National issue aims at being possible through European and Euro-Atlantic integration in the regional countries, as well as through solutions that assure long-run and acceptable guarantees for the international community (IBP, 2013: 176).

Fight against terrorism engages directly all the specialized structures of the State Police, State Intelligence Service and Armed Forces. Within this framework, in cooperation with the international specialized organisms, relevant structures will work toward the direction of enriching and improving the legal basis and in restructuring the specialized bodies. Their objective is the maximum efficiency in the fight against terrorism, organized crime and corruption. Fight against organized crime and corruption will continue to be for a long time in the center of the state activity and Albanian society. Albanian legal institutions need to interact among each-other efficiently. The implementation and improvement of the legislation in the

fight against organized crime and corruption makes an important element for the Security of the Republic of Albania.

What is of vital importance is the further enforcement of the institutional, managing and reacting capacities of the civil protection and public security from natural disasters and other kinds, aiming at preventing, facing and effectively managing emergencies, as well as reducing the disaster risks (Bailey & Dammert, 2005: 11). The enforcement of management and democratic control for civil protection against disasters, upon a new legal basis in compliance with the EU philosophy, solves better the mechanisms of leadership and coordination, especially in civilian-military cooperation, mainly aiming at creating stability in the economic and social development of the country. This seeks a professional and uncorrupted police, which is in cooperation with other law enforcement institutions.

Police and their attitude against internal threat and risks

Which are the threats born inside the society of a country and how much exposed is Albania against them? Organized crime in the country, being so perfect and professionalized, is a risk for the society and security of the Republic of Albania. Disproportion between insufficient instruments to discover, fight and punish crime and the size and tendencies that the development of crime has, make a realistic risk for the today and future security of the Republic of Albania (Newman & Graeme, 2010: 8). Political instability is a risk for the security of the Republic of Albania and protection of national interests. The up to the present experience of democracy in Albania proves that the political instability is acceptable even from the internal environment. This phenomenon risks the non-functioning of the institutions, lack of social peace and public order, failure of political consensus for very important issues of the country, and threatens the prestige of Albania within the international framework. The political stability is a vital issue for the Albanian society, because that is where all the other state institutions movements and the power itself, comes out from them. This state of low stability leads to an increase of corruption and smuggling, slows down the reforms, ruins institutions, as well as simulates unemployment, illegal trafficking and organized crime (Bugajski, 2011).

Insufficient economic development and not being able to fulfill the vital living elements make in themselves, an element of instability for life safety of the people in the Republic of Albania. The negative phenomena that come out from them, including all different kinds and types of crimes, are in a way a consequence of such a state. Illegal immigration of the Albanian citizens towards other countries makes a risk for the Albanian nation, country development and security of the Republic of Albania. The effects of such phenomenon is expressed through life loss, uncontrolled flow of the Albanian intelligence, artificial aging of the population, lack of wish to work and enforcement of the feeling to run away from the country of birth. Natural disasters represent a risk for the security of the Republic of Albania. Natural disasters that are most probable to happen are earthquakes, disasters during the period of winter, like floods, massive mudslides, massive fires on woods, different epidemics. Disasters may also come out of human activity, like those of industrial, land, air and sea accidents, consequences that cause criminal and terrorist activity, etc. (Hoti, M., Axhemi, S., 2013: 103-105).

Within the framework of security, the demographic problems make a serious concern for the Republic of Albania. Uncontrolled movements of the people, mainly in rural areas of the country towards urban centers, have created considerable disproportions not only towards overpopulation, but also abandonment of the people from the areas that today and in the future, will have a need for human resource.

These situations need a thorough analysis of the problems and precise definition of the premises that lead to such situations. The aim is to take certain decisions that will answer the expectations of the teams which manage Police. That is the reason why it is needed an increase of the Police performance, that of the intelligence level of Police, in order to dominate over criminality and guarantee order and safety for the people in the country.

CONCLUSIONS

The protection of a society consists in taking measures in advance, in order to cope with natural calamities or terrorists acts and not be caught off guard. These measures consist of readymade plans for certain situations (which have not occurred but may come about). These plans outline defined tasks for the institutions and the population, which raise awareness through media, in order to avoid any risks from such acts. The decision of several European police organizations to intensify controlling measures engaging trained and special anti-terrorist units on one hand, and offering access to the intelligence data for the purpose of keeping under control and preventing similar acts from happening on the other hand, is undeniably highly praised. The recent administrative re-organization of the local government demands that all policies and practices related to actions and reactions against threats are revised and reviewed (European Commission, 2015).

National security, with regard to public security aspect, incorporates policies and programs related to the war organized against crime, illegal traffics, and terrorism, for the integrated border management, for the assurance of the public order and security, road safety, and the assistance provided to the population in the occurrence of natural safety. Due to their international character, most of the estimated threats against our country are regarded as a part of national security and are closely linked with international security. Along with above, an increasing number of international threats directly impacts the national security of the country and poses a threat for the society.

Albania is constantly integrating in a complex and interdependent world where internal and external dangers are inextricably linked. Dealing with them requires an integrated national approach making use of the resources from the Armed Forces (AF) of the Republic of Albania, law enforcement agencies, and intelligence services. (National Security Strategy of the Republic of Albania, 2014).

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