

The feeling of security to the residents of Kosovo with special emphasis in Ferizaj and Gjakova

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Abstract

Main objective of this research is the estimation of the security of Kosovo citizen's. This research analysis analyses the possibilities to increase the quality of life in Kosovo. This manuscript tries to perceive the security of the citizens of Kosovo and how they perceive the individual and collective security; safety and living environment; credibility for the Kosovo Police (KP); community relations and interethnic relations. It describes the problematic challenges faced by the residents of Kosovo, and identifies a number of recommendations to strengthen the work of law enforcement agencies in the future. This paper also tries to give answers about the occurrence or development of criminal behavior in Kosovo.

Keywords: Fear from crime, law enforcement agencies, victim, education.

Introduction

Safety is one of the fundamental preconditions for the existence of the social community. In this aspect, there are many challenges that have a global character and question the existence and survival of humanity. In addition, various forms and instruments of violence, by terrorism, organized crime, drug addiction, extinction and massive destruction, delinquency, undoubtedly express the complexity of today's human being. In the late 20th century, the demands of the society for security systems have become more complex. Creating transparent contemporary societies requires an appropriate balance between the needs for protecting the political and juridical-constitutional aspect on the one hand, and the principles of the rule of law respecting the rights and freedoms of citizens on the other. The concept of security, its content and social function can only be understood if this phenomenon is seen in an interdisciplinary manner. Self development of safety conditions and its appearance as different forms of organization are conditioned by the development of human society.

Objectives of the paper

Main objective of the paper was to identify which institutions offer the responsibility to provide safety and security in Kosovo. The Agencies of Law enforcement have the competence to protect the Albanian society from crime and issued a number of "dark" and "gray" offenses, meaning the collection of data from national statistics on the level of criminality. It should be emphasized that when it comes to methods taken from other areas of forensic they become due to the specifics of the facility to handle. They are applied in terms of implementation of tasks which impose adaptation and modification.

Any investigation should also have its own research methods and in this case the research done in the field of Criminology used general theoretical methods of collecting facts and data on deviant behavior. The used methods consist in:

- Comparative method use to analyse the level of security from the central to local levels;
- Analytical methods and models used for the standardized questionnaires;
- Descriptive analysis;

Data were based on surveys conducted house to house with respondents in both cities of Ferizaj and Gjakova in Kosovo, by using a standardized questionnaire (Van der Wurffov et al 1989; Mesko, Farrall, 1999 Mesko, Kovco, 1999). Sampling and interviews were conducted by a team of ASKK Center and University AAB involving 90 researchers and student researchers. The margin of error is 2%, with a confidence interval of 96%. All interviews were conducted between 15-th of January 2013 – 11-th of February 2014. The data processing was implemented with SPSS software program. The study was developed and implemented carefully so that the results accurately represent the views of adult citizens in Kosovo. However, we accept that there were some limitations in the process. Some of the selected families and individuals were interviewed for a number of reasons: abandoned house, refusal to be interviewed, etc. It's hard to measure how the replacement procedure affects the overall results. It should also be noted that a large number of other factors may have affected the results, such as: time of survey, the interest of the respondents, the difficulty recalling the events and thoughts, the complexity of the answers (questions socially unacceptable). Finally, the impact of researchers in the field is also a factor in this process. Therefore, efforts were made to include only qualified interviewers.

The feeling of security to the residents of Kosovo

The perception of safety and security continues to improve, especially among residents of the city of Ferizaj and Gjakova. However, there are still specific areas where a significant percentage of people feel very insecure. A relatively high proportion of people still fear an outbreak of violent social conflict. The main reasons seem to be unresolved political issues, but the problem is still the dominant economic and social problems, such as unemployment, which have the potential to contribute to trigger violent conflicts and phenomena such as trafficking in human beings and smuggling of goods. The high level of crime and poor infrastructure continue to rank high on the list of problems that cause insecurity among citizens of Kosovo.

The problem of migration in Kosovo and overcrowding in some cities causes insecurity and is reflected in the form of trafficking, distribution of drugs, delinquency, prostitution, family conflicts, suicide, divorce, etc.

Most of the citizens in Kosovo answer positive about their safety, in the cases where the population in that neighborhood is local.

Kosovo minorities feel much safer today than a few years ago, the improvement is even more considerable if tracked over a period of three years. The extent to which people feel they can rely on their neighbors and community members also depends on what kind of threat concerns them the most. Perceptions of security also depend on whether people

feel like the only minority in an area, or as one of several minority groups. Family and family circle is largely perceived as positive contributor to safety and security. There is evidence that many citizens, especially women do not feel safe at home, because:

- of social-economic problems,
- of unemployment.

Major factors for causing security remain social-economic problems, high unemployment rate, political instability, organized crime, corruption, trafficking, use and distribution of narcotic drugs, juvenile delinquency, etc. Fear of crime in the community remains a problem and seems to be increasing over time. The high level of crime is an issue that particularly worries all residents of Kosovo where this level is manifested through:

- Corruption;
- Mismanagement;
- Nepotism,
- Robbery with violence;
- Theft and violent crimes (such as assault and beatings);
- White collar crime;
- Use of narcotics;
- Participation in gambling (casinos);
- Prostitution;
- Vandalism;
- Abandonment of schools;

In the past three years, local journal titles such as “street fights”, “brutal murder in the center of Pristina” have become very common in the last 3 years. At the same time, official statistics show that in the Republic of Kosovo, the number of all crimes has decreased in the last years. This shows a discrepancy between official numbers and the reality perception from the citizens.

University research centers and security sector

University research centers have an important role in the security sector reform. Currently, economic instability, fear for personal safety, fear of political violence and cultural or ecological threats are considered as threats to the security and as an eventual possibility for the outbreak of a new world war. All law enforcement agencies and the state itself are the responsible institutions who answer the security needs of different groups within a community. For this reason the University research centers should participate in defining the protective values and interests but also the implementation and supervision of national security.

At the local level, civil society and especially the University Research Centres are in a better position than the police or local authorities to consult citizens about their fears and priorities and propose solutions that will respond to the most vulnerable groups. Common risk assessments are easier to apply through informal contacts and cooperation of civil society organizations, rather than through bureaucratic and slow channels of interstate cooperation.

Scientific research centers have a better impact than state institutions in defining the

causes of security, because:

- They inform the wider public and initiate debates on the most important issues of security;
- They are not part of the state security bodies; civil society and academic experts can have critical views on the security sector, through analysis, proposals and their public appearances.

The developments of the security situation in Kosovo

In the first years after the war, security in Kosovo was regulated by international institutions. The military Kosovo Force (KFOR) provided 'stabilization under the leadership of NATO, while the mission of the UN in Kosovo (UNMIK) had an executive role, which over the years changed to one of monitoring and providing technical support for local institutions. With the stabilization of the security situation and the gradual improvement of public order, more emphasis was placed on strengthening the capacity of local institutions of Kosovo Provisional Institutions of Self-Government (PISG). Since Kosovo declared independence in February 2008, the Government of Kosovo considerably claimed responsibility and ownership for safety and security, but because of the complexities surrounding the status of Kosovo a significant international presence remained. Following the adoption of the new Constitution and the Law on Police, the Kosovo Police Service (KPS) was renamed Kosovo Police (KP). In addition, in 2009, a number of security institutions was established foreseen by the Ahtisaari plan, which adopted strategies and laws, and, most importantly, the KP became operational.

Among other things, the Agency of Kosovo Intelligence Agency (KIA) and the Council of the Kosovo Security (CNS) were established. In 2010, the Kosovo Security Strategy was approved by the Government and approved by the Assembly. The UNMIK personnel is about 10% of its initial capacity, and the northern part of Kosovo is the exclusive focus of operations. Over the past years, EU has gradually assumed a greater role. EULEX, which was established in 2008 has taken over the duties and responsibilities previously held by UNMIK, and is mandated to assist the Kosovo authorities in providing the rule of law, specifically as it relates to police and judicial sectors and customs, while retaining limited executive powers.

Against this complex background, attention in Kosovo was increasingly centered on the provision of security at the local and community levels. There are a number of theories why there is a strong focus in this area. Consequently, in recent years, in Kosovo several mechanisms, institutions and programs under the banner of 'community safety' were established. Although different from field-activity and focus, the aim of their work has been the promotion of a partnership approach to local security which includes involving and consulting with local communities at the village and municipal level, as well as the development of common solutions to local security issues and security in general. There are various institutions working at different levels of the Kosovar society to promote community safety:

- State level: Kosovo Strategy for Community Safety was drafted in 2005, but was not approved by the Government. On March 8, 2010, the Government decided to

initiate the procedure for drafting a new strategy, entitled "National Strategy and Action Plan for Community Safety. Community safety work so far was coordinated by the Steering Group on Community-Based Policing (GDVPBK);

- Municipal level: Since the Administrative Instruction for Municipal Community Safety Councils (MCSC) has entered into force on March 20, 2009, the law requires the establishment of MCSC in all municipalities of Kosovo. MCSC are in the process of being established in all but three municipalities in northern Kosovo. According to the government, the MCSC is 'the main consultative body of a municipality for security issues, in cooperation with police, reviews and resolves all security issues for communities in the interests of all citizens within municipality. Therefore, MCSC is obliged to consult widely, collect and analyze information and in cooperation with the police, to handle and resolve security concerns. MCSC is headed by mayors and comprise inter alia the commander;
- Local level/community: currently there are two structures: Local Public Safety Committees (LPSC) and Action Teams for Community Safety (CSAT):

LPSC currently exist in 27 municipalities/areas. CSAT was established in 2003 by the OSCE and the Justice Department of the United States (US DOJ) under the International Program for Assistance in Criminal Investigative Training Program (ICITAP). The aim was to 'facilitate interaction between community leaders, municipal officials and the Kosovo Police (at that time, the Kosovo Police Service) in order to create collaborative relationships so that they can work together to identify and address issues of crime, safety and welfare. CSAT are established in 28 municipalities and continue to be established through a process before the creation, selection and training. The training included subjects such as communication and facilitation, partnership and team-building, problem solving, conflict resolution and the creation of action plans.

Conclusions

One of the objectives of this paper was to identify which institutions offer the responsibility for providing safety and security in Kosovo and which institutions have the duty to protect the society from crime and issue "dark" and "gray" numbers of offenses, meaning we collect data from national statistics on the level of criminality. It should be emphasized that when it comes to methods taken from other areas of forensic they become due to the specifics of the facility to handle. They are applied in terms of implementation of tasks which impose adaptation and modification. State institutions and scientific research centres should deal with the study and processing under the criminal code and criminal procedure, methods of technical, tactical and methodical recommendations. Therefore, in the fight against crime, along with other legal sciences forensic science plays an active role.

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