

THE NEED FOR COOPERATION AND COORDINATION OF PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SECURITY IN PANDEMIC CONDITIONS CAUSED BY COVID-19

Oliver Bakreski⁴⁶

Ss. Cyril and Methodius University, Faculty of Philosophy, Institute for Security,
Defense and Peace

Leta Bardjjeva Miovska⁴⁷

PhD Candidate

Abstract: Cooperation and coordination pose serious challenges for the security sector in a certain country and the key issue that is raised is not the question “Whether cooperation is obtained?” which certainly is an important question, it is rather the question “What kind of cooperation and coordination is needed?” The analysis of the coordination of the police and the private security sector, especially during health emergencies, respectively is a complex and heavy task, since it features great difficulty and specifics. Therefore, the research on the internal coordination mechanism of the security sector should be primarily based on its complete comprehension and differentiation from the other management functions, in order to avoid improvisation and partialism of any kind, especially having in mind that a high degree of coordination and cooperation are of great benefit for the work of the security actors which in specific circumstances are not simple and are unpredictable. Hence, the idea in this paper is to indicate the need for cooperation and coordination of the security sector, and especially the role of the police and of the private security in coping with the challenges imposed by the health crisis caused by the Covid-19 pandemic in terms of proper, accountable and legitimate action, as well as working under specific health protocols.

Key words: cooperation, coordination, public safety, private security, security sector, health crisis.

Introduction

In conditions of the biggest global pandemic of the past century, which mobilized and challenged all societies, a real need arose to analyze and make a connection between the two separate camps of national, individual and urban security, which are symbiotically related to health security, as separate domains with reference objects as a measure that determines what is to be protected. The real situation which was created by the beginning of 2020 has yet to be analyzed with all the necessary complexity and with all the repercussions on many aspects of social existence that was known so far. Recognizing the danger of the virus almost simultaneously in multiple hotspots around the world such as Wuhan and then Bergamo, as well as its rapidly spreading across national borders, has fundamentally changed and moved

⁴⁶ Contact address: oliverbakreski@yahoo.com

⁴⁷ Contact address: lbardjjeva@gmail.com

tectonically all those activities and functions that were accepted, colloquially speaking, for granted by all humanity. The megalopolises across Europe, Asia, the United States in the spring of 2020 were empty and silent as a result of the global lockdown, governments were powerless and insufficiently prepared to mobilize quickly to respond to this threat. In addition to the freezing of the functioning of the old normal within the states and their urban social organizations, gravity in international relations has also shifted and the new normal has been established, due to the total grounding of the movement between the states as well.

The new normal meant, at least temporarily, the establishment of social control with enhanced powers of the state and private security forces, which had to be engaged in dealing with the mass riots caused by the imposed political measures that tried to reduce and prevent the spread of the virus. Social, class, ethnic, religious, and racial differences intensified and further fueled tensions in the public opinion, rhetoric, and communication. Schools and kindergartens were closed, leading to a situation in which all generations of the population were forced to stop doing their daily activities. Entities in the service sector, tourism sector and crafts were also closed. Certain segments of the trade sector and other segments of society were also closed. The introduction of special protocols for the gradual return to functioning has imposed the need for increased engagement on both the police on one hand, and the private security on the other. There was also increased engagement in declared emergency situations, which meant greater and constant presence for 24 hours to check whether the measures were being implemented. In these complex circumstances, where the competencies and legislative powers with the declaration of state of emergency are augmented for the Government, the possibility was created for the intervention by the executive in a certain domain primarily in the field of economy and education, but also other social branches.

1. Demonstrating institutional cooperation and effectiveness

The primary goal of both public and private security is to maintain order and peace, i.e. security. Because of that, the relationship between those two "nominal" securities, if it is not, should be partnership-based, because nowadays the methods and means to achieve their goals are getting closer. For the enhancement of the scope of engagement of the private security in the public space contributes the transformation of the property ownership, as well as the strengthening of the security (Bakreski, Ahić, Nađ, 2019).

Given the growth and increased workload of the security sector, a necessary conclusion is imposed that the need to undertake joint activities in the field of security will perforce grow. Having in mind that currently the number of so-called "atypical" police work is broadening, it is realistic to expect that the needs for engagement of the private security entities will increase significantly. In such a situation, the need for better cooperation between public and private security is inevitable, so that with the integration of these two securities, a satisfactory level of security can be achieved, both in privately owned property and in public security in general. In the previous period, this cooperation was certainly lacking. It is still not at a satisfactory level today, and the reasons for such a situation should be sought in two facts: the first is reflected in the insufficiently clearly established practice of behavior, and second, stereotypes and mistrust in the relationship between private and public security. The prevailing and unjustified opinion is that the area of private security has lower standards

compared to public security, which is certainly not true. The field of private security is indeed legally limited, but it has its significance, especially in the field of security in general, its common nature. Because of that, there is no place for the above-mentioned stereotypes, because these safeguards are not competitive, but, on the contrary, they are complementary, and the cooperation between these safeguards should be constantly encouraged (Ibid).

Thus, co-operation and co-ordination are essential for the implementation of community law by public and private security and it is reflected in working jointly to effectively address threats. The example of the Covid-19 pandemic confirmed this element of synthesized opinion that cooperation is more than necessary when there should be a greater presence, which implies a greater need for human potential.

Respecting and protecting citizens' rights and encouraging local co-operation facilitates the harmonization of the legal framework and also ensures the central placement of human rights in shaping the pandemic response (UNODC, 2020). The pandemic not only created unforeseen and in many ways unprecedented challenges for the public health sector, but also meant greater engagement for both police and private security. Police officers and employees of the private security sector are often directly or indirectly involved in the pandemic response and thus have a higher risk of becoming infected (Dietz, Black, 2012).

In addition, due to the temporary cessation of all social activities, many of the private security services, for example, were on standby, while on the other hand, the demand for the services of private security agencies was diverted to other sectors where they were necessary with the outbreak of pandemic (Gwartney, Stroup, Sobel, Macpherson, 2021). Besides that, many governments have taken urgent measures to protect their populations and slow the spread of the virus. Such activities, which include total bans on movement in local communities, bans on travel abroad and strict social distance rules, as well as maintenance of hygiene and health measures are often controlled and enforced by police and private security, creating an additional demand for services for private security agencies and law enforcement agencies (CoESS, 2020). This comes as a supplement to the existing duties as police are expected to maintain order and continue ongoing local police operations, under conditions of greater resource burden (INTERPOL, 2020).

In order to successfully understand and manage the many challenges that have arisen as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic, those who are the first to respond, such as the police and private security, needed to exchange information, but also to deploy forces based on previous experiences with similar scenarios. In accordance with the new circumstances, in conditions of increased need for the engagement of the police and the private security, within the action, it was necessary to undertake activities for greater cooperation of these two sectors. In that regard, due to the conceptual and terminological definition of these two terms, in order to substantially apply in practice, it is necessary to define these activities and processes (Laufs, Waseem, 2020). Thus, according to the Cambridge Lexicon, cooperation is defined as an activity or process of joint engagement towards a common goal, while, according to the Oxford Dictionary, cooperation counterpoises support, adherence to common demands, as well as the formation and operation of cooperation and mutual effort. It is further stated that the cooperation has several dimensions and levels and can be formal or informal. The dimensions of the cooperation as a process refer to the scope of the involved parties, respectively whether the cooperation is organized at the highest

segment or extends to the lower organizational levels of management and action (US DoJ, 2006). The levels of cooperation refer to the extent to which the cooperation is realized, i.e. whether the cooperation is only declarative or materialized in practice. The formality of the cooperation implies its legal and normative regulation in the form of laws, bylaws, agreements and memoranda of cooperation and joint initiatives, programs, activities and unification and standardization of procedures, while informal cooperation takes place in a more direct way that is not imposed by mandatory warrants (Paek, Nalla, Lee, 2020).

Collaboration and coordination, according to the Meriam-Webster dictionary, is defined as the organization of different elements of a complex corpus and activities that enable effective joint work. Additionally, coordination is the harmonization of the functioning of individual segments towards achieving effective results. Empirical examples of cooperation and coordination show extensive activities in the field of protection of the welfare and property of citizens and commercial facilities and activities, in addition to traditional threats arising from terrorism, radical extremism, organized crime and delinquency, as well as cyber-threats arising from the contemporary lifestyle and achieving the optimal level of effectiveness and efficiency in emergency and crisis conditions that are a consequence of the pandemic with Covid-19, which primarily relate to the uninterrupted functioning of society in conditions of emergency measures aimed to reduce the spread of the infection, as well as joint trainings for adaptation to the new reality, further, dealing with the stress caused by the pandemic with Covid-19, etc., in cooperation with domestic and international related institutions and organizations (Roché, 2020).

2. Relationship between public and private security domains and the need for cooperation

In essence, ensuring an optimal level of security is a fundamental function of both police and private security (ASIS, 2020).

The state of relations between the police and private security is a result of the many years of construction, modeling, upgrading and improvement. In the 1990's, with the beginning of the actualization of the private security activity, there was a relationship of mistrust and inequality between the police and private security services agencies. Bad reputation of unregulated companies, excessive and illegal use of force and questionable profiles of owners and employees of these companies, especially in those societies that were in complex circumstances such as armed violence, post-conflict peacebuilding, social reconstruction as a result of political transition, etc., were marked as a weak start for private security, as opposed to the state police bureaucracy (Shioso, 2020).

The following years, in the context of all other factors that contributed to the change of conditions and realities, especially with the great urbanization, the increased need for security services as a result of modern lifestyle, change of police and private security functions and change of economic models of management had led to shift in perceptions that elevated the level of cooperation and coordination.

The general trends observed in the field of coordination and cooperation between the police and private security refer to:

- Increase of number of partnerships;
- Higher level of partnerships' satisfaction;

- Changes in the partnerships' management toward a greater division of responsibilities;
- More energetic informing of the members;
- Better information exchange between the partnership members;
- Broader range of partner activities;
- Greater extent of provision of private security services for traditional functions of law enforcement;
- Increase in resource utilization;
- Partnerships' institutionalization.

Forms of cooperation between the police and the private security sector vary depending on the specific situation and there is no universal model that applies to all types of cooperation.

Most commonly, cooperation and coordination between the police and private security is in the domain of: organizational structure, purpose, management, funding and membership. Less formal engagement is easier to establish and implement, while more formal partnerships specify substantial initial clauses such as funding, staffing, long-term operations, etc., and in the long run, the more formal partnerships are longer lasting (Brands, Gavin, 2020).

The various types of organizational structures that are subject to cooperation can act in the form of committees within larger organizations, where for example, various associations, quasi-governmental organizations, non-governmental organizations, etc., can participate (Montgomery, Griffiths, 2015).

The goals of cooperation and coordination between the police and private security can be concentrated around one area, but they can also extend cooperation and coordination to more aspects of maintaining public order and the safety of citizens and society (Sheptycki, 2020).

In terms of governance, law enforcement forces are often the traditional leaders in cooperation and coordination, especially in the area of sharing information related to criminal acts with the private security sector, but still, there are initiatives that are jointly led by both entities, especially in industrial partnerships. In terms of membership, it can be graded at different levels and may include background checks and criminal records, especially given the sensitivity of cooperation when it comes to exchanging classified information. Membership may also be more or less privileged, where all members would have access to certain information, for example, but only certain members of these collaborations could disseminate it.

In order to determine the factual and real connection between the police and private security, hence the need for cooperation and coordination of their functioning, it is necessary to separate the functions of these two segments. Police and private security are separate segments of a society's overall security system. The legal and conceptual description of police actions is defined as policing matters related to the protection of life, personal safety and property of citizens, protection of freedoms and human rights, guaranteed by the Constitution (DCAF, 2020).

In terms of social positioning, the police as an institution is one of the most present organizations in society, and members of the police are considered to be the most visible representatives of the government and protectors of order.

The role and functions of the police generally relate to impartial law enforcement and the protection of the life, liberty, property, human rights and dignity of members of the society. Promotion and preservation of public order and peace, protection of internal security, prevention and suppression of terrorist activities, militant activities and other situations that adversely affect internal security and disturb the social harmony.

The police function also includes the protection of public property, including roads, railways, bridges, vital installations, facilities, etc., against acts of vandalism, violence or any kind of attack. Furthermore, the functions of the police include crime prevention and reduction of opportunities to commit crimes through preventive action and measures, as well as support and cooperation with other relevant agencies in implementing appropriate measures to prevent the perpetrating of crimes. The social function of the police also means to accurately register all complaints submitted by citizens or their representatives, through various types of communication, e-mail or other means and to take timely action to monitor them, to register and investigate all identifiable offenses which will be established through such complaints.

The objective functions of the police are to create and maintain a sense of security in the community, and to prevent conflicts as much as possible and promote constructiveness, providing a first response, respectively, any possible assistance to people in situations caused by natural disasters or artificial (anthropogenic) disasters and provide active assistance to other agencies in relief and rehabilitation measures. Managing the proper movement of people and vehicles and controlling and regulating road and highway traffic, as well as gathering intelligence on matters affecting public peace and all kinds of crimes, as well as other matters relating to national security and all agencies concerned and training, motivating and ensuring the well-being of police personnel (UNCHS, 2001).

Private security, on the other hand, is a sector that has seen an increase in staff numbers, increased demand for services, and social engagement over the past few decades. This is primarily due to the real need to support public law enforcement agencies, shifts in economic relations and diversion of certain functions that were exclusive to the state security authorities in the private security sector.

Additionally, with the emergence of the Covid-19 pandemic and the tendency of intensifying traditional and hybrid threats, the need for active engagement, cooperation and coordination with private security has become an imperative. In this regard, it is important to define the functions assigned to private security as a social element (Oringer, 2020).

The basic function of private security evolves and is initially defined as the protection and security of property, which is gradually expanding into the areas of law enforcement, crime prevention and investigation, cash in transit security and transportation of other valuables such as precious metals, works of art and stocks with special vehicles, protection of corporate functioning, protection of critical infrastructure, support in maintaining national security, patrol, monitoring using technical means, etc.

When enumerating the functions of these social entities, one comes to the logical conclusion that the line between the private and security sectors is fading, both from a legal and security point of view, so sometimes it seems difficult to define what is public, and what private space, and which competencies are exclusive to one or the other sector (IFSEC, 2020).

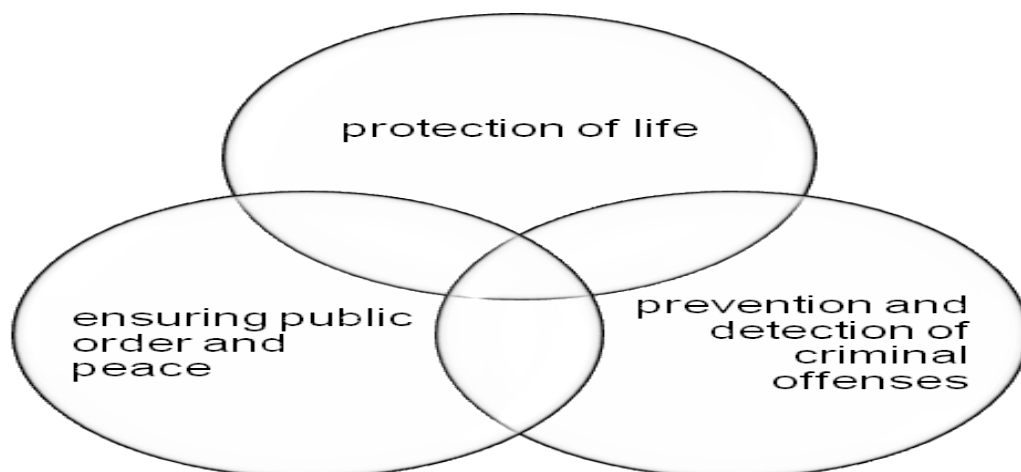


Image 1: Connection between police and private security domains. Source: Bakreski, O., Slaveski, S., Gacoski, Z.: Security through the Prism of Private Security. Chamber for Private Security in the Republic of N. Macedonia, 2018.

Public and private security, in addition to similarities and points of contact, have different functions and must follow the success criteria applied in each country's regulations. Private security must take care of the needs within the private sphere, covering the needs of the people and companies that are in their legal jurisdiction to safeguard their goods, property and business activities, among other aspects. Cooperation between the two types of security is essential and is evident in protection and control (CoE, 2020).

Differences between police and private security are seen primarily in: methodology, decision-making process, hierarchical set-up, regulatory policy and control, means, sources and modes of funding, powers and responsibilities, and training.

The divergence in the fundamental functions of these two social entities is located in the area under their jurisdiction and is normatively regulated. Namely, it is about preserving public order and peace as a basic function of the police force, while private security has the security of public spaces, as well as private property and the smooth functioning of corporations and other types of economic enterprises under its jurisdiction (SIA, 2021).

3. Public-private security partnerships in tackling the global pandemic

In situations of increased risk from security threats, especially the need to respond jointly to the challenges posed by the Covid-19 crisis, the responsibility for pandemic management and control expands beyond the central actor – the state – to the private security sector. The central question here is whether the private security sector is interested in engaging in such partnerships to deal with potential risks. Usually, there are short-term costs and most importantly health and safety risks, so it is important to consider how to stimulate and encourage them to “invest” in the safety and health of people this way. Accordingly, clear rules, defined relationships, clear willingness to cooperate and efforts to explain how improved security is a common priority and challenge for both public and private security

are therefore needed. Cooperation and partnership will be seen through the prism of the role of these sectors in dealing with the health situation, which is a safety challenge, and in such circumstances safety will not be seen as a cost, but more as a contribution to protecting the security of the community and human health.

In particular, the cooperation in the field of functioning of the police and the private security sector, especially in the period since the declaration of the pandemic with Covid-19 and the introduction of special legal-political measures refers to joint meetings, expert groups, portfolio or cross-sectoral projects within domestic initiatives or within international efforts in the field of strengthening the cooperation of several involved actors in order to simultaneously exchange information in real time, standardize methods and instruments of action, in accordance with international standards and regulations, as well as harmonizing training and education, especially in context of current threats such as terrorism, violent extremism, drug trafficking, illegal logging, migrant smuggling, cyber security, environmental security and societal security (Terpstra, de Maillard, Salet, & Roché, 2021).

With the establishment of formal cooperation and the promotion of mutual relations in the domain of their work, the cooperation and coordination between the police and the private security is characterized by progress and continuous development. However, despite the declarative efforts, it is necessary to continue to work on the real efforts to deepen cooperation and coordination, in order to keep pace with the response to contemporary security challenges, which were highlighted by the outbreak of the global pandemic in early 2020 (Stott, West, Harrison, 2020).

The real need for cooperation between the police and the private security in its essence should be constant, respectively, to have the capacity to be ready at any moment, in any place and in all conditions to perform the set tasks; timeliness, which means taking certain measures, actions and procedures before the activity or operation itself is realized, which reflects the ability to apply what is planned; comprehensiveness, respectively coordinated and comprehensive functioning of the security system and its parts; efficiency or success achieved by the ability of all immediate executors to respond appropriately to all forms of threat, attempts to endanger, as well as to take measures to eliminate the consequences and possible reactive action; relevance, which reflects the degree of probability that the system, or its elements fulfill the role intended for them; as well as mutual trust, which means that in case of exchange of information between the police and private security as elements of the security system will not allow the information that is of interest to be misused in any way (Lanfranchi, Bohnenberger, 2020).

The need for cooperation between these two elements is especially significant in the field of resources, due to the increased resource burden from March 2020 onwards, due to the constant need for police and private security officers on the front line in ensuring the safety, health and safety of their own staff, medical staff and citizens, implementation of self-isolation and quarantine measures, testing, etc (Elbe, 2010).

During this crisis, more than ever, the functioning of societies is carried out on computer systems, mobile devices and the Internet for working, communicating, purchasing, sharing and receiving information and various other ways. But with the emergence and spread of the Covid-19 virus, there is empirical evidence that malicious actors are exploiting these vulnerabilities to their advantage. Because the disease is an invisible threat, it can be

used politically, as in examples where the pandemic situation has been used for purposes of disinformation, fake news spread and infodemia. These invisible threats, whether generated by human activity or accidental causes, can be operationalized to incite civil unrest, civil disobedience, riots, hate crime, cyberbullying, which are often unintentionally intensified by average citizens online (Close, 2020). All this has intensified efforts for greater cooperation between the relevant authorities for the prevention and resolution of such crimes should be included in full co-operation with the private security sector to detect, investigate, monitor and prosecute the above acts and bring to justice those who use the Covid-19 pandemic for their own criminal purposes (Gjørsv, 2020).

Thus, the negative effects on national security and community safety from the Covid-19 crisis have also reflected on social cohesion and increased crime, including street crime, domestic violence, substance abuse, hate crime, gender crimes and modern slavery. The Covid-19 pandemic has also exposed individuals and society to extreme vulnerabilities in cybersecurity (ESORCS 2020).

3.1. Applicable approach

According to Europol data, individual criminals and organized crime groups have not wasted time to quickly take advantage of the crisis caused by the Covid-19 pandemic, adapting their activities and modus operandi to the new situation (FAO UN, 2020). Thus, criminal threats remained dynamic; and altered and new criminal activities emerged during the pandemic. The most affected areas of criminal activity include cybercrime, spreading false news and misinformation which further aggravates the state of public opinion and escalation of civil unrest against the imposed measures, illicit supply of counterfeit and substandard medical goods, etc. (EUROPOL, 2021). Namely, the demand for health and sanitary products (masks, gloves, hygiene products, disinfectants), as well as personal protective equipment, significantly increased the distribution of key criminal activities during the pandemic, as well as various types of fraud often related to organized crime (EC, 2021).

Empirical examples from experiences in the field of cooperation and coordination between police and private security show several variables in terms of results at the state and global levels. Cooperation and coordination ensures synchronized activity, avoiding duplication of activities and unnecessary engagement of resources, as well as the inclusion of a wide range of security topics, legislation, structural and oversight issues (Hoi, 2020).

At a national level, Spain has achieved success in its Comprehensive Plan for cooperation between national police and private security in the field of preventing pandemic attacks on medical personnel and an Action plan for combating hate crime through the establishment of private security units within the state police for greater coordination. Several countries in Europe and Latin America are following Spain's model to improve civil security and adapt protocols to co-operative activities in dealing with Covid-19.

In terms of global efforts, coordination of international policy and intensification of cooperation may also be emphasized, primarily through the UN Security Council or a similar body tasked with implementing, reviewing or advising on policy and allocation of resources to deal with security threats. Therefore, these coordinating bodies are key, representing accessible and feasible entry points to ensure that current security issues are placed in the appropriate place on the agenda and that all information, processes and trends in security

decision-making provided through cooperation and coordination are taken into account (NATO, 2020).

4.The cooperation of the police, the army and the private security in the macedonian state in pandemic conditions

The declaration of a pandemic by the World Health Organization led to the declaration of a state of emergency in many countries around the world. In this regard, it is important to note that not every epidemic provokes a political response in the form of a state of emergency. Also, the state of emergency is not in itself a health measure, but is a constitutional-legal category, which in the case of Covid-19 is based on the decision to declare an epidemic as a serious danger to human health, which enters into force special legalconstitutional instruments and competencies, primarily for health care, as well as for the regulation of social relations and activities in certain areas that are directly and indirectly affected, such as the economy, education, etc.

Basically, a state of emergency is a reaction to a certain situation that objectively poses a threat to the state. When a state of emergency is introduced, the functions of the government change, citizens are expected to change their usual behavior, and certain or all government bodies and agencies may be empowered to prepare and implement preparedness and emergency plans, suspend or restrict human rights and civil liberties. The decision to declare a state of emergency in a certain state social order can be motivated by various reasons, such as - armed action directed against the state by external entities or internal elements, natural disasters, civil unrest, epidemics, financial and economic crises and a general strike (Gutteres, 2020).

The state of emergency is not unknown or unusual worldwide. However, examples from history and current events illustrate that the state of emergency as a legal and political measure can be abused, especially in authoritarian and dictatorial regimes, where it can be used as an instrument to maintain the regime, under the guise of other phenomena (Kroenig, 2020).

In order to define and describe the state of emergency, it consists of two components - a legal framework, consisting of a constitutional and legislative basis for the state of emergency, and an operational framework, which contains the organizational structure and strategic plans for dealing with the state of emergency. Regarding the legal framework, the basic principles relate to democratic accountability, respect for human rights and the rule of law during emergencies, including international law. When making a decision to declare a state of emergency, restrictions on ordinary economic, civic or political activity and rights are unquestionably imposed in order to resolve the extraordinary circumstances which led to the state of emergency, which may be fully justified. Simultaneously, there is a danger that the government will use the state of emergency to impose unnecessary restrictions on human rights and civil liberties, to neutralize political opponents, to decide to postpone elections, referendums, a general census or other, personal goals that could be more difficult to be imposed under normal circumstances. There are also examples that show that there are countries where the state of emergency tends to be prolonged, long after the original reason for their declaration

has already changed. In this regard, it is important to emphasize the danger that a state of emergency, if not properly managed, could produce a dictatorship (IOM, 2021).

Most legal systems ensure that the executive is not the only one empowered to declare a state of emergency and prescribe ratification of the executive's decision by parliament, often by a qualified majority. As a general rule, governments controlled by parliament must give a well-thought-out explanation for both their decision to declare a state of emergency and special measures to resolve the situation. Most parliaments also have the power to review the state of emergency at regular intervals and to abolish it if necessary. The role of the parliament is particularly important in exceptional situations that last a long time when the principle of civilian oversight of the security sector could be jeopardized (Gostin, 2014).

In its fundament, Article 125 of the Macedonian Constitution strictly prescribes the conditions under which a state of emergency can be declared. In accordance with this article, a state of emergency may be declared in part or in the whole territory in conditions of major natural disasters and epidemics. Furthermore, the proclamation procedure is strictly prescribed, i.e. this inherent right is given to the Assembly on the proposal of the President of the Republic, the Government or at least 30 representatives of the Parliament (MPs). In our case, when the Assembly was actually dissolved in the interest of the time and the seriousness of the situation, the Government, as one of the proposers, as it has already done, submitted a proposal to the President of the Republic to declare a state of emergency. After reviewing the justification, the President of the Republic declared a state of emergency.

By declaring a state of emergency, the Constitution gives the Government the right to adopt decrees with legal force and they are of temporary nature in precisely defined conditions and last until the end of the state of emergency, within 30 days. It must be emphasized that the Decrees with legal force are general acts and they can regulate matters that have already been previously regulated by law in a different way, but also to regulate matters that are not regulated by law. Of course, in such circumstances, certain laws will undergo certain changes that are essential and important for dealing with the situation caused by the virus.

On March 21, 2020, the Government issued a decree with legal force, according to which it obliged the army, in addition to its exclusive right entrusted for the defense of the state, protection of basic values and assumptions for the survival of the state, and enabled it to engage in sensitive emergency response in order to secure and supervise the state border, to control the entry and exit of roads, to provide physical security of vital facilities secured by the Ministry of Interior in order to provide support, to provide support to local government units, state administration bodies or other state institutions in order to prevent the spread of the infection caused by the virus, etc. Respectfully tasks that, being guided by the functional dimension of the army, are not in the general designation and in the basis on which its structure is built and determined in normal circumstances.

Having the new situation in performing the necessary operational tasks, an operational headquarters was established in the Ministry of Interior in order for the police and the army to provide the necessary cooperation, synchronization and coordination for more efficient handling and adjustment of the specific threat caused by the corona virus to citizens and society. Adapting to new realities that have implied serious health, social,

political and security shocks has forced these two institutions to express the necessary coherence and responsibility to take appropriate steps towards articulation and a clear security orientation that contributes to the optimal solution of problems.

For the effective implementation of the necessary activities, there is no doubt that both the police and the army should jointly harmonize the operational plans and synchronize their activities to reduce uncertainty, but also to improve the work organization which is absolutely neither routine nor everyday given the new circumstances. All this, at least among the citizens, symbolizes a certain differentiation which seen through the prism of social relations gives a more prominent role to employees in the security sector and in these circumstances, certainly the health workers, who are the most important link in overcoming the situation compared to other institutions in the country. This means that the police and the military, as exclusively autonomous social entities with their strong structural positions and the influence they have in society, play a very important role in this complex and difficult situation, because now in addition to their basic function, they must engage indirectly in preservation to the health of the citizens, contribute to the authority of the state, and by protecting the highest values of society, respectively providing the basic social values, their importance is far greater.

Fundamentally, the police and the army must have the power and authority to do their task in an emergency, because they are expected to solve these problems completely if security problems eventually arise. On the other hand, nominally, the deployment of the army out from the barracks should not mean that its action would jeopardize the democratic processes in society, the interests of the citizens themselves as well, except of course in short periods during the state of emergency. This raises the question of how it is possible to achieve all this. The answer to this dilemma is simple and it emphasizes three aspirations: legitimacy, professionalism and responsibility. In such complex situations, another question deserves the necessary attention. Thus, when real human resources are extremely important and consideration must be taken to avoid conditional "fatigue" from the constant engagement of police and army staff, there is no doubt that according to the challenge, without exception, private security can respond as part of the security sector despite its focus and primary concern for matters related to the protection of persons and property - an engagement that contributes to greater prevention and reduction of material losses. There is no dilemma that this important segment can be counted on and this entity, which is adjusted in overcoming the overall generalized situation imposed by the virus is able to respond to the challenges and conditions, respectively is able to respond to the structural risks to human health above all, as well as to the protection of property through the application of certain protection mechanisms to implement the best safety practice in operation. This is an opportunity for the police, the army and the private security agencies as well as other security actors to get involved in the joint efforts to protect the health of the citizens and their property, as well as their lives. Also, this greatly imposes the need for cooperation at the level of functionality / contribution between these entities which should be a selfless tool in the overall cooperation / effect of building a joint response against this threat to people that leaves strong implications for health and on security.

Conclusion

The Covid-19 pandemic once again highlighted the interdependence of societies and highlighted the global nature of the pandemic as a health and safety threat, with far-reaching consequences for the economy, education, and possibly all spheres of human activity. Hence, the conclusion is that the implementation of more or less formalized cooperation and coordination between the police and the private security sector acts as an amplifier of the overall efforts to prevent the spread of the pandemic. Thus, the analysis substantially confirms that the need for cooperation and coordination between the police and the private security sector in conditions of a pandemic, is more than obvious and that this need is real. Furthermore, empirical data indicate that cooperation and coordination between these two segments of the national security system, together with the other segments, are key assumptions for ensuring the required level of security. However, the experience in the Macedonian state showed the opposite during the pandemic.

Regarding the protection of citizens, there is no dilemma, as it was confirmed, that the health sector has a primary role, but all efforts of health professionals would be insufficient if measures were not taken to protect the population, by providing the necessary protocols, and the compliance with these measures and protocols also confirmed the need for the involvement of the security sector in response to the pandemic.

Basically, the Covid-19 pandemic crisis presented organizational and operational challenges that forced law enforcement agencies and private security agencies to adapt their tasks and activities to the new situation, which required increased engagement and new approaches and functioning in the new normal. It must be noted that during the pandemic there was a lack of a common response and shared responsibility in seeking new approaches and new answers. In parallel with the additional engagements for additional mobilization for an appropriate response to the pandemic, law enforcement entities and security agencies encountered an emerging need in the coming period to jointly recognize the shortcomings in the cooperation and work together in order to be better prepared to face similar challenges in the future and to protect their citizens.

References:

Albrecht, H., J. Nogala, D. 2001 *Sociology of Police*. International Encyclopedia of the Social & Behavioral Sciences.

Bakreski, O., Ahić, J., Nađ, I. 2019 *Privatnisiurnosnisektor u jugoistočnoj Evropi*, Skopje: Komora Sjeverne Makedonije za privatnu zaštitu.

Bardjieva M., L., & Bakreski, O. (2020) *Private security industry in the Republic of North Macedonia* (No. 11413237). International Institute of Social and Economic Sciences, Lisbon.

Brands, H., Gavin, F., J. (2020) *Covid-19 and the World Order: the Future of Conflict, Competition and Cooperation*. Johns Hopkins University Press, Baltimore.

Chalom, M. et al. 2001 *Urban Safety and Good Governance: the Role of the Police*. International Centre for Prevention of Crime. UNCHS

Chinwokwu, E. C. (2018). *An assessment of the relationship between private security companies*

and the police in crime prevention in Lagos Metropolis, Nigeria. *International Journal of Police Science & Management*, 20(1), 80–93. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1461355718756413>

Close, L. (2020) *Pandemic and Protest Mean it's Time for a Domestic Security White Paper*. The Strategist. Australian Strategic Policy Institute. <https://www.aspistrategist.org.au/pandemic-and-protests-mean-its-time-for-a-domestic-security-white-paper/>

Computer Security: ESORCS 2020. Guildford, UK. Proceedings, Part II. <https://books.google.mk/books?id=Rbn8DwAAQBAJ&printsec=frontcover&dq=private+security+functions+in+covid+19+pandemic&hl=en&sa=X&ved=2ahUKEwio7NPR7tLuAhVRzhoKHRmyDvAQ6AEwBXoECACQAq#v=onepage&q&f=false>

Covid-19 and the Private Security Industry. Frequently Asked Questions. Security Industry Authority, 2021. https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/958726/sia-covid-19-faq.pdf

Cyber Crime and covid-19. Council of Europe. <https://www.coe.int/en/web/cybercrime/cybercrime-and-covid-19>

Dietz, E., Black, R., D. (2012) *Pandemic Planning*. Taylor & Francis Group. Boca Raton, London, New York.

El Paccto – Europe-Latin America, Support Project Against Organized Transnational Crime – Police Component. Missions and Projects CIVIPOL. <https://www.civipol.fr/en/projects/el-paccto-europe-latin-america-support-project-against-organised-transnational-crime>

Elbe, S. (2010) *Security and Global Health: Toward a Medicalization of Insecurity*. Polity Press, UK.

Fighting Covid-19 With Science. NATO Newsroom, 07 Sept. 2020. https://www.nato.int/cps/en/natohq/news_177729.htm

Food Security under the Covid-19 Pandemic. Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, 2020. <http://www.fao.org/3/ca8873en/CA8873EN.pdf>

Gjørsv, H., G. (2020) *Coronavirus, Invisible Threats and Preparing for Resilience*. 20 May 2020 NATO Review.

Gobierno de Espana.Ministerio del Interior. https://www.policia.es/es/idioma_en_policia.php#

Gostin, O., L. (2014) *Global Health Law*. Harvard University Press.

Gutteres, A. (2020) *Briefing to the Security Council on Global Governance Post-COVID-19*. United Nations Secretary General. 24 September 2020. <https://www.un.org/sg/en/content/sg/speeches/2020-09-24/brrespectivelyfing-security-council-global-governance-post-covid-19>

Gwartney J. D., Stroup L., R., Sobel S., Macpherson A., D. (2021) *Macroeconomics: Private and Public Choice*. Cengage.

Hoi, L., J. (2020) *The COVID New (Ab) Normal: Pandemic Response Driving ASEAN's Human Security Agenda*. Asia Social Policy Institute.

How the Corona Virus Pandemic Impacts Security Service Firms. Security Management. ASIS International <https://www.asisonline.org/security-management-magazine/latest-news/online-exclusives/2020/coronavirus-impacting-security-services/> [article]

Immigration and Border Management Response. Covid-19. IOM UN Migration. https://www.iom.int/sites/default/files/our_work/DMM/IBM/2020/en/en_covid-19ibmresponseinfosheet_3pages.pdf

Interpol Covid-19 Pandemic Protecting Police and Communities. Guidelines for Law Enforcement. Second Edition, November 2020.

Kickbusch, I., Lister, G., Told, M., Drager, N. (2015) *Global Health Diplomacy: Concepts, Issues, Actors, Instruments, Fora and Cases.* Springer, New York.

Kroenig, M. (2020) *The Return of Great Power Rivalry: Democracy Versus Autocracy from the Ancient World to the US and China.* Oxford University Press.

Lanfranchi, M., Bohnenberger, C. 2020 *The New Age of Safety and Security.* Security Magazine. September 25, 2020 [article] <https://www.securitymagazine.com/articles/93459-the-new-age-of-safety-and-security>

Laufs, J., Waseem, Z. (2020) *Policing in Pandemics: A Systematic Review and Best Practices for Police Response to Covid-19.* International Journal of Disaster Risk Reduction.: [10.1016/j.ijdr.2020.101812](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ijdr.2020.101812)

Montgomery, R. Griffiths, C., T. (2015) *The Use of Private Security Services and Policing.* Research Report Public Safety Canada.

Oringer, K. (2020) *Covid-19 and the Guarding Industry.* Security Magazine. [article April 7 2020] <https://www.securitymagazine.com/articles/92031-covid-19-and-the-guarding-industry>

Overview: Health Security and Infectious Diseases. European Commission. https://ec.europa.eu/health/security/overrespectivelyw_en

Paek, S., Y., N., K., Mahesh, Lee, N. (2020) *Private security officers' willingness to cooperate with police: the role of procedural justice.* Policing and Society, DOI: [10.1080/10439463.2020.1773824](https://doi.org/10.1080/10439463.2020.1773824)

Public-Private Security Partnerships are Essential to Public Safety. Allied Universal [online] <https://www.aus.com/security-resources/manufacturing-security-best-practices-5-critical-considerations>

Raible, L. (2020) *Human Rights Unbound: A Theory of Extraterritoriality.* Oxford University Press. Reform and Cooperation in the Security Sector. OSCE.

Roché, S (2020) *Le coronavirus, l'exception et la culture politique des élites.* Esprit, May. <https://esprit.presse.fr/actualites/sebastian-roche/le-coronavirus-l-exception-et-la-culture-politique-des-elites-42766>

Safeguarding Frontline Officers Against the Covid19 Pandemic Nigeria Police Partner with UNDC and the EU. United Nations Office for Drugs and Crime, 2020.

Security and Justice Reform Response to Covid-19 Crisis. Democratic Control of the Armed Forces International Security Sector Advisory Team.

Sheptycki, J (2020) *The politics of policing a pandemic panic*. Australian & New Zealand Journal of Criminology 53(2): 157–173.

Shioso, I., B. (2020) *Peacekeeping Amid a Pandemic*. *Global Initiative Against Transnational Organized Crime*. [article] <https://globalinitiative.net/analysis/peacekeeping-pandemic/>

Stares, B., P., Jia, Q., Tocci, N. (2020) *Perspectives on a Changing World Order*. Council on Foreign Relations.

Staying Safe During Covid-19: What You Need to Know? EUROPOL. <https://www.europol.europa.eu/activities-respectively-services/staying-safe-during-covid-19-what-you-need-to-know>

Stott, C, West, O, Harrison, M (2020) *A turning point, securitization, and policing in the context of Covid-19: building a new social contract between state and nation?* Policing: A Journal of Policy and Practice 14(3): 574–578

Terpstra, J., de Maillard, J., Salet, R., & Roché, S. (2021). *Policing the corona crisis: A comparison between France and the Netherlands*. International Journal of Police Science & Management. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1461355720980772>

The New Normal 2.0: Private Security and Covid-19 in Europe. Confederation of European Security Services. A Strategic Review and Foresight. White Paper, October 2020.

The Role of a Security Guard During Covid-19. IFSEC Global. <https://www.ifsecglobal.com/global/the-role-of-a-security-guard-during-covid-19/> [article]

The Role of the Law Enforcement in Public Health Emergencies. Special Considerations for All Hazard Approach. US Department of Justice, 2006.

Torres, Steven, Muggah, 2020 *We Urgently Need Major Cooperation on Global Security in the COVID-19 Era*. World Economic Forum. [article 23 Apr 2020] <https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2020/04/we-need-major-cooperation-on-global-security-in-the-covid-19-era/>

Албрехт, П., Барнс, К. 2008 *Креирање на полицијата за национална безбеднос и родој*. Збирка алатки за родот и РБС, DCAF.

Бакрески, О., Славески, С., Гацовски, Ж. (2018) *Безбеднос на приватна безбедување*. Комора на Република Северна Македонија за приватно обезбедување.

Ѓуровски, М. (2017) *Безбедносни полицијски и концепции*. Фондација Конрад Аденауер, 2017.

Закон за полиција. Министерство за внатрешни работи на Република Северна Македонија

Закон за приватно обезбедување на Република Македонија, 2017. Министерство за внатрешни работи. Законот за приватно обезбедување („Службен весник на Република Македонија“ бр. 166/12), Законот за изменување и дополнување на Законот за приватно обезбедување („Службен весник на Република Македонија“ бр. 164/13), Законот за изменување и дополнување на Законот за приватно обезбедување („Службен весник на Република Македонија“ бр. 148/15), Законот за изменување и дополнување на Законот

за приватно обезбедување („Службен весник на Република Македонија“ бр. 193/15) и Законот за изменување и дополнување на Законот за приватно обезбедување („Службен весник на Република Македонија“ бр. 55/16)

Информации за кризната состојба. Влада на Република Северна Македонија. <https://koronavirus.gov.mk/vesti/219024>

Лабовиќ, Д. (2015) *Приватна безбедност: ѝравна и социјална димензија*. Иновациони центар факултета безбедности.

Меѓународно научно списание Безбедност. Република Северна Македонија, Министерство за внатрешни работи. Година LIX, Број 1, Скопје, јуни 2019 година.

Овластување на лицата кои вршат приватно обезбедување. Правдико. <https://www.pravdiko.mk/ovlastuvan-ata-na-litsata-koi-vrshat-privatno-obezbeduvan-e/#more-5482>

Одлука за определување на правни лица кои се должни да имаат приватно обезбедување. Влада на Република Македонија. Службен весник на РМ бр. 106 од 29.07.2013 година.

Правни аспекти на вонредната состојба. Македонска Академија на науките и уметностите.

Стратешки план 2018-2020. Министерство за внатрешни работи на Република Северна Македонија.