

3. Про затвердження Національного плану дій з виконання Резолюції Ради Безпеки ООН 1325 «Жінки, мир, безпека» на період до 2025 року : Розпорядження Кабінету Міністрів України від 28.10.2020 р. № 1544-р. URL: [Про затвердження Національног... | від 28.10.2020 № 1544-р](#) (дата звернення: 02.05.2026).

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LAW ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITIES UNDER MARTIAL LAW AND POST-WAR RECONSTRUCTION

The relevance of this topic is due to the fact that in the context of full-scale war in Ukraine, the very role of law enforcement agencies within the state and society is undergoing a significant transformation. They are ceasing to perform exclusively public order functions and are acquiring the status of a key element in the national security and defense system.

The issues of how law enforcement agencies function under martial law and their transformation as a result of armed aggression represent a relatively new field that is only now undergoing scholarly examination. Previously, legal science was mostly focused on the activities of the police, prosecutor's office, and other institutions exclusively in peacetime conditions.

Since 2022, interest in this topic has significantly increased: more and more studies have emerged regarding the participation of law enforcement officers in national defense, the documentation of war crimes, and the fight against new threats such as sabotage activities or the illegal circulation of weapons.

At the same time, there is still a lack of comprehensive research that systematically analyzes the transformation of the entire law enforcement architecture and its role in post-war reconstruction.

This study aims to analyze the transformation of law enforcement activities in Ukraine under martial law, identify their primary operational directions during the full-scale invasion, and evaluate the contribution of law enforcement agencies to national security.

The full-scale war has transformed Ukraine's law enforcement system into a universal defense mechanism. Today, law enforcement officers do more than just

maintain public order; they operate as a multi-purpose structure, documenting evidence of Russian aggression, neutralizing sabotage threats, rescuing people from combat zones, and directly holding the front line. Everyone who chooses the profession of a law enforcement officer or rescuer gets the opportunity to make Ukraine strong – the Head of State during the graduation of cadets of universities of the Ministry of Internal Affairs system [1].

During martial law, Ukraine's law enforcement agencies not only ensure public order and the state's internal security but also directly participate in combat operations. One example of this was the creation of the assault brigade of the National Police of Ukraine – the Combined Assault Brigade of the National Police of Ukraine “Liut” (Fury). The brigade was formed in 2023 within the system of the National Police of Ukraine to participate in repelling the armed aggression of the Russian Federation. It comprises police officers, special forces fighters, and volunteers who perform combat missions in the most dangerous areas of the front.

The creation of the “Liut” brigade became an example of how the Ukrainian police adapted to wartime conditions and combined law enforcement activities with the fulfillment of the state's defense functions.

Ihor Klymenko: 5,000 police officers are serving in the “Liut” brigade, which is directly stationed at the front. The Minister of Internal Affairs of Ukraine, stated this in an exclusive interview with the National Telethon “United News”. “About 30,000 more police officers are performing police functions in regions where active combat is directly taking place. In particular, this includes the “White Angel” units, which are engaged in the evacuation of civilians – children and elderly citizens – from the combat zone”, he emphasized [2].

Timur Veklych, call sign “Vermut”, an assault trooper of the “Lyut” brigade, initially planned to serve in the patrol police after training as a bartender. However, with the start of the full-scale war, he changed his decision, believing that working in a peaceful city was not appropriate enough under the conditions of martial law. Consequently, he joined the “Lyut” assault brigade, explaining his choice with the words: “this is the police that fights” [3].

Despite significant achievements, Ukraine's modern law enforcement system operates under extraordinary challenges. A key issue is the critical workload on personnel, as the war has significantly expanded the range of tasks, forcing officers to work without rest in conditions of constant danger. This, in turn, leads to profound psychological exhaustion, as law enforcement officers daily confront the consequences of war crimes and human tragedies. The situation is further complicated by the destruction of the material and technical base – the destruction of stations and administrative buildings due to hostilities. On the afternoon of April 20, the Russian army attacked Pryluky in the Chernihiv region with drones. There was a hit on the district police department. Part of the building was destroyed, and official vehicles were also damaged.

Ivan Ishchenko, the head of the Main Directorate of the National Police in the Chernihiv region, reported this to Suspilne [4]. Furthermore, the rapid spread of illicit

weapons trafficking poses a serious threat to the state's future security, which will become one of the most difficult challenges for the system in the post-war period.

After the war concludes, Ukraine's key priority will be large-scale reconstruction, the success of which will directly depend on the efficiency of law enforcement agencies. During this period, the system will undergo a transformation to address new security challenges. The main areas of focus will include not only maintaining public order and border protection but also intensified efforts against organized crime, the investigation of war crimes, and a rigorous crackdown on corruption.

Attorney Ruslan Pronin notes: The war has radically changed the balance between the need for armament and the necessity of its control.

Since 2022, thousands of weapons have entered the civilian environment – including captured (trophy) weapons, as well as those lost or distributed for defense purposes. A significant portion of these has never been returned to official records.

Law enforcement officers acknowledge that controlling the circulation of weapons has become much more complex, as the line between a “defender” and a “lawbreaker” is sometimes blurred. On the other hand, the wartime context does not waive legal requirements. Illegal possession of weapons, even with “good intentions”, remains a criminal offense.

In this context, the state plays a special role: it must not only punish but also create mechanisms for the legalization or voluntary surrender of weapons that effectively ended up in the hands of civilians during the war [5]. Furthermore, law enforcement officers bear a special responsibility for ensuring the rule of law and transparency in the use of international financial assistance allocated for the state's reconstruction.

Thus, law enforcement activity under martial law serves as a fundamental pillar of statehood and a key guarantor of societal security. Risking their lives, Ukrainian law enforcement officers overcome unprecedented challenges daily, ensuring the country's stability during the most critical moments of its history.

With the arrival of peace, the significance of law enforcement agencies will only grow. It is their capacity for effective transformation that will determine the success of post-war recovery: from eradicating crime and corruption to establishing justice and strengthening citizens' trust in state institutions.

The experience of modern Ukraine serves as a unique example for the entire world, demonstrating how the resilience, courage, and professionalism of law enforcement officers become an insurmountable barrier against aggression.

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ПЕРЕШКОДИ У ДІЯЛЬНОСТІ ПРАВООХОРОННИХ ОРГАНІВ В УМОВАХ ВОЄННОГО СТАНУ

Після початку повномасштабного вторгнення Російської Федерації на територію України у 2022 році правоохоронна система держави опинилася перед безпрецедентними викликами. В умовах воєнного стану правоохоронні органи змушені одночасно забезпечувати громадську безпеку, протидіяти злочинності, розслідувати воєнні злочини та підтримувати правопорядок у регіонах, які перебувають під постійною загрозою ракетних обстрілів і диверсій.

Значна частина працівників правоохоронних органів була залучена до виконання завдань оборони держави, що суттєво збільшило навантаження на систему.

Однією з головних перешкод у діяльності правоохоронних органів стала небезпека для життя та здоров'я працівників. Через активні бойові дії частина поліцейських відділків, прокуратур та інших установ була зруйнована або пошкоджена. За даними Міністерства внутрішніх справ України, у багатьох деокупованих населених пунктах правоохоронці починали роботу практично з нуля, відновлюючи документацію, комунікацію та технічне забезпечення [1]. Ускладнювала ситуацію також нестача кадрів, оскільки значна кількість працівників вступила до лав Збройних Сил України або була евакуйована.