

human rights guarantees, which reflects the requirements of the European Court of Human Rights.

Further study of international experience in collecting and recording evidence is crucial for improving the Ukrainian criminal process, in particular in terms of increasing the efficiency of using technical means and clearer regulation of the admissibility of evidence obtained outside of procedural actions.

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FEATURES OF THE UKRAINIAN POLICE IN WARTIME CONDITIONS

Topicality: The topic is highly relevant, as it reflects the transformation of the National Police of Ukraine during the ongoing Russian full-scale invasion. Understanding the adaptation of law enforcement in wartime conditions is essential for ensuring internal security, stability, and resilience of the state.

The purpose of this paper is to analyze the main features, challenges, and new responsibilities of the National Police of Ukraine

under martial law, highlighting their contribution to national defense, humanitarian support, and the documentation of war crimes.

Main Body: The main body describes how the functions of the Ukrainian police have evolved during the war. It focuses on three key areas of activity: Direct security and defense involvement – participation in combat operations, counter-sabotage measures, and protection of critical infrastructure. Humanitarian and civil protection operations – evacuation of civilians, restoration of law and order in liberated territories, and support for local populations. Documentation of war crimes and atrocities – collection of evidence, identification of victims, and cooperation with international justice institutions. Additionally, the section discusses major challenges, such as logistical difficulties, psychological stress, and rebuilding public trust. The full-scale Russian invasion of Ukraine in February 2022 fundamentally transformed the role of the *National Police of Ukraine (NPU)*. While traditionally focused on maintaining public order and combating crime in peacetime, the NPU's mandate expanded dramatically under the legal regime of martial law, incorporating critical security and humanitarian functions previously unforeseen for a civilian law enforcement agency. The police became an integral component of the nation's defense and resilience, operating on the front lines and in liberated territories [3, 4].

The war necessitated a radical shift in the NPU's operational focus, leading to a significant increase in their workload—estimated by the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Ukraine to have risen by **80%** [1]. This transformation involved three primary areas of responsibility: direct security involvement, humanitarian and civil protection, and the documentation of atrocities.

Direct Security and Defense Involvement

In the immediate aftermath of the full-scale invasion, NPU units were rapidly deployed, often engaging in direct combat operations. The *Rapid Operational Response Unit (KORD)*, for instance, participated in repelling the invasion during the Kyiv offensive [6]. Key wartime security functions include:

Counter-Sabotage and Reconnaissance: Officers work to identify and neutralize enemy infiltrators, spies, and sabotage groups [3].

Special Legal Regimes: Enforcing curfews, manning thousands of checkpoints across the regions in cooperation with the military and

National Guard, and controlling the movement of weapons and explosives [3, 5, p. 200]. One of the key duties of the NPU is enforcing curfews and special legal regimes to maintain stability in high-risk areas [5, p. 200].

Infrastructure Security: Protecting critical infrastructure, such as nuclear plants, power stations, ports, and railways, against attack and sabotage [3].

Humanitarian and Civil Protection Operations

The NPU has assumed vital humanitarian roles, particularly in areas near the front line or recently liberated from occupation. Their presence often represents the first return of Ukrainian state authority to de-occupied territories [2].

Evacuation and Aid: Officers organize and assist in the evacuation of civilians from dangerous areas, secure humanitarian corridors, and distribute essential supplies like food, water, and medicine. In the early days of the war, police pivoted to sifting through rubble, evacuating residents, and providing temporary shelter and necessities [3].

Stabilization in Liberated Territories: The police are central to restoring law and order, assisting with mine clearance, and providing essential services and support to local populations [1, 4]. The ratio of police officers in liberated frontline regions has increased significantly—from 23–26 policemen per 10,000 residents before the invasion to approximately 100 policemen per 10,000 residents [4].

Documentation of War Crimes and Atrocities

One of the most crucial, yet harrowing, new responsibilities is the comprehensive *documentation and investigation of war crimes* committed by the Russian forces. This function is vital for future justice mechanisms.

Evidence Collection: The police, in collaboration with the Prosecutor's Office and international partners, collect evidence of war crimes, register violations, exhume and identify the bodies of thousands of civilians killed, and document torture chambers [3, 5, p. 200, 6].

Missing Persons: Creating and maintaining a register of the thousands of missing persons, which is a key effort in providing accountability and closure [6].

Challenges and Conclusion

Operating under the constant threat of shelling and in highly volatile environments presents unprecedented challenges to the NPU. Logistical difficulties, such as infrastructure damage and a lack of stable power or internet, are often mitigated through the use of satellite communication (Starlink) and essential vehicle provision supported by international donors [2]. Furthermore, historically low public trust in law enforcement, particularly in frontline areas, is being addressed through localized dialogue and the creation of "one-stop shop" safe spaces for essential services [2]. The high psychological burden is eased, in part, by offering to relocate officers' families to safer locations [3].

The Ukrainian National Police has transformed from a conventional civilian law enforcement body into a multifunctional force operating at the intersection of security, defense, and humanitarian assistance. By seamlessly integrating new responsibilities—from direct combat support and enforcing martial law to the meticulous documentation of atrocities and providing frontline aid—the NPU has demonstrated an extraordinary capacity for adaptation and resilience [4]. This evolution not only ensures the stability of the state during conflict but also forms a crucial foundation for the future processes of security, justice, and post-war reconstruction in Ukraine, simultaneously contributing to broader European security [7].

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FOREIGN EXPERIENCE IN COMBATING CYBERCRIME: MODELS OF INTERAGENCY COOPERATION AND INVESTIGATION STANDARDS

Foreign experience in combating cybercrime demonstrates that effective investigation of digital offenses is based on three essential components: interagency coordination, standardized procedures for collecting and analyzing electronic evidence, and close cooperation with the private sector. In criminal proceedings, this is reflected through a clear sequence of actions – timely preservation of digital traces, lawful acquisition of data from providers, technical expertise, and proper documentation of evidence for judicial use. International practice confirms that only coordinated interaction among law enforcement agencies, prosecutors, specialized cyber centers, and forensic institutions can prevent data loss, increase the reliability of evidence, and ensure the efficiency of procedural decisions. Countries that have achieved success in this field – the United States, Canada, the United Kingdom, and EU member states – have developed their own models of cooperation, all of which are grounded in the principles of transparency, specialization, and the legality of digital data processing.

In the United States, the system for countering cybercrime operates through a multi-level model. The central coordinating function