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## **PROTECTION OF CITIZENS' RIGHTS AND ENSURING LAWFULNESS BY THE POLICE DURING WARTIME**

In times of war and conflict, the role of the police becomes particularly complex, as they are tasked with maintaining law and order while upholding the rights of citizens. This article examines the most important task of protecting the rights of citizens and ensuring the legitimacy of the militia during wartime. It delves into the unique challenges law enforcement officers' face, the need to balance security and civil liberties, the legal frameworks that guide their actions, and the importance of specialized training and strategies.

The primary role of the police during wartime is to maintain law and order within the constraints of the conflict. Their responsibilities may extend to enforcing curfews, regulating movement, and responding to civil disturbances that can arise in times of crisis [1].

This role can encompass a range of responsibilities that are crucial for preserving stability and protecting citizens' rights:

– Enforcing Curfews: One of the fundamental tasks of the police during wartime is to enforce curfews. Curfews are imposed to restrict civilian movement during certain hours, typically during the night or in areas of heightened conflict. This measure helps minimize the risk of individuals being caught in the crossfire or engaging in activities that could exacerbate the conflict. Police officers are

responsible for patrolling the streets, ensuring compliance with curfew orders, and taking appropriate actions against those who violate them.

- **Regulating Movement:** In wartime, authorities often implement restrictions on the movement of people and vehicles. This can include setting up checkpoints and roadblocks to control access to certain areas. The police are at the forefront of enforcing these regulations, ensuring that individuals have valid reasons for their movements and that unauthorized or suspicious activities are scrutinized.

- **Responding to Civil Disturbances:** Civil disturbances can arise in times of crisis for various reasons, including heightened tension, scarcity of resources, or disagreements among different groups. Police are responsible for responding to these disturbances and restoring order. This may involve dispersing crowds, making arrests when necessary, and ensuring that the rule of law is upheld even in the face of unrest.

- **Protecting Critical Infrastructure:** During wartime, critical infrastructure such as power plants, water supplies, and transportation hubs can become targets for attacks. The police play a vital role in securing and protecting these assets, often working in coordination with other security forces. Their presence and vigilance are essential to preventing sabotage and ensuring that essential services continue to operate.

- **Humanitarian Assistance:** In some cases, police may be involved in delivering humanitarian assistance to civilians affected by conflict. This can include distributing food, water, and medical supplies to those in need, often in collaboration with humanitarian organizations. This aspect of their role demonstrates the police's commitment to protecting the welfare of citizens even in the midst of war.

- **Investigating Crimes:** Despite the chaos of wartime, crimes such as theft, violence, and even war crimes may occur. Police officers are responsible for investigating these incidents, collecting evidence, and pursuing justice through the appropriate legal channels. This ensures that those who violate the law are held accountable, contributing to a sense of order and justice even in turbulent times.

- **Collaboration with Military Forces:** During wartime, police often collaborate closely with military forces to maintain security. While the military may focus on external threats and combat operations, the police's role is more centered on maintaining internal

order. Effective communication and coordination between these two entities are critical to achieving overall stability.

Policing during wartime presents unique challenges, including heightened security threats, increased stress on officers, and the potential for violations of civil liberties during security operations [2].

The challenge of striking the right balance between security and civil liberties is central to effective policing during wartime. Police forces must be acutely aware of the potential consequences of excessive force and unwarranted searches, not only for individuals but also for the broader community, international reputation, and the legitimacy of the state. Through robust oversight, training, and adherence to international norms, law enforcement agencies can navigate this challenge while upholding the rights of citizens.

Adherence to international law, including the Geneva Conventions, is paramount for protecting the rights of civilians during armed conflicts. These legal frameworks establish clear guidelines for the behavior of security forces, ensuring that civilians are shielded from harm, have access to essential services, and are treated with dignity and respect, even in the midst of war. It serves as a critical safeguard for human rights and humanitarian principles during times of crisis.

Historical examples such as the internment of Japanese-Americans during World War II and the use of martial law in response to civil unrest during the Vietnam War illustrate the challenges and lessons learned in safeguarding citizens' rights during wartime [3].

An important aspect is that specialized training and strategies are indispensable for police officers working in a military environment. This training equips officers with the knowledge and skills needed to navigate complex and stressful situations while upholding human rights and protecting civilians. Counterinsurgency tactics and community engagement play a key role in maintaining trust, preventing radicalization, and ensuring the effectiveness and legitimacy of law enforcement actions during conflict.

As a conclusion, we should pay attention to the fact that during the war, the police play a decisive role in maintaining order and protecting the rights of citizens. Striking a balance between security and civil liberties remains a difficult task, but it is essential for upholding democratic values. Adherence to the legal framework and special training are key components of law enforcement by the militia during wartime.

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### **PECULIARITIES OF POLICE ACTIVITY IN THE USA**

Today, a large, diverse and multifaceted experience of training personnel for police services has been accumulated outside the borders of Ukraine. The organization of activities to ensure law and order, public safety, fight against crime in all its manifestations in each country has its own specifics and features. [1]

The main areas of US police activity include:

- crime prevention and deterrence;
- ensuring stability and peace within the country;
- protection of personal property;
- law enforcement;
- investigation of crimes;
- return of lost or stolen property;
- detention of criminals;
- protection of individual rights;
- ensuring road traffic safety;
- performing the functions of various public services;
- preparation of cases for transfer to the court. [2]

Under modern conditions, one of the most structurally complex police systems operates quite successfully in the United States of America (USA). It is characterized by a variety of organizational and legal forms, which is determined by the peculiarities of historical development, the legal system of the