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## **EXPERIENCE OF COMBATING CRIME IN FOREIGN COUNTRIES**

The problem of crime is global and multifaceted; it is an acute problem for any state, regardless of its political system or economic development. Effective counteraction to crime requires not only the improvement of domestic legislation and law enforcement practice, but also the constant study and adaptation of the best international practices. In this context, the analysis of the experience of other countries is an extremely valuable source of knowledge and innovative approaches to increasing the efficiency of the national criminal justice system.

Most European states consider the creation or existence of a criminal group as an activity dangerous to society. Italy is especially worth highlighting, where criminal legislation provides for direct liability for membership in a criminal group. In addition, Italy applies

the principle of "presumption of guilt" for some crimes related to illegal income: the suspect must prove the legality of the origin of his property [1, pp. 97–99; 2, p. 110]. A special part of the Italian Criminal Code devotes a separate Chapter V "Crimes against public order" to the fight against organized crime. In particular, Article 416 covers ordinary criminal communities, while Article 416-bis (416-2) is specifically aimed at combating mafia groups [3, p. 5].

The experience of international cooperation in combating crime is illustrated by the activities of the German Federal Criminal Police Office (BKA). This office fights transnational organized crime, terrorism, corruption, extremism and economic crimes (such as money laundering and drugs). The BKA has powerful resources (in particular, the INPOL database), and also provides scientific and technical analysis, strategic planning and training for these large-scale tasks [4, p. 300; 5, p. 57].

According to Article 515 of the Spanish Criminal Code, criminal liability arises for the creation and activity of illegal associations. This provision covers three main categories: armed gangs, formations or terrorist groups created specifically to commit crimes; associations that, although they may have legitimate goals, resort to violent methods (such as intimidation or control over a person); as well as groups that incite discrimination and hatred against individuals or groups on the grounds of ideology, religion, ethnicity/race, gender, marital status, illness or disability [6, p. 13].

The main areas of activity of organized crime in the USA are illegal drug and human trafficking, migrant smuggling, legalization of illegal profits, corruption and terrorist activities. Its nature is characterized by transnationality and globality. Therefore, the issue of combating organized crime in the USA is considered in relation to other states and regions of the world. FBI representatives note that in the fight against domestic and international organized crime, the agency uses a wide range of legal and technical means. The measures provided for in the Law on organizations under the influence of racketeers or corrupt structures are considered particularly effective. Such investigations often include the work of undercover agents, the use of permitted methods of electronic surveillance, and the recruitment of informants and witnesses. Most operations are carried out in cooperation with local and foreign law enforcement agencies. The FBI focuses on exposing

the activities of the most dangerous international, national, and regional criminal groups associated with organized crime and drug trafficking [6, p. 13].

The United Kingdom has an interesting and effective experience in the fight against crime. The police of this country are a key subject of crime prevention, as they perform not only punitive functions related to the detention of criminals and the detection of crimes, but also implement social and informational activities. Their work is aimed at strengthening citizens' trust in law enforcement agencies and involving the population in joint activities to prevent crime. This necessitates the need for constant improvement of the police, which is carried out through its reform. The main tasks of the modern reform of the British police are to implement systemic changes at both the local and national levels, reduce the crime rate, increase the professionalism of police officers and simplify citizens' access to police services. An important component of the reform is to bring the police closer to local communities and residents, as well as strengthen public trust in the criminal justice system as a whole. [7, p. 91

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## **FEATURES OF POLICE ACTIVITY UNDER MARTIAL LAW**

The activity of the National Police of Ukraine under martial law becomes significantly more demanding, as law enforcement agencies are required not only to maintain basic public order, but also to adapt to the rapidly changing nature of warfare, hybrid threats, and destabilization. In wartime, police forces must protect critical infrastructure, provide security for civilian populations, and coordinate with military units under conditions of limited resources and high operational risk [1, p. 55]. Traditional policing paradigms are stretched by the need to respond to missile attacks, sabotage, mass internal displacement, and the breakdown of civilian systems.

A central responsibility of the police during wartime is to ensure public safety under extremely volatile conditions. Officers are deployed to guard strategic sites—such as energy facilities, power substations, and water treatment plants—as well as to accompany humanitarian convoys to deliver vital supplies. They also help organize and secure evacuation routes, coordinate with local authorities and volunteer groups, and ensure that civilians can move safely through danger zones [2, p. 78]. The presence of law enforcement in these contexts is crucial for preventing panic, looting, and further exploitation of vulnerable populations.