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ENSURING PUBLIC ORDER AND SECURITY DURING THE EVACUATION OF CITIZENS IN JAPAN

Japan is known for its geographical feature as one of the most seismically active countries in the world. In addition to earthquakes, the country often faces tsunamis, typhoons and other natural disasters. In such circumstances, the organisation of evacuation of the population and ensuring public order and security becomes a critical issue for the state and society.

This article explores the system of public order during evacuation in Japan, analyses the main mechanisms used to reduce risks to citizens, and examines the role of the government and other organisations in this process. The article will examine a range of measures, such as evacuation plans, public warnings, coordination between different services, and ensuring public order in a potential crisis.

Japan is located at the junction of four tectonic plates, which makes it highly vulnerable to seismic activity. In particular, earthquakes and tsunamis are known to have caused numerous casualties and destruction throughout the country's history. For example, the Great Tohoku Earthquake of 2011 caused not only widespread destruction but also large-scale evacuations. In response to such threats, the Japanese government has created an extensive public protection system that includes both national and local governments. One of the main aspects of this system is the evacuation of citizens from dangerous areas, which requires coordinated actions between the government, law enforcement agencies, the army and local communities [1].

Japan has established several levels of warning and evacuation system, including local, regional and national mechanisms. One of the key instruments is the Japan Meteorological Agency, which is responsible for issuing timely warnings of natural disasters such as earthquakes and tsunamis [2]. The Japanese government is also actively working to raise awareness among citizens about how to act in an emergency. Regular evacuation drills are held in schools, businesses and public institutions to prepare the population for possible disasters.

In the event of an emergency, the evacuation of citizens is organised at different levels. At the local level, municipalities are responsible for this, and together with the police and local volunteers, they lead the evacuation. Local security councils also play an important role, coordinating evacuations within their jurisdictions.

During the evacuation of citizens, it is especially important to ensure public order and safety, as panic, looting and other negative phenomena may occur in large crowds. [4]. In this regard, a key role is assigned to law enforcement agencies, which ensure:

1. Control over the movement of the population: the police, together with local services and volunteers, set up checkpoints on roads and intersections to avoid crowds and congestion.

2. Protecting evacuation points: places where citizens are evacuated (schools, gyms, community centres) should be guarded to ensure the safety of people and to avoid possible conflicts or robberies.

3. Prevent looting: evacuations often leave a large number of abandoned homes and businesses, which can be targeted by criminals. Police and self-defence forces patrol evacuation zones to prevent crime.

4. Medical control and assistance: to prevent mass illness and panic, medical teams are deployed at evacuation points to provide first aid, monitor the condition of evacuees, and assist those who have been injured.

5. The role of civil society organisations and volunteers: in addition to government agencies, NGOs and volunteers play an important role in the evacuation process. For example, the Japanese Red Cross is providing support at evacuation sites, helping with medical care, and distributing food and water. Volunteers are also involved in the evacuation as coordinators, helping to maintain order and inform citizens about the current situation.

6. Using technology to ensure public order: in today's environment, technology plays a crucial role in ensuring public order during evacuations. In particular, Japan actively uses drones to monitor evacuation zones and control the movement of people, video surveillance systems to monitor the situation at evacuation points, and automated warning systems [5].

Special mobile applications are also being created to allow citizens to quickly receive information on the status of evacuation, safe routes and the availability of resources at shelter points. Such technologies help reduce chaos and improve coordination between services and the public.

Japan is an example of a country that, given the frequency of natural disasters, has developed an effective system of evacuation and public order in crisis situations. The experience of this country can be useful for other countries facing similar threats.

However, even with such a well-developed system, there are challenges, particularly in cases of extremely large-scale disasters, when resources can be limited and coordination difficult. Therefore, it is important to continuously improve existing mechanisms, conduct regular training and integrate new technologies to improve the work of the service.

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MODERNIZATION OF THE POLICE DURING WARTIME

Modernization of the police during wartime is a crucial aspect of ensuring security and law and order in conditions of heightened threat and instability. War demands that police forces adapt to new challenges and changes, which includes both organizational and technological transformations.

War has a strong psychological impact on the population. The police must be ready to provide psychological support to citizens, helping them cope with anxiety and stress. It is also important to maintain public trust in the police, which is achieved through openness, honesty, and professionalism in work [1].

The full-scale invasion of the aggressor country into the territory of the country forced the defense and protection forces to quickly respond to the changing operational situation in the country by engaging all available forces, means, and reserves. As a result, the introduced martial law required law enforcement officers to exercise expanded powers, competencies, and duties, which would be enshrined at the legislative level [2].

On 14 February 2022, the National Police was transferred to combat alert, as a response to the Russian military buildup and threat of the invasion. The National Police and its tactical unit Rapid Operational Response Unit directly participated in hostilities against the invading Russian Armed Forces at the Kyiv offensive.

As the 2022 Russian invasion of Ukraine progressed, the National Police helped in the war effort by maintaining law and order in Ukrainian-controlled areas, escorting prisoners, operating checkpoints capturing infiltrators and detaining prisoners of war [3].

Since 2014, defense and protection forces have been repelling illegal encroachments by terrorist states. In order to protect the population and the country's territory, law enforcement officers are engaged in carrying out many expanded tasks. In particular, they serve at checkpoints in cooperation