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LAW ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITIES UNDER MARTIAL LAW AND POST-WAR RECONSTRUCTION

The full-scale armed aggression against Ukraine has fundamentally altered the state's security architecture, presenting the law enforcement system with unprecedented challenges. Under martial law, law enforcement activity has ceased to be a purely civilian function, transforming into a vital element of national defense. Simultaneously, there is an urgent need to formulate a post-war reconstruction strategy, where law enforcement agencies will play a key role in restoring law and order in de-occupied territories and ensuring the sustainable development of society.

Features of Law Enforcement During Martial Law. The legal regime of martial law, according to the Law of Ukraine "On the Legal Regime of Martial Law," [1] has significantly expanded the powers of the police and other agencies. The key areas of activity include:

Countering Sabotage and Reconnaissance Groups and Collaborationism. Law enforcement officers became the first echelon in identifying individuals assisting the aggressor. This required rapid adaptation of criminal legislation (specifically, the introduction of Article 111-1 of the Criminal Code of Ukraine) [2].

Documentation of War Crimes. The National Police and the State Bureau of Investigation (SBI) conduct the primary documentation of the consequences of shelling of civilian infrastructure, torture, and killings, which serves as the foundation for future international tribunals.

Evacuation and Humanitarian Missions. The police perform non-typical functions: escorting humanitarian aid, evacuating the population from the front lines, and providing pre-medical assistance under fire.

Transformation of Law Enforcement Methods. The war forced the law enforcement system to shift from classic patrol methods to a reinforced counter-intelligence regime. A crucial element has been the development of digital policing and the use of aerial reconnaissance (drones) to monitor the operational situation. Cooperation with other components of the Defense Forces of Ukraine (AFU, NGU, SBGS) has also intensified, requiring a high level of coordination at both strategic and tactical levels [3].

Law Enforcement During the Post-War Reconstruction Period. After the cessation of hostilities, law enforcement priorities will shift toward stabilization and reintegration:

Territorial Demining. This is one of the most massive tasks. Explosive ordnance disposal (EOD) units will be involved in clearing agricultural lands and residential areas for decades.

Combating Illegal Arms Trafficking. The large amount of unregistered firearms that fell into the hands of the population during the war creates risks of an increase in general crime. The law enforcement system must develop mechanisms for the legalization or seizure of such weapons.

Reintegration of De-occupied Territories. Restoring police stations in territories that were occupied for a long time requires not only human resources but also deep filtration work and the restoration of public trust.

Priority Directions of Law Enforcement in the Post-War Period. After the cessation of active hostilities, the law enforcement system of Ukraine will transition to a "stabilization" stage, which involves not only the restoration of law and order but also the creation of a safe environment for the country's economic revival. Key priorities include:

1. **Global Humanitarian Demining and Environmental Safety.** This task is fundamental, as without it, the return of citizens and the restoration of business are impossible.

Creation of Safety Zones: Prioritizing the demining of critical infrastructure (power lines, gas pipelines), residential areas, and transport arteries.

Agricultural Demining: Clearing fields to restore Ukraine's export potential, requiring the involvement of the latest robotic systems and artificial intelligence for analyzing UAV imagery.

Environmental Control: Monitoring mass burial sites and technological disasters caused by the war to prevent epidemiological threats.

2. **Reintegration and Restoration of Law and Order in De-occupied Territories.** Restoring the operation of state institutions in lands that were under long-term occupation presents specific challenges such as restoration of trust, transitioning to a Community Policing model, where the law enforcement officer acts primarily as a service provider and protector rather than an instrument of coercion.

3. **Combating Organized Crime and Economic Offenses.** Post-war reconstruction will be accompanied by large investment flows, creating risks for corruption and criminal activity.

Law enforcement activity in Ukraine today is a unique experience of combining police and defense functions. The effectiveness of post-war reconstruction will directly depend on the ability of the Ministry of Internal Affairs (MIA) system to guarantee the security of investments, the protection

of private property, and just punishment for war criminals. Only through modernization and digitalization of law enforcement agencies can Ukraine build a secure space of the European model.

References

1. Law of Ukraine "On the Legal Regime of Martial Law" of 12.05.2015 № 389-VIII.
2. Criminal Code of Ukraine: Law of 05.04.2001 № 2341-III.
3. Order of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Ukraine "On Approval of the Procedure for Police Actions under Martial Law."



*Навчання — це таємниця,
яка відкривається лише тим, хто готовий до відкриттів*

Тарас Шевченко