



**МІНІСТЕРСТВО ВНУТРІШНІХ СПРАВ УКРАЇНИ
НАЦІОНАЛЬНА АКАДЕМІЯ ВНУТРІШНІХ СПРАВ
Кафедра мовної підготовки**



ЛІНГВІСТИКА І ПРАВО В БЕЗПЕКОВІЙ СФЕРІ: ЗАРУБІЖНИЙ ДОСВІД

Матеріали

**V міжвузівської курсантської наукової інтернет-конференції
(Київ, 04 грудня 2025 року)**



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THE STRUCTURAL AND LINGUISTIC ORGANISATION OF POLICE REPORTS: A FORENSIC ANALYSIS

Police reports are essential documents in the Philippine criminal justice system, so they must be written clearly, accurately, and factually. This study examines the linguistic features and organizational patterns of several types of police reports – blotter, incident, after-operation, and investigation reports – collected from selected police stations. A qualitative content analysis was conducted using Swales' (2004) [1] moves framework and Coulthard and Johnson's (2007) principles of forensic linguistics [2]. Findings show that legal texts follow their own conventions and display distinctive linguistic characteristics, including specialized vocabulary with unique meanings. The paper also highlights pedagogical implications and suggests directions for further research involving legal texts.

This study examines the rhetorical moves that make up the structure of police reports. This section analyzes the organization of the collected reports, focusing specifically on investigation reports, as they are used in prosecution and contain more detailed information than other types of police documents.

Move 1 – Identifying and establishing the jurisdiction of the Police Report.

This move aims to identify the police office responsible for filing the report and documenting the related events. It includes details such as the report's date, subject, author, and recipient. Its main purpose is to show where the police report, as a genre, is produced. The move can be recognized through the following steps:

Step 1: Identifying the institution's location.

Across all samples, this information is presented consistently, with the only differences being the specific police station. The name of

the institution, municipality, and province appears at the top of each report, as also noted by Sumaljag (2018) [3].

Step 2: Stating the report's recipient, source, subject, and date.

This step lists who sends the report, who receives it, what it is about, and when it was written. It clarifies the parties involved in the communication process and appears in all investigation reports.

Move 2 – Categorizing the facts and circumstances.

The officer preparing the report must collect details from the complainant, victim, or witness. After obtaining the information, the officer analyzes it and evaluates whether the described behavior corresponds to any offense defined in the criminal code. This move consists of two steps:

Step 1: Establishing the legal or technical classification. This step shows how the incident is legally categorized. After gathering all relevant information, the officer assesses whether the act constitutes a crime. It is assumed that the facts have already been verified.

Step 2: Presenting the circumstances.

Here, the officer outlines the time and location of the incident. While the structure of this step is generally consistent across reports, specific details vary depending on the nature of the investigation.

Move 3 – Narrating the facts.

This is the central part of the police report, presenting verified information about the incident. Using details provided by the complainant, victim, witness, or sometimes the suspect, the officer constructs a clear narrative that explains what happened, why it happened, and what its consequences were. Reports usually include both the victim's and, when available, the offender's accounts:

Step 1: Identifying the victim or complainant.

Including the name of the complainant or victim is the starting point for narrating the facts.

Step 2: Detailing the circumstances.

The officer recounts the sequence of events, providing enough detail for the reader to visualize what occurred.

Step 3: Describing the perpetrator's actions.

The narrative outlines previous events and classifies the incident as criminal or non-criminal, following the order in which the witness or victim presented the facts.

Move 3 – Typically includes orientation, complication, evaluation, resolution, and conclusion. Orientation introduces the people involved, the setting, and the background, though not all reports contain every element. The complication presents the main problem, followed by evaluation and resolution, which signal the closing of the incident. The conclusion marks the end of the narrative. Report narratives differ in detail and complexity, as shown in the data used in this study.

Move 4 – Identifying the participants.

This move clarifies the roles of all individuals involved in the incident described in Move 3. Participants are typically classified as complainants, victims, suspects, or witnesses. It consists of three steps:

Step 1: Identifying the victim or complainant.

Step 2: Identifying the suspect.

Step 3: Describing the actions connected to each participant.

Move 5 – Identifying the personnel responsible for the report.

This move specifies the officer who prepared the report and the head of the police station.

Using Swales' (2004) framework, the study analyzed the moves found in the police reports [1]. The results show that the presence and frequency of moves and steps differ across reports. Some moves appear consistently, while others are omitted or combined into a single paragraph. This supports Duenas' (2007) claim that moves vary depending on the case [4].

The findings also indicate that the rhetorical structure of police reports is shaped by the type of incident. Move 1 provides key identifying information, such as the report's date, subject, source, recipient, and station address. Move 2 categorizes the facts and circumstances. Move 3 narrates the events, presenting the complainant's account, situational details, and the perpetrator's actions. Move 4 identifies the report's intended recipient, which depends on the nature of the case. Move 5 names the personnel responsible for preparing the document, ensuring proper reference and accountability.

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LANGUAGES AND MILITARY CO-ORDINATION

A further way in which information is a relevant area for language planning in the context of security is the language issues related to communication with others. Language issues arise in communication both within coalitions of allies and in communicating with local people in theatres of conflict. Language planning responses to these issues have traditionally focused on developing the language capacities of military personnel who have a need to communicate with others, or in the provision of interpreting and translation services, to facilitate the communication. Language learning may involve the teaching of languages of allies to members of the armed forces for use in a multilingual force in combat situations. During the Ottoman Empire, the janissaries were recruited and enslaved from among the Christian population and as part of the military preparation were taught Turkish, which became the normal language of the janissary corps. In this case, Turkish provided a common language between recruits from

linguistically different areas and provided a common language within the corps regardless of the origins of individuals. The language of the dominating group became to lingua franca among a linguistically mixed collection of subordinated peoples. A similar approach is found in the contemporary French Foreign Legion. Historically in the UK, language learning for military co-ordination involved officers commanding colonial troops the local language of those troops. This was done within a tradition of using local languages as languages of command during the colonial period.

Officers serving in India were encouraged to learn Hindustani, while those who commanded with Gurkha regiments were required to learn Gurkhali. The emphasis here was on the development of language skills for communication within a multilingual defence force. The result of this policy was a military structure which consisted of British officers commanding troops who did not speak the officers' language but which required a common language of communication to function as an effective military force. The solution to the problem of communication was to teach the language of the majority to the minority rather than teaching the language of the dominant group to the subordinated group. Modern military language planning has also focused on the development of shared language resources, but the main emphasis has been on developing a shared language among multinational forces rather than on developing communication within a single military force.

The perception here is that for armed forces to operate together in a co-ordinated way, they need a common language – that is a common language is equated with effective communication. The first language planning decision in this context is the choice of which language will be used as the common language. In reality, this decision is commonly made in relation to the language of the most powerful country involved, which, as in the case of NATO's PffP, is commonly English. In fact the choice of English is usually treated as an unproblematic given for NATO (c.f. also the quotation above) as the following quotation shows. For a country like Lithuania, whose geography compels it to base national warfare on light infantry, the top priority in the defence policy should be the development of well trained and competent units able to communicate with NATO in terms of speaking the same language (English) and working on the same radio frequencies.

Although English may be naturalized as the language of choice for interoperability in NATO contexts, other powers do include the teaching of their own language as an aspect of military cooperation. For example, military co-operation between France and Ukraine involves the teaching of French in Ukrainian military colleges.

While the teaching of one's own language to one's allies is seen as a way of strengthening ties between armed forces and of developing interoperability, teaching one's own language to one's enemy may be seen as treasonable or in some way criminal or unpatriotic. When an American who deserted to North Korea during the Korean War was court marshalled in 2004, he "pleaded guilty to aiding the enemy by teaching English to military cadets in the 1980s" That is, the teaching of one's own country's language to an enemy is something of which one may stand condemned, even if it occurs after the end of active hostilities between the countries involved. While improved communication between allies may be a military advantage improved communication between enemies is problematic and acts against the security of the country.

Language education may also be conceived as military aid – that is a language is taught in order to facilitate the modernisation or the use of weapons or other military technology by the armed forces of countries who do not speak this language. Such language planning approaches construct knowledge of a particular language as an objective good and are based on a belief, among the recipients as much as the donors, that knowledge of the language is tied to some improvement in the military resources of the recipient country. As Waters notes, often, such aid has been "directed to ex-colonies or established spheres of influence; it was often linked with military aid as a way of maintaining a particular ideological cast on the host state; and it frequently insisted that aid monies be spent in purchasing items from the donor society".

The result is a tying together of the economic interests of the donor country with military and security interests and the entrenchment of existing relationships of power and influence. Krivas, from a Lithuanian perspective frames this issue as follows: Enabling our military personnel to communicate in English at a reasonable level of proficiency, we thus provide them with an opportunity to learn Western ways of doing things in the military area, but also to learn the Western

way of life, system of values, etc. At the same time, it enables our Western partners to become convinced that Lithuania is part of the same community of values to which NATO members belong themselves. Here the issue goes beyond shared language as interoperability to a view that proficiency in English would lead to an improvement of military capacity through an assimilation to western approaches not only by the military, but to life in general. Moreover the sharing of a language is portrayed as fundamental to the existence of alliance itself – alliance is an assimilation to the value system and military system of the dominant party to whom one aligns. Further observes that the need to use English made the production of Lithuanian versions of military documents burdensome and expensive and that Lithuanian was removed from the communication system of the military, at least at higher levels.

However, the student slots offered abroad could, by far, not satisfy the huge ELT requirement of the entire national defence establishment. German was not learnt because it was relevant to interoperability, although this was true, but because English was not available. German is therefore perceived as a less desirable mode of communication than English. This perception of the naturalness of English has a corresponding construction of the military culture associated with the English language as modern and technologised and in a dichotomous relationship with the local language as lacking in modernisation, part of the change from obsolete to the modern involves a change of the languages associated with obsolescence and modernity.

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ENSURING LEGALITY AND OBSERVANCE OF HUMAN RIGHTS DURING POLICE DOCUMENT CHECKS UNDER MARTIAL LAW

Ensuring legality and the observance of human rights is one of the key tasks of police activity, especially under martial law, when the state is forced to restrict certain rights of citizens in order to guarantee national security and public order. Document checks conducted by police officers are a common preventive measure aimed at detecting offenses, preventing crimes, and identifying individuals. However, under martial law, this procedure gains particular significance as it is associated with increased requirements for control, security, and the lawfulness of law enforcement actions.

During martial law, certain problems arise regarding the police inspection of citizens' documents. According to Article 32, Part 1 of the Law of Ukraine "On the National Police," a police officer has the right to require a person to present identification documents and/or documents confirming a certain right of that person in a manner that allows the officer to read and record the information contained therein [1]. However, given the current situation, the procedure for checking documents is often carried out with excessive use of authority and in violation of the legally established procedure, which significantly reduces citizens' trust in the National Police of Ukraine.

Such cases indicate gaps in law enforcement practice and insufficient control over compliance with legality in the exercise of police powers. However, according to S.M. Husarov, the administrative

and legal protection of citizens by the National Police should be viewed through the prism of state administrative coercion aimed at maintaining public order and preventing offenses. Due to martial law, amendments have been made to regulatory acts governing police activities, which pose risks to the realization of citizens' rights and freedoms. In accordance with Article 8, Part 4 of the Law of Ukraine "On the National Police," during martial law, the police operate taking into account the restrictions of rights and freedoms defined by the Constitution of Ukraine and the Law "On the Legal Regime of Martial Law" [2, p. 21].

Therefore, these are necessary measures during martial law. From another perspective, although the National Police acts in consideration of the restrictions on citizens' rights and freedoms under the Law of Ukraine "On the Legal Regime of Martial Law" and the Constitution of Ukraine, this is done solely to protect national security and public order, which may be threatened during wartime. Nevertheless, regarding the issue of document verification under martial law, there are certain inconsistencies in Article 32 of the Law of Ukraine "On the National Police."

Article 32 of the Law of Ukraine "On the National Police" was amended by adding Part 2, which allows police officers during martial law or mobilization to require men aged 18 to 60 to present their military registration document along with an identity document [1]. However, the grounds for document verification are defined in Part 1 of the same article, so using Part 2 as an independent basis is questionable, as the person's age can only be determined visually. Moreover, the military registration document is not included in the list of identity documents defined by Article 13 of the Law "On the Unified State Demographic Register" [3, p. 597].

Thus, the activities of the National Police of Ukraine under martial law require particular attention in terms of legality and the observance of human rights. Although certain restrictions on citizens' rights are a necessary step to ensure national security, the procedure for document verification must remain strictly regulated by law and carried out only within the limits of authorized powers. The existing inconsistencies in Article 32 of the Law of Ukraine "On the National Police" create risks of abuse and violations of citizens' rights, which negatively affect public trust in the police. Therefore, it is essential to

ensure proper oversight of law enforcement actions, improve the legal framework, and promote the development of legal culture among police officers to combine the effective performance of their duties with the unconditional respect for human rights and freedoms.

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ENGLISH AS A WORKING LANGUAGE IN EU LAW ENFORCEMENT COOPERATION: IMPLICATIONS FOR UKRAINE

The integration of Ukraine into European security structures necessitates alignment with the operational standards of EU law enforcement agencies. A fundamental yet often overlooked aspect of this integration is linguistic interoperability. English has emerged as the de facto lingua franca of European police cooperation, institutionalized through formal policies at Europol, Frontex, CEPOL, and Eurojust. Ukraine's adoption of Law No. 9432 “On the Application of the English Language in Ukraine” in June 2024 represents a strategic step toward harmonizing national requirements with EU standards [1].

EU Agencies’ Language Policies. All major EU Justice and Home Affairs agencies have formally established English as their working language. Regulation (EU) 2015/2219 establishing CEPOL mandates training support for law enforcement leadership and language

skills [2]. Europol’s internal documentation explicitly references English as the working language, with recruitment requiring CEFR C1 level proficiency in one EU language and B2 in another, with English typically mandatory [3]. Frontex states unambiguously that English is the agency’s working language, requiring B2 proficiency for Standing Corps positions [4]. Eurojust formalized this through College Decision 2020-08, establishing English as its working language following a European Ombudsman recommendation [5].

CEPOL’s Law Enforcement Education platform (LEEd) has trained over 240,000 officials across EU Member States, with all courses delivered in English [6]. The agency’s Police English Language courses specifically target B1 proficiency, providing a standardized training model applicable to Ukrainian police academies preparing officers for EU cooperation frameworks.

Ukraine’s Legislative Framework. Law No. 9432, adopted on 4 June 2024 by 236 votes and signed by President Zelenskyy on 26 June 2024, establishes English as a language of international communication without diminishing Ukrainian’s constitutional status [7]. The law creates specific obligations for law enforcement personnel: middle and senior officers of the National Police must demonstrate English proficiency; border control officers must communicate with foreigners in English during customs and passport procedures; emergency services must accept calls in English and provide assistance to foreigners [8].

A significant incentive mechanism is the 10% salary bonus for officials demonstrating B2 level English proficiency under the Common European Framework of Reference [9]. This provision, applicable to police officers, prosecutors, and customs officials, mirrors salary differentiation practices in EU agencies where language proficiency affects career advancement. Implementation follows a phased timeline: Category A civil servants must achieve compliance within two years of martial law termination; all other officials within four years [10].

Proficiency Standards Alignment. Ukraine's dual assessment architecture – CEFR for civilian law enforcement and NATO STANAG 6001 for military personnel – enables seamless integration with both EU agency recruitment standards and NATO interoperability requirements [11]. STANAG Level 2 (Functional) corresponds approximately to CEFR B1, while Level 3 (Professional) aligns with

B2+. The B2 threshold specified in Ukraine's salary bonus provision represents the minimum functional level for meaningful participation in cross-border police cooperation, as documented in Eurojust's evaluations of Joint Investigation Teams [12].

Comparative Experience. Baltic states provide instructive precedents for Ukraine's integration trajectory. Estonia's Academy of Security Sciences established a dedicated Language Centre requiring English proficiency for officers participating in CEPOL programs [13]. Poland's International Specialist Police Training Centre features facilities for simultaneous translation in five languages, addressing the country's position as a transit point for cross-border crime [14]. Research on Baltic Sea police cooperation documents that language difficulties can prevent daily information exchange and delay vital intelligence sharing [15].

Ukraine's Law No. 9432 represents the most comprehensive English language legislation adopted by any EU candidate country, creating explicit requirements that align with EU agency standards. The convergence of language policies across Europol, Frontex, CEPOL, and Eurojust around English as the working language provides clear alignment opportunities for Ukrainian law enforcement. The B2 proficiency threshold corresponds to the functional level at which cross-border cooperation becomes operationally effective. Early engagement with CEPOL's English for Law Enforcement courses through existing partnership frameworks could accelerate capability development while demonstrating commitment to the interoperability standards that EU membership will require.

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FIGHTING CRIMES IN SOUTH KOREA

South Korea is widely recognized for its remarkable progress in public safety, crime prevention, and anti-corruption efforts. Over the past few decades, the country has transformed its law enforcement system into one of the most efficient and transparent systems in the world. From advanced policing technologies to proactive crime

prevention measures, South Korea continues to set international standards in modern governance. This country is very advanced in a lot of aspects and does everything possible to improve its skills and to make its work more effective. For instance, the police use a preventative measure to fight crime. Once you turn 18 in South Korea, you are obligated to give your fingerprint that they keep in databases. Therefore, more crimes in South Korea are cleared up within a short period of time [1].

We will analyze several systems and institutions that make the Korean police recognized around the world.

South Korea's achievements in combating corruption are highly regarded. The country's anti-corruption policy is based on the principle of transparency of information about management decisions made by civil servants at various levels. Since 1999, Seoul has been running the OPEN program, a system for monitoring the consideration of citizens' applications by city administration officials, which has caused a real sensation among national anti-corruption programs. The program is an indicator of the political will to fight corruption [2]. Open access to information about government affairs eliminates the need for citizens to rely on personal connections with officials or to pay bribes to expedite decision-making. By minimizing direct interaction between public servants and citizens, a key factor contributing to corruption, the OPEN system achieves its main goal: preventing corrupt behavior and restoring public trust in city administration.

The government's position on the goals of anti-corruption policy is also commendable. These goals include improving the efficiency, transparency, and integrity of public administration; promoting rational economic decentralization and balanced regional development; and encouraging broad citizen participation and unity in the process of political reform.

Let's not forget about institutions that help the police of Korea to keep peace. Established in 1989, the Korean Institute of Criminology and Justice (KICJ) is the only national crime and criminal justice research agency in the Republic of Korea. In 1999, as a member of the Korean Research Council for Humanities and Social Sciences, the KICJ became an entity within the Office of the Prime Minister [3].

In response to the rapid evolution of crime, KICJ conducts extensive interdisciplinary research on various aspects of justice and

criminal law reform, as well as transnational organized crime, such as human trafficking, drug crime, and corruption. It also studies technology-related crimes, including cybercrime. With a team of over 30 experts specializing in law, sociology, psychology, and criminology, KICJ produces more than 50 research reports annually. In addition, it publishes the Korean Criminal Review, a quarterly journal recognized as one of the leading publications on crime and criminal law in Korea.

The Korean National Police Agency constantly strives to interact with people on the basis of trust in order to maintain public peace. Its rebrand was a resounding success because of new strategies. When, in 2017, massive protests led to the ousting and imprisonment of former president Park Geun-hye, the demonstrations remained peaceful from police and protesters alike. This highlighted the mutual empathy and trust that had by then been forged between the South Korean people and the KNPA [3].

The South Korean police are seeking to promote internationally this ability to reform and use “smart policing” strategies, especially during protests. Instead of using force, the authorities now focus on preventing demonstrations.

Thousands of police officers are deployed to set up roadblocks, and hundreds of buses are positioned in advance to control crowds. Checkpoints are set up at strategic locations to intercept vehicles carrying protesters, and public transportation is almost completely shut down.

For example, not so long ago, the KNPA effectively prevented a large anti-government protest by strategically fortifying Gwanghwamun Square in Seoul, where such events are usually held.

In conclusion, South Korea’s approach to law enforcement and public administration demonstrates how reform, transparency, and innovation can work together to build trust between the government and its citizens. Programs like OPEN, the reformed strategies of the Korean National Police Agency, and the research contributions of the Korean Institute of Criminology and Justice all illustrate the country’s commitment to fairness, accountability, and safety. Through these coordinated efforts, South Korea not only strengthens its internal stability but also serves as a model for other nations seeking to modernize their justice systems and fight corruption effectively.

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LEGAL CHANGES IN THE ACTIVITIES OF THE NATIONAL POLICE OF UKRAINE UNDER MARTIAL LAW

The activities of the National Police of Ukraine (NPU), as a central executive body serving society by protecting human rights and freedoms, combating crime, and maintaining public safety, are multifaceted. They are regulated by norms of various branches of law [1, p. 375].

Since the full-scale invasion and the introduction of the special legal regime of martial law in Ukraine, the powers of the NPU have undergone significant changes aimed at strengthening the state's capacity in the sphere of national security and defense [1, p. 375; 2, p. 130]. The specifics of police activity under martial law are determined by current legislation, primarily the Law of Ukraine “*On the Legal Regime of Martial Law*” [3, p. 87], which grants NPU bodies the authority to prevent threats and repel armed aggression [2, p. 130].

The key legal amendments were introduced on March 15, 2022, by the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine to the Law of Ukraine “*On the National Police*.” These changes involved supplementing Article 23 with new paragraphs to optimize police operations during the special regime [3, p. 88; 2, p. 130]. These expanded powers are valid for the duration of martial law and for 60 days after its termination or cancellation.

The innovations have significantly broadened the NPU’s functional scope. In particular, the police received the authority to escort and guard persons detained, taken into custody, accused, or sentenced to imprisonment, as well as to hold them in temporary detention facilities (parts 37 and 38 of Art. 23 of the Law of Ukraine “*On the National Police*”) [3, p. 88; 2, p. 131].

The NPU was also granted the authority to conduct operational demining, which includes the detection, neutralization, and destruction of explosive objects that may be the instrument or object of an offense (part 39 of Art. 23 of the Law of Ukraine “*On the National Police*”) [2, p. 131]. An important addition is the authority to freely obtain information necessary for performing its tasks, particularly regarding prisoners of war (part 36 of Art. 23 of the Law of Ukraine “*On the National Police*”) [2, p. 131], as well as to provide technical and forensic support for crime scene examinations, including those related to fires and specialized explosive work [2, p. 131].

Furthermore, the changes affected the application of coercive measures and technical means. Police officers are allowed to use coercive measures (provided for in Article 42 of the Law of Ukraine “*On the National Police*”) against individuals participating in armed aggression against Ukraine, without regard to the established requirements and prohibitions concerning the use of physical force, weapons, and special means [3, p. 87; 2, p. 132]. Article 40 of the Law of Ukraine “*On the National Police*” was also amended to allow the police to use the following technical means in their activities: unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) and specialized technical means to counter their use, as well as specialized software for the analytical processing of photo and video information [1, p. 378].

Under martial law, the key tasks of the NPU include enhanced protection of public order, combating sabotage and reconnaissance groups, guarding strategically important facilities, and assisting the

activities of the military administration [3, p. 87; 2, p. 130]. However, it is important to note that the regime of martial law and the expansion of powers do not automatically constitute grounds for limiting the constitutional rights and freedoms of citizens [1, p. 379]. These legal innovations have strengthened the NPU's capacity to counter national security threats and perform their duties under the special legal regime.

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CURFEW: THE ROLE OF POLICE OFFICERS AND THE DANGERS OF ENFORCING IT

The introduction of a judicial curfew is one of the important signs of the legal status of military rule. In the context of full-scale armed aggression against Ukraine, this norm is of special importance, as it is focused on minimizing risks to the civilian population, preventing diversions, and ensuring the effective work of military and law enforcement bodies. The National Police of Ukraine has a central role in the implementation of curfew rules, exercising direct control over

their observance and performing important functions related to the protection of public order.

It is well known that the rights and freedoms of a person and a citizen, even those that are natural and fixed in the Constitution of Ukraine, are not unlimited. The sphere of human rights is a sphere of social relations defined by natural and social factors, where human rights exist and are exercised. Human and civil rights, no matter how large they may be, are not unlimited or absolute, since their exercise must not be harmful to other people or society as a whole [1].

Obviously, one of the legal grounds for limiting the human rights is the introduction of military rule in the country. For example, Article 64 of the Constitution of Ukraine provides that the constitutional rights and freedoms of human and citizen cannot be limited, except in cases provided for by the Constitution, which provides that in the situation of military or emergency state, certain limits on rights and freedoms may be established [2].

By Decree of the President of Ukraine No. 68/2022 of February 24, 2022, in accordance with the Law of Ukraine “On the Legal Regime of Martial Law,” regional and district military administrations were established to exercise leadership in the areas of defense, public safety, and order. One of the first decisions taken by regional military administrations was to restrict human and civil rights and impose further conditions. In particular, a curfew has been introduced in the regions [3].

Curfew is a military administration restriction on citizens being outside their place of living at certain times of the day. It is fixed in the Law of Ukraine “On the Legal Regime of Martial Law” [4], which gives the government the power to impose such limits to protect the population and ensure the security of the state.

The introduction of a curfew is a fundamental security activity focused on protecting the rule of law and building up defense capabilities. Its main purpose is to minimize criminal risks at night, specifically by reducing property crimes. It is extremely important to complicate the activities of criminal groups that use darkness to carry out their activities in secret. Limiting movement makes it easier for police to identify anyone who is on the streets without a valid reason. After all, curfew guarantees safe and free conditions for military, law enforcement, and emergency services to do their jobs. This way, it

makes it easier to control the area and helps security bodies respond to threats faster [1].

The National Police of Ukraine plays a central role in applying curfew rules. Police activities during curfew consist of a complex system of activities directed at supporting law and order and safety. The main focus is on non-stop patrolling and checking documents, which helps quickly identify violators, record crimes, and provide effective crime prevention. At the same time, the police maintain enhanced security at critical infrastructure objects, immediately responding to illegal intrusion attacks and neutralizing diversionary risks. In addition to its control and monitoring functions, the police carry out an important humanitarian mission, supporting emergency transport services and providing first aid to citizens who find themselves in danger at night [5].

The success of curfew enforcement depends on how well the police work with security and defense forces. A central aspect is close cooperation with the Army, the National Guard, and territorial defense units, which is realized through combined patrols, coordination of actions at checkpoints, and the effective sharing of information. At the same time, military administrations have an important regulatory role, setting clear limits and rules for restrictions. This consolidation of forces creates a unified management system that can really improve safety and react immediately to any attack [6]. As a result of effective coordination between the police, the National Guard, and the Army, it has been possible not only to significantly cut street crime, but also to provide effective opposition to diversionary forces. The practice of joint patrols and checkpoints helps to stop crimes and block the movement of criminals, as well as quickly identify enemy agents.

At the same time, enforcing curfew is associated with a high risk to the life and health of police officers. The most typical dangers are: possible contact with aggressive armed groups; aggressive reaction from people who are drunk; risks from sabotage groups; getting shot at while on patrol; provocations directed at destabilizing police work. These factors create a need for professional training of patrols, appropriate equipment, and clear coordination between all security forces [7].

Curfew is one of the most important ways to keep people safe during military rule. It helps to minimize the risk of sabotage, lower crime rates at night, and make it easier for the military to do their job. The National Police of Ukraine takes the lead in enforcing curfew, patrolling territories, responding to violations, ensuring public order, and cooperating with other security sector agencies. Police work in this period is difficult and risky, but its success directly affects the protection of the citizens and the stability of the country's national security. As such, in the present context, the role of the police in providing curfew enforcement is strategic and extremely important for the functioning of Ukraine's defense system.

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DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AS A MAJOR PROBLEM IN OUR SOCIETY

The matter of domestic violence has always been one of the main in public relations. It is primarily due to the problem of the relationship between man and woman in particular husband and wife.

It should be noted, that domestic violence include physical, verbal, emotional, economic, religious, reproductive and sexual abuse [4]. One aspect is that domestic violence is not discriminatory. Any person of any race, age, sexual orientation, religion or gender can become a victim or perpetrator of domestic violence. This can happen to people who are married, living together, or dating. These affects people of all socioeconomic strata and levels of education.

It is known, domestic violence includes behavior that causes physical harm, causes fear, prevents the partner from doing what he wants, or makes him behave the way he does not want to [5].

In general, domestic violence is a real enough problem, so the goal of this work is to develop recommendations for its identification and prevention.

Domestic violence can take the form of physical, sexual, psychological influence.

It is also important to mention that psychological abuse is:

ignoring the feelings of a woman

humiliation of beliefs that are of value to her

humiliation of a woman

pet bullying in the eyes of a woman in order to hurt her

punishment of children by a man, when insulting a woman

restrictions on freedom of action and movement

threats to cause physical or economic harm

Signs of financial abuse can also be highlighted:

prohibiting the victim from working or attending school.

sabotage job opportunities by causing visible injuries to the victim before an important meeting.

danger of employment by stalking or stalking a victim in the workplace.

denial of access to the vehicle or damage to the vehicle so that the victim cannot get to work.

sabotage educational opportunities by destroying classroom activities.

retention of money or provision of benefits.

denied access to bank accounts.

concealment of family assets.

debt in the name of the victim [6].

It may take some time before victims of domestic violence realize their situation as they are. Abuse often leaves physical traces, from bruises and bone fractures to shortness of breath and involuntary trembling. Seeming more prone to «accidents» than the average person, it can be a warning sign that someone is being abused. Victims of violence can also suffer short-term and long-term emotional and psychological consequences, including feelings of confusion or hopelessness, depression, anxiety, panic attacks, and post-traumatic stress disorder [1].

Unfortunately in Ukraine there is also domestic violence and despite the fact that physical and psychological violence in families has always occurred, by 2019 in Ukraine it was considered an administrative offense by law. That is, the beatings, humiliation and insults of the offenders were often punished in the form of fines or community service.

The law on countering domestic violence, which provides for criminal liability, was adopted in Ukraine in 2017, but it only came into force in January 2019. The first sentence in the history of Ukraine for domestic violence was handed down in Mykolaiv region in April 2019 [3].

Realizing the danger of domestic violence by Ukrainian law enforcement agencies, a Polina project was created. These response groups are designed to respond to cases of domestic violence [2].

As a conclusion, domestic violence is a major problem in our society, which is expressed by physical, verbal, emotional, economic,

religious, reproductive and sexual abuse. It is not discrimination and anyone can suffer from it. Domestic violence against children is a particularly serious problem. Most victims of domestic violence are women. Men also suffer from it, but are more likely to emerge from a situation of violence.

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EXPERIENCE IN FIGHTING CRIME IN THE USA

The problem of crime remains an integral part of the modern world both for Ukraine and for many other countries. The US has extensive experience in combating various forms of crime —, from minor offenses to complex organized activities and serial crimes. The countermeasures models introduced there often become role models in other States. The emergence of such approaches was due to the high level of criminogenic danger, the need for active interaction with communities and the introduction of the latest technological solutions. For Ukraine, which is currently working on reforming its law

enforcement system, the American experience can become a valuable source of effective institutional and practical approaches.

Special attention is drawn to American practices in the fields of crime forecasting, proactive patrolling, citizen cooperation, interagency coordination, and the use of criminal psychology. For example, the investigation into the case of serial killer Ted Bundy demonstrates how the challenges posed by complex crimes drive the development of forensics and profiling techniques.

In the US, an approach to law enforcement known as predictive policing is actively used. This technique aims to analyze historical crime data to create spatio-temporal predictions of so-called "hot spots" where the probability of crimes remains high [1]. Through this approach, the police can allocate their resources more effectively: organize targeted patrols, implement preventive measures and act more strategically.

However, it is important to note that predictions are not a guarantee of crime prevention. They only indicate an increased risk, but the tasks remain in the plane of assessing the situation and prompt response.

An effective method of police work involves not only responding to reports of crimes, but also proactive engagement with the community. This is so-called proactive policing, which includes active patrolling, cooperation with local residents and solving problematic issues in the early stages.

A notable example is the Chicago Police Department initiative called Chicago Alternative Policing Strategy (CAPS) [1]. It provided for close cooperation between the police and local residents, discussion of security issues, exchange of information, joint participation in crime prevention measures. This approach contributes to building trust between the community and law enforcement agencies, reduces barriers to reporting suspicious situations and ensures wider involvement of the population in security measures.

Against organized crime in the United States, a comprehensive approach is used, which includes the interaction of the police with other state structures, such as financial services, tax administration, customs and regulatory bodies. This allows for effective countermeasures against problems that include smuggling, tax evasion, money laundering, arms trafficking and other serious offences.

In the fight against crime, wide attention is paid to technological and scientific means, including video surveillance, big data analysis, informational support for investigations, development of criminological profiles and socio-psychological methods of prevention. Scientific conferences and journals contribute to the improvement of the qualifications of specialists and the dissemination of innovative solutions.

Thanks to this multidisciplinary approach, it is possible not only to successfully investigate individual crimes, but also to systematically reduce the risks of the activities of organized criminal groups.

Forecast police consists in using statistical data on criminal incidents, analyzing high-risk areas and planning the presence of law enforcement officers in places with an increased probability of crimes. This approach allows optimal allocation of limited police resources.

Proactive and community police are aimed at involving the community in maintaining security, creating an atmosphere of trust between law enforcement agencies and citizens. This contributes to the rapid reporting of suspicious situations, reducing fear of the police and ensuring greater openness in their activities.

The multi-agency approach to combating organized crime involves coordinating various structures, such as the tax office, customs authorities and financial controls, to confront crime in a comprehensive manner. This method is not limited to reacting, but provides efficient operation at several levels simultaneously [2].

The development of criminal psychology and profiling includes the analysis of motives and psychological traits of criminals, training of law enforcement officers, psychologists and criminologists. It helps identify potential lawbreakers, prevent recidivism, and create a deeper understanding of criminal thinking patterns.

Technology and analytics ensure the widespread use of modern tools such as video surveillance systems, data analysis and information platforms. They serve to prevent crime, investigate and monitor, especially relevant in resource-constrained settings.

However, it is worth remembering that the implementation of such approaches in Ukraine requires careful adaptation to local characteristics. This applies to the legal framework, institutional arrangements, human resources qualifications and technological readiness.

In the context of the «community policing» approach, the issue of trust between the community and law enforcement agencies becomes extremely important. In societies where there is an acute trust deficit, corrupt practices are widespread or weak social institutions are functioning, the effectiveness of such a model can be significantly limited [2].

Special attention should be paid to professional training of personnel. In the process of implementing new approaches to the analysis and profiling of complex crimes, the participation of qualified specialists — criminologists, psychologists, and analysts is necessary. The lack of appropriate expert support can reduce these processes to formal procedures without a proper practical result.

The introduction of a proactive approach requires a comprehensive approach, which involves the integration of preventive measures, comprehensive risk analysis, identification of «hotspots», as well as active cooperation with communities. This will make it possible to move from a reactive model of responding to crimes to preventing their commission.

A necessary direction is the development of criminal psychology and profiling, which includes the formation of systemically organized training of specialists, the implementation of methods of creating psychological portraits, as well as the analysis of motives for criminal behavior. Such measures will contribute to the identification of potentially dangerous persons, reduce the risk of recurrence and increase the effectiveness of law enforcement activities. An effective fight against organized crime requires the intensification of interdepartmental cooperation, the involvement of tax and customs services, financial bodies and other institutions in cooperation in combination with law enforcement agencies. In solving the problem of insufficient resources, attention should be focused on the use of modern technologies and analytical tools, including data analysis, video surveillance and algorithmic approaches. Such means are able to significantly increase the effectiveness of police activity in resource-limited conditions.

Creating trust between the police and citizens is an important component of an effective crime prevention policy. The format of community policing, active involvement of the public, as well as ensuring maximum openness and transparency of law enforcement

officers' activities are integral elements of an effective strategy in this area. A key aspect of all innovation must remain ethics and legal compliance. All innovations must be implemented with clear guarantees of compliance with the rights and freedoms of citizens, ensuring proper control by authorized institutions, as well as maximum transparency of procedures and processes.

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THE IMPORTANCE OF OSINT TECHNOLOGIES FOR CRIMINAL PROCEDURAL ACTIVITIES.

In the era of digital technology, when information is readily available from various sources, the use of OSINT (Open Source Intelligence) tools is becoming increasingly crucial in the investigation of criminal offences. It should be noted that OSINT is the process of collecting, analyzing and using publicly available information. This information can be obtained from various sources, including websites, social networks, public databases, news resources, and blogs. The primary purpose of OSINT is to gather relevant information for further analysis and informed decision-making. This approach is applied in various fields, including law enforcement, intelligence, business analytics, and cyber security. In today's digital environment, where a vast amount of information is published online, OSINT is becoming a crucial tool for various types of analysis and research, including the investigation of property crimes [1].

OSINT is a set of methods and techniques for searching for information in publicly available sources, such as social networks and open databases on the Internet. The primary advantages of OSINT are the accessibility of sources and the low cost of obtaining such information. Using OSINT methods, it is possible to -identify a person who has committed a crime from a photograph; -determine the location of a wanted person, using social networks, in particular the personal pages of both the wanted person and their circle of acquaintances;-determine a person's circle of acquaintances and interests, etc. It should be noted that OSINT is not merely a process of searching for information, but also involves storing, processing, and comparing it with other information to achieve a specific result in establishing circumstances relevant to criminal proceedings, creating forensic theories, and planning the investigation process [2].

The main aspects that contribute to:

Identification and search: Establishing the personal data, connections, habits and geolocation of suspects/defendants, as well as searching for hidden property and assets, which is particularly relevant when investigating economic and corruption crimes.

Cybercrime investigation: OSINT serves as the basis for tracking digital traces, analyzing metadata and identifying sources of criminal activity in cyberspace and the Darknet.

Recording war crimes: In the context of aggression, OSINT has become a key source of information for documenting events, recording destruction, and identifying those involved. [3]

OSINT technologies are a critically important and indispensable tool in modern criminal investigations, ensuring the fast and effective collection of information. The primary value of OSINT lies in its ability to transform vast amounts of publicly available data — from social networks and open registries to geographic information systems — into actionable leads and potential electronic evidence in a wide range of cases, including cybercrime, economic crime, and asset tracing. Moreover, as the Supreme Court notes, in the context of armed conflict, OSINT is a key technology for documenting and recording war crimes, identifying those involved, and gathering evidence for international justice. However, the biggest challenge for this tool lies in the area of procedural legitimacy: for information from open sources to be considered admissible evidence, it must be adequately secured (through

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THE MODEL OF CRIMINAL POLICE IN THE UNITED KINGDOM: CRIME PREVENTION AND INVESTIGATION

The relevance of this research topic is determined by the growth of transnational crime, cyber threats, and organized criminal groups, which require new approaches to law enforcement. The United Kingdom has developed an effective model of criminal police that combines preventive and analytical methods, the use of modern technologies, and community involvement in maintaining public order. The analysis of the British experience is highly relevant for Ukraine in the context of security sector reform and the implementation of European policing standards, as it allows the integration of proven practices of community-oriented and intelligence-led policing, while strengthening public trust in law enforcement agencies.

Modern British criminal policing dates back to the establishment of the London Metropolitan Police in 1829 by Robert Peel. His “nine principles of policing” became the foundation of modern community policing. As Reiner emphasizes, the legitimacy of the police has always been based on public trust and support [1].

The Criminal Investigation Department (CID) specializes in solving serious crimes. Its work relies heavily on modern forensic methods, particularly DNA analysis and the CCTV surveillance system. As highlighted in the NCA report, the combination of forensics and digital technologies makes it possible to shorten investigation times and increase the crime detection rate [2]

A defining feature of British policing is its cooperation with the community (community policing), which ensures greater effectiveness in crime detection. As T. Newburn points out, effective policing in Britain is grounded in cooperation with the public, as without community support, the police cannot achieve long-term results in security [3].

The United Kingdom also cooperates with Interpol, Europol, and law enforcement agencies of other countries. This is particularly important in combating terrorism and transnational crime. As A. Edwards notes, the fight against organized crime is only possible through close partnership between national police forces and international institutions [4].

Therefore, the model of criminal police in the United Kingdom serves as an excellent example of balancing traditional and modern methods of crime prevention and investigation. Its distinctiveness lies in active community engagement and trust between society and the police, the use of criminal intelligence, and international cooperation. For Ukraine, studying the British experience represents a valuable opportunity to introduce new methods of crime investigation and reform its law enforcement system.

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FORENSIC AND INVESTIGATIVE BODIES IN THE UK: GENERAL OVERVIEW

The work of forensic and investigative bodies in the countries of the United Kingdom England, Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland — is based on the principles of common law and high evidentiary standards. All four parts of the Kingdom have developed systems of forensic laboratories that work in close cooperation with the police, analytical centers, and judicial bodies. A key element is the accuracy of evidence collection, documentation, and preservation, as well as the use of modern technologies that enhance crime -solving capabilities.

England is a leading center of forensic innovation and sets general standards for the entire United Kingdom. English forensic experts apply 3D scanning of crime scenes, allowing precise reconstruction of crime circumstances for later use in court. A nationwide DNA database plays a major role, containing hundreds of thousands of samples and enabling rapid identification matches. Digital forensics is an important area, including the analysis of smartphones, computers, network logs, communication data, and the recovery of deleted files. England actively uses automated video analytics systems

and facial recognition technologies, helping to identify suspects and track their movements. Major cities operate mobile forensic laboratories that allow on - site preliminary examinations without transporting physical evidence [1].

Scotland has its own independent forensic service, separate from England, known for strict procedures and special attention to the chain of custody. The Scottish Police Authority Forensic Services use advanced methods of trace examination, biological analysis, and microscopy. Crime - pattern forecasting is a significant element of investigative work, improving the efficiency of detective units. Scotland has a unique judicial model with the possible verdict “not proven,” which increases the importance of a strong evidential base. Mobile forensic teams ensure access to crime scenes even in remote mountainous areas [2].

Wales is integrated with the English forensic system but maintains its own network of regional centers. A significant part of forensic activity in Wales focuses on digital crime, as cybercrime rates are relatively high. The use of uniform British standards for handling biological material ensures the admissibility of evidence in courts of both England and Wales. Automatic number-plate recognition systems are widely used, and joint investigation teams are created to handle complex cases.

Northern Ireland has one of the most specialized forensic institutions — Forensic Science Northern Ireland (FSNI). Due to the region’s history of conflicts, it has highly developed areas of explosive - related forensics, analysis of improvised explosive devices, and chemical identification of hazardous materials. Forensic units widely apply spectroscopy and advanced chemical analysis methods. Rapid response forensic teams operate in the region to conduct immediate examinations of explosions, shootings, and serious violent crimes. Northern Ireland actively cooperates with UK agencies, the European Union, and Interpol in investigating cross-border crime [3].

Overall, the forensic services of England, Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland demonstrate a high level of scientific, technological, and organizational development. Each region has its own special features, but they are united by the use of modern technologies, strict standardization, precise procedures, and close inter-agency cooperation.

The experience of these countries is considered among the most effective in the world and may serve as a model for improving forensic systems in other states.

Analyzing all mentioned above we can conclude that forensic and investigative bodies in the UK work to support criminal investigations through scientific analysis and evidence recovery. Their work involves forensic investigators collecting evidence from crime scenes, forensic pathologists conducting post-mortems for coroners, and a central regulator ensuring quality standards and ethical conduct across the justice system. Key functions include DNA analysis, fingerprint and toolmark examination, toxicology, and expert testimony in court.

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FEATURES OF POLICE ACTIVITY UNDER MARTIAL LAW

The introduction of martial law fundamentally transforms the operational, organizational, and legal foundations of police activity. Under such extraordinary conditions, law enforcement agencies face heightened demands regarding efficiency, adaptability, and strict adherence to legal norms. Police officers serve as key actors in ensuring

public safety, maintaining public order, protecting critical infrastructure, and supporting national defense efforts [1].

One of the primary features of police activity during martial law is the expansion of legal authority. The police are empowered to implement enhanced identity verification, enforce curfews, restrict movement, and inspect individuals, vehicles, and premises when necessary to prevent threats to national security. These powers, however, must be exercised strictly within the legal framework and under conditions of transparency and accountability.

Another crucial component involves cooperation with military formations and territorial defense units. The police provide logistical support, intelligence sharing, and joint patrols in areas subject to increased military risk. This interagency collaboration strengthens the overall system of national security and ensures coordinated responses to emergency situations. At the same time, police remain responsible for civilian protection, which requires balancing military necessity with human rights guarantees [2].

During martial law, crime prevention and response undergo significant adaptation. The risks of looting, sabotage, cyberattacks, and disinformation campaigns increase substantially. Police units must therefore adopt proactive strategies, including enhanced surveillance, rapid reaction groups, and information monitoring. The use of modern technologies such as drones, digital mapping, and automated data analysis supports these tasks and increases operational efficiency.

Equally important is communication with civilians. Public trust is a decisive factor for effective law enforcement activity in wartime conditions. Police officers are required to maintain clear, accurate, and timely communication, particularly regarding evacuation, humanitarian assistance, and safety protocols. Failure to provide reliable information can contribute to panic, social tensions, and the spread of harmful rumors.

The psychological resilience of police personnel plays a central role as well. Officers frequently operate under extreme pressure, facing threats to their lives, witnessing destruction, and coping with the emotional needs of affected populations. Continuous psychological support and proper rotation schedules are essential to prevent burnout and ensure sustained operational capacity.

Finally, despite the extraordinary circumstances, the police remain obligated to observe the rule of law. International humanitarian law and national legislation impose clear limitations on the use of force and the treatment of civilians. Any violation may undermine public trust and carry legal consequences. Thus, professionalism, discipline, and ethical conduct become defining indicators of police performance under martial law.

In conclusion, police activity during martial law requires a combination of expanded operational capabilities, interagency cooperation, technological adaptation, and unwavering adherence to legal and ethical standards. The effectiveness of police forces in such conditions directly influences the stability of society, the protection of citizens, and the resilience of the state.

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THE SIGNIFICANCE OF INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AGAINST TRANSNATIONAL ORGANIZED CRIME

International cooperation has long been recognized as a fundamental pillar in the global fight against organized crime. Its critical importance has been starkly highlighted by recent unprecedented challenges, including widespread civil unrest, and ongoing conflicts. As organized crime continues to transcend national borders, weaving intricate networks across continents, the collaborative efforts between states become ever more vital in effectively countering these sophisticated threats.

The 2021 Global Organized Crime Index underscored the high regard for international cooperation among resilience indicators, achieving a global score of 5.68. This suggests a widespread willingness among nations to engage in cooperative measures to bolster their capacity against organized criminal enterprises. Europe, in particular, demonstrated significantly higher levels of cooperation at 7.02, while Asia and Africa, though scoring below the global average (5.27 and 4.79 respectively), still considered international cooperation their highest-scoring resilience indicator.

Despite the prevalent political rhetoric emphasizing the significance of international cooperation in anti-crime strategies, persistent concerns have been raised regarding the actual effectiveness of existing multilateral mechanisms and their tangible impact on complex transnational challenges. The inherent inertia in mutual legal assistance, the general reluctance surrounding extradition processes, and the cumbersome nature of formal cooperative instruments have often rendered international cooperation inadequate. This disconnect is evident in the Index, where robust international cooperation scores have not consistently correlated with lower levels of organized crime across most countries.

Nevertheless, amidst some regional shortfalls in international cooperation and an acknowledged need for more concerted efforts to strengthen responses to transnational organized crime, recent multilateral initiatives offer a glimmer of hope. The remarkable unity demonstrated by several countries, notably European Union member states, in response to Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine, suggests a potential blueprint for future cooperation in combating organized crime.

A Unified Global Response. The full-scale invasion of Ukraine by Russia in February 2022 prompted an immediate and resolute display of solidarity from European states. In stark contrast to what was arguably a more muted response to the annexation of Crimea and parts of Donbas in 2014, European nations collectively exhibited unwavering support for Ukraine. This included unprecedented provisions of arms and military assistance by the EU, alongside billions of euros in crucial financial, humanitarian, and emergency aid.

Furthermore, a suite of restrictive financial measures was imposed on Russia by European countries. These included the freezing

and seizure of assets belonging to Russian oligarchs, the suspension of several Russian financial institutions from the SWIFT banking system, a ban on the import of specific Russian goods, and the closure of EU airspace, seaports, and roads to Russian vehicles.

While European countries, alongside their international counterparts, continue to deliver humanitarian aid – both in-kind and through funding – to address the immediate fallout of the war, EU member states are also actively collaborating with Ukraine on its post-war recovery. This involves significant financial aid aimed at rebuilding the country's infrastructure and revitalizing its economy. These commitments were notably reaffirmed at the second Ukraine Recovery Conference, held in the United Kingdom on June 21–22, 2023, where further pledges were made by individual states and a concerted push was initiated to encourage private sector engagement and investment in Ukraine.

A Model for Future Cooperation. In the initial phases of the conflict, resources were primarily channeled towards humanitarian and military assistance. However, cross-border law enforcement cooperation has since gained significant priority in tackling both existing and emerging criminal markets. European countries have broadened their cooperative scope, working intimately with Ukrainian officials to mitigate criminal activities exacerbated by the war, such as arms and human trafficking. Immediately following the onset of the conflict, a joint anti-trafficking plan was implemented, in collaboration with Ukrainian authorities and international organizations, to prevent human trafficking and to identify and assist victims. European countries and Europol have also partnered with their Ukrainian counterparts to establish specialized centers aimed at curbing arms trafficking in the region, a critical measure given the proliferation of arms and ammunition within Ukraine.

Moreover, European states are dedicated to assisting Ukraine with judicial reform, strengthening the rule of law, and enhancing anti-corruption mechanisms. The EU Anti-Corruption Initiative has maintained close collaboration with its Ukrainian counterparts to ensure transparency in the country's recovery process and to prevent Ukraine's historical challenges with public sector corruption from impeding these efforts.

These initiatives vividly demonstrate the willingness of European countries to go above and beyond, extending their cooperation beyond direct aid to the war-torn nation and its victims. While these efforts were not isolated – with other nations, such as the United States, also making substantial contributions and working with Ukraine and the EU – the unified approach adopted by the European continent has been exceptional. European countries have displayed remarkable resilience and solidarity through their cooperation with each other, with other nations, and with Ukraine. This showcases their possession of the necessary tools and mechanisms for effective international cooperation, which can be mobilized in times of urgent need. Such cooperation should serve as a compelling example in the multilateral response to organized crime, illustrating how to achieve more tangible and lasting results, especially at a time when long-standing multilateral coalitions appear to be under strain.

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PECULIARITIES OF USING INTERNATIONAL DATABASES IN CRIMINAL IDENTIFICATION

In the modern world, crime is increasingly taking on a transnational character due to globalization, the development of international relations, active population migration, and the use of modern information technologies. Effective crime control in such conditions is impossible without close cooperation between law enforcement agencies of different states, which relies on the rapid exchange of reliable information. International databases play a crucial role in this process, enabling authorities to identify criminals, track their activities, and coordinate actions across borders.

Key institutions in this field include Interpol and Europol. Interpol maintains the world's largest centralized databases containing information on fingerprints, DNA profiles, lost and stolen passports, vehicles, and photographs of internationally wanted persons. Europol focuses on combating organized and serious crime within the European Union, using the secure SIENA information exchange system. These resources allow law enforcement agencies to access data on suspects, their connections, and movements quickly and efficiently.

A distinctive feature of international databases is the unification of standards and procedures for data collection, storage, and exchange. Unified technical formats in fingerprinting and DNA identification ensure compatibility across different countries, while standardized methods for data verification, logging, and record-keeping enhance control over information usage and reduce the risk of misidentification [1].

Another significant advantage is operational efficiency. Databases are updated in real time, allowing authorities to respond immediately to new information about suspects, lost documents, or stolen property. At the same time, access is strictly controlled, and information is transmitted through secure channels with multi-level encryption and user authentication to ensure the protection of personal data [2].

Multi-factor identification is also essential, combining biometric data (fingerprints, DNA, photographs), documentary data (passports, identity cards, registration records), and forensic data (crime scene traces, methods of criminal activity). This integrated approach increases the accuracy of identification and reduces the risk of errors.

The use of international databases is strictly governed by international and national legal frameworks, which protect human rights, ensure confidentiality, and regulate data retention. Regular audits, access controls, and updates to security procedures are essential to maintain trust and compliance [3].

In conclusion, international databases are not merely technical tools—they represent a cornerstone of modern international law enforcement cooperation. By enabling the rapid and reliable identification of criminals, these databases strengthen the ability of authorities to prevent and investigate crimes across borders. They help

create a coordinated, proactive approach to transnational crime, terrorism, and organized criminal activities, ensuring that offenders cannot exploit gaps between national jurisdictions.

Moreover, the continuous development of technical capabilities, combined with strict adherence to legal standards and protection of personal data, ensures that these systems remain both effective and ethical. The integration of biometric, documentary, and forensic data allows for precise multi-factor identification, which significantly reduces errors and increases public trust in law enforcement.

Finally, the success of international databases depends not only on technology but also on international cooperation, mutual trust, and the commitment of countries to share information responsibly. When these conditions are met, international databases become a powerful instrument for global security, helping societies feel safer and making it increasingly difficult for criminals to act with impunity. In a globalized world, these systems are indispensable for creating a unified security space and upholding the rule of law on an international scale.

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THE WORK OF INVESTIGATIVE AND FORENSIC AGENCIES: JAPANESE EXPERIENCE

The criminal investigation and forensic system in Japan relies on centralised coordination by the National Police Agency and regional police departments, which determine both operational methods and standards for forensic investigations. The National Police Agency's 2024 white paper pays particular attention to the challenges posed by the emergence of anonymous and flexible criminal groups that use social networks and cryptographic technologies for recruitment and money laundering. In this regard, the police are strengthening interagency cooperation, developing laboratory capabilities and integrating digital tools into the investigation cycle. This takes the form of a pragmatic combination of traditional investigative methods and new analytical approaches aimed at reducing the time spent identifying sources of information and increasing the accuracy of reconstructing events [1].

In parallel with the changing threats, there is a rapid digitisation of investigative procedures. In 2025, the government approved a legislative initiative that allows requests for warrants to be submitted electronically and submitted digitally during investigative actions, which should reduce administrative delays and increase the efficiency of procedural actions. This transformation is accompanied by reforms in the information infrastructure of law enforcement agencies and a gradual transition to electronic document management in criminal proceedings. At the same time, the transition to digital procedures raises questions about the cybersecurity of data exchange systems and the confidentiality of pre-trial investigation materials [2].

In the field of forensic science, Japan actively uses modern laboratory technologies, including rapid DNA analysis and mobile forensic laboratories. This is evidenced by the practice of state support for the transfer of equipment for rapid analysis and the establishment of mobile operational units both within the country and abroad in the form

of international assistance. The supply of portable solutions and equipment for forensic laboratories helps to speed up the identification of samples and reduce the time required for initial examinations, which in turn affects the speed of investigations and the ability to quickly link suspects to crime scenes. The external assistance that Japan provides to other countries to strengthen their forensic capabilities also reflects the country's technological resources and relevant organisational practices [3].

Artificial intelligence information technologies and analytical systems for predicting offences play a significant role in Japanese practice. A government project that implemented systems for predicting the locations and times of likely offences and optimising patrol routes demonstrates a desire to use algorithmic approaches to crime prevention. The use of such systems allows resources to be concentrated in more vulnerable areas and reduces response times to incidents, but at the same time raises questions about the transparency of algorithms, data bias and legal safeguards against unjustified surveillance. In the Japanese context, these issues are particularly important due to the high level of public trust in institutions and sensitivity to interference in private life [3].

Despite technological improvements, systemic risks identified by civil society and human rights organisations remain in the Japanese system. The practice of prolonged interrogation in custody, intensive confrontations and the high influence of 'confessions' as evidence sometimes lead to criticism from international observers and the media. Discussions of cases that have raised questions about possible coerced confessions and the conditions of prolonged investigative detention have stimulated debate about the need to strengthen procedural safeguards, review interrogation tactics, and increase the role of judicial oversight to prevent wrongful convictions. Reforms aimed at more transparent control over the procedure of detention and interrogation are still progressing slowly and require a comprehensive approach between legislative changes and staff training [5].

In the field of cybercrime and investigations in the digital space, there has been a systematic increase in specialised units in regional police departments and the creation of national cyber departments that analyse large volumes of digital evidence, investigate organised cybercrime networks and counter information security threats. The

integration of forensic laboratories with cyber units allows for comprehensive investigations that combine traditional investigative methods and digital forensics, focusing on data recovery, transaction tracing, and electronic trace identification. The improvement of these capabilities is accompanied by training programmes and cooperation with scientific institutions to develop methodologies and standards for the analysis of digital evidence [1].

International cooperation is an important element of Japan's experience, as transnational criminal networks require coordination at the regional and global levels. Japan participates in multilateral initiatives, exchanges technology, and conducts training for law enforcement agencies in other countries. This policy promotes the standardisation of practices, but at the same time poses the challenge of harmonising procedures for the exchange of evidence and guarantees of its legitimacy in accordance with international standards.

Japan's experience in organising the work of investigative and forensic agencies in 2022–2025 demonstrates a simultaneous focus on technological modernisation and the preservation of existing institutional practices. The digitisation of processes and the introduction of analytical systems increase the efficiency and potential of forensics, while the development of mobile and express laboratories contributes to faster evidence identification. At the same time, issues related to procedural guarantees, interrogation methods and the risks of algorithmic opacity require further attention. Legislative clarifications, improved data protection standards and large-scale staff training programmes are necessary for the effective and ethical use of technology. International cooperation and exchange of experience remain key to adapting to new challenges, but internal reforms that ensure transparency and protect human rights during investigations are a prerequisite for a sustainable improvement in the quality of forensic practice.

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INTEGRATING ENGLISH LANGUAGE REQUIREMENTS INTO THE PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS OF THE MINISTRY OF INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF UKRAINE

English language proficiency is becoming a critically important professional requirement for the Ministry of Internal Affairs (MIA) system of Ukraine amid social transformation driven by the consequences of the Russian-Ukrainian war, Euro-integration, democratic processes, and close international cooperation with partners at the international level. As rightly noted: "English proficiency among law enforcement and rescue personnel is an important step towards strengthening international ties. This will facilitate communication with foreign colleagues, participation in international training, and joint operations" [1].

The purpose of the work is to analyze the current state of MIA professional standards, substantiate the critical necessity, and develop

concrete, practically-oriented mechanisms for integrating English language proficiency requirements, harmonized with European standards, for all services within the MIA system.

The professional competence of a modern MIA employee cannot be considered complete without a foreign language communication component. Analysis shows that current professional standards for most key positions (patrol officers, investigators, rescuers) contain only general, declarative requirements or completely ignore the need for English language proficiency. Adopting the mandatory application of the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR) or the NATO STANAG 6001 standard is vital for achieving Ukraine's interoperability with other states. This necessity is officially confirmed by the agency's leadership. Specifically, Deputy Head of the National Police of Ukraine Serhii Kobets emphasizes: "Knowledge of the English language for our police officers is not just an advantage, it is a requirement of modernity. Fluent proficiency allows us to cooperate more effectively with international law enforcement structures, as well as ensure the safety of foreign guests" [2].

On June 27, 2024, Law No. 3760-IX came into force, which defines the status and rules for the use of the English language in Ukraine, establishing a mandatory requirement for English proficiency for numerous categories of civil servants and officials. [3] In our opinion, the ways to implement this initiative include modernization of the educational process in departmental higher education institutions (HEIs) and training centers, motivational and stimulating mechanisms, and material and technical support. Critically important are the development of a unified electronic platform for distance learning of professional English, which will provide 24/7 access to training materials, and the procurement of specialized textbooks oriented towards STANAG 6001. CEPOL is the European Union Agency that brings together and supports a network of law enforcement training institutes, providing priority training on security, cooperation, and information exchange priorities in EU member states and non-member states, including Ukraine. The Agency offers innovative and advanced training activities, particularly through the specialized LEEd platform, which includes online courses, webinars, and opportunities for professional exchanges [4].

We can already observe examples of the practical implementation of these requirements. The National Police of Ukraine and the Association of Innovative and Digital Education (AIDE) are launching large-scale English language training for 15,000 National Police of Ukraine employees. This initiative will allow law enforcement officers to master the English language through the "Lingva Skills" educational platform [2]. The implementation of European standards requires not only updating the training content but also officially formalizing the criteria for assessment and certification. To this end, the formalization of the requirement for a CEFR/international certificate as a mandatory condition for appointment to international-focused positions is key. This is necessary to ensure the transparency and objectivity of confirming language competencies. The use of CEFR provides a clear and internationally recognized assessment system that distinctly differentiates language skills (speaking, writing, reading, listening). This enables the precise alignment of an employee's language qualification with the defined professional requirements of their position within the MIA structure. We propose introducing a differentiated approach to language requirements that correlates with the level of responsibility and the frequency of international interaction:

- Level A2/B1 (Basic Working): Mandatory for line personnel (patrol police officers, junior rescuers, personnel at border crossings). Competencies: providing basic information, understanding simple instructions, and completing elementary protocols.

- Level B2 (Professional/Independent User): Mandatory for investigators, operational staff, representatives in Europol/Interpol, and mid-level managers. Competencies: drafting official documents, conducting interrogations, participating in international training, and managing situations involving foreign citizens.

- Level C1 (Expert): Mandatory for senior management, international liaison officers, and departmental university faculty. Competencies: conducting complex negotiations, preparing analytical reports at the international level, and public speaking.

The language requirements will be implemented in accordance with the Law on the Use of the English Language in Ukraine. The resolution will come into effect four years after the termination or repeal of martial law [5].

The implementation of the proposed measures will lead to increased quality of international cooperation and a significant improvement in the operational effectiveness of joint missions, which directly contributes to deepening the Euro-Atlantic integration of the Ukrainian security sector. Therefore, the integration of differentiated English language proficiency requirements into the MIA professional standards is a critically necessary and officially supported step towards achieving international interoperability. Despite the future implementation defined by law, successful realization requires the immediate modernization of training programs and the introduction of motivational and stimulating mechanisms. Future research should focus on verifying the effectiveness of new educational courses, creating specialized teaching methods for working under high psychological stress, and analyzing the feasibility of including additional foreign languages in personnel training in border regions.

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PRACTICAL MECHANISMS FOR IMPLEMENTING ENGLISH IN GOVERNMENT BODIES

English is an international language and at the same time the main language in the EU. Ukraine's efforts to join the EU and the prospects of membership in it, as well as further integration in all spheres of life, necessitate the study and proficiency in English at the highest possible level for its effective implementation in the state authorities of Ukraine.

Maksimova A. notes that an appropriate regulatory and legal basis has been formed for the introduction of English in Ukraine. The adopted document covers issues of preschool education, language training of officials and the leisure sector. The author emphasizes that this act is not innovative, but rather reflects the current needs of the state in the conditions of the European integration course [1, p. 253].

A large-scale process is being observed in Ukrainian society - a gradual and systematic rejection of the use of the Russian language in various spheres of life, which actualizes the need to study English and master it by both Persian citizens and officials. Today, English is the official language of international communication, in particular the language of concluding contracts and agreements, and its modern content reflects the value orientations and priorities of the world community. In these conditions, there is a growing need for active state measures aimed at spreading English as a key tool of international communication in Ukraine. The state's European integration course also provides for the recognition of European standards of language policy, which makes raising the status of English in Ukraine not only an urgent need, but also a strategically important step on the path to joining the

European Union. Until June 2024, there was no special regulatory legal act in Ukraine that comprehensively regulated the role and status of English as a language of international communication. In this regard, the Ministry of Culture and Information Policy actively participated in the preparation of a relevant legislative act aimed at increasing the language competence of Ukrainian citizens in the context of globalization processes. According to the information of the Ministry of Culture and Information Policy, According to the Minister of Culture and Information Policy of Ukraine Rostyslav Karandeyev, changing the status of the English language is a necessary prerequisite for further integration of Ukraine into the European Union [1, p. 254-255].

The Verkhovna Rada, aiming to promote the study of English by citizens of Ukraine, striving to intensify the processes of European and Euro-Atlantic integration of Ukraine, to strengthen the international image of the state in world globalization processes, to increase the level of its competitiveness, investment and tourist attractiveness, adopted the Law of Ukraine “On the Use of the English Language” and in Article 3 noted:

1. The requirement for mandatory knowledge of the English language is established for persons applying for positions:

1) civil service category "A";

2) civil service categories "B" and "C", the list of which is established by the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine;

3) heads of local state administrations, their first deputies and deputies;

4) military personnel of officer, sergeant and foreman ranks who are serving under a contract, the list of which is established by the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine;

5) police officers of the middle and senior ranks of the National Police of Ukraine, positions of command staff of other law enforcement agencies, positions of command staff of the civil protection service, the list of which is established by the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine;

6) prosecutors;

7) in tax and customs authorities, the list of which is established by the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine;

8) heads, members of the executive body, members of the supervisory board (board of directors) and other officials of state

enterprises, business companies, in the authorized capital of which more than 50 percent of the shares (shares) belong to the state;

9) heads of state scientific institutions;

10) heads of higher education institutions;

11) in the field of education and science, the list of which is established by the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine [2].

Today, 21,606 public servants are learning English on the EF online platform. Of these, 20,461 are civil servants and 2,163 are representatives of local self-government bodies. Every tenth civil servant is learning English with Eng4PublicService. This was noted by the Head of the National Agency for the Use of English in Ukraine, Natalia Alyushina, in an interview with "Suspilny", commenting on the mechanisms for implementing the Law "On the Use of the English Language in Ukraine".

According to her, 1,098 state and local government bodies are represented in the Eng4PublicService project. And in total, 7,596 civil servants received more than 16,222 certificates of advanced training. "We signed a memorandum with the world's largest online school, Education First English Learning Solutions.

And in February 2023, we opened the project for all civil servants. We offered our colleagues the obvious advantages of an online school. Among them are 24/7 access from various devices, the ability to use a mobile application, personalized learning, modules adapted to Ukrainian realities and professional requirements," emphasized Natalia Alyushyna [3].

According to the head of the National Agency for Education and Culture, EF took into account the military risks of Ukraine and developed a mobile application that allows you to study in blackout conditions, updating the results when the lights come on. "We even joke among ourselves that English will not learn itself, and therefore we are introducing our practices throughout the country".

In view of the above, it can be concluded that the spread of the English language in Ukraine is a strategic condition for effective European integration and strengthening of the state's international cooperation. The Law of Ukraine "On the Use of the English Language" creates a holistic regulatory framework for improving the language competence of citizens, especially civil servants. The implementation of language policy through projects such as Eng4PublicService and

cooperation with international educational platforms increases the availability of quality education and ensures adaptation to military challenges. The combination of these measures contributes to Ukraine's rapprochement with European standards and further progress on the path to EU membership.

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LEGAL AND ORGANIZATIONAL FOUNDATIONS OF THE ACTIVITIES OF THE NATIONAL POLICE OF UKRAINE UNDER MARTIAL LAW

The legal and organizational framework of the National Police’s activities during martial law is based on the Constitution of Ukraine, the Law “On the Legal Regime of Martial Law,” and the Law “On the National Police,” which define special powers as well as the procedures for interaction with military command and state authorities. The police’s activities are also regulated by presidential decrees on the imposition of martial law, resolutions of the Cabinet of Ministers, and

orders of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, which establish the specifics of service, an enhanced duty regime, expanded powers to ensure public security, and control over compliance with curfews and other martial law requirements [1, p. 90]. The organizational foundation includes coordination with the Armed Forces, the Territorial Defense Forces, and other security-sector structures, redistribution of forces and resources, operation of operational headquarters, reinforcement of patrol, security, and counter-sabotage activities, as well as ensuring continuity of command, mobility of units, and protection of the population in combat conditions.

The interaction of the National Police with other state institutions and the public during martial law is based on comprehensive coordination aimed at maintaining security, public order, and the resilience of the state. The police work closely with the military command, the Armed Forces, the Territorial Defense Forces, the Security Service of Ukraine (SBU), the State Emergency Service (DSNS), the Border Guard Service, and local government authorities. Such cooperation ensures the exchange of operational information, coordination of actions in maintaining public order, countering sabotage, organizing checkpoints, joint patrolling, and participation in special operations to identify threats [2, p. 210].

An important area is work with the public, which involves regularly informing the population about the security situation, procedures for actions in emergencies, and rules of conduct during air alarms or shelling. The police cooperate with volunteer and civic organizations that assist in meeting humanitarian needs, evacuating people, and supporting vulnerable groups. Community-based public safety formations also play a significant role in enhancing local security. Such interaction creates a unified response system, increases the effectiveness of defense measures, and contributes to strengthening public trust in law enforcement agencies.

The problems and prospects for the development of police activities during wartime are determined by the complexity of the operational environment and the need to quickly adapt to new challenges. The main problems include personnel overload due to staff shortages, increased risk to the lives of police officers, and the necessity to operate under conditions of active hostilities and constant threats.

Additional difficulties include limited resources, the need for modern communication systems, transport, protective equipment, as well as the psychological exhaustion of personnel due to prolonged service in stressful conditions [3]. An important challenge also remains countering disinformation, cyber threats, and the enemy's sabotage and intelligence activities.

The prospects for the development of police activities are associated with the modernization of the material and technical base, the expansion of digital system capabilities, improvement of tactical and social training, and strengthening coordination with other security forces. Further development of analytical centers, increased mobility of units, and the implementation of modern technologies such as video monitoring, unmanned systems, and fast communication networks are expected. An important area is also supporting the psychological well-being of police officers and establishing new standards for interaction with the population in crisis situations. All of this provides a foundation for enhancing the effectiveness of police activities and their ability to operate under conditions of wartime threats.

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EVIDENCE – BASED CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION: COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS OF INTERNATIONAL PRACTICES

The growing demand for transparency and efficiency in criminal justice has made evidence-based investigation methods increasingly relevant. Countries like the US, UK, Canada, and Australia actively apply data-driven approaches to improve investigative accuracy and public trust. In transitional legal systems such as Ukraine, these models are still emerging, creating a need for comparative analysis and adaptation. This study aims to explore international practices of evidence-based criminal investigations and assess their applicability to the Ukrainian context. Key tasks include reviewing theoretical foundations, comparing global models, identifying benefits and risks, and proposing recommendations for implementation.

Evidence-based criminal investigation improves decision-making by reducing reliance on intuition and increasing the use of validated research findings. Lum & Koper argue that structured investigative models based on empirical data lead to more consistent and just outcomes in police work [1]. This shift not only enhances the quality of investigative decisions but also fosters a new professional culture within law enforcement—one that values analytical reasoning over routine or intuition. In transitional legal systems such as Ukraine’s, adopting evidence-based models could play a pivotal role in strengthening public trust, reducing investigative errors, and aligning domestic practices with international standards of fairness and transparency.

Cross-border investigations involving digital evidence face significant legal and procedural challenges due to divergent national frameworks. Casino highlights that the lack of harmonized standards complicates evidence exchange and admissibility in international cases [2]. This issue is particularly relevant in the context of growing transnational cybercrime, where timely and reliable access to digital

evidence is crucial. Without unified standards, investigators often face delays, legal uncertainty, and challenges in ensuring the integrity of cross-border procedures.

Comparative analysis shows that countries with institutional support for evidence-based policing—such as the UK and Australia—achieve higher investigative efficiency and public trust. Mbuba emphasizes the role of policy integration and training in sustaining these models [3]. This highlights the importance of long-term investment in professional development and policy continuity. Without institutional commitment and structured training, evidence-based practices risk remaining theoretical rather than becoming embedded in daily investigative routines.

The use of forensic data analytics and virtual asset tracing is becoming central to modern investigations, especially in cybercrime and financial offenses. Ovsianiuk demonstrates how Ukraine and other jurisdictions are adapting international practices to local needs [4]. This reflects a broader trend toward digital transformation in law enforcement, where investigative success increasingly depends on the ability to process complex data and trace illicit financial flows. Ukraine's efforts to align with global standards show both the potential and the challenges of integrating advanced forensic tools within evolving legal and institutional frameworks.

Human rights concerns in digital investigations require balancing technological efficiency with procedural safeguards. Ragni stresses the importance of transparency and due process in the use of remote data collection and AI tools [5]. This concern is especially relevant as digital tools become more embedded in investigative workflows. Without clear legal boundaries and oversight, the use of AI and remote surveillance risks infringing on privacy rights and undermining the legitimacy of criminal proceedings. Safeguards must evolve alongside technology to preserve trust and uphold fundamental freedoms.

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INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION IN THE FIGHT AGAINST CRIME (EUROJUST, INTERPOL, JOINT OPERATIONS)

International cooperation in combating transnational crime is essential in the modern globalized environment, as threats such as organized crime, cybercrime, human trafficking and terrorism transcend national borders and require coordinated institutional responses [1].

Interpol, as the largest global police organization, plays a core role in facilitating real-time criminal intelligence exchange and coordinating international policing actions. Its system of notices, shared databases, and operational support mechanisms enhances national capacities to track fugitives, identify suspects, and respond to complex transnational threats [1].

Eurojust, the EU Agency for Criminal Justice Cooperation, strengthens judicial coordination among EU Member States and international partners. It helps resolve conflicts of jurisdiction, facilitates mutual legal assistance, supports the creation of Joint Investigation Teams (JITs), and provides legal and operational expertise for cross-border investigations [2]. Eurojust's cooperation strategy for 2024–2027 formalizes its expanding engagement with non-EU states and international organizations [3]. Annual reporting illustrates significant increases in coordination meetings and operational support in areas such as cybercrime, money laundering, and organized crime [4]. A similar positive dynamic in external cooperation was also reflected in Eurojust's 2023 work with partners outside the EU [5].

Joint operations constitute an essential tool of modern international crime control. By combining resources of national law enforcement, Interpol, Europol, and Eurojust, states can conduct coordinated investigative actions, synchronized arrests, and unified evidence-gathering activities [8]. Research shows that such integrated operational approaches increase overall effectiveness in combating organized and cyber-enabled crime [6].

Despite progress, institutional and legal challenges remain. The operational cooperation between Europol and Interpol still lacks a unified legal framework that would regulate jurisdiction, accountability, and data protection guarantees [6]. Additionally, differences in national legal systems and uneven levels of institutional capacity create obstacles for effective cross-border cooperation [7].

Strengthening the international legal framework, increasing procedural harmonization, and expanding institutional interoperability are essential for enhancing the effectiveness of international cooperation mechanisms. These measures will help states better confront the rapidly evolving landscape of transnational crime [8].

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PECULIARITIES OF POLICE ACTIVITY UNDER MARTIAL LAW

The introduction of martial law significantly transforms the legal, organizational, and practical foundations of police activity. In such

conditions, the police become one of the key actors ensuring public security, protecting critical infrastructure, supporting military forces, and maintaining social stability. Their role expands beyond traditional law-enforcement functions and acquires features that require enhanced coordination, rapid response and adherence to both national and international humanitarian norms. Understanding the peculiarities of police work during martial law is essential for evaluating challenges, identifying operational priorities, and ensuring the lawful implementation of extraordinary security measures [1; 2].

Under martial law, police activities are regulated by special legal provisions, primarily the Law of Ukraine “On the Legal Regime of Martial Law” and the Law “On the National Police” [1; 3]. These laws grant police expanded powers, including identity checks, inspections of vehicles and premises, enforcement of curfews, and detention of individuals suspected of threatening national security. Despite this expansion, police actions must remain proportionate and lawful, complying with constitutional rights and international standards [2]. The balance between security and civil liberties becomes a central challenge.

A hallmark of police activity during martial law is intensified cooperation with the Armed Forces, Territorial Defence Forces, the Security Service of Ukraine, and emergency services [4]. Joint patrols, intelligence sharing, securing military convoys, and protection of critical infrastructure require clear operational coordination and division of responsibilities to avoid overlap or conflict.

Martial law increases risks of looting, sabotage, disinformation, and other wartime crimes. The police must prevent and respond to such offences while maintaining community trust. Key priorities include:

- 1) enforcement of curfews;
- 2) protection of evacuation routes and civilian shelters;
- 3) prevention of looting and property crimes;
- 4) detection of sabotage groups;
- 5) countering misinformation [5].

Even under martial law, the police must respect international humanitarian law, including the Geneva Conventions [2]. They are responsible for preventing unlawful detentions, ensuring human treatment of detainees, and protecting vulnerable groups such as displaced persons, children, and victims of war-related crimes.

Ensuring accountability is essential to preventing abuses and maintaining public legitimacy [6]. Police effectiveness during martial law depends heavily on public cooperation. Transparent communication, assistance to civilians, evacuation support, and humanitarian engagement strengthen public trust. Community-oriented policing principles remain relevant even in wartime conditions [7]. Martial law creates an environment of high operational stress. Police face shortages of personnel and equipment, increased workloads, damaged infrastructure, and high psychological pressure [5]. Addressing these challenges requires logistical support, continuous training, and psychological assistance. Police increasingly rely on technological solutions such as drones, surveillance tools, digital communication systems, and data-driven risk assessment models [6]. These innovations enhance situational awareness and operational efficiency in dynamic wartime environments.

Police activity under martial law is characterized by expanded powers, intensified cooperation with military structures, and heightened responsibility for internal security. Despite extraordinary circumstances, police must uphold legality, human rights, and professional ethics. Their ability to adapt directly influences national resilience and public safety [3; 6].

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STANDARDS AND PRACTICES OF DIGITAL FORENSICS: COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS OF NIST, ISO, AND ENFSI GUIDELINES FOR ENSURING THE ADMISSIBILITY OF DIGITAL EVIDENCE

Digital forensics has become increasingly relevant in today's society due to the rapid growth of cybercrime, the proliferation of digital devices, and the critical role of electronic evidence in legal proceedings. The relevance of this topic lies in the need to ensure that digital evidence is reliable, scientifically validated, and legally admissible, particularly in contexts where incorrect or incomplete analysis may compromise justice. The purpose of this study is to analyze international standards and best practices in digital forensics, identify their strengths and limitations, and propose recommendations for their implementation in national forensic practice to enhance the credibility and admissibility of digital evidence.

Modern digital forensics operates at the intersection of technical, legal, and methodological requirements, and therefore relies on international standards that ensure the reliability and admissibility of digital evidence in court. The report NIST IR 8354 "Digital Investigation Techniques" emphasizes that digital methods are based on well-established principles of computer science, yet they possess inherent limitations related to data incompleteness, loss of artifacts, and the possibility of obtaining fragmented or partially corrupted information [1, pp. 9–10]. These considerations highlight the need for scientific validation of forensic tools, as well as the documentation of

error rates during data recovery or analysis, since these factors directly influence the evidentiary value of digital information.

The international standard ISO/IEC 27037:2012 defines the core principles of identifying, collecting, acquiring, and preserving digital evidence, establishing a globally recognized procedure that significantly strengthens the reliability of forensic artifacts. Pages 8–12 outline the requirements for documenting the chain of custody, ensuring process repeatability, and confirming the competence of personnel responsible for evidence collection and initial handling [2, pp. 8–12]. These requirements guarantee the integrity of digital evidence and minimize the risk of manipulation or unintentional data alteration.

The European document ENFSI Best Practice Manual for the Forensic Examination of Digital Technology (BPM-FIT-01) provides detailed practical guidelines for the operation of forensic laboratories. Pages 6–11 describe procedures for the seizure, packaging, transportation, and initial examination of digital devices [ENFSI BPM-FIT-01, pp. 6–11]. Further sections emphasize verification and uncertainty assessment: page 22 sets out the requirement to identify and document potential errors accumulated throughout the forensic process [3, p. 22], while section 6.5 (page 25) establishes mandatory verification for all critical forensic actions [p. 25]. Additionally, the manual requires regular proficiency testing and technical verification of forensic tools, as detailed in section 12.5 (page 38), ensuring stability and reproducibility of results [3 p. 38].

Taken together, these standards demonstrate that NIST provides the scientific foundation of digital forensic methods, ISO sets procedural requirements for evidence handling and preservation, and ENFSI delivers practical algorithms and quality-assurance mechanisms. The combined implementation of these approaches in Ukrainian law-enforcement practice would significantly enhance the trustworthiness of digital evidence and ensure its unquestionable admissibility in judicial proceedings, supporting the broader goal of strengthening the integrity and efficiency of the criminal justice system.

In conclusion, the analysis of NIST, ISO, and ENFSI standards confirms that the adoption of international best practices is essential for reliable digital investigations. By integrating scientific validation, rigorous procedural safeguards, and practical quality-assurance measures, law enforcement agencies can ensure that digital evidence is

credible, reproducible, and fully admissible in court. Therefore, the implementation of these standards should be considered a priority for improving both the effectiveness of forensic investigations and the overall fairness of the judicial process.

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LANGUAGE POLICY AND THE FUNCTIONING OF THE STATE LANGUAGE IN UKRAINE: LEGAL AND SOCIAL ASPECTS

The issue of language policy in Ukraine is closely connected to the processes of national identity formation, social integration, and state-building. The Ukrainian language, as the only state language, performs not only communicative but also symbolic and unifying functions in society. At the same time, the question of ensuring its full functioning remains one of the most sensitive socio-political topics. The

development of language policy in Ukraine reflects the country's struggle to strengthen its sovereignty and democratic values in the context of globalisation and ongoing hybrid challenges.

The study has revealed that the Ukrainian language, as defined by the Constitution and current legislation, serves as a fundamental element of state unity. The effectiveness of the language policy depends on the balance between legal regulation and social support for linguistic development. The results show that strengthening the state language requires not only legal mechanisms but also educational, cultural, and communicative initiatives aimed at popularising Ukrainian in all spheres of life.

According to the Law of Ukraine "On Ensuring the Functioning of the Ukrainian Language as the State Language," Ukrainian is mandatory in public administration, education, science, media, and service sectors [1, p. 15]. This law aims to guarantee citizens' right to receive information and services in the state language, while simultaneously respecting the rights of national minorities [1, p. 16]. Legal scholars note that language policy is not merely a set of legal norms but also a mechanism for consolidating national identity and ensuring information security [2, p. 33].

The state's approach to language regulation has evolved significantly since independence. Early legal acts emphasised bilingualism, whereas modern policy focuses on strengthening Ukrainian as a unifying factor [2, p. 34]. In my opinion, this shift is a natural result of historical experience and social demand. The Ukrainian language has become a symbol of independence and cultural resilience, especially during periods of political and military confrontation.

At the same time, language policy cannot be effective without public support. Legal obligations alone do not automatically lead to language usage in everyday communication. People adopt the state language not because of coercion but because of motivation, education, and cultural pride [3, p. 12]. In this regard, I believe that promoting Ukrainian through media, art, and youth projects plays an even greater role than legal sanctions or fines.

Modern language policy must therefore balance between protection and openness. Excessive legal restrictions may provoke resistance, while a purely declarative approach without enforcement weakens state authority. The optimal model combines firm legal

guarantees with flexible social instruments such as educational reforms, teacher training, and public campaigns promoting linguistic tolerance [3, p. 13].

Language should not be treated only as a legal category, as it is a living social phenomenon that unites people, reflects culture, and builds trust between the citizen and the state. The functioning of Ukrainian as the state language is, above all, a matter of national security, civic responsibility, and cultural dignity.

Ukraine's language policy represents a combination of legal, political, and cultural instruments aimed at protecting and promoting the Ukrainian language as the foundation of statehood. The current legal framework provides strong support for linguistic development, yet its implementation depends on active cooperation between government and society. It is necessary to continue developing educational and media initiatives that motivate citizens to use Ukrainian naturally and proudly. In this way, the state language will not only remain a legal norm but become an integral part of everyday life and a key factor in the country's sustainable democratic development.

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SPECIAL POWERS OF THE POLICE DURING MARTIAL LAW: LIMITS AND GUARANTEES OF HUMAN RIGHTS

The introduction of martial law in Ukraine led to a significant adjustment of the legal status of the National Police, as the state gained the ability to temporarily expand the powers of law enforcement agencies to ensure defence and public safety. The Law of Ukraine ‘On the Legal Regime of Martial Law’ defines a list of special measures, including the establishment of a curfew, strengthening public order, checking citizens' documents and inspecting their belongings, as well as temporarily restricting freedom of movement [1]. At the same time, the Law of Ukraine ‘On the National Police’ was supplemented with provisions allowing police officers to act in conditions of increased danger, in particular to carry out preventive measures in an expanded format when there is a real threat to national security [2].

In practice, one of the key special powers actively used during martial law is the ability of the police to exercise enhanced control over the movement of persons through a system of checkpoints, which includes document checks, vehicle inspections and superficial inspections of citizens [3, p. 133]. The legislator emphasises that such measures may be applied solely for the purpose of detecting sabotage and reconnaissance groups, illegal movement of weapons and ensuring the safety of the civilian population [3, p. 134]. In addition, the police are granted the right to promptly obtain information from authorities and enterprises of any form of ownership, which significantly reduces response times in crisis situations [4, p. 27].

At the same time, the expansion of powers increases the risk of potential human rights violations, particularly with regard to freedom of movement, privacy and protection from arbitrary interference by the state [5, p. 90]. During martial law, some mechanisms of public control over the police cannot be implemented to the usual extent, which creates additional challenges in ensuring the transparency of law

enforcement activities [5, p. 91]. This requires increased attention to the principles of proportionality, necessity and legality when applying expanded instruments of state coercion [6, p. 52].

Despite the possibility of temporary restrictions on human rights, the state is obliged to ensure that they comply with the Constitution of Ukraine and international standards for the protection of rights and freedoms, in particular the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the European Convention on Human Rights [6, p. 55]. The practice of the ECHR emphasises that even in a state of emergency, the state must guarantee minimum standards of humanity, non-discrimination and prohibition of torture, which directly affects the activities of the police. An effective balance between military necessity and human rights is only possible with proper professional training of police officers, clear subordinate algorithms and effective mechanisms for controlling possible abuses [4, p. 29].

Thus, the special powers of the police under martial law are legally defined, practically justified and aimed at ensuring national and public security, but their application requires constant monitoring to prevent excessive restrictions on human rights. The development of the regulatory framework, increased transparency and professional training of police officers are key conditions for maintaining a balance between security and human rights in times of military threats [6, p. 57].

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THE USE OF LINGUISTIC TECHNOLOGIES IN CRIME INVESTIGATION: FOREIGN PRACTICE

In the modern context of digitalization, linguistic technologies play an increasingly important role in criminology and criminal investigation. Language data have become a powerful source of evidential information, allowing investigators to identify individuals, determine the motives of crimes, and uncover manipulative or disinformation influences in cyberspace [1].

The use of linguistic technologies in criminology involves the application of methods of computational linguistics, forensic linguistics, and textual and communication analysis. One of the key areas is automated speech analysis — the examination of audio recordings to identify a speaker by their voice. Such technologies are widely used in the USA, the United Kingdom, Canada, Germany, and Israel [3]. For example, the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) employs Voice Biometrics systems to compare suspects' voiceprints with database records.

Another important field is linguistic analysis of written messages — such as emails, social media posts, threats, or anonymous notes. Foreign practice shows that the analysis of stylistic, grammatical, and lexical features of texts helps identify the author. In the United Kingdom, forensic linguists use the JStylo program to determine authorship through statistical patterns of writing.

In addition, semantic analysis and monitoring of online communications are actively developed in the EU and the USA to prevent terrorist acts and cyberattacks. Artificial intelligence algorithms enable the detection of key words, aggressive narratives, or signs of

radicalization. For instance, under the PREVENT program (United Kingdom), linguistic technologies are used for early identification of potential threats in digital environments [2].

Forensic linguistics also includes document content analysis in cases involving defamation, fraud, hate speech, or manipulation of information. In the United States, forensic linguistic experts often participate in court proceedings as consultants to determine the meaning of disputed expressions and communicative intent.

It is worth noting that while linguistic technologies increase the efficiency of investigations, they also require careful adherence to ethical and legal standards. The use of automated language analysis systems must be accompanied by guarantees of data protection, and the prevention of manipulations or false conclusions.

The positive experience of foreign countries demonstrates that integrating linguistic technologies into law enforcement practice not only improves crime detection rates but also enhances preventive measures — helping to identify threats at the early stages of their formation within the communication space [3]. Thus, linguistic technologies represent an innovative tool in criminology that combines artificial intelligence, big data analytics, and humanities-based expertise [1]. Their effective implementation in Ukraine, taking into account international experience, can significantly strengthen the potential of the national security and justice system.

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US EXPERIENCE IN COMBATING CYBERCRIME

Rapid technological progress in society leads not only to new opportunities but also to a new type of crime — cybercrime. Therefore, countries are obliged to maintain security in cyberspace by protecting their citizens from this new form of criminal activity. Control in the digital environment is somewhat more complicated, because with modern technologies and methods of bypassing controls, such as VPNs or specialized software, maintaining cybersecurity is becoming increasingly difficult. However, thanks to the NCSI website, we can assess the cybersecurity index and analyze which countries are leaders in this field. According to data on the NCSI website, the United States has an index of 84.17, which is a high result [1].

To ensure cybersecurity, the state establishes cybersecurity agencies and implements various laws, including the Computer Fraud and Abuse Act (CFAA) in the United States, which provides for criminal liability for unauthorized access to computer systems [2]. Initially adopted in 1986, the law prohibits various cybercrimes such as hacking, intentional damage to computer systems, and unlawful use of passwords. The CFAA can be applied in both criminal and civil cases, although its broad wording and application—particularly regarding “exceeding authorized access”—have been the subject of debate and calls for reform. This is unsurprising, given that the law is nearly 40 years old while technology continues to evolve rapidly and relentlessly. In addition to this Act, there are several others, such as the Identity Theft and Assumption Deterrence Act, Wire Fraud, the Cybersecurity Information Sharing Act, Cyberstalking statutes, and more. Legislation continues to adapt to new needs for citizen protection, creating a new era in the development of law.

Furthermore, agencies such as the National Security Agency (NSA) and the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) are actively operating in the United States, coordinating cybersecurity policy. The activities of these law enforcement bodies are guided by the National

Cybersecurity Strategy. The U.S. also has an Internet Crime Complaint Center that collects reports of internet-related crimes from the public. Using such complaints, the ICCC team works on asset recovery. Its main functions include collection, analysis, public awareness, and referrals [3, p. 154].

In addition, the United States has well-developed public–private partnerships. The government collaborates with business representatives—particularly in critical infrastructure and information technology—to exchange information on cyber incidents. The U.S. also has extensive international cooperation, entering into bilateral agreements to combat cybercrime and to facilitate information sharing.

Researchers emphasize that the U.S. has a comprehensive system of agencies that combat cybercrime:

1. U.S. Cyber Command (USCYBERCOM) — a branch of the U.S. Armed Forces that conducts cyber warfare operations and manages and protects military computer networks;

2. The United States Computer Emergency Readiness Team (US-CERT) — part of the National Cybersecurity Division of the Department of Homeland Security, which provides security information and works to eliminate vulnerabilities in security systems;

3. The Computer Crime and Intellectual Property Section (CCIPS) — a unit of the U.S. Department of Justice that investigates computer crimes and intellectual property violations, specializing in the seizure of digital evidence [4, p. 212].

In conclusion, the United States demonstrates a comprehensive and multi-layered approach to ensuring cybersecurity, combining robust legislation, specialized governmental agencies, and active public–private as well as international cooperation. The evolution of laws such as the CFAA, alongside additional federal acts, reflects the state’s continuous efforts to adapt its legal framework to the rapidly changing technological landscape. Institutional structures, including the NSA, DHS, USCYBERCOM, US-CERT, and CCIPS, form an integrated system aimed at preventing, investigating, and responding to cyber threats. While the increasing complexity of cyberspace presents ongoing challenges, the coordinated strategies and mechanisms implemented in the United States position the country among the global leaders in combating cybercrime and enhancing national cyber resilience.

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PROBLEMATIC ISSUES OF THE PROCEDURAL USE OF POLYGRAPH EXAMINATION CONCLUSIONS AS A SOURCE OF EVIDENCE IN ORGANIZED CRIME

Organised crime (OC) poses a significant threat to Ukraine's national security and public order. Due to its high level of secrecy, rigid hierarchy, corruption connections, and active resistance to investigation (including the use of countermeasures), traditional forensic methods often prove insufficient. In this context, the polygraph examination serves as a highly informative tool capable of verifying the reliability of provided information. Despite its widespread application, the procedural status of polygraph results in criminal proceedings remains uncertain and controversial. This inconsistency is the main problem. In the absence of explicit regulation in the Criminal Procedure Code (CPC) of Ukraine, courts often treat the results of polygraph

examinations merely as indicative information rather than as a full-fledged, independent type of evidence. This limits the effectiveness of law enforcement authorities in proving the involvement of OC members, where every element of the evidentiary base is crucial.

The main obstacle is the lack of a clear legislative status of the polygraph examination as a source of evidence. Absence of a direct provision in the CPC: The current CPC of Ukraine does not contain a direct provision defining polygraph testing as a procedural action, nor its results as a type of evidence — the list of which is exhaustive (testimonies, physical evidence, documents, expert opinions) [1]. This leads courts, including the Cassation Criminal Court of the Supreme Court, to consistently state that the current legislation does not permit the use of a polygraph to verify testimony or to admit they obtained data as evidence.

Other reasons include the possibility of granting evidentiary value to polygraph results, which exists only if it is conducted in the form of a forensic psychological examination using a polygraph [2]. However, even in this case, questions arise regarding its scientific validity, and the court critically evaluates the conclusion. The conclusion of an ordinary polygraph specialist without the status of a certified forensic expert is not accepted as evidence in court.

Use against organised crime: In OC cases, where defendants are often financially capable and have qualified legal protection, any procedural inaccuracy (including the status of the polygraph) becomes a basis for declaring evidence inadmissible. This renders the investigation efforts [3] null and void.

Thus, after analysing the main aspects, it can be concluded that the problematic issues of the procedural use of polygraph examination results in combating organised crime are systemic and require urgent legislative intervention. The high informational value of the polygraph in investigating complex, covert crimes of organised crime cannot be fully realised due to its procedural vulnerability

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FOREIGN EXPERIENCE IN PREVENTING MILITARY AND ECONOMIC CRIMES

The unstable position of Ukraine in the world political and economic arenas has led to an aggravation of the crime situation in the country. A separate and rather urgent problem has become a sharp increase in the number of criminal offenses of an economic nature, as well as particularly serious crimes committed by servicemen of the Armed Forces of Ukraine.

According to the Scientific Centre for the Prevention of Corruption in the Security and Defense Sector, as of 2018, 2% of whistleblowers disclosed corruption in the ATO and military units; 22% of reports concerned other offences rather than corruption [2, p. 32]. Strengthening the rule of law, prevention of war crimes, especially under martial law, remains extremely important for Ukraine. The Concept of implementation of the state policy in the field of crime prevention identifies the main problems that need to be addressed, including: imperfection of legal, organizational, financial, personnel, information support for crime prevention; inadequate level of comprehensive preventive measures aimed at eliminating the causes and conditions of crime, as well as preventive work with persons prone to commit them. Despite the current state of war in Ukraine, the issue

of prevention of military and economic crimes is insufficiently researched.

Termination consists in actions aimed at stopping criminal activity that has already begun and preventing the occurrence of a criminal result. Prevention is the activity of the state and society aimed at keeping crime at the lowest possible level by eliminating its causes and conditions, as well as preventing and stopping specific criminal offenses. Depending on the hierarchy of causes and conditions of crime, there are three main levels of its prevention: general social, special criminological and individual, which were considered in Chapter 3 of the thesis. The main task of the Armed Forces of any state is to defend its sovereignty and protect it from acts of aggression both from other states and within its borders from various dangers (e.g., terrorist groups, etc.).

The creation, maintenance and use of the armed forces is the right of the state, which allows it to remain independent and realize its national interests. The army as an institution of the state appeared with the emergence of the first states of the world. At the same time, the first need for legal regulation of the responsibility of servicemen for military criminal offenses arose [1, p. 8].

Not only Ukraine, but also a number of other countries are engaged in the reform of the Armed Forces, and therefore borrowing positive experience of forming their own Armed Forces, solving social problems among officers dismissed from the army, creating a small professional army with highly qualified specialists, etc. is an extremely important task, especially in the current conditions in Ukraine.

In the countries of the Anglo-American (Great Britain, Ireland, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, etc.) and Romano-Germanic (Germany, France, Italy, Spain, the Netherlands, Austria, Switzerland, etc.) legal families, as noted above, issues related to military-criminal offenses are not regulated by criminal codes (some of them do not have a criminal code as such). In these countries military-criminal law has become an independent branch of law. At the same time in the legislation of this group of countries there is no unified approach to the definition of the term "military-criminal offenses" [2, p. 85].

In France, the National Council for Crime Prevention was created, composed of members of parliament, mayors, ministers, experts and representatives of the business community. The head of the

National Council for Crime Prevention, both general and military, is the Prime Minister of the country. The Council carries out the following tasks: finances crime prevention programs; informs the public about the state of crime; develops national crime control policies; and stimulates state anti-crime initiatives [3, p. 386].

In Britain there is a Standing Conference on the Prevention of Military Crime, which includes representatives of the Confederation of British Industry, the Chamber of Commerce, trade unions, and the Association of Chief Police Officers. This organization includes working groups that specialize in preventing crimes among members of the armed forces.

A significant achievement of the system of prevention of criminal offenses in developed foreign countries should be recognized as its thorough legal support. State programs include determining the areas of sociological research, developing their methods, training personnel, financing, organizing and conducting preventive measures with an emphasis on early prevention [1, p. 10].

Programs often include a system of special measures of criminological prevention related to criminal, procedural and penitentiary law. A characteristic feature of the fight against crime among military personnel in the United States in recent decades is the desire for centralized planning and coordination of this sphere of activity, the creation of special bodies for this purpose and giving them fairly broad powers. Similar bodies have been established in many countries around the world that systematically analyze the state of affairs in the area of preventing military-criminal offenses and make appropriate recommendations to government structures for making appropriate decisions. For example, Austria has an advisory service for crime prevention with 143 regional offices; Belgium has a High Prevention Council; Denmark has a High Prevention Council with 46 organizations.

Therefore, strengthening the rule of law and the prevention of war crimes remains a very topical problem that requires a separate scientific study and legal regulation.

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ENGLISH LANGUAGE COMPETENCE AS A COMPONENT OF POLICE PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT IN UKRAINE

The current stage of development of Ukrainian society is characterized by active processes of European integration, international cooperation, and the introduction of new standards into the activities of state institutions. In this context, the command of foreign languages, primarily English, which is the language of international communication, diplomacy, security, and law, acquires particular significance. For employees of the National Police of Ukraine (NPU), knowledge of English is transformed into an important condition for professional establishment, career advancement, and the effective performance of official duties.

The Law of Ukraine "On the Use of the English Language in Ukraine," adopted in 2024, became an important step in the development of the state's language policy[1]. Its purpose is to create conditions for the wider use of the English language in the spheres of public administration, education, science, defense, and security. In particular, the document obliges civil servants, including representatives of law enforcement agencies, to be proficient in English at a level sufficient for carrying out professional tasks and interagency

communication. This contributes to raising the qualifications of police officers, ensures the possibility of experience exchange with foreign colleagues, and participation in joint international projects, missions, and training exercises.

One of the development priorities for the National Police of Ukraine is the formation of a new type of specialist educated, communicative, capable of intercultural dialogue, and able to work in a multilingual environment. English, in this process, acts not only as a means of communication but also as an instrument of access to international sources of information, regulatory legal acts, forensic methodologies, and research in criminology, psychology, law, and public safety. Proficiency in English allows police officers to stay informed about the best global practices in law enforcement, which enhances the effectiveness of the national security system [3, p. 360-366].

In the context of martial law, the range of tasks that require knowledge of English expands significantly. Police officers participate in interaction with international humanitarian organizations, cooperate with representatives of the armed forces of allied countries, international observers, and security advisors. That is why the ability to communicate quickly and competently in English acquires practical significance, as it helps to avoid misunderstandings, ensure the accuracy of information exchange, and adhere to international human rights standards in the complex conditions of wartime.

Professionally-oriented study of the English language in higher education institutions with specific learning conditions, such as the MIA universities, aims to develop cadets' communication skills in typical professional situations: during arrest, interrogation, drafting procedural documents, providing assistance to foreign citizens, and participating in international events. Particular attention is paid to studying specialized vocabulary and grammatical structures characteristic of legal and law enforcement discourse. This contributes to the formation of professional English-language competence, which includes linguistic, speech, socio-cultural, and strategic components.

An important part of police officers' language training is also the development of written communication skills in English: drafting reports, character references, protocols, analytical memos, as well as oral skills conducting interviews, business meetings, presentations, and

telephone negotiations. In contemporary conditions of digitalization of law enforcement, police officers increasingly use electronic platforms where knowledge of English is necessary for processing international databases [2, p. 307-309].

In addition, proficiency in English opens opportunities for police officers' professional development abroad, participation in international training programs, conferences, exchanges, and grants. Such opportunities are realized within the framework of cooperation between the MIA of Ukraine and the European Union, OSCE, NATO, the Council of Europe, as well as with police academies of other states. Police officers who speak English can hold positions in international peacekeeping missions, where not only professionalism but also the ability to effectively interact in a multinational environment is required.

It is important to note that the formation of police officers' foreign language competence is not a one-time process but a continuous component of professional development. It must be implemented systemically both during studies at MIA universities and during professional development, official training, and self-education. A promising direction is the introduction of distance language courses, trainings on Legal English, and the development of educational platforms using situational simulations and case studies of real service situations.

Thus, proficiency in English is becoming an integral part of the professional competence of the modern Ukrainian police officer. It is not only a communication tool but also a factor that determines the level of professionalism, authority, and mobility of the police officer in the international arena. The development of English-language competence contributes to enhancing the effectiveness of law enforcement, strengthening the image of the National Police of Ukraine, and the state's integration into the European security system.

Therefore, the formation of English-language competence is a strategic task in the system of professional education for police officers. The implementation of the language policy stipulated by the Law of Ukraine "On the Use of the English Language in Ukraine" must be combined with the introduction of innovative educational technologies, the expansion of international contacts, and the improvement of personnel training programs. Only in this way can the preparation of police officers capable of acting effectively in a global environment,

maintaining a high level of communication, and serving as a guarantor of law and order at the current stage of Ukrainian statehood be ensured.

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INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY AS AN OBJECT OF CRIMINAL LAW PROTECTION: NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL LEGISLATION

Since gaining independence, our country has begun to pay much more attention to the development of intellectual property and the regulation of relations arising in this regard. This is primarily due to the fact that human intellectual activity is important both for the spiritual development of mankind and for the economic development of the state. Article 54 of the Constitution of Ukraine guarantees citizens the

freedom of literary, artistic, scientific and technical creativity, protection of intellectual property, their copyrights, moral and material interests arising from various types of intellectual activity. The enforcement of intellectual property rights and their protection is one of the main directions of Ukraine's state policy on national security, as defined by the Law of Ukraine "On the Fundamentals of National Security of Ukraine" of June 19, 2003. Intellectual property protection is important for stimulating innovation, creativity and economic development. It protects the rights of creators and innovators, as well as promotes competition and the creation of new products and services. Legislation in many countries provides for criminal liability for infringement of intellectual property rights.

Violations of intellectual property rights constitute a separate group of criminal offenses that are directed against the rights of owners to own, use and dispose of the results of their intellectual and creative activities. Criminal laws of different countries define liability for infringement of copyright and related rights, rights to industrial property, misuse of trademarks, disclosure of trade secrets, etc. The legal regulation of criminal liability for criminal offenses against intellectual property occurs not only at the national level: in the context of globalization, international agreements ratified by countries on their way to the global economic space are becoming increasingly important. International agreements establish standards of intellectual property protection that are binding for all participating countries and aim to harmonize national protection systems, namely the Berne Convention for the Protection of Literary and Artistic Works, the Paris Convention for the Protection of Industrial Property, the Patent Law Treaty, and the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) establish general principles and standards for the protection of intellectual property rights.

The global system of intellectual property protection is aimed at establishing uniform approaches at the global level to ensuring the protection of copyright and related rights, inventions, utility models, industrial designs, trademarks, plant varieties, trademarks and other intellectual property rights.

It should be noted that there is no unanimous opinion among scholars on the range of criminal offenses that directly infringe on intellectual property rights. However, most agree that they include:

infringement of copyright and related rights (Article 176 of the Criminal Code of Ukraine); infringement of the right to an invention, utility model, industrial design, topography of an integrated circuit, plant variety, or innovation proposal (Article 177 of the Criminal Code of Ukraine); illegal use of a trademark, trade name, qualified indication of the origin of goods (Article 229 of the Criminal Code of Ukraine); and illegal collection for the purpose of use or use of information constituting a commercial or banking secret (Article 231 of the Criminal Code of Ukraine) and disclosure of a commercial or banking secret (Article 232 of the Criminal Code of Ukraine). The latter two offenses are related to criminal offenses against intellectual property only in terms of illegal obtaining and disclosure of information constituting a trade secret.

Thus, these higher criminal offenses against intellectual property can be grouped into three groups: 1) those that infringe on copyright and related rights (Article 176 of the Criminal Code of Ukraine); 2) those that infringe on industrial property (Articles 177, 231, 232 of the Criminal Code of Ukraine); 3) those that infringe on the legal means of individualization of participants in the economic (civil) turnover of goods and services (Article 229 of the Criminal Code of Ukraine).

In addition, it should be noted that there are criminal offenses that, although not directly infringing on intellectual property rights, are closely related to such infringements. These criminal offenses are either committed in conjunction with criminal offenses against intellectual property (e.g., Art. 2031 of the Criminal Code of Ukraine - "Illegal trafficking of disks for laser reading systems, matrices, equipment and raw materials for their production", Art. 216 of the Criminal Code of Ukraine - "Illegal manufacture, counterfeiting, use or sale of illegally manufactured, obtained or counterfeit control marks", Art. 301 of the Criminal Code of Ukraine - "Import, manufacture, sale and distribution of pornographic items"), or intellectual property rights are an additional object of these criminal offenses (e.g. Art. 3211 of the Criminal Code of Ukraine - "Counterfeiting of Medicines or Trafficking in Counterfeit Medicines", Article 305 of the Criminal Code of Ukraine - "Smuggling of Narcotic Drugs, Psychotropic Substances, Their Analogues or Precursors or Counterfeit Medicines" - in terms of smuggling of counterfeit medicines)

Criminal offenses in the field of intellectual property of the Criminal Code of Ukraine are not an independent institute of criminal offenses, but are placed in Section V of the Special Part of the Criminal Code of Ukraine: “Criminal offenses against electoral, labor and other personal rights and freedoms of man and citizen” (Article 176 “Infringement of copyright and related rights”, Article 177 “Infringement of rights to invention, utility model, industrial design, topography of integrated circuit, plant variety, rationalization proposal”) and in Section VII of the Special Part of the Criminal Code of Ukraine “Criminal Offenses in the Sphere of Economic Activity” (Art. 203-1 “Illegal trafficking of disks for laser reading systems, matrices, equipment and raw materials for their production”, Art. 229 “Illegal use of trademarks for goods and services, trade name, qualified indication of the origin of goods”, Art. 231 “Illegal collection with the purpose of use or use of information constituting a commercial or banking secret”, Art. 232 “Disclosure of commercial, banking secrets or trade secrets”). In our opinion, the value of social relations forming the sphere of intellectual property suggests that they should be separated into an independent section of the Criminal Code of Ukraine.

The danger of the consequences of these criminal offenses for the state economy is obvious. This feature stems from the fact that, on the one hand, intellectual property is considered as a means of increasing production efficiency, and on the other hand, it is a part of the economy, which in highly developed countries generates a significant amount of gross domestic product. Infringement of intellectual property rights causes significant damage to economic relations, is committed with mercenary motives, in order to obtain a certain economic result. However, the protection of intellectual property as an object of criminal law protection is an important aspect of the legal system that promotes innovative development and economic growth, and both national and international legislation is aimed at ensuring effective protection of intellectual property rights and preventing their violation.

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THE ROLE OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE IN DIGITAL FORENSICS: INTERNATIONAL PRACTICE

Digital forensics is undergoing a fundamental transformation driven by the exponential growth in data volume and complexity. Traditional digital forensic techniques are fundamentally labor-intensive, time-consuming, and prove ineffective when confronted with large-scale and sophisticated cyber incidents. Human investigators often struggle with the sheer volume and variety of digital evidence encountered in contemporary investigations. [1]

Despite technological advantages, the widespread implementation of AI is constrained by the need to overcome ethical (bias), legal (admissibility of evidence), and technical (the “black box” problem – XAI) challenges. This necessitates the unification of approaches and the development of international standards.

The aim of the study is to analyze international practices of AI application in digital forensics, identify key directions of its use (triage, deep learning), and outline the main challenges faced by leading global jurisdictions (the USA, the United Kingdom, the EU).

Artificial intelligence is becoming a key tool in digital forensics, as it provides the automation of triage, analysis of multimedia evidence, and processing of large data arrays, which significantly increases the efficiency of investigators' work. Traditional forensic methods – often relying on manual triage, keyword searches, and investigator intuition, struggle to cope with this scale and complexity [2]. Machine learning algorithms have significantly improved the process of forensic triage, allowing investigators to quickly classify and categorize large numbers of digital files based on their relevance to an investigation [3]. Deep learning models demonstrate high accuracy in face recognition, audio transcription, and detection of manipulated media including deepfakes.

In the United States, law enforcement agencies are actively integrating AI into digital forensics to increase the efficiency and speed of investigations. AI is revolutionizing digital forensics, enabling the police to uncover critical evidence more quickly, solve cases with greater precision, and potentially shield investigators from the toll of repeatedly viewing disturbing content [4]. For example, the analysis of large volumes of data – text messages, logs, videos, or audio – using AI allows for “unburdening” human resources and reducing data processing time, which could previously take weeks or months. Integrating machine learning into digital forensics enhances the ability to detect anomalies and improve the efficiency of investigations [5]. At the same time, this implementation of AI in the US is accompanied by organizational challenges: a recent study emphasizes that the rise of “AI-driven cybercrime and deepfake fraud” requires agencies – particularly the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) – to modernize their structure, improve interagency cooperation, and ethical regulation to use AI effectively and responsibly [6]. Thus, the US experience demonstrates that AI can significantly enhance the capabilities of digital forensics – provided adequate resources, legal procedures, and control.

In the United Kingdom, the use of AI in criminal justice covers almost all stages of the investigation and judicial process – from the analysis of digital evidence to case management, indicating a systemic approach to the integration of new technologies. At every stage of the

criminal process, at least one actor is using AI in some form [7]. For example, the police in England and Wales use AI for operational support, automating requests and editing documents, which significantly accelerates routine procedures (one implementation reduced authorization time from several hours to a minute). Machine learning and automated evidence review systems are applied to analyze and sort large data arrays – logs, images, videos, documents – for selecting relevant content, allowing for a substantial reduction in the workload on investigators and lawyers. However, although formal legislative regulations concerning AI in the criminal process are still absent, professional bodies have already issued directives and principles (for police, judges, lawyers) that establish standards for the responsible, transparent, and controlled application of AI. Thus, the British experience demonstrates that AI can be implemented systematically, bringing digital forensics closer to modern realities, but only under the condition of appropriate procedures, institutional control, and adherence to ethical standards.

In EU countries, the development of the legal and institutional environment allows for the integration of AI into criminal proceedings and digital forensics, establishing a base for coordinated, regulated use of such technologies. As noted, Eurojust – the EU Agency for Criminal Justice Cooperation – established a special AI group within its Cybercrime Working Group to “monitor legislative developments” and facilitate the implementation of AI by law enforcement and judicial authorities. On the one hand, AI tools can significantly enhance the capabilities for analyzing digital evidence, processing large volumes of data, and international information exchange within the EU – which is crucial for cross-border cases and cybercrime. On the other hand, the EU has adopted a regulatory framework: specifically the Artificial Intelligence Act, which classifies types of AI applications by risk level, establishes mandatory requirements for “high-risk” systems (transparency, human rights impact assessment, control, and audits), and prohibits certain applications, particularly real-time biometric recognition in public spaces without strict conditions. At the same time, experts note that the regulation of AI in the criminal process in the EU remains fragmented, and further harmonization of norms, clear standards for the evidentiary value of AI-analytics, and guarantees of human rights protection are needed.

The use of AI in digital forensics generates serious ethical and legal challenges, particularly concerning the admissibility of evidence, algorithm transparency, and the protection of the rights of participants in the process. While AI can substantially enhance forensic analysis, there are significant concerns about the accuracy and reliability of AI-generated results [8]. Additionally, many AI models function as “black-boxes”, and it is unclear how exactly they arrived at their conclusions, which complicates the substantiation of digital evidence in court – the decision-making processes are often opaque, making it difficult for forensic experts to explain how a conclusion was reached [2]. Furthermore, publications emphasize the risks of violating fundamental rights – privacy, fair trial, the right to defense – if there are no clear standards and regulations. The absence of a proper regulatory framework for the use of AI in criminal justice creates a threat to the violation of the rights of participants in the process [8]. Thus, although AI has the potential to significantly increase the effectiveness of digital forensics, its application remains ethically and legally sensitive, requiring the development of transparent, standardized, and legally enshrined procedures and guarantees.

Artificial intelligence is transforming digital forensics by automating triage, analyzing multimedia evidence, and processing large datasets efficiently. Experiences from the USA, the UK, and the EU show its potential to enhance investigations, while highlighting organizational, ethical, and legal challenges. Effective AI adoption requires standardized procedures, regulatory frameworks, and safeguards to ensure transparency, fairness, and the protection of fundamental rights. Properly managed, AI can make digital forensics faster, more accurate, and more reliable.

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FEATURES OF POLICE SERVICE DURING MARTIAL LAW IN UKRAINE

Martial law is a period associated with countering Russian aggression, which requires a careful approach to the definition and application of the powers of the National Police and its structural units. According to Article 13 of the Law of Ukraine “On the National Police” dated July 2, 2015, the police include the relevant units with certain functions, namely: criminal police, pre-trial investigation bodies, patrol police, security police, as well as special police and special purpose police [1]. Wartime is characterized by the increased activity of police officers, since it is necessary to establish checkpoints, evacuate civilians, and ensure the inspection of vehicles and documents. Among the important aspects are search and reconnaissance work to identify saboteurs and counter looting. The Law of Ukraine “On the Legal Regime of Martial Law” dated May 12, 2015 regulates the specifics of police actions in these conditions [2].

Based on the existing features, the bodies of the National Police contribute to the work of the military administration, the bodies of justice, the prosecutor's office, and the court. Behind them remains the urgent task of combating crime, protecting order and security, primarily of important objects and those of a strategic nature. It is undeniable that for a situation with martial law, an essential direction is compliance with the law.

Police officers are under the influence of stressful situations that require maximum attention and concentration, and perfect skills in performing their functional duties.

Therefore, I believe that the actions of police officers during martial law should have proper legal competence, based on justice and legality. In particular, among the main areas of patrol police during martial law are enhanced protection of public order and security, combating armed formations, saboteurs, illegally created formations and looters. In this situation, one should not forget about maintaining

the legal regime of martial law and cooperation with territorial defense. On March 15, 2022, parliamentarians adopted amendments to a number of laws of Ukraine, including the "On the National Police" [1] and the "On the Disciplinary Statute of the National Police of Ukraine" [3], which should optimize the work of the police for the period of martial law. Article 23 of the Law of Ukraine "On the National Police" has been supplemented with new paragraphs that are necessary for the performance of tasks during martial law. In addition, a settlement has been found on the issue related to the collection of biometric data of individuals, including fingerprinting.

For police officers, the grounds used to stop vehicles and check them, including the driver and passengers, have been expanded. Among the significant local changes in the aforementioned law, it is worth noting that the right of a police officer to demand from a person to present documents that identify this person and confirm the relevant right of the person or in the case of leaving the place of detention of prisoners of war has been added to the grounds for presenting documents to a police officer and the grounds for stopping transport. The same applies to the driver and passenger of the transport who have voluntarily left the place of detention of prisoners of war [4].

Certain clarifications were also made regarding the possibility of using technical means, devices and software. Currently, the police can use information obtained through photo and video resources - equipment, technical devices and means that are in someone else's possession. In addition, the police will be able to protect state property, including by applying contractual principles [5].

As stipulated by the Law of Ukraine "On the National Police", during martial law, police officers are not certified. In addition, police officers who are of draft age will have a deferment from conscription for the entire period of their service in the police. Under martial law, the state guarantees police officers free medical care in health care institutions. A new section has been added to the "Disciplinary Statute of the National Police of Ukraine", which is devoted to the peculiarities of organizing an internal investigation in the police for the period of martial law. It will be appointed and conducted in the form of written proceedings. Under such conditions, the official investigation must be completed within 15 calendar days, although the possibility of extending its terms for another 15 days is not excluded [3].

During martial law, the National Police has the ability to apply a wide range of measures for administrative termination, special purpose. Such application refers mainly to the prerogatives of the police, therefore distinguishes them from general purpose termination measures used by subjects of administrative legal protection. Under martial law, the peculiarities of the activities of the National Police bodies have been determined, which have revealed the need to allocate special units, groups or individual police officers who are endowed with increased professional, special, physical training and will be able to successfully perform certain types of administrative activity [6, p. 368]. Such organizational actions are designed to improve the work of the National Police bodies of Ukraine.

In addition to adopting a number of legislative changes, it is important to achieve greater efficiency in the activities of patrol police units, especially under different legal regimes. This implies the need for constant improvement and supplementation of 104 norms within the administrative legislative field. In particular, there is a need in society to be more responsible in relation to the requirements of the curfew. Therefore, there is an opinion on the need to introduce administrative liability for such violations. At the present stage, police officers who detect such violators cannot bring them to any kind of liability, since it simply does not exist. That is why police officers can only apply preventive measures to offenders, which are enshrined in the Law of Ukraine "On the National Police". Therefore, in my opinion, for citizens to comply with the measures of the legal regime of martial law, it is necessary to establish liability for violations of such measures and thereby strengthen discipline among the civilian population.

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THE REGULATION OF TORTURE AND ILL-TREATMENT WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW

Torture and other types of cruel treatment have always been the main pain in the hearts of people and countries in which it occurred. It began to take root in ancient times, and depended on the events that occurred there, thereby putting psychological pressure on people.

Therefore, over time, the heads of states began to introduce funds, public services, as well as laws to reduce and stop this evil. The protection of a person from torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading types of treatment or punishment is one of the fundamental principles of international humanitarian law and international human rights law.

Currently, the topic of bullying our military by racists, who repeatedly bully and fulfill all their bad desires in relation to our people, is very relevant. In my opinion, such people should be isolated from society for their cruelty and inhuman treatment.

The prohibition of torture is absolute and cannot be limited even in times of war, public emergency or threat to national security. This principle is enshrined in key international instruments such as the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and their Additional Protocols, as well as the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (1984). These instruments impose clear obligations on states to prevent, investigate and punish acts of torture. [2; 6].

The International Committee of the Red Cross has consistently stressed that humane treatment of all persons deprived of their liberty is an integral part of international humanitarian law. This applies to both combatants and civilians.

That is, every person must adhere to international treaties on this topic, human norms, as well as the commandments of God in which they believe. The obligation to prevent torture goes beyond just a legal prohibition – it requires effective implementation through national legislation, training of military and law enforcement officials, as well as the creation of independent monitoring mechanisms. Therefore, state authorities should work on this in all areas of people's lives, education, work, as well as everyday life. In this context, the national preventive mechanisms provided for by the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture play a key role. [1;6;5].

Despite the existence of a strong legal framework, the problem of torture and ill-treatment remains relevant in many states. This can be attributed to many countries where, although this problem is not covered, it does not mean that it does not exist. According to recent reports by the UN and international human rights organizations, violations most often occur in places of deprivation of liberty, during armed conflicts or as part of anti-terrorist operations. The principle of inevitability of responsibility is a key element in ensuring compliance with international norms: those guilty of torture must be held accountable regardless of their position or rank. In African countries, this phenomenon can be observed most often, because there, law enforcement officers do not pay attention to it, because it is the norm for them, and for other representatives who are there, to see it is just a joke. The International Criminal Court recognizes torture as a war crime and a crime against humanity in accordance with the Rome Statute.[3; 2].

Ukraine, as a party to major international treaties in the field of human rights and humanitarian law, has undertaken obligations to prohibit and prevent torture. Although in my opinion it does not completely help from hidden violence and torture by sick people who are not aware of their actions. National legislation reflects these obligations through the Constitution of Ukraine, the Criminal Code and the Law "On the National Preventive Mechanism".

In recent years, Ukraine has strengthened institutional mechanisms to ensure independent monitoring of places of detention and improve conditions of detention in accordance with international standards. In the news, we can see the results of the work of law enforcement officers who investigate such cases, and in most cases work on them preventively. Ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture was an important step towards bringing Ukrainian legislation into line with international human rights standards.[5; 6; 4].

The effectiveness of measures to prevent torture depends not only on legislative norms, but also on the formation of a culture of respect for human dignity, as well as on the people themselves living in a particular country.

Education, openness and public control are important components of building a system in which the possibility of ill-treatment is excluded. Preventing torture is not only a legal obligation, but also a moral and humanitarian mission that reflects the essence of modern international law, the essence of people, as well as human dignity.

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ENTOMOLOGICAL RESEARCH AS A FORENSIC TOOL IN INTERNATIONAL PRACTICE

Alongside traditional methods of forensic investigation, modern practice increasingly relies on additional specialized techniques to obtain more accurate and detailed information about the circumstances of death. One such supplementary discipline is forensic entomology, which studies insects and their developmental patterns on human remains. By examining species composition, growth stages, and environmental conditions, this field provides investigators with valuable biological data that can assist in clarifying timelines and supporting the overall reconstruction of events.

The term “forensic entomology” is derived from the Latin term forensic, meaning “of or before the forum,” and the Greek words *entoma* - insect and *logos* - science. Historically, in Ancient Rome, when the cause of death was unknown, the body was displayed in the forum for a “forensic examination” [1], where early observations of insects played a role in judging the time and conditions of death.

Forensic entomology is the application of insect biology to legal investigations, it also has ancient Chinese origins. The Song dynasty text *The Washing Away of Wrongs* described one of the earliest known uses of insect evidence in a murder investigation. In China, systematic research advanced significantly only in the late 20th century, influenced by progress in Europe and North America.

Accurate identification of sarcosaprophagous insects is crucial for determining the postmortem interval (PMI). Since the 1990s, Chinese researchers have developed strong taxonomic foundations supported by molecular tools such as mitochondrial DNA analysis and SNP genotyping. Developmental studies of blowflies, flesh flies, and beetles at controlled temperatures allowed scientists to correlate larval growth with elapsed time. Researchers also studied how drugs (e.g., morphine, ketamine, methamphetamine) alter insect development, since these substances may distort PMI estimates. Since 2020, Chinese regulations officially recognize insect evidence as valid for PMI estimation, with over 20 documented cases of its successful use [2].

Forensic entomologists are often included in investigative teams to determine PMI during corpse examination. According to modern forensic methodology, the expert may use various instruments to measure larval weight, length, developmental stage, and environmental factors. The work of a forensic entomologist can be divided into five steps:

1. Visual observation and marking at the crime scene.
2. Data collection at the crime scene.
3. Collection of samples from the body before it is moved.
4. Collection of environmental samples before the remains are relocated.
5. Collection of samples found directly beneath the body (the body's resting place).

According to forensic standards described, crime scene work in forensic entomology must follow strict protocols:

1. Every contact leaves a trace.
2. Photographing and video documentation are mandatory before any sample is touched. The originality of samples may be questioned in court without this documentation.
3. Environmental conditions such as ambient temperature, soil temperature, humidity, and sun exposure must be recorded. These

values significantly affect larval development because insects are poikilothermic.

4. Meteorological data from at least one week prior to finding the body should be obtained from a meteorological station.

5. Temperature of the corpse should be taken from the liver; if decomposition is advanced, surface temperature is recorded [3].

An entomologist should first determine the general characteristics of the location where the body was found - whether it is a rural or urban area, a forest, near a lake or a river, in a dry or humid environment, or inside a building, basement, and so on. It is essential to identify the insect species typical for that environment as well as those present on the body itself.

The expert should examine the developmental stages of the insects found, noting the presence and combinations of adult insects, larvae, eggs, pupae, empty pupal cases, or shed larval skins. It is also necessary to record which types of insects are found on and around the body, such as beetles, ants, or parasitic insects.

Additionally, the entomologist must observe the insects' activity - how they move or fly, and within what range - both on the corpse and in its immediate surroundings. The precise location of the body should be marked according to the cardinal directions (north, south, east, west). Finally, it is important to indicate which parts of the body are in direct contact with the insects, taking into account factors such as sunlight and shade [4].

A common method for examining a scene that contains entomological evidence is the spiral search technique. The examination begins directly at the body, after which the specialist slowly moves outward along an expanding spiral, or, alternatively, from the outer perimeter toward the centre, ensuring that no specimens are overlooked. Insects may disperse up to six meters from the body, so the surrounding area must be inspected thoroughly. Special attention is given to hidden locations such as folds of clothing, nostrils, ears, wounds, natural body openings, as well as spaces under carpets, inside shoes, or in ventilation openings, where larvae and pupae may be concealed.

Recent advances in forensic entomology have expanded its use in both human and wildlife investigations:

Entomotoxicology: this branch studies toxins, poisons, and drugs found in insects feeding on corpses. Even when human tissues are

decomposed, substances such as heroin, cocaine, arsenic, or phenobarbital can be detected in maggots or their remains using advanced methods like HPLC, GC-MS, and LC-MS. This helps determine poisoning or drug use before death.

Wildlife Forensic Entomology: applied in cases of illegal hunting or poaching, insect evidence helps estimate the postmortem interval and cause of death in animals. Notably, insect analysis aided investigations of tiger deaths in India's wildlife reserves.

Instant Identification (DART-HRMS): this technology allows rapid, non-destructive analysis of insect eggs, identifying species instantly through amino acid profiling.

Molecular Identification: modern DNA-based methods such as PCR-RFLP and DNA barcoding replace traditional morphological techniques, allowing accurate identification of insect species at any life stage.

Human DNA Detection from Maggots: DNA extracted from maggots' gut contents can reveal the victim's genetic profile, even when human remains are too decomposed for direct sampling.

These innovations make forensic entomology faster, more precise, and valuable for solving complex criminal and environmental cases. Forensic entomology serves as a complementary tool that supports traditional investigative methods. By examining insect species, their development stages, and environmental conditions, specialists can assist in estimating the postmortem interval when other approaches are limited or unavailable. Accurate documentation and careful sample collection ensure that this biological evidence can be properly interpreted.

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FEATURES OF THE INVESTIGATION OF WAR CRIMES BY UNITS OF THE NATIONAL POLICE OF UKRAINE

The Russian Federation's full-scale armed aggression against Ukraine has brought to light a significant problem in the work of the criminal police, namely their lack of experience in investigating international crimes (war crimes, genocide, etc.). This problem was catalyzed by the significant number of crimes which poses a challenge for their documentation and classification. The main component of this problem is the insufficient level of training of investigators, prosecutors and other law enforcement officials in the field of international humanitarian law, which manifests itself in difficulties in identifying the constituent elements of crimes, analyzing the nature of international armed conflict and ensuring procedural procedures for the accused. The start of the Russian Federation's large-scale armed invasion of Ukraine and the subsequent introduction of martial law had a significant impact on the functioning of all units of the National Police and other state structures.

Under martial law, which has been in effect in Ukraine since early 2022, National Police units operate as part of Ukraine's security and defense forces, contribute to territorial defense by ensuring public safety in their areas of operation, and assist in the functioning of state and local government bodies, including military administrations.

War crimes are defined as serious violations of humanitarian law, in particular Article 8 of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (effective date for Ukraine: 01.01.2025), which sets out a number of provisions defining «war crimes» [1]. In general, it can be noted that war crimes are serious violations of the 1949 Geneva Conventions and other serious violations of the laws and customs of war, as defined in Article 8 of the Rome Statute. Typical war crimes include the use of illegal methods of warfare, shelling, murder, rape of civilians, looting, etc. [2].

Responsibility for committing war crimes is provided for in Article 438 of the Criminal Code of Ukraine and has six specific forms of implementation: a) cruel treatment of prisoners of war; b) cruel treatment of the civilian population; c) deportation of the civilian population for forced labor; d) looting of national treasures in occupied territory; e) use of means of warfare prohibited by international law; f) the same acts if combined with intentional killing [3, p. 18].

For the correct classification and attribution of a specific act to the category of war crimes, there is a contextual element. For war crimes, this is the existence of an armed conflict (international or non-international in nature); the commission of an act in the context of and in connection with an armed conflict; the perpetrator's awareness of the existence of an armed conflict [ibid., p. 17].

It should be noted that there are a number of interdisciplinary provisions governing the provision of assistance by operational units in the investigation of military criminal offences. Namely: - in order to carry out operational and investigative activities, operational units are granted the right to have official and unofficial full-time and part-time employees and to use confidential cooperation (clauses 13-15 of Article 8 of the Law of Ukraine «On Operational and Investigative Activities») [4]; -confidential cooperation is a covert relationship established by authorized bodies with an adult legally

competent person (a citizen of Ukraine, a foreigner or a stateless person), which is used on a voluntary and confidential basis to perform tasks in criminal proceedings (Article 275 of the Criminal Procedure Code of Ukraine) [5]; -assistance of an individual with the conclusion of a written agreement guaranteeing the confidentiality of cooperation and assistance in the conduct of operational-investigative activities by state authorities, enterprises, institutions, and organizations regardless of their form of ownership (Article 11 of the Law of Ukraine «On Operational-Investigative Activities») [4].

An important aspect of ensuring effective investigation of war crimes is legal regulation and regulatory support for investigations, as there have been significant changes in criminal procedure law since the start of the full-scale invasion. It has been significantly improved by regulating a number of norms related to the conduct of criminal proceedings under martial law, the time limits for pre-trial investigations of war crimes, the possibility of creating interagency investigative teams, and the addition of Section 9-2, 'Features of Cooperation with the International Criminal Court,' to the Criminal Procedure Code of Ukraine [6, p. 687]. As R. Stepanuk correctly notes, changes and additions were also made to Articles 71, 99, 104, and 245-1 of the Criminal Procedure Code of Ukraine, which mainly concern the improvement of the form of use of special knowledge and the legal status of computer data and other evidence in criminal proceedings [7, p. 370]. According to Article 216 of the Criminal Procedure Code of Ukraine, the investigation of war crimes falls under the jurisdiction of the Security Service of Ukraine, and a specialized Department for Procedural Guidance in these crimes has been created in the Office of the Prosecutor General. Given the large number of war crimes and the lack of resources, almost all pre-trial investigation bodies are involved in investigating war crimes [2]. The regulatory and legal framework for the activities of police bodies is also defined by Order of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Ukraine «On approval of the Instructions on the procedure for interaction between territorial police bodies and interregional territorial bodies of the National Police of Ukraine when responding to emergencies, in the event of the introduction of a legal regime of

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In today's reality, investigating war crimes is impossible without the involvement of cyber police, analysts and digital information, including from open sources. Since the start of the armed conflict, OSINT (open source intelligence) and the capabilities of the criminal analysis units of the National Police of Ukraine have been widely used in criminal investigations [6, p. 687]. During criminal analysis, criminal analysts systematically search for, identify, record, extract, systematize, analyze and evaluate criminal information, as well as present (visualize), transmit and use it. Various analytical approaches are used for this purpose, namely: 1. Operational analysis, which includes analysis of telephone call data, research on criminal groups, analysis of criminal cases, comparative analysis. 2. Tactical analysis, which covers criminal analysis, the study of criminal trends, analysis of the geospatial location of crime, time analysis, MO analysis, the development of criminal models and profiles of suspects/victims. 3. Strategic analysis, which includes SWOT analysis, PEST analysis, analysis of crime patterns/forms and profiling, study of crime trends, and analysis using geographic profiling [8, p. 190].

The Berkeley Protocol plays a fundamental role in standardizing open source intelligence work. It provides a legal and ethical framework for online investigations, offering detailed guidance on the proper handling of digital information at all stages, from collection to analysis and storage [9].

To date, a set of algorithms and methodological recommendations has been developed to optimize evidence gathering in relation to war crimes. These include standardized procedures for recording the situation at the scene of the incident, the preparation and storage of criminal proceedings materials, as well as special methods for conducting investigative (search) activities with different categories of participants in the process in conditions of armed conflict, specialized questionnaires and psychologically verified algorithms for working with victims and witnesses, the purpose of which is to prevent re-traumatization and obtain complete and reliable evidence suitable for further evidence gathering.

In conclusion, it can be noted that the specific nature of war crimes requires a comprehensive scientific approach to improving all aspects of investigation, from substantive legal to organizational. The main conditions for improving its effectiveness are the establishment of coordinated interaction and a unified information space between law enforcement agencies, the implementation of programs for the exchange of experience and the involvement of international assistance, as well as the development of new forensic methods based on the systematization and analysis of accumulated practice in the investigation of war crimes.

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FUNCTIONING AND LEGAL SUPPORT FOR THE INTERACTION BETWEEN THE POLICE AND MILITARY- ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURES IN WARTIME

In the current conditions of the armed aggression of the Russian Federation, the interaction between the National Police of Ukraine and military administrations acquires particular importance, as public safety, law and order, and the protection of citizens' rights depend on it. The introduction of martial law has resulted in changes to the governance system, expanded powers of state authorities, and an increased need for rapid coordination of their actions. Therefore, studying the administrative and legal mechanisms of such cooperation is extremely relevant. The purpose of this work is to analyze the cooperation between the police and military administrations, determine their competences, forms of interaction, and the practical problems that arise, as well as identify possible solutions.

The legal foundations of interaction between the National Police and military administrations are defined by legislation and subordinate acts regulating the activities of state authorities under crisis conditions. Military administrations are established to ensure defense, maintain order, and organize the functioning of regions where restrictions on rights and freedoms are in force. Their tasks are directly connected with the functions of the police, which guarantee public safety. Cooperation includes the protection of critical infrastructure, enforcement of curfew

regulations, response to emergencies, and prevention of security threats. During martial law, the police coordinate their actions with military administrations in matters of security and defense while maintaining autonomy in safeguarding citizens' rights and freedoms, which helps avoid duplication of powers and conflicts of competence [1, c.164].

During martial law, the Law of Ukraine "On the National Police" expanded police powers, forming the basis of the administrative and legal mechanism of its interaction with other state bodies, including military administrations. Police activity in the area of martial law includes countering sabotage groups, documenting war crimes, demining, conducting forensic examinations, evacuating the population, delivering humanitarian aid, and preventing looting [2, C. 98–99].

The police perform an expanded range of tasks during wartime, aimed at maintaining public order and security. They receive necessary information from state authorities and military command, escort and hold detainees, conduct forensic inspections, and document the consequences of hostilities. Their functions also include operational demining, collecting biometric data, and conducting administrative supervision over high-risk individuals. Additionally, the police represent Ukraine in Interpol and Europol, ensuring international information exchange and cooperation with foreign law enforcement agencies. [3, c.131].

The administrative and legal mechanism of police activity during war provides clear procedures for information access, coordination with military structures, participation in territorial defense, and applying coercive measures to individuals involved in armed aggression. This ensures legality, accountability, and coordinated action under high-risk conditions.

Further regulatory support is provided by the Law of Ukraine "On Military Administrations," which defines their legal status, powers, and mechanisms of interaction with other actors in the security and defense sector, including the National Police. This creates a unified and coordinated management system in frontline and temporarily occupied territories [3, c.131].

Interaction between the National Police of Ukraine and military administrations during martial law is characterized by operational

efficiency and adaptability to emerging threats. Key elements of cooperation include information exchange on potential risks, monitoring of individuals and vehicles, and joint participation in maintaining order, evacuating civilians, and countering sabotage groups. Coordination helps optimize resource use and ensure citizens' safety. Art. 165 This division of powers creates a foundation for systematic and continuous cooperation between the two bodies in all matters of security.

Forms of interaction include operational, informational, and coordination activities. Operational cooperation involves joint patrolling, protection of strategic facilities, curfew enforcement, and counter-sabotage measures. Information exchange ensures constant monitoring of security threats and suspicious movements. Coordination meetings help align response plans and allocate resources, while joint crisis management during shelling or evacuations ensures timely and coherent actions.

Despite this, several issues remain: insufficient material and technical resources, limited communication speed, and gaps in legal regulation that sometimes lead to unclear distribution of powers or conflicts of competence. Improving legislation, enhancing technical support, and integrating digital systems for swift information exchange are necessary steps. [1, c.165]. Another challenge is ensuring the safety of police officers and members of military administrations in frontline regions, where high levels of danger complicate task performance. Occasional duplication of functions and unclear responsibility boundaries may also negatively affect response efficiency.

Solutions include improving the legal framework through detailed interdepartmental instructions, action algorithms, and operational coordination standards. Implementing integrated digital communication systems will enhance speed and security of information exchange. It is also essential to strengthen material and technical resources and improve personnel training through specialized crisis-response programs. Clearer local security management models and the creation of unified coordination centers will also contribute to effective cooperation.

In conclusion, cooperation between the National Police of Ukraine and military administrations is a key component of public safety during martial law. Legally defined powers and interaction mechanisms allow for timely responses to threats, maintaining order, and protecting citizens' rights under increased risk. However, existing challenges—from unclear procedures to technical limitations—highlight the need for further legislative refinement, improved communication tools, and enhanced resource capability. Strengthening these areas will support more effective functioning of both institutions and improve overall national security.

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FEATURES OF POLICE ACTIVITIES IN DE-OCCUPIED AND FRONTLINE TERRITORIES

With the start of the full-scale invasion of Ukraine by the Russian Federation in 2022, our country's national security system faced unprecedented challenges. Issues of ensuring public order, citizen

safety, combating crime, and restoring law and order in territories that were temporarily occupied or located in close proximity to the line of combat became particularly important. The National Police of Ukraine, as the main law enforcement agency of the executive branch, is responsible for implementing state policy in the field of protecting human rights and freedoms, combating crime, and maintaining public order. In wartime, and in particular in de-occupied and frontline territories, the tasks of the police take on a specific meaning, requiring its units to be flexible, resilient and to work closely with military structures and local administrations. The relevance of the topic is due to the fact that after the liberation of territories from occupying forces, the police is one of the first bodies to restore the functioning of state power. The level of security of citizens, the pace of restoration of normal life and the population's trust in the state depend on its effective actions. The purpose of this report is to identify the specific features of police activities in the de-occupied and frontline territories of Ukraine, analyse the problems faced by law enforcement officers, and outline areas for improvement in their work under martial law.

The activities of the National Police are regulated by the Constitution of Ukraine, the Law of Ukraine "On the National Police" of 2 July 2015, as well as other regulatory and legal acts, in particular the Law of Ukraine "On the Legal Regime of Martial Law", Decrees of the President of Ukraine, orders of the Ministry of Internal Affairs and joint orders with the Armed Forces of Ukraine. According to Article 2 of the Law of Ukraine "On the National Police", the main tasks of the police are to ensure public safety and order, protect human rights and freedoms, combat crime, and provide assistance to persons in danger. During martial law, these tasks take on a specific meaning: the priority issues are ensuring law and order in combat conditions, maintaining the functioning of critical infrastructure, facilitating the evacuation of the population, and documenting war crimes. Military actions significantly change the conditions under which police agencies operate. Many units were evacuated, while others continued to operate under occupation or under constant shelling. In such situations, the police perform several functions at once: law enforcement, humanitarian, informational, and even military support. In frontline and deoccupied territories, temporary investigative and operational groups and mobile special police units are created, which are the first to arrive after the liberation of settlements.

Their task is to restore control over the situation, identify collaborators, maintain public order and provide assistance to the population.

After the liberation of territories, the primary task of the police is to restore the basic functions of the state. Police officers, together with representatives of the State Emergency Service, military administrations and the Security Service of Ukraine, carry out demining of territories, check administrative buildings and ensure security during humanitarian missions. At the same time, the police are restoring criminal records and registering individuals, property, weapons and vehicles that were lost or destroyed. In many cases, the work is complicated by the fact that the occupiers destroyed databases and documents, so the restoration process has to start from scratch. One of the most important areas of work is documenting war crimes committed by Russian military personnel and collaborators. In the de-occupied territories, the police are working together with investigators from the State Bureau of Investigation, prosecutors and representatives of international organisations. Law enforcement officers are inspecting sites of mass killings, torture and illegal detention of citizens. They also ensure the identification of the bodies of the deceased, the collection of DNA samples, and the recording of eyewitness testimony.

Special forensic teams and forensic medical experts are involved in this work. In the liberated territories, the population is often in a state of psychological shock, distrust, or fear. Some citizens had contact with the occupation administration, while others were victims of torture or deportation. In such conditions, it is important not only to restore law and order, but also to build trust between citizens and law enforcement agencies. Police officers conduct explanatory work, help with paperwork, provide humanitarian aid, and advise on obtaining social benefits. Local police-community communication groups are being set up to interact with local leaders, volunteers and church representatives. One of the most difficult tasks is to identify individuals who collaborated with the occupying forces. The police record such cases, conduct investigations, and collect evidence of collaboration. Particular attention is paid to employees of the occupation administrations, pseudo-police, and former civil servants.

In frontline territories, police officers work daily under fire, risking their lives and often operating in situations where there is no electricity, communication or evacuated administration. Despite this,

they maintain order, regulate traffic, escort humanitarian convoys and evacuation buses, and respond to crimes. The police in such regions work together with military units. Joint patrols are created to control the territories, carry out filtration measures, and prevent sabotage. Enemy agents and sabotage and reconnaissance groups are becoming more active in frontline areas. Therefore, the police are involved in counterintelligence activities, identifying individuals who pass information to the enemy, direct fire or spread disinformation. A particular focus is on combating the illegal circulation of weapons, which has increased as a result of the hostilities. Police officers conduct checks, seize weapons and ammunition, and control the circulation of explosives. The police are responsible for the security of strategically important facilities: power stations, water intakes, hospitals, fuel depots, and evacuation points.

In the event of a threat of shelling, the evacuation of personnel, the escort of convoys and the provision of access control are organised. In addition to its law enforcement function, the police perform a humanitarian mission - they help distribute food and medicine and ensure security during the distribution of humanitarian aid. Frontline regions are under constant stress, so it is important to provide psychological support to both citizens and police officers themselves. Psychological support groups are being set up within the units to work with victims, children and families of those killed. At the same time, great attention is being paid to the rehabilitation of police officers who have suffered psychological exhaustion, post-traumatic stress disorder and the loss of colleagues.

Police activities in de-occupied and frontline territories are complex and multidimensional. They combine elements of classic law enforcement, humanitarian aid, crisis management and military cooperation. The main areas of police activity are restoring security, documenting war crimes, maintaining order, protecting the population and building trust in the state.

Working in such conditions requires high professional training, courage, moral resilience and coordination with other authorities. Further improvement of police activities in these territories is possible through increased technical support, human resources, psychological support and the involvement of international expertise. The successful work of the police in the liberated and frontline territories is not only a

matter of security, but also an important component of the process of restoring citizens' trust in Ukrainian statehood and establishing the rule of law in wartime.

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ANTI-CORRUPTION STRATEGIES IN SINGAPORE: A MODEL FOR EFFECTIVE GOVERNANCE

Singapore is widely recognized as one of the least corrupt countries in the world, consistently ranking among the top performers in global governance and transparency indices. Its success is attributed

to a comprehensive, multidimensional strategy combining strong political will, robust legislation, an empowered anti-corruption agency, merit-based governance, preventive measures, and societal intolerance for corruption.

Corruption undermines democratic institutions, distorts economic development, and erodes public trust. While many states struggle to control it, Singapore demonstrates a rare case of sustained success. Since its independence in 1965, Singapore has built a governance system rooted in discipline, transparency, and effective law enforcement. Today, the country serves as a benchmark for anti-corruption efforts worldwide.

The cornerstone of Singapore's anti-corruption system is the Corrupt Practices Investigation Bureau (CPIB), established in 1952. Unlike agencies in many other jurisdictions, CPIB operates directly under the Prime Minister's Office but has the authority to investigate any public official, including ministers. This arrangement ensures a balance between oversight and operational independence [1].

CPIB is granted wide investigative powers, including the ability to examine bank accounts, require financial statements, and detain suspects. Importantly, Singapore's political leadership—both historically and today—has consistently allowed CPIB to function without interference, making it a genuine watchdog rather than a symbolic institution.

Singapore's legal system reinforces strict accountability through the Prevention of Corruption Act (PCA). The PCA criminalises both giving and receiving bribes in public and private sectors and applies even when corrupt transactions occur outside Singapore's territory. Penalties include heavy fines and imprisonment [2, 3].

In addition to the PCA, laws such as the Corruption, Drug Trafficking and Other Serious Crimes (Confiscation of Benefits) Act allow authorities to trace and confiscate illicit gains. The severity and clarity of these laws create a powerful deterrent effect [3].

Singapore maintains one of the most professional and well-paid civil services globally. Competitive salaries reduce incentives for bribery, while strict recruitment standards and performance evaluations ensure integrity and competence. This meritocratic approach also minimizes political patronage and nepotism, which are major corruption drivers in many countries.

Singapore's anti-corruption model is not limited to enforcement. Prevention plays an equally significant role. Key preventive tools include:

Transparent public procurement with digital oversight systems;

Mandatory integrity training for civil servants;

Guidance for businesses, such as CPIB's PACT (Singapore's anti-corruption compliance guide);

Open data initiatives, improving government accessibility;

Public education campaigns promoting zero tolerance for corruption;

These measures create an ecosystem where corruption is difficult to conceal and socially unacceptable.

Political will is often identified as the decisive factor behind Singapore's success. From the earliest years of state-building, the government treated corruption as a threat to national survival. Prominent cases — including investigations involving high-ranking officials — demonstrate that no individual is above the law. At the societal level, corruption is strongly condemned. Public trust in institutions remains high, reinforcing compliance and reporting.

In conclusion, Singapore proves that corruption can be controlled when strong institutions, clear laws, preventive measures, and political commitment are combined. The Singapore model illustrates that successful anti-corruption policies require more than just punitive measures — it requires a holistic system built on transparency, professionalism, and societal norms that value integrity. For countries seeking to improve governance, Singapore offers an effective and adaptable blueprint.

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WORK OF INVESTIGATIVE AND FORENSIC AUTHORITIES: INTERNATIONAL EXPERIENCE

In the modern world, criminal offenses increasingly take on a transnational character – from cybercrime to human trafficking and terrorism. It necessitates a profound transformation in the work of investigative and forensic bodies, which must operate not only within national jurisdictions but also actively engage in interstate cooperation. Concerning it, the study of international experience in the organization and functioning of investigative and forensic structures becomes especially relevant.

In many countries around the world, the functioning of forensic and criminalistic examination is based on standards approved by international organizations such as ISO, INTERPOL, Europol, and other specialized bodies. The standardization of examination methodologies, processes of documentation, handling, and storage of evidentiary information ensures uniformity and comparability of results. As Wilson-Wilde notes, international harmonization of forensic standards helps reduce the risk of judicial errors and increase trust in expert findings [1, p. 26].

The unification of forensic protocols is one of the key prerequisites for effective international cooperation . This covers all stages: from securing the crime scene to presenting an expert opinion in court. However, practice shows significant challenges: different countries have unequal technological capabilities, variations in procedural legislation, and varying levels of personnel training. The absence of common accreditation criteria for forensic laboratories is an especially acute problem , which adversely affects trust in the results of investigations.

A methodological shift is occurring in forensic science: from orientation toward “trust in the expert” to “trust in the scientific method.” In other words, the key factor becomes not the authority of

the specialist, but the objectivity, validity, and verifiability of the methodology they employ. Koehler emphasizes that it is necessary to rethink approaches to expert conclusions, forming them with consideration of the probabilistic nature of evidence and the limits of application of specific methods [2, p. 12].

Digital forensics occupies a special place in international forensic practice. Given the global nature of information technologies, criminal investigations increasingly require examination of digital media, servers, mobile devices, and internet communications. Klasén notes that the “invisible evidence” of the digital environment now plays a decisive role in criminal cases and at the same time gives rise to numerous technical and legal challenges.

Exchange of digital evidence across jurisdictions, especially in transnational investigations, is particularly complex. The problems are linked to differing norms of evidence storage, protection of personal data, legitimacy of access to information. In the study by Casino and others it is emphasized that the lack of a unified approach to the circulation of digital evidence often blocks or complicates international cooperation among investigative bodies [4, p. 6].

International experience in investigating potentially unlawful deaths, as set out in the Minnesota Protocol, deserves attention. The document contains clear methodological recommendations regarding forensic pathology examinations, documentation of circumstances of death, human rights, and transparency procedures. In many countries this protocol is officially recognized and used in cases involving possible state abuse.

Standardized genetic procedures play a key role in investigations of missing persons. Use of DNA identification, international databases, and matching algorithms with relatives makes it possible to significantly increase the effectiveness of such investigations. Cordner underscores the importance of harmonizing approaches to the creation and exchange of such databases, especially taking into account ethical and legal aspects [5, p. 19].

Professional training of personnel in forensic science is becoming increasingly interdisciplinary. Specialists must master not only technical skills but also navigate international law, computer technologies, and language training. In a NIST report it is noted that,

expertise risks losing its scientific foundation without adequate training and continuous updating of knowledge.

The international community places special attention on error management and cognitive biases. This concerns not only the methodologies for forming conclusions but also their interpretation phases. Van Straalen notes that the results of expert examinations must be not only justified, but also subject to review by other specialists in formats such as blind review or peer review [6, p. 15].

As technologies evolve, the importance of automation in the work of forensic laboratories grows. Automated workflows allow reducing the burden on experts and accelerating the processing of large volumes of digital evidence. Le-Khac developed a model that enables optimization of resources under heavy workload conditions in investigative and analytical units.

The success of using forensic research results also depends on whether they will be accepted by a court. Judicial instances increasingly require scientifically grounded, validated, and transparent methodologies. This means that experts must not only conduct analysis but also explain its limitations, accuracy, and statistical probabilities [1, p. 31].

Working with evidence, especially digital one, raises serious ethical and legal problems. This pertains to confidentiality, rights to privacy, and preventing abuses of access to data. In the study by Raciti a threat model is formulated that allows accounting for risks at the stage of forensic data analysis and preventing violations in the realm of information protection.

International cooperation in the forensic sphere offers significant advantages, but also numerous obstacles: from divergences in jurisdictions to political distrust. Yet the effective implementation of mutual legal assistance mechanisms, information exchange, the signing of bilateral agreements, and shared platforms such as INTERPOL or Europol can substantially expand the capabilities of investigative bodies in combating international crime [5, p. 9].

For Ukraine, which is actively undergoing modernization of forensic and investigative institutions, it is advisable to integrate the best international practices: adopt international standards, automate processes, develop digital forensics, ensure adequate training of

personnel, and improve the legal framework with regard to the transnational dimension of crime. Through the lens of international experience one can form an effective, transparent, and modern model of investigation capable of meeting the challenges of the 21st century.

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PECULIARITIES OF POLICE ACTIVITIES UNDER MARTIAL LAW

Martial law is a special legal regime introduced in Ukraine or in certain localities in the event of armed aggression or a threat of attack, a danger to the state independence of Ukraine, its territorial integrity. It provides for the granting to the relevant state authorities, military command, military administrations and local self-government bodies of the powers necessary to avert the threat, repel armed aggression and ensure national security, eliminate the threat of danger to the state independence of Ukraine, its territorial integrity, as well as temporary, due to the threat, restrictions on the constitutional rights and freedoms of a person and a citizen and the rights and legitimate interests of legal entities, with an indication of the term of validity of these restrictions[1].

During martial law, the police act in accordance with their purpose and specifics of their activities, taking into account those restrictions on the rights and freedoms of citizens, as well as the rights and legitimate interests of legal entities, which are determined in accordance with the Constitution of Ukraine and the Law of Ukraine “On the Legal Regime of Martial Law” [2].

Amendments to the Law of Ukraine «On the National Police» have come into force, which provide for the expansion of the powers of police officers for the period of the introduction of martial law in Ukraine and 60 days after its termination or cancellation:

- Obtaining information from state bodies and state-owned enterprises upon written request within clearly defined deadlines;
- Performance of official duties by a police officer in plain clothes;

- The police have expanded rights to use improvised means and measures;
 - Use of technical devices by police officers (photo and video equipment, including equipment operating in automatic mode, technical devices and technical means for detecting and/or recording offenses; technical devices and technical means for detecting radiation, chemical, biological and nuclear threats; unmanned aerial vehicles and special technical means to counter their use; special technical means for checking for the presence of alcohol intoxication);
 - Escorting individuals and keeping individuals in temporary detention facilities;
 - Demining and forensic support for the scene inspection;
 - Collection of biometric data;
 - Police cooperation with Interpol and Europol [3].

The Police represent and fulfill Ukraine's obligations to Interpol and Europol, and directly ensure cooperation and exchange of information with such bodies. Meanwhile, the Police organize the interaction of law enforcement agencies of Ukraine with Interpol and Europol, as well as with competent authorities of other states on issues falling within the scope of such bodies' activities.

Due to the fact that under martial law, exceptional situations may arise when the "life of the nation" is under threat, which include: large fires, epidemics, man-made disasters and accidents, etc., requiring appropriate civil protection, the issue of interaction between the National Police of Ukraine with units of the National Guard and with government bodies and subordinate civil protection forces becomes important [4].

A number of features of ensuring public security and order related to the activities of the National Police of Ukraine under martial law are provided for by the Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine "On the introduction and implementation of certain measures of the legal regime of martial law" dated 08.07.2020 No. 573. In addition to issues of interaction with other law enforcement agencies, establishes the rights of patrols during curfew, namely: 1) to detain and deliver to the bodies or units of the National Police persons who have committed or are committing offenses; 2) if necessary, to conduct an inspection of things, vehicles, luggage and cargo transported by them;

3) to seize from persons objects that are a tool, means or subject of an offense; 4) to temporarily restrict or prohibit the stay or movement of persons, the movement of vehicles on streets and roads, certain areas and in other public places; 5) to remove persons from certain areas and objects, evacuate vehicles, etc [4].

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WAYS OF COOPERATION BETWEEN INVESTIGATIVE AND FORENSIC BODIES

Modern challenges in combating crime require active cooperation between law enforcement agencies of different countries. Globalization, the development of information technologies, and the openness of borders have led to the increase of transnational crimes, such as human trafficking, cybercrime, terrorism, and illicit trade in weapons and drugs. Under these conditions, the effectiveness of investigative and forensic activity directly depends on the level of

international cooperation and the exchange of professional experience [1].

International practice demonstrates that one of the most effective mechanisms of joint investigation is the creation of Joint Investigation Teams (JITs). These teams operate under the provisions of international treaties, in particular the Council of Europe Convention on Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters (1959) and its Second Additional Protocol (2001). Within JITs, investigators, prosecutors, and experts from different countries can exchange information and evidence directly, conduct interrogations, searches, and other investigative actions without complex bureaucratic procedures [1].

A vivid example is the work of the European Police Office — Europol, which coordinates national police structures of EU member states. Europol provides analytical, technical, and information support, creating shared databases that store information about criminal groups, wanted persons, and DNA profiles. Participation in such systems significantly accelerates investigations and prevents duplication of efforts by different agencies [2].

An important aspect of international practice is the use of forensic technologies. Most European countries operate automated fingerprint identification systems (AFIS), DNA databases, and digital laboratories for the analysis of electronic evidence. For instance, Germany's Federal Criminal Police Office (BKA) functions as a leading centre of forensic and criminalistic expertise. The BKA closely cooperates with Interpol and Europol, providing real-time evidence exchange and joint analytical work. The experience of the United States is also significant. The Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) possesses one of the world's largest forensic laboratories, conducting examinations in more than 200 fields. Special attention is given to cyber investigations and the use of digital forensics to identify and apprehend criminals operating online. Importantly, the FBI actively shares its experience through international training programs and joint projects with law enforcement officers from other countries [3].

In addition, many countries apply interstate information exchange systems, such as Interpol, the Schengen Information System

(SIS II), and databases of the European Judicial Network. These platforms allow law enforcement authorities to quickly check individuals, vehicles, documents, and other objects of forensic interest within minutes. Ukraine is gradually integrating into this space. The National Police actively cooperates with Interpol, Europol, and Frontex, taking part in international operations aimed at combating human trafficking, narcotics smuggling, and cybercrime. A positive step is the establishment of modern laboratories within the Expert Service of the Ministry of Internal Affairs is increasing the credibility of Ukrainian forensic examinations in the international community [4].

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THE ORGANIZATION OF THE ACTIVITIES OF INVESTIGATIVE AND FORENSIC UNITS OF THE UKRAINIAN POLICE IN DOCUMENTING AND INVESTIGATING WAR CRIMES UNDER MARTIAL LAW

Since February 24, 2022, Russia has been conducting a full-scale military invasion of Ukraine. Essential conditions for preserving the sovereignty of the state and restoring its territorial integrity are an adequate armed response to the occupier's encroachments and ensuring the socio-economic foundations and political stability of the country [1]. As a structural unit of the National Police of Ukraine, employees of criminal investigation units, since the start of the full-scale invasion, have been conducting inspections of crime scenes related to war crimes in de-occupied and frontline territories; identifying, recording, and collecting evidence; conducting relevant investigations so that their results can serve as evidence in International courts.

Criminal Court to bring to justice those guilty of war crimes – servicemen of the Russian army, Russian military and political leadership, and the aggressor state as a whole [2].

Investigating war crimes involves a number of challenges: security (de-occupied territory remains dangerous, investigative teams have to operate in conditions of increased risk of rapid changes in the situation, the presence of explosive objects, threats of shelling, collapses, destruction of buildings and structures, damage to networks, etc.); logistical (the need to ensure the supply and distribution of significant and diverse resources, planning and organization of work, including the involvement of foreign experts, the creation of international specialized teams of experts, etc.); tactical (a significant number of episodes; a substantial number of witnesses, victims, traces at the scene of the incident, material evidence; a substantial number of witnesses and victims evacuated, abducted, etc.; threat of re-traumatization of interviewees); communication (in conditions of

significant public resonance and attention of the international community to violations of international humanitarian law, it is essential to establish both internal departmental and external communication); geopolitical (the aggressor state refuses to comply with international law, opposes the investigation by destroying evidence and documents, spreading false information, etc [3].

Promising areas for the use of electronic information systems in the investigation of war crimes include remote communication between pre-trial investigation bodies, international institutions, and courts; the creation of a common platform for the exchange of information, experience, and knowledge; the use of electronic information systems for indexing evidence; the use of technologies for cloud storage of data on criminal proceedings; recognition of individuals by various physiological characteristics using special applications; compilation of a description of each piece of evidence for quick searching; use of digital tools to collect information from open sources and conduct analysis for evidential value.

Thus, the use of electronic information systems by a joint investigation team will facilitate the performance of criminal proceedings during the investigation of criminal offences, in particular war crimes [4].

We would also like to emphasize the importance of creating the Eurojust database – the Core International Crimes Evidence Database (CICED), which was developed to store and analyze evidence of international crimes. This database is designed to support national and international investigations of criminal offences. It facilitates the provision of tactical and strategic recommendations on 133 criminal prosecutions, as well as the exchange of information and evidence regarding international crimes [5].

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PECULIARITIES OF PATERNITY ESTABLISHMENT IN UKRAINE AND COMPARATIVE INTERNATIONAL EXPERIENCE

Establishing paternity constitutes a fundamental legal procedure that defines the formal relationship between a father and his child. This relationship carries significant legal and social consequences,

influencing child support obligations, inheritance rights, custody arrangements, and the child's access to social benefits. In contemporary society, characterized by increasingly diverse family structures and the widespread availability of DNA testing technologies, legal frameworks regulating paternity determination are continually evolving to address emerging challenges and ensure the protection of children's rights.

Ukraine, like many jurisdictions worldwide, has developed comprehensive legislation to address paternity establishment in various circumstances. According to recent data from the Ministry of Justice of Ukraine, applications for paternity establishment increased by 15% in 2024 compared to the previous year [2], highlighting the growing importance of this legal procedure.

The legal foundation for paternity establishment in Ukraine is primarily codified in the Family Code of Ukraine (Articles 121-130) [1], supplemented by the Civil Procedural Code of Ukraine and various regulations from the Ministry of Justice. Ukrainian law establishes a fundamental presumption of paternity: if a child is born during marriage or within ten months after its dissolution, the husband is automatically presumed to be the father. This presumption, known as the 'presumption of paternity,' reflects the traditional legal principle of legitimacy and can only be challenged through judicial proceedings.

For unmarried parents, Article 125 of the Family Code provides two distinct pathways for establishing paternity: voluntary acknowledgment through administrative procedures and judicial determination [1]. The voluntary procedure requires both parents to submit a joint application to the civil status registration authority (DRACS), indicating their agreement on paternity and the child's surname [4]. Notably, Ukrainian law permits this application to be filed even during pregnancy, providing prospective parents with flexibility in planning their family affairs.

When parents cannot reach agreement, Article 128 of the Family Code authorizes judicial determination of paternity [1]. The plaintiff in such proceedings may be the mother, guardian, person caring for the child, or the child upon reaching majority, as well as a man who believes himself to be the father. Ukrainian courts accept various forms of evidence, including witness testimony, documentary evidence, photographic and video materials, and crucially, genetic-molecular DNA testing results.

Recent legislative developments in 2024-2025 have streamlined procedures for cases involving fathers residing abroad, reflecting Ukraine's recognition of increased labor migration and international family connections [2]. Project Law No. 11530 from August 2024 proposes important procedural changes, including provisions for establishing paternity fact in separate proceedings under specific circumstances, particularly in posthumous cases where the father died before acknowledging paternity [3].

Article 130 of the Family Code addresses the particularly sensitive situation of posthumous paternity establishment, which has gained increased relevance due to ongoing military conflicts [1]. When a man who was not married to the child's mother dies before acknowledging paternity, the fact of his paternity may be established by court decision. This procedure has profound implications, as it opens access to crucial social benefits for the child, including survivor's pensions, one-time monetary assistance in cases of military personnel deaths, and inheritance rights.

A landmark 2023 Supreme Court decision established that posthumous paternity can be proven using DNA analysis from close relatives of the deceased when direct testing is impossible [2]. This progressive interpretation addresses practical challenges while maintaining scientific rigor in paternity determination. The court's decision created an important precedent for similar cases throughout the Ukrainian judicial system.

As of January 2024, the court filing fee for paternity establishment applications is 605.60 hryvnias (0.2 times the subsistence minimum for able-bodied persons) [3]. This relatively modest fee ensures access to justice for families seeking to establish legal paternity, though applicants must also consider potential costs for DNA testing and legal representation.

The United States legal framework for paternity establishment is predominantly governed by the Uniform Parentage Act (UPA), which has influenced legislation in many states [5], [6]. However, due to the federal structure of U.S. governance, specific procedures vary significantly across states. The fundamental principle remains consistent: married fathers benefit from an automatic presumption of paternity, while unmarried fathers must take affirmative steps to establish legal paternity.

The most common mechanism for voluntary paternity establishment is the Voluntary Acknowledgment of Paternity (VAP), a standardized form that both parents sign, often at the hospital shortly after birth [5]. Once properly executed and filed with state vital records agencies, a VAP carries the full legal force of a court order. States typically provide a brief rescission period during which a parent may withdraw acknowledgment, after which the paternity determination becomes permanent absent fraud or duress.

When paternity is disputed, courts or state agencies possess authority to order genetic testing, typically through simple cheek swab DNA collection. U.S. law recognizes the doctrine of 'paternity by estoppel,' which allows courts to name a man as the legal father even when DNA testing proves he is not the biological parent, provided he has consistently acted as the child's father and established a strong parental relationship [6]. This doctrine prioritizes the child's stability and existing family bonds over strict biological connection.

Several states maintain putative father registries where men who believe they may have fathered a child can register to preserve their parental rights, particularly in adoption scenarios [5]. This mechanism provides unmarried fathers with notice of adoption proceedings, protecting their constitutional rights while balancing adoption stakeholders' interests.

Under German law, paternity recognition (Vaterschaftsanerkennung) must be publicly registered with competent authorities, including registry offices (Standesamt), youth welfare offices (Jugendamt), notaries, or local courts (Amtsgericht) [7], [8]. The German Civil Code (BGB) establishes that the mother's husband at the time of birth is automatically deemed the father (Section 1592), eliminating the need for separate acknowledgment in married couples' cases.

For unmarried parents, German law requires the father's formal acknowledgment and the mother's consent [8]. Notably, German law permits acknowledgment by non-biological fathers, allowing a mother's partner to become the child's legal father regardless of biological connection, provided proper consent is obtained. This provision recognizes the social and emotional dimensions of fatherhood beyond mere genetic relationships.

Germany has implemented restrictions on paternity testing to protect privacy and prevent potential harm. The Gene Diagnostic Act requires consent from all parties for paternity testing, and unauthorized testing without consent is prohibited [8].

France has adopted even stricter regulations, permitting paternity tests only when ordered by a judge. These restrictions aim to protect women from potential domestic violence situations where paternity testing might reveal adultery, while still allowing judicial determination when necessary for child welfare or inheritance matters.

In the United Kingdom, paternity is formally established when unmarried parents jointly register the child's birth at the local registry office, with both parents listed as 'Informants' on the birth certificate [7], [11]. Recent amendments to the Paternity and Adoption Leave Regulations, effective from March 2024, have modernized requirements relating to notice, evidence, and the period within which paternity leave must be taken [9], though these primarily concern employment rights rather than legal paternity establishment itself.

When disputes arise, U.K. family courts possess jurisdiction to determine paternity through proceedings that may include DNA testing [11]. The courts apply principles similar to those found in other common law jurisdictions, balancing biological evidence with considerations of the child's best interests and existing family relationships. British law recognizes that the child's welfare is paramount in all decisions affecting children, a principle that guides paternity determinations when competing interests must be balanced.

The European Union has moved toward harmonization in certain aspects of family law through instruments such as the Pregnant Workers Directive and the Work-Life Balance Directive [10]. While these primarily address parental leave rather than paternity establishment per se, they reflect broader European policy supporting father involvement and gender equality. By April 2022, all EU member states were required to offer minimum ten days of paid paternity leave, demonstrating the EU's commitment to supporting fathers' active parenting roles.

International comparison reveals diverse approaches reflecting different legal traditions and social priorities. Common law jurisdictions like the United States and United Kingdom tend toward more flexible, equity-based approaches exemplified by doctrines like paternity by estoppel [5], [6], [11]. Continental European systems such

as Germany and France emphasize formal registration requirements and, in some cases, restrictions on unilateral paternity testing to protect privacy and prevent potential harm [7], [8].

As families become increasingly international and mobile, coherent approaches to cross-border paternity recognition grow more important [10]. Ukrainian lawmakers' attention to cases involving fathers abroad represents a positive development, though further international cooperation and potential treaty frameworks would facilitate more effective resolution of transnational paternity issues.

Future developments in paternity determination are likely to continue navigating the tension between biological evidence provided by advancing genetic testing technologies and the social realities of parent-child relationships that have developed over time[12]. Legislators and courts worldwide face the ongoing challenge of reconciling these competing considerations, while ensuring that the best interests of the child remain the guiding principle in all decisions regarding paternity.

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HIDDEN IN TRANSIT: COMBATING HUMAN TRAFFICKING IN DENMARK

In the modern world, transnational crime continues to evolve in complexity, transcending borders and challenging even the most advanced legal and security systems. Denmark, while recognized as one of the most stable and secure countries in Europe, continues to face a range of criminal challenges, including drug trafficking, cybercrime, arms smuggling, and financial crimes. Among these issues, human trafficking stands out as a critical and persistent violation of fundamental rights, necessitating a thorough analysis of its scope and the state's response based on internationally recognized sources.

Denmark is a destination and transit point for human trafficking and is the main link between mainland Europe and Scandinavia. The phenomenon of human trafficking in Denmark is primarily characterized by sexual exploitation, yet in recent years, there has been an observable increase in labour exploitation, including forced work in construction, agriculture, domestic service, and cleaning sectors. According to data presented in the OC Index Denmark 2023 profile, most victims originate from Nigeria, Romania, Thailand, the Philippines, and North African countries, and include undocumented workers, asylum seekers, unaccompanied children, young men, individuals engaged in commercial sex work, and members of the LGBTQ+ community. This demonstrates that trafficking in Denmark is not limited to a single demographic group but rather affects a wide spectrum of vulnerable populations.

Denmark's role as both a destination and transit country is reinforced by its geographical position, acting as a gateway between continental Europe and the rest of the Nordic region. Traffickers often exploit Denmark's advanced transport infrastructure and its proximity to Sweden and Norway, enabling the movement of victims further north. Despite Denmark's strong legislative and institutional framework, a substantial "dark figure" of unreported victims persists, indicating that official statistics likely underestimate the true scale of the problem. Government data cited according to reports show a decline in the number of officially identified victims in 2024 compared to previous years; however, expert analysis suggests this decline reflects identification challenges rather than an actual reduction in trafficking activities [1].

The Danish government has acknowledged the seriousness of human trafficking and continues to implement the 2022–2025 National Action Plan to combat trafficking in human beings. This national plan prioritizes victim assistance, interagency cooperation, cross-border collaboration, and preventive measures, including online monitoring of trafficking indicators [2]. The Center against Human Trafficking (CMM) plays a crucial role in coordinating governmental and non-governmental efforts, identifying victims, and providing them with assistance. Nevertheless, according to information from published sources, a significant proportion of identified victims do not receive state assistance due to legal and procedural barriers, especially those

without legal residency status. Some victims are treated primarily as undocumented migrants and face detention or deportation, undermining their access to justice and rehabilitation.

Section 262(a) of the Danish Criminal Code criminalizes both sexual and labour trafficking and prescribes penalties of up to ten years' imprisonment for traffickers, aligning with international legal standards [1]. However, enforcement challenges persist. The government has reported investigations and convictions of traffickers in recent years; however, NGOs and independent experts highlight that limited resources, heavy reliance on victim testimonies, and high evidentiary thresholds contribute to early case closures or the prosecution of offenders under lesser non-trafficking statutes, ultimately resulting in reduced penalties [3]. Furthermore, trafficking victims are occasionally penalized for unlawful acts committed as a direct consequence of their exploitation, despite provisions in Section 722(2) of the Administration of Justice Act that should prevent such penalization.

Victim protection mechanisms in Denmark are relatively advanced compared to those in many European countries. The U.S. Department of State's 2025 Trafficking in Persons Report: Denmark notes the availability of specialized shelters, healthcare, psychological services, vocational training, and reintegration programs funded by the government. Female victims are supported through specialized shelters operated by NGOs, while male victims may be accommodated in crisis centers. Additionally, Denmark provides a reflection and recovery period of up to 120 days for foreign victims, allowing temporary stay and support regardless of cooperation with law enforcement. However, only a small number of victims receive temporary residence permits, and those who do are often required to leave the country after the recovery period unless they agree to voluntary repatriation. This limited residency policy has been criticized by human rights organizations, which argue that it deters victims from cooperating with authorities and undermines long-term rehabilitation.

Preventive measures include awareness campaigns, monitoring online platforms used for recruitment, and international cooperation. Danish authorities collaborate with the Nordic Council of Ministers, EUROPOL, and other European agencies to share intelligence and conduct joint operations. Traffickers increasingly use digital tools and social media to target vulnerable individuals, necessitating advanced

cyber monitoring strategies [4]. The CMM has responded by developing trafficking indicators for internet-based victim identification, reflecting a shift in trafficking methods toward the digital sphere.

In terms of criminal justice response, Denmark's law enforcement agencies are regarded as professional and well-equipped, with specialized units dedicated to organized crime and trafficking investigations. The South Jutland Police and the National Special Crimes Unit conduct cross-regional investigations and collaborate internationally. However, disparities between police districts in investigative procedures are observed, emphasizing the need for a more uniform approach to trafficking investigations and enhanced training for frontline officers [5].

Although Denmark is recognized globally as one of the least corrupt countries with a highly stable government, trafficking persists due to structural vulnerabilities, including migration flows, asylum pressures, and the presence of organized criminal networks operating across borders [2]. Criminal actors active in trafficking include both domestic gangs and transnational groups that use Denmark as a strategic transit hub. These networks also engage in related criminal markets, such as drug trafficking, arms smuggling, and money laundering, reinforcing the connection between trafficking and broader organized crime.

In conclusion, Denmark's efforts to combat human trafficking are comprehensive and supported by a robust legal and institutional framework, yet significant gaps remain in victim identification, protection, and prosecution effectiveness. The persistence of a large hidden population of victims, the growing use of digital tools in trafficking operations, and the challenges in securing long-term protection for victims underscore the need for continued reform and enhanced international cooperation. As Denmark continues to implement its 2022–2025 National Action Plan, its experience serves as a vital case study for balancing national security, human rights, and international obligations in the ongoing fight against human trafficking.

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CRIME PREVENTION IN THE FIELD OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING

With the development of the rule of law, the issues of protection of the rights and freedoms of all citizens become especially relevant. According to the Constitution of Ukraine “a person, his life and health, honor and dignity, inviolability and security are recognized the highest social value”, and the main obligation of the state - the establishment and protection of human rights and freedoms (Article 3) [2]. Therefore, human trafficking is a gross violation is used at the international level as a crime punishable by law.

The spread of this phenomenon is also facilitated by the following factors such as increasing population mobility, labor migration, rising unemployment among women, increasing public access to the Internet, which is virtually uncontrolled, in terms of law, and often used for selfish and even criminal purposes.

The mechanism of trade includes recruitment, abduction, transportation, concealment, transfer from hand to hand, sale or buying people through various means of coercion, use of force, deception or fraud to turn them into slaves or to enslave them conditions, coercion to prostitution, domestic slavery.

The main elements in the act of trade are:

- fraud;
- violence;
- debt bondage;
- exploitation for selfish purposes, for which deception, violence or debt bondage are used.

Trafficking can take various forms and may involve:

1. - sexual exploitation, including prostitution;
2. - forced labour or services;
3. - slavery, servitude and related practices;
4. - the removal of vital organs.

Trafficking can also take the form of exploitation for the purpose of forced criminality, such as pickpocketing, shoplifting and drug trafficking. [3]

The main directions of state policy in the field anti-trafficking are:

1) prevention of human trafficking by increasing the level of public awareness, preventive work, reducing the level of vulnerability of the population, overcoming demand;

2) fight against crime related to trade by detecting crimes of trafficking in human beings, persons involved in the commission of a crime, bringing them to justice;

3) providing assistance and protection to victims of trafficking in human beings by improving the system restoration of their rights, provision of a complex of services, introduction of the mechanism of interaction of subjects in the field of counteraction to human trafficking.

Therefore, our country takes the following preventive measures:

1. Study of the peculiarities of the problems of children and youth in the aspect of prevention of human trafficking, as well as study of the peculiarities of the motivation of young people for employment, study, recreation abroad.

2. Formation of positive motivation of young people to perceive social services and encourage young people to learn information about combating human trafficking.

3. The next element of "self-help" is directing young people to self-help in the direction of preventing human trafficking through the provision of information services about institutions and organizations that solve such problems; and also the development of the volunteer movement, student social services of extracurricular educational work.

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THE USE OF WEAPON BY THE POLICE OFFICERS DURING MARTIAL LAW

Police activities in martial law conditions take on an exceptionally important significance, since it is during this period that the internal affairs bodies become one of the key elements of the national security system, ensuring the stability of the state and the protection of the civilian population from military threats [1]. Unlike

peacetime, when the bulk of police work is related to the implementation of administrative and criminal procedural functions, during wartime, police officers acquire a number of additional powers that allow them to more effectively counteract military threats and maintain public security in conditions of instability [2].

The legal standards governing police activities in wartime consist of the Constitution of Ukraine, the Law of Ukraine “On the National Police” and the Law of Ukraine “On the Legal Regime of Martial Law”. These documents determine the procedure for involving police officers in performing defense tasks, the possibility of temporarily restricting the rights and freedoms of citizens, and also establish the principles by which the police should act even in emergency conditions. It is important that Ukraine’s international obligations remain valid even during wartime, in particular the provisions of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, which allows for restrictions on rights only “within the limits of strict necessity” [4].

An important guideline in regulating the use of force is the UN Basic Principles on the Use of Force and Firearms by Law Enforcement Officials, which explicitly oblige the state to ensure proportionality, minimization of harm and the obligation to report on each case of use of weapons [5]. These standards require that even in extraordinary circumstances, law enforcement officers avoid the indiscriminate use of force and act only to the extent necessary to carry out their official tasks.

One of the key differences between police operations in wartime is the different procedure for using firearms. In peacetime, a police officer may use a weapon only if there is an immediate threat to the life or health of citizens or the police officer himself [3]. However, during martial law, weapons are allowed to be used in a wider range of cases, including to stop sabotage and reconnaissance groups, neutralize individuals who have committed or are attempting to commit an armed attack, to protect defense facilities, and during joint operations with territorial defense units [1]. Such powers are explained by the increased level of risk and the need to respond promptly, as delay can cost the lives of civilians and military personnel.

The procedure for using coercive measures, as well as recording the facts of using weapons, are determined by departmental acts of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, in particular the Instruction on the Use of Coercive Measures by Police, which describes in detail the conditions,

limitations, and reporting procedures for the use of force during martial law. These documents emphasize that, despite the expanded powers, the use of weapons should remain a last resort.

Police activities in frontline, de-occupied and unstable territories have their own specifics. Police officers not only maintain public order, but also participate in stabilization measures necessary to restore state control over newly liberated settlements. These functions include evacuating civilians, escorting humanitarian convoys, organizing commandant patrols, identifying sabotage groups, searching for collaborators, preventing looting, and guarding abandoned residential and industrial facilities. In some cases, police officers participate in ensuring the operation of critical infrastructure and mine clearance activities.

Police officers also play an important role in documenting war crimes, which meets the requirements of the Geneva Conventions and international humanitarian law [6]. This includes collecting evidence, interviewing witnesses, and photographing and videotaping the consequences of shelling, torture, or other violations committed by armed groups of the aggressor state. Because such actions are often carried out under the threat of repeated attacks, police work requires a high level of training and coordination with the military.

Despite the difficult circumstances, the police are obliged to strictly adhere to human rights, a principle that remains unchanged even in times of war. International organizations, including the UN and the Council of Europe, emphasize that martial law cannot serve as a justification for arbitrary detention, torture, illegal searches or other violations [7]. Accordingly, the internal acts of the National Police, adopted in 2022–2024, clearly spell out the procedures for checking individuals, inspecting vehicles, escorting suspects and responding to threats related to the activities of subversive groups.

Thus, the activities of the police in conditions of martial law differ significantly from their work in peacetime. They become more operational, focused on ensuring defense, coordination with the military and protecting the civilian population in conditions of constant danger. At the same time, the main criterion for its effectiveness remains the ability to act within the law, ensuring a balance between national security and respect for human rights.

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FEATURES OF THE DIVISION OF THE ITALIAN POLICE

The police are one of the important and necessary bodies of every state. First of all, the safety and well-being of the population, their rights and responsibilities, as well as their property, not to mention the protection of the interests of the state, depend on the police. The police was created to protect the law and order of the entire state, so the number of law enforcement officers should correspond to this task. The insufficient number of law enforcement officers poses danger to all

residents of the country. Therefore, in this study, we want to analyze the police of one of the European countries, namely, Italy.

Uniformed law enforcement personnel are the most “visible business card” of the country. An error committed by law enforcement with regard to victims or communities can reinforce the “message” sent by the perpetrators of non-acceptance, of hate, of prejudice. The confidence of victims and the victim’s community can disappear forever maybe [1].

Law and order in Italy is the responsibility of five national police forces, and two local police forces. Together, these organisations employ over 300,000 officers, the highest number employed by any of the countries in the European Union [2].

If the number of police officers is insufficient, law enforcement officers will be assigned a wide range of tasks that will reduce their efficiency and morale. That is, it is necessary to distribute everything proportionally, or increase the number of pro-guards who must undergo appropriate training before performing their duties.

The two local forces are:

- Provincial Police (Polizia Provinciale):

This force is responsible for enforcing national and local hunting and fishing laws as well as some traffic regulations. They are not present in every province [2].

- Municipal Police (Polizia Municipale):

Each comune has a Municipal Police force, responsible for enforcing local regulations, traffic control and investigating petty crimes. They are also known as 'Polizia Comunale', 'Polizia Urbana' or 'Vigili Urbani'. In some regions the Provincial Police and the Municipal Police are grouped together as 'Local Police' (Polizia Locale) [2].

The five national forces are:

- State Police - Polizia di Stato;
- Finance Police - Guardia di Finanza;
- Military Police - Arma dei Carabinieri;
- Prison Police - Polizia Penitenziaria;
- Forestry Police - Corpo Forestale dello Stato [2].

There is an additional organisation, called The 'Direzione Investigativa Antimafia' (DIA) (Anti-Mafia Investigation Department)

which is a cooperative venture between all five of the police forces which is charged with tackling organised crime [2].

From the above, we can say that Italy has a fairly extensive system of police forces, which in the future makes it possible to distribute certain work among all units, rather than loading one.

The *Polizia di Stato* (state police), which is the main national police force are responsible for patrolling the *autostrade* (highways), *ferrovie* (railways), *aeroporti* (airports), and *la dogana* (customs) [3].

La polizia municipale (local police force) on the other hand, works at a local level and is responsible primarily for traffic control, but also for enforcing national, regional and local laws regarding commerce, legal residence, pets, and other administrative duties. The officers of the municipal police aren't automatically authorized to carry weapons, since public safety is generally relegated to the *Polizia di Stato* [3].

If you're in Italy and you lose your wallet, or something gets stolen, you go to the *Carabinieri* to report the theft or the loss. They file a report, and make it official. When you're driving, the *Carabinieri* may have you pull over for a routine checking of license, registration and proof of insurance [3].

Another important police force is *la Guardia di Finanza* (financial guard). The *Guardia di Finanza* deals primarily with financial crime and smuggling, and is the primary agency for suppressing illicit drug trade. They work on land, sea and in the air. These are the agents who might ask you to produce a *scontrino* (receipt) upon exiting a shop, restaurant or bar [3].

In our opinion, such a division is quite appropriate and necessary. In addition, all these units differ in form and responsibilities, so people can easily distinguish them and know for what purpose the police are addressing them, and who the population should contact if necessary.

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POLICE UNDER MARTIAL LAW

Police activity under martial law acquires a significantly expanded and legally regulated character, which directly follows from the *Law of Ukraine “On the National Police”* and the *Law of Ukraine “On the Legal Regime of Martial Law”*. These documents clearly define that in wartime conditions, the police perform not only their ordinary functions, but also additional tasks related to ensuring national security, public order and the implementation of legal restrictions introduced by the state. According to Art. 23 and Art. 24 of the Law “On the National Police”, police officers maintain public security, protect life and property, and prevent offenses — however, under martial law these functions are executed in intensified form [1].

One of the central directions is the protection of critical and strategic infrastructure. The Law “On the Legal Regime of Martial Law” (Art. 8, Art. 22) [1] authorizes the police to ensure the security of facilities important for the defense of the state, including transport networks, communication systems, and energy facilities. This corresponds with the analysis of *Hidenko Ye.*, who emphasizes that during wartime the police frequently cooperate with military commandants’ offices and territorial defense units to prevent sabotage or diversion activities [3]. In these conditions, officers conduct inspections, check vehicles, monitor access to restricted zones and identify persons whose actions may be dangerous.

Another essential component is the enforcement of *curfew and movement restrictions*, which are directly regulated by Art. 8 of the Law on Martial Law. Police units check identification documents, verify permits issued by military administrations and ensure compliance with

temporary limitations. Hidenko notes that such duties create additional psychological pressure on officers, especially in areas where hostile sabotage activity is high [3]. Mistakes in documentation or inconsistencies in registration sometimes occur due to the rapid pace of operations.

Maintaining public order becomes significantly more complicated. The Law “On the National Police” (Art. 31) allows police to apply certain preventive measures — such as checking documents, limiting access to dangerous areas, or escorting persons — and under martial law these measures are applied more frequently. According to Hidenko, police units often deal with misinformation, panic among the population, and mass displacement of civilians, which requires enhanced patrolling and continuous public communication [3].

Police also play an important role in the evacuation of civilians from dangerous territories. While neither law describes evacuation in detail, Art. 23 of the National Police Act obliges police to protect life and ensure public order, and during wartime these duties extend to securing evacuation routes, supporting humanitarian convoys and preventing disorder during mass movements of people. Hidenko describes that evacuation operations often involve cooperation with local administrations, volunteer organizations and military units [3].

Administrative procedures are also affected. The Law “On the Legal Regime of Martial Law” (Art. 14) provides for the possibility of simplifying certain bureaucratic formalities to accelerate decision-making [2]. As a result, police may process reports or protocols in a faster, sometimes shortened manner. While this increases efficiency, it also leads to small formal errors or incomplete documentation that must be corrected later. Hidenko underlines that such deviations are common in extreme operational conditions and do not affect the legality of police actions if core requirements are met.

Ethical and legal balance remains a critical issue. Both laws clearly stress that *human rights remain protected even during martial law*, except for the rights lawfully limited under Art. 64 of the Constitution of Ukraine. Police officers must act strictly within the law, and Hidenko emphasizes the importance of discipline, professional judgement and accountability in conditions where the line between necessity and excess force sometimes becomes thin.

Overall, the police under martial law operate within a legal framework that expands their responsibilities while preserving fundamental principles of legality and human rights. Their effectiveness depends on coordination with military structures, proper implementation of special powers, and the psychological readiness of personnel to act under constant stress and danger.

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WAYS OF IMPLEMENTING THE LAW OF UKRAINE «ON THE APPLICATION OF THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE IN UKRAINE»

The integration of Ukraine into the European and Euro-Atlantic space requires a fundamental review of language policy, particularly in the security and defense sectors. The adoption of the Law of Ukraine dated 04.06.2024 № 3760-IX «On the Application of the English Language in Ukraine» (hereinafter referred to as the Law) defines English as the language of international communication in Ukraine. This legislative step creates new challenges and opportunities for the

system of training specialists for law enforcement agencies and public administration [1].

Ukraine currently has the status of a candidate for membership in the European Union, but still remains separated from the EU by a language barrier. Compared to other European countries, Ukraine lags behind in the willingness of citizens to communicate in a foreign language, in particular English. According to the 2021 annual EF English Proficiency Index study on determining the level of English proficiency in different countries of the world, Ukraine is among the countries with an average level of English proficiency and ranks 40th in the ranking out of 112 countries of the world [2].

One of the key ways to implement this Law is to modernize vocational training programs and define positions that require sufficient English proficiency.

I also consider it appropriate to draw attention to the resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine dated 04.06.2025 № 659 «On Approval of the Concept of the State Targeted National and Cultural Program to Promote the Study and Use of the English Language in Ukraine for 2026-2030», which stipulates that the Purpose of the Program is to create conditions for wide access to high-quality tools for studying and teaching the English language, to increase the level of proficiency among citizens of Ukraine, as well as to promote the use of the English language in the fields of education, economics, science, public administration and culture, in particular in the field of cinematography. The program is aimed at ensuring that the English language becomes an important element of the personal and professional development of citizens, contributes to the European integration processes of Ukraine, as well as the competitiveness of the Ukrainian nation in the international arena [3].

Foreign experience, particularly that of the Baltic states and Poland, demonstrates that the transition to English as a working language in international structural units takes time and resources. However, as noted by international experts, language interoperability is a critical component of collective security [4].

Therefore, the pro-European direction of development of the country chosen by Ukraine, determines the modernization of all industries, including the communicative sphere. Educational institutions that actively comply with the requirements of today,

introducing innovative developments into their activities, implementing the latest achievements of science, are the driving force for significant transformations and the advancement of Ukraine on the international arena.

But in order to adequately represent the state on the world stage, it is worth owning an international means of communication - the language of international communication. The ability to speak a foreign language makes it possible to cooperate with foreign partners and understand the nuances of another culture, which contributes to improving skills in the process of solving problems, tasks and making decisions.

So, I believe that knowledge of a foreign language broadens horizons and opens up new prospects for self-improvement, it is this course for the development of the English language among citizens that the state of Ukraine has approved and declared at the legislative level.

Thus, the implementation of the Law of Ukraine «On the Application of the English Language in Ukraine» is a complex process that requires changes in the educational paradigm, normative regulation of certification processes, and practical use of the language in the daily activities of law enforcement agencies.

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SPECIFIC FEATURES OF POLICE ACTIVITY UNDER MARTIAL LAW

Martial law represents a complex system of emergency governance that deeply influences the structure and duties of law enforcement agencies. When a country faces war or large-scale threats to national security, the police become one of the main pillars of civil defense and social stability. Their work extends far beyond traditional law enforcement tasks and includes maintaining order, ensuring the safety of civilians, and supporting the army in strategic operations. The effectiveness of the police under martial law depends on flexibility, coordination, discipline, and respect for human rights even under extreme pressure [1, p. 25].

One of the key features of police activity in wartime is the transformation of command and control systems. The police operate under centralized management to ensure unified decision-making and effective cooperation with military administrations. This allows for faster responses to security incidents, sabotage, or infiltration attempts. The police also take part in protecting critical infrastructure – energy facilities, bridges, communication centers, and transport routes – which are often primary targets during conflicts. In this context, officers act both as defenders and regulators, combining preventive, investigative, and military-style operational functions [3, p. 34].

The legal powers of the police also expand during martial law. Officers are authorized to impose curfews, restrict movement, perform document checks, and temporarily detain persons suspected of threatening public safety. Such measures aim to prevent crimes, maintain order, and protect the population. However, their legitimacy depends on strict adherence to national and international law. Each restriction must be justified, proportionate, and transparent to avoid abuses of power that could undermine citizens' trust and democratic legitimacy [1, p. 44].

Equally important are the psychological and ethical dimensions of police work under martial law. Officers often face traumatic scenes, operate in dangerous areas, and make decisions that affect human lives. Continuous psychological support, ethical education, and resilience training are therefore essential. The ability to act professionally while maintaining empathy and respect for civilians distinguishes true professionalism from mere enforcement [2, p. 67].

International experience, including that of Ukraine since 2022, demonstrates that police effectiveness during martial law relies not only on operational discipline but also on broad cooperation with communities, volunteer organisations, and international partners. In conditions of heightened uncertainty and continuous security threats, public trust becomes a strategic resource that directly influences the stability of the state. When citizens perceive the police as a reliable and predictable institution, they are more likely to comply with legal requirements, report suspicious activity, support security measures, and participate in community-based initiatives aimed at protecting critical infrastructure and maintaining public order. Trust also reduces panic and fosters unity, which is particularly important when society faces mass displacement, shelling, or information warfare campaigns aimed at creating social fragmentation.

Therefore, modern policing under martial law must be grounded in transparent dialogue with society. This involves not only informing citizens about introduced restrictions, evacuation measures, or operational risks but also explaining the legal foundations and humanitarian reasons behind such decisions. Emphasizing that the mission of the police is the protection of life, human dignity, and the rule of law – rather than suppression or coercion – helps maintain legitimacy and reduces the risk of tension between law-enforcement institutions and the civilian population. Technological tools also play an increasingly significant role in enhancing police effectiveness during wartime. The use of drones, digital evidence systems, secure communication networks, biometric identification, and real-time analytical platforms allows for faster information processing, more accurate threat detection, and improved coordination with military units and emergency services. These innovations not only increase operational capacity but also help minimise risks to both officers and

civilians, ensuring more precise and lawful actions in high-threat environments [3, p. 27].

In conclusion, the specific features of police activity under martial law include the expansion of authority, intensified cooperation with the military, heightened ethical demands, and the need for psychological stability. The modern police officer under martial law acts not only as a law enforcer but also as a moral agent and guardian of social order. Balancing national security with respect for human rights is the key principle that determines the legitimacy and effectiveness of law enforcement in wartime [1, p. 98].

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VIDEO SURVEILLANCE AS A MEANS OF PREVENTING OFFENSES: EFFECTIVENESS AND RISKS

Video surveillance has become one of the key tools for ensuring public safety in modern cities. The presence of cameras in public areas creates a deterrent effect, reducing the likelihood of committing crimes and administrative offenses, especially in places with large crowds [1, p. 35-36]. In addition, video recordings significantly enhance the effectiveness of crime detection: they allow establishing the chronology of events, identifying suspects, and confirming or refuting the testimony of incident participants [1, p. 52].

At the same time, analytical systems are gaining importance—automatic license plate recognition, behavioral anomaly analysis, and

timely incident detection. Such technologies reduce police response time and increase the effectiveness of crime prevention [2]. International practice shows that combining video surveillance with transparent oversight procedures and community involvement makes the system more effective and socially acceptable [1, p. 61- 63].

Moreover, law enforcement agencies across different countries increasingly integrate advanced video analytics such as facial and object recognition, motion detection and unauthorized access monitoring. For instance, police forces in China use video surveillance not only for maintaining public order but also for monitoring public events and tracking suspects, showcasing the expanding role of such systems beyond traditional crime prevention. Similarly, Singapore's PolCam network enhances situational awareness and expedites response to various incidents, illustrating how modern surveillance technologies can augment police operational capabilities [3, p. 204 - 209].

However, the expansion of video surveillance systems generates significant risks. Primarily, this concerns the potential violation of the right to privacy guaranteed by European data protection standards. Uncontrolled collection and processing of video information create risks of unlawful surveillance, discriminatory practices, data breaches, and abuses by officials [2]. Facial recognition technologies are particularly sensitive and require strict regulation due to the high probability of misidentification and algorithmic bias [1, p. 70 -72].

These privacy challenges are compounded by the use of biometric and behavioral recognition technologies. Misapplication or misinterpretation of facial recognition or gait analysis, as observed in some deployments, may lead to wrongful targeting or profiling, raising ethical and legal concerns. Therefore, it is critical to establish stringent regulatory frameworks, including independent audits and accountability mechanisms to mitigate these risks and uphold civil liberties.

Thus, video surveillance is an effective tool for preventing offenses, but its use requires clear legislative regulation, principles of proportionality, transparency, and independent oversight. The optimal approach is a balance between security interests and the protection of fundamental human rights, which ensures public trust and overall resilience of the security system.

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USE OF UNMANNED SYSTEMS IN POLICE WORK DURING MARTIAL LAW

In conditions of martial law, the role of the National Police of Ukraine has become significantly more complex: police officers perform not only traditional functions but also tasks close to military operations. High work efficiency depends on tactical-specialized training and the use of innovative technologies, particularly unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs or drones). Police officers respond promptly to military threats, maintain public order, and counteract sabotage and crimes that have increased during the war [1].

UAVs are among the most important tools for Ukrainian security and defense forces, including the police, the National Guard, the Security Service of Ukraine, and the State Border Guard Service. They greatly enhance reconnaissance and combat capabilities, provide surveillance, adjust artillery fire, patrol, deliver cargo to hard-to-reach

areas, protect facilities, and also perform electronic intelligence and communication support. Since February 24, 2022, airspace protection has become a priority; therefore, the private use of UAVs is restricted, and decisions regarding flights in specific areas are made by the General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine. In the context of martial law, it is crucial to improve the legislative framework regarding the use of drones and the responsibility for violating airspace [2].

The areas of UAV use by law enforcement agencies in Ukraine, particularly the National Police, are similar to global practices, although there are limitations due to equipment costs, availability of software, infrastructure, and legal shortcomings. UAVs are used for search and rescue, surveillance, data collection for investigations, real-time visual information acquisition, photo and video recording, and live broadcasting. Flights are conducted according to Ukrainian aviation legislation, using photo- and video-recording systems depending on the technical characteristics of the device. The number of cameras and conditions of their use are determined by the flight operation manual or the manufacturer's instructions. The planning of a flight mission, its start, and completion are approved by the head of the police unit, and after execution, data from the UAV is exported to the storage media of the responsible officers for further processing [3].

For the effective use of UAVs by the National Police, comprehensive training within the professional education system is necessary. The theoretical part should cover knowledge of the legal foundations for UAV use, aviation law, and regulations governing drones in law enforcement, enabling officers to understand legal requirements and responsibilities while performing tasks. Practical training should focus on practicing tactical actions during operational activities, including patrolling areas, monitoring mass events, pursuing suspects, and collecting evidence at the scene. Special attention is given to coordinating actions with ground units and using the information obtained to successfully accomplish operational tasks.

Equally important is the psychological training of UAV operators: police officers must act effectively under stress, make quick decisions, and adapt to changing conditions during flights. This approach enhances overall efficiency and reduces risks to the lives of law enforcement personnel, especially during wartime and under heightened terrorist threats. Legislative regulation of UAV use ensures

respect for citizens' rights and freedoms and establishes clear operational boundaries, while also opening new opportunities for monitoring, documenting offenses, and conducting search operations [4].

Under martial law conditions, UAVs have become an essential tool for the National Police of Ukraine, enabling more effective surveillance, reconnaissance, and situational control. Their use increases the safety of police officers and citizens, while comprehensive training—from theory to practice and psychological readiness—ensures the effective execution of operational tasks. Legal regulation guarantees respect for citizens' rights and freedoms and creates clear boundaries for the operation of these technologies.

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COMBATING HUMAN TRAFFICKING IS THE MOST IMPORTANT PROBLEM IN THE WORLD

In countries of Eastern Europe and the South Caucasus, most cases of trafficking are related to sexual exploitation. Forced labor trade is also booming in Central Asia. The countries of the region are mostly suppliers of "live goods", however, in recent years, Russia and Kazakhstan have become destination countries. Hundreds of thousands of people around the world are becoming victims of smugglers. They are sold for the purpose of sexual or labor exploitation, for recruitment into the armed forces, for participation in criminal activities, or for the purpose of extracting vital organs for sale [1].

According to the UN, trafficking in human beings brings \$ 600 million in profits annually worldwide. This was reported by Prensa Latina, citing the United Nations Regional Office for Drugs and Crime. The United Nations Development Program recognizes this form of human trafficking along with another 23 illicit products most common in Central America and the Caribbean.

In the past few years, the number of identified victims of human trafficking has increased significantly, especially in the countries of America and Asia, but this, according to experts, indicates not only an increase in crime, but also that countries are able to solve more and more such crimes and find victims. Criminals exploit the most defenseless: 30 percent of the identified victims are children, almost 70 percent are women and minor girls.

Globally, sexual exploitation remains the primary target of trafficking, with 59 percent of all cases identified. 34 percent of the victims were sold for labor exploitation. In addition, for example, in some states of South Asia they trade brides. In Central and South America, cases of trafficking in children for illegal adoption have become more frequent. In southern and central Europe, people are being trafficked for coercion and begging. In North Africa, Central,

Southeastern Europe and Eastern Europe, cases of trafficking in “live goods” for the removal of organs have been reported.

Most of the victims of human trafficking in Eastern Europe and Central Asia are adults. Compared to other regions, there is a relatively low number of minors among them. Among the victims, as elsewhere in the world, there are more women than men, with the exception of Armenia and Moldova. According to information from Belarus, Ukraine and Moldova, in these countries 97% of all identified victims of trafficking for sexual exploitation are women. As for victims of forced labor in the region, 76 percent of the victims are men. The countries of Eastern Europe and Central Asia belong mainly to the category of countries of origin of victims of human trafficking. Most of them were identified in the same region, but many Central Asians are illegally transported to countries in the Middle East and East Asia. And citizens of Ukraine are often found in countries of Western and Central Europe. In the region itself, the main countries of destination are Kazakhstan and Russia. UN experts noted that in recent years, the international community has made significant progress in implementing the provisions of the Protocol on preventing and combating trafficking in persons, especially women and children. However, so far it has not been possible to completely end impunity for these crimes [2].

The spread of human trafficking is due to the limited access of the population to effective employment, education, social protection and other resources, as well as to the spread of poverty, segregation in the labor market. Among the main reasons pushing women in the situation of human trafficking, experts name poverty and gender discrimination - factors that impede education, employment and confidence in the future. Interesting fact that among the factors that impede the fight against trafficking in human beings is that the majority of convicted traffickers manage to avoid imprisonment due to lenient sentences and possible corruption [3].

Summarizing the above, Trafficking in persons means recruiting, transporting, transferring, harboring or getting people through the use of force or other forms of coercion or deception. Annually thousands of men, women and children fall into the hands of traders in their own countries and for abroad. All countries of the world are affected by

human trafficking, whether as countries of origin, transit or destination of victims [3].

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LANGUAGE AS EVIDENCE: HOW FORENSIC LINGUISTICS HELPS SOLVE CRIMES IN EUROPE

Forensic linguistics studies how language can be used as evidence in crime investigations. In Europe, this field is more and more often used to study anonymous messages, threats, ransom notes, emails, and online communication to find their authors or to see if the text was changed. Features like word choice, sentence style, spelling, and writing habits can help connect a text to a specific person [1].

One of the main uses in Europe is finding who wrote a text. Every person has a stable "language fingerprint," and experts compare suspicious texts with known writing samples of possible suspects. Studies show that looking at grammar, common word combinations, and writing style helps reduce the number of possible authors in cases with anonymous threats or extortion letters [4].

Forensic linguistics is also important in cybercrime cases. Criminals often try to hide by copying another writing style or using automatic tools. But strange word choices, unusual grammar, or unnatural sentence rhythm often reveal these tricks. European

investigators have used linguistic analysis to uncover online fraud and identify members of cybercrime groups [2].

Another important area is the study of hate speech and extremist messages. The Council of Europe advises using linguistic experts to decide if a message fits the legal meaning of hate speech or calls for violence. Linguists can explain hidden meanings, code words, sarcasm, or indirect calls for aggression, helping courts understand online content while respecting human rights [5].

Countries should quickly remove online hate speech, support victims with legal, medical, and psychological help, and promote education, training, and counter- speech to stop harmful content from spreading [5].

Multilingual forensic work is also becoming more important, especially in international cases with many languages and nationalities. European police often need language experts to study multilingual communication, fake documents, or transcripts from global criminal networks. This experience is very important for Ukraine, which is improving cooperation with Europol and other European bodies [3].

But there are still problems. Courts do not always see linguistic analysis as strong evidence compared to other forensic methods. Researchers say we need clearer methods so that linguistic results are reliable. Ethical issues also matter: similar language cannot automatically prove guilt, and experts must respect the presumption of innocence [6].

In conclusion, European experience shows that forensic linguistics is a strong tool for solving crimes connected to digital communication, anonymous messages, fraud, and hate speech. If Ukraine uses these methods, it can improve investigations and make its forensic system more similar to European standards.

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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.

In areas recently liberated from occupation, the police play a stabilizing role. Upon entering such territories, officers' document evidence of war crimes, identify victims, verify the identities of those who remained, and investigate collaborators or infiltrators [3, p. 134]. This work is both forensic and deeply humanitarian: police must collect testimonies, process crime scenes, and support survivors, all while navigating damaged infrastructure, the threat of mines, and traumatized communities.

Simultaneously, the criminal environment under martial law shifts dramatically. There is a notable increase in property crimes, looting, illicit weapons trafficking, fraud, and even domestic violence, as civilians suffer from stress and displacement [4, p. 112]. The police must respond not only with more frequent patrols but also with specialized investigation teams. These teams must document offenses thoroughly, compile reliable evidence, and cooperate with military and international agencies to ensure that crimes committed during wartime are prosecuted and that accountability mechanisms function effectively [5, p. 214].

Checkpoint duty and control of transit routes become critical tasks. Police, together with armed forces and territorial defense units, inspect vehicles, verify identities, and prevent prohibited materials from moving through conflict zones [6, p. 77]. These responsibilities require officers to make split-second decisions regarding the use of force, arrest, or refusal of passage, often under conditions of limited communication and enormous pressure.

Addressing the needs of internally displaced persons (IDPs) presents an additional, complex challenge. Police officers are required to maintain order in temporary shelters, mediate conflicts over scarce resources, protect social groups especially vulnerable to exploitation (women, children, elderly), and ensure that rights are upheld even amid chaos [7, p. 145]. Effective communication and a high degree of empathy are paramount: officers must de-escalate tensions and build or maintain trust with people who have suffered trauma and loss.

International cooperation becomes an even more powerful force multiplier for the Ukrainian police during war. Through partnerships with foreign law enforcement agencies and international missions, the police receive technical support, protective gear, forensic equipment, and training in best practices. Joint programs help Ukrainian officers

implement advanced approaches for countering hybrid threats, cybercrime, and cross-border criminal networks [8, p. 188]. This collaboration strengthens institutional resilience and introduces standard operating procedures aligned with democratic policing.

The cyber police are particularly active in wartime, responding to a surge in cyberattacks, phishing campaigns, and attempts to infiltrate critical information systems. These officers monitor network traffic, trace malicious actors, conduct incident response, and share intelligence with international cyber centers [9, p. 42]. Their role is not only reactive but also preventive: they engage in proactive cyber threat hunting, vulnerability assessments, and awareness campaigns to protect civilian infrastructure and governmental systems.

Psychological resilience is another cornerstone of effective police performance in war. Officers are routinely exposed to high-risk situations, death, destruction, and the suffering of civilians. To support them, law enforcement agencies implement programs for mental health support, stress management, trauma debriefing, and long-term rehabilitation [10, p. 69]. These initiatives often include peer-support networks, professional counseling, and specialized training to help officers remain functional and humane under emotional strain.

Operational command and coordination also become more complex during martial law. Police leadership must integrate their activities with military command structures, civil defense authorities, and humanitarian organizations. This requires flexibility, rapid decision-making, and a strong sense of interagency cooperation [11, p. 102]. Moreover, chain-of-command protocols may be adapted to ensure that local police commanders can respond autonomously in fast-changing operational theaters without waiting for orders from higher headquarters.

Finally, adherence to legal and ethical standards remains critical, even in crisis. Police must uphold the rule of law, respect human rights, and use force only when absolutely necessary. Instances of misconduct — including corruption or abuse — are especially dangerous in wartime, as they undermine public trust and can fuel conflict. Therefore, internal accountability mechanisms, oversight by civilian authorities, and transparent reporting become even more vital [12, p. 76].

In conclusion, the National Police of Ukraine under martial law perform a vastly expanded role, combining traditional law enforcement with wartime functions. Their ability to operate professionally, ethically, and resiliently under extreme stress is essential for national stability, the protection of civilians, and the long-term rebuilding of the rule-of-law system.

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POLICE IN CANADA: TRAINING, RECRUITMENT, AND ACCOUNTABILITY

Policing in Canada, particularly with the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP), continues to evolve in response to new social, technological, and legal challenges. In recent years, priority reforms have focused on increasing transparency within law enforcement, ensuring greater inclusivity in recruitment and training processes, and strengthening mechanisms for public oversight and accountability [1].

According to recent RCMP reports for 2022-23, there has been a significant increase in the number of recruits self-identifying as Indigenous or members of racialized communities, with a 16% rise. This is part of a broader strategy to diversify the force and promote inclusivity [1]. Additionally, RCMP has implemented new approaches to training, including streamlining the processing of recruits while maintaining high standards for assessments and evaluations. Training programs within the RCMP have been significantly updated to include essential skills such as intervention strategies and de-escalation techniques [2]. These methods are designed to help officers handle potentially dangerous situations with minimal use of force.

Furthermore, technologies like body-worn cameras have been increasingly implemented to improve transparency and hold officers accountable for their use of force [3]. Cultural competence, particularly when working with Indigenous populations and diverse communities, also remains a central component of training [2].

Despite these advancements, the police system in Canada continues to operate under strict public and political scrutiny. One of the primary aspects of reform is the creation of more transparent mechanisms for policing oversight, including civilian review bodies [4]. Specifically, RCMP's annual reports now contain detailed information regarding incidents of force application, including breakdowns by provinces and territories, as well as by factors like severity of injuries or death during detention. This data is essential for

identifying whether there are instances of excessive force or deviations from legal and ethical standards [4].

In this context, there has been increasing demand for reforming existing civilian oversight mechanisms. Research published in 2023 emphasizes the importance of independent investigations in cases involving serious incidents, such as deaths or severe injuries [4]. This is crucial to avoid conflicts of interest in internal police investigations and ensure a fair process for those affected by police actions.

It is also important to note that Canada's police forces face significant challenges related to emerging threats such as cybercrime, transnational organized crime, and financial crimes. RCMP uses intelligence-led policing strategies, works with international partners, and increasingly relies on digital tools to monitor and respond to these threats [3]. However, this also raises additional concerns about data privacy and the need to balance security with individual rights [3].

Despite significant changes, police forces in Canada still face challenges regarding public trust. Key aspects in building legitimacy for police include ongoing communication with the public about the use of force, particularly in sensitive or culturally charged situations [2]. Continuing efforts to recruit from underrepresented groups and fostering cultural sensitivity within the force are essential to strengthening trust between police and marginalized communities [1].

As for recommendations for further development of policing in Canada, there are several important considerations. First, further strengthening oversight mechanisms is crucial, particularly for independent investigations into serious incidents involving police [4]. Second, attention to equity in recruitment processes is essential, particularly through mentoring programs and initiatives aimed at supporting Indigenous peoples and other historically underrepresented groups [1]. Moreover, investing in emerging technologies that enhance policing efficiency, while ensuring adequate protections for individual privacy, is important [3]. This includes regulations around the collection and management of race-based and use-of-force data [3].

In conclusion, policing in Canada continues to adapt to emerging challenges and societal demands. The key areas of reform remain transparency [1], inclusivity in recruitment and training [2], and strengthening accountability through external oversight mechanisms [4]. With these changes, Canadian police forces can maintain high

levels of public trust while effectively responding to modern security threats [3].

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EXPERIENCE OF FIGHTING CRIME IN FOREIGN COUNTRIES

The fight against crime is one of the key tasks of the legal system of any country. Studying international experience in this area is of great importance for improving methods of combating crime in one's own country. In this report, I would like to draw your attention to 2 countries: the USA and Germany; we will analyze their experience of combating it in more detail and summarize. The first country I would like to draw your attention to is the USA. The USA has seventy years of experience in combating organized crime. This activity was especially intensified after the Second World War, when almost 10 laws were adopted [1, p. 96]. The first of these was the Hobbs Antiracketeering Act of 1946... However, the most important, effective and effective to date is the Organized Crime Control Act of 1970.

Success in the fight against organized crime is impossible without a state strategy for its prevention [1, p. 98]. To effectively combat organized crime, it was necessary to criminalize the very activities of organizing and leading a criminal organization and

membership in it. As noted, in the USA, the first steps in this direction were taken in 1970 with the adoption of the Organized Crime Control Act [1, p. 99]. One of the measures to combat organized crime is confiscation. In the USA, there are two main types of confiscation: civil and criminal [1, p. 100].

The necessary means of investigating the criminal activities of organized groups, associations, and syndicates are the use of informants or secret agents in groups; inducing a group member to provide information or data about a certain group or its members; wiretapping and recording telephone conversations; using listening devices; gaining access to bank accounts or documents of corporations and exchanging information between law enforcement agencies [1, p. 101]. The next thing we will consider is the experience of combating crime in Germany. A special place among these bodies, both in Germany and in other democratic countries, is occupied by the police. The legal basis for the activities of the German police is the norms of the German Constitution of May 23, 1949, the provisions of which are developed and specified in the 524 federal laws "On Police" and "On Cooperation", and other legislative acts of the state [2, pp. 523–524]. The most important link of the Federal Police is the Federal Border Police, which is directly subordinate to the federal Ministry of Internal Affairs.

Its main task is to control the state border, fight against organized crime, illegal emigration, drug smuggling, protect the most important institutions, investigate environmental offenses, and maintain public safety in rail and air transport [3, pp. 63–64]. The bodies investigating crimes in the Federal Republic of Germany include the police, the prosecutor's office, and the investigating judge. The main role belongs to the prosecutor's office, which is entrusted with the function of inquiry[4]. The Constitution of Germany, along with the bodies of the federal police, grants the right to form its own police system to each federal state. According to the scope of powers, the police of the federal states are divided into: state (state) district, county, and city (municipal). The state police are also subordinate to the Ministry of the Interior, with the exception of the city (municipal) police, which is under the jurisdiction of city governments and is maintained at the expense of the city budget. Structurally, the state police includes: the patrol service, or public safety police, whose duties include investigating minor and medium-serious crimes, public order violations, and prosecuting traffic

violators; the traffic police, which ensures traffic safety; special units, or operational intervention police, which provide assistance to the patrol service and criminal police during mass events; the state criminal police, whose duties include investigating major crimes [5, pp. 17–18].

In Germany, there is a two-tier police system, there is the federal police and the state police, however, during mass events, both local and federal police units can be used [6, p. 360]. From what we have read, we can conclude that the experience of combating crime in the USA and Germany demonstrates different approaches and strategies, due to the specifics of the legal systems and socio-political conditions of these countries. In the United States, the fight against organized crime has developed significantly since

World War II, in particular through the adoption of a number of laws, including the Organized Crime Control Act of 1970, which criminalizes participation in criminal organizations. In Germany, the fight against organized crime is coordinated through a police system consisting of the federal police and the state police. The legal framework for police activities is enshrined in the German Constitution and a number of specialized laws. In general, both countries have a comprehensive approach to the fight against organized crime, which includes legislative initiatives, effective law enforcement strategies and the use of modern technology.

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FOREIGN LANGUAGE TRAINING SYSTEM FOR POLICE OFFICERS IN DIFFERENT COUNTRIES

In today's world, knowledge of a foreign language is becoming an integral part of professional development in various fields, particularly among law enforcement officers. Police officers representing the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Ukraine (MIA) are, in light of globalization and international challenges, faced with the need to effectively master foreign languages to ensure security and mutual understanding in an international context. Law enforcement officers have a particular need to speak foreign languages to ensure security and mutual understanding in an international context. That is why knowledge of a foreign language is critically important for them. First, there is international cooperation, as Ukrainian law enforcement agencies interact with those from around the world. Knowledge of foreign languages allows effective communication with colleagues from other countries and participation in joint operations and information exchange. Second, it is a matter of international law: understanding international law and norms is crucial for law enforcement officers to perform their duties effectively in an international context. Many international documents and agreements require knowledge of foreign languages to facilitate their understanding and practical application. Thirdly, it is the fight against cross-border crime: transnational criminal groups operate across multiple countries,

making cooperation between law enforcement agencies in different countries critical. Foreign language skills help law enforcement officers to conduct investigations effectively and communicate with colleagues from other countries. Equally important are international events and travel; participation in international conferences, seminars, and training courses can be a crucial element of professional development for police officers. Knowledge of a foreign language opens up access to such opportunities and facilitates the establishment of international partnerships [1].

Paragraph 5, Part 1, Article 3 of the Law of Ukraine "On the Use of the English Language in Ukraine" stipulates that middle and senior officers of the National Police of Ukraine are required to be proficient in English.

Recently, the National Police of Ukraine and the Association for Innovative and Digital Education (AIDE) launched a large-scale English language training program for 15,000 employees of the National Police. This initiative will enable law enforcement officers to master English through the Lingva Skills educational platform. Lingva Skills, developed by AIDE, has already proven its effectiveness over the past nine years. Currently, users have completed over 250 million exercises on the platform. In 2022, this project was recognized by the National Book of Records as the most popular online educational initiative in Ukraine. In 2019, Lingva Skills was included in the top 10 best startups in Eastern Europe by the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) [2].

In foreign countries, most institutions that train police officers in the OSCE region have laboratories or centers for studying foreign languages (the Higher Police School in Germany, the Police Academy in Montenegro). A comprehensive approach to language learning has been introduced (for example, English has been included in the professional training program). Teachers at institutions that train specialists for police agencies and departments are allowed to take English courses free of charge.

There are two types of language training:

- distance learning to acquire basic language skills and prepare for various certificates and competitions;

- full-time training for transfer to another service, preparation for service in an embassy, training of gendarmerie operational information centre operators, and training of operational unit personnel.

Courses for obtaining a foreign language qualification certificate involve one year of study at the Institute of Foreign Languages. To be admitted, applicants must demonstrate an adequate level of English proficiency and pass the entrance exams. After completing a short-term language course, students receive a qualification certificate or a diploma of secondary specialized education [3].

Therefore, the introduction of new methods and the use of innovative technological systems is appropriate today for instilling in the minds of police officers a desire to learn a foreign language and progressively integrate it into their work to solve practical issues and expand their range through mutual understanding with members of all communities worldwide.

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INTERNATIONAL EXPERIENCES IN FORENSIC INVESTIGATION AND CRIMINALISTICS: A REVIEW OF MODERN TECHNIQUES

The current state of criminal justice increasingly depends on the development of scientific and technical methods of investigating crimes – from the traditional collection of material evidence to complex examinations in the field of digital technologies. The spread of transnational crime, the growth of cybercrime and the use of modern technologies in criminal activity stimulate law enforcement agencies and expert services to introduce advanced methods of forensic and forensic practice. In this context, international experience becomes critically important, because the objects of crimes, technologies of commission and means of evidence are constantly becoming more complicated, and only regular updating of methods can ensure high quality and reliability of judicial conclusions. That is why a review of modern forensics techniques, from classic to the most modern, is necessary to adequately respond to the challenges of the 21st century.

Different countries have different models of organizing forensic expertise. For example, a study devoted to a comparative analysis of expert activity models shows that in some European countries centralized systems of expert institutions with clear standards of accreditation and registration of experts have been created, which ensure high quality and independence of forensic examinations [1].

Such an approach contributes to the unification of methods, the creation of a basis of trust in conclusions and facilitates international cooperation in complex or transnational criminal proceedings. In addition, this experience allows adapting international standards to national systems, which is important for increasing the efficiency of forensic expertise. At the same time, modern criminology and forensic science are not only a matter of organization, but also of constant development of methodology, integration of new scientific achievements and technologies into the investigation process [2].

World practices demonstrate significant progress in the technical support of criminal investigations. Thus, the study, published as "The Latest Foreign Developments and Prospective Studies in the Field of Technical and Criminalistic Support of Crime Prevention" [3], lists a wide range of modern tools and techniques that are considered promising: laser ablation mass spectrometry, 3D facial reconstruction (forensic 3D facial reconstruction), digital systems for automatic fingerprint registration, modern methods of hair and trace analysis, software packages for evidence processing, hyperspectral visualization, etc. This means that forensic investigation today is not only the manual work of experts, but also a combination of natural, technical, digital and information technologies. For example, for the investigation of complex cases (war crimes, serious crimes), significant attention is paid to digital forensics, DNA analysis, traceology, spectrometry, molecular methods, as well as 3D/VR reconstruction of crime scenes or objects.

In scientific debates in recent years, there has been a growing awareness that traditional approaches to criminalistics (as part of legal science) should increasingly intersect with forensic science, which has a natural and technical basis. This is explained by the fact that crimes are becoming more technically complex: cybercrimes, economic crimes with a large amount of digital evidence, war crimes with many types of traces that require modern laboratory, molecular and digital means. Accordingly, to ensure objectivity, accuracy and admissibility of evidence in court, it is necessary to combine classical forensics with modern scientific and technical methods [4].

The current experience of European countries and Ukraine in investigating war crimes demonstrates that the application of advanced forensic methods such as DNA profiling and analysis, comprehensive digital documentation of crimes, traceology, ballistics, and 3D reconstructions of crime scenes significantly enhances the accuracy, reliability, and fairness of judicial proceedings. In the context of armed conflicts, where the scale and complexity of crimes are often unprecedented, a professional and methodical approach to identifying victims, analyzing physical and digital traces, examining firearms and munitions, and reconstructing events is indispensable. Conventional forensic techniques, which rely solely on basic observational skills or traditional evidence collection methods without integration of modern scientific tools, frequently prove insufficient in addressing the

multifaceted nature of contemporary war crimes. Furthermore, the use of advanced forensic technologies allows for the preservation of critical evidence in conditions where it might otherwise degrade, ensures the traceability of investigative procedures, and strengthens the credibility of expert testimony in courts of law [5]. This integrative approach not only facilitates more accurate attribution of responsibility to perpetrators but also supports the broader goals of international justice, human rights protection, and post-conflict reconciliation, underscoring the necessity of continuously updating forensic capabilities in line with evolving criminal tactics and technological advancements.

Thus, the international experience of forensic investigation and criminalistics demonstrates that for the effective investigation of modern crimes, it is essential to integrate classical forensic approaches with advanced scientific, technical, and digital tools. Centralized models for the organization of expert activities, along with rigorous accreditation systems and standardized procedures, ensure not only the quality and objectivity of expert conclusions but also increase public and judicial trust in the investigative process. Simultaneously, a modern instrumental base, including spectrometry, molecular biology techniques, advanced DNA analysis, digital forensics, and 3D/VR reconstructions of crime scenes, enables forensic experts to address highly complex criminal, military, and cyber-related cases that would be challenging or impossible to resolve with conventional methods alone. For countries aiming to enhance the efficiency, accuracy, and credibility of investigations, the implementation of international forensic standards, active participation in global networks such as the European Network of Forensic Science Institutes (ENFSI), and the continuous modernization of forensic expert practices are crucial. Overall, the future of forensic science lies in a comprehensive integration of natural and technical sciences, robust legal frameworks, and international cooperation. This holistic approach not only guarantees the reliability, objectivity, and efficiency of investigations but also strengthens the overall capacity of justice systems to respond effectively to the increasingly sophisticated and transnational nature of modern criminal activities, ensuring accountability and promoting the rule of law in a globalized world.

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PRACTICAL SIGNIFICANCE OF UKRAINE'S REGISTER OF DAMAGE IN INTERNATIONAL LAW

The large-scale act of armed aggression committed by the Russian Federation against Ukraine has led to grave humanitarian harm and far-reaching material devastation. Thousands of documented cases of torture, inhumane treatment, and sexual violence have been recorded, alongside the large-scale destruction of residential buildings and critical infrastructure throughout the country, as well as significant economic losses[1].

In this context, the establishment of the Register of Damage for Ukraine represents a major international initiative and constitutes the

first step toward a comprehensive mechanism aimed at ensuring justice and compensation for Ukraine and its citizens.

The Register of Damage (hereinafter — the “Register”) is intended to function as an official repository of claims and supporting evidence concerning damage, loss, or injury caused by the Russian Federation’s internationally wrongful acts in or against Ukraine[2]. It will collect submissions from individuals, private entities, and state or municipal institutions regarding the harm they have suffered as a result of Russia’s aggression, thereby creating a factual and evidentiary basis for future reparation claims grounded in international law[3].

On 14 November 2022, the United Nations General Assembly adopted Resolution A/RES/ES-11/5, “Furtherance of remedy and reparation for aggression against Ukraine,” which affirmed that the Russian Federation must be held accountable for its violations of international law in Ukraine, including through the payment of reparations[2]. The resolution also recognised the need to establish an international reparations mechanism and recommended the creation of an international register of damage as an initial step in this direction.

In response to the UN resolution, the Council of Europe established the Register of Damage as an Enlarged Partial Agreement in May 2023. This form of cooperation, available to both member and non-member states of the Council of Europe, is not a treaty and therefore typically does not require ratification[4].

The Register aims to compile all eligible claims concerning damage, loss, or injury resulting from Russian aggression and to document the evidence supporting each claim[2]. It will verify the admissibility of claims based on three criteria: (1) the damage must have occurred within the territory of Ukraine;

(2) the damage must have taken place on or after 24 February 2022; and (3) the damage must be directly attributable to Russian aggression.

To operationalise this process, the Register will develop detailed rules and procedures, including a comprehensive list of damage categories, standardized claim forms, evidentiary requirements for each category, and additional necessary guidelines [3].

Currently, 43 states and the European Union are parties to the Register—38 as Participants and six as Associate Members. The

Register aims to ensure broad international representation; the United States, Japan, and Canada are already among its members. Any state that voted in favour of UN General Assembly Resolution A/RES/ES-11/5 may join the Register as a Participant or Associate Member by notifying the Secretary General of the Council of Europe via letter or Note Verbale. Other states may also be admitted, subject to the approval of the Conference of Participants [4].

The initial compensation applications submitted to the Register represent only a fraction of the anticipated total. The Council of Europe expects between 300,000 and 600,000 claims, with RD4U (Register of Damage for Ukraine) planning to expand the categories of admissible claims, including those relating to the destruction of critical infrastructure. Although the Register itself will not distribute compensation, it constitutes a foundational element in the creation of a future international reparations mechanism, which has yet to be fully established [5].

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COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS OF THE ORGANIZATION OF INVESTIGATIVE AND FORENSIC UNITS IN UKRAINE AND GERMANY

Investigative and forensic units are an essential part of the law enforcement system of any country, as they ensure the collection, preservation, and scientific analysis of evidence, which form the foundation for solving crimes and bringing perpetrators to justice. They also provide expert opinions that help investigators, prosecutors, and courts to reconstruct the circumstances of crimes and prevent future offenses. In Ukraine, the organization of forensic work is coordinated within the Ministry of Internal Affairs and the National Police. The central body responsible for forensic support is the Forensic Service of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, which supervises a network of scientific and research forensic centers (NDEKC) located in all regions of the country [1]. These centers perform a broad range of examinations, from fingerprint and trace analysis to digital forensics and DNA profiling. At the regional level, each police department operates criminal police units and investigative teams that respond to crime scenes, while major cities have specialized laboratories dedicated to ballistics, handwriting analysis, and cyber-forensics. The main tasks of Ukrainian forensic experts include documenting crime scenes using photography and 3D scanning, collecting and preserving physical evidence, conducting laboratory examinations, and providing expert testimony to support investigators and prosecutors. However, the system faces challenges such as insufficient funding, outdated equipment in some laboratories, a shortage of qualified experts, and the need to further align forensic procedures with European standards. Nevertheless, Ukraine has made progress by gradually introducing automated fingerprint identification systems, modernizing DNA laboratories, and taking part in EU-funded initiatives aimed at strengthening its forensic capacity [2].

Germany's forensic system reflects the country's federal structure, where law enforcement responsibilities are shared between the federal government and the sixteen federal states. Each state operates its own Landeskriminalamt (LKA), or State Criminal Police Office, which has its own well-equipped forensic divisions. At the national level, the Bundeskriminalamt (BKA) coordinates state-level activities, develops methodologies, manages national forensic databases, and represents Germany in international cooperation within Europol and Interpol [3]. The German model is distinguished by its advanced technical infrastructure, use of robotic DNA analysis systems, biometric databases, and artificial intelligence tools for evidence evaluation. German forensic institutions actively collaborate with universities and research institutes, continuously develop new methods, and provide ongoing professional training to their experts through specialized academies. This model successfully combines decentralization, which gives states autonomy, with effective nationwide coordination and standardization, ensuring that forensic results are consistent across the country.

A comparison of these two systems shows that Ukraine and Germany share many common features, such as the existence of specialized forensic units within police structures, the performance of similar tasks related to evidence collection and examination, and the presence of personnel training systems. At the same time, there are significant differences. Ukraine's system is centralized under the Ministry of Internal Affairs, while Germany operates a federal model in which LKAs have considerable autonomy but are supported and coordinated by the BKA. Germany is far ahead in terms of technical equipment, automation, and digitalization, while Ukraine is still in the process of modernizing its forensic infrastructure. Germany also has well-established mechanisms of international cooperation within the European Union, whereas Ukraine is still gradually integrating into European information exchange systems. Another difference is seen in personnel policy: Ukrainian experts are often overworked due to staffing shortages, while Germany invests heavily in continuous training and maintains stable staffing levels to ensure efficiency.

The German experience could be extremely valuable for Ukraine's ongoing law enforcement reform. Priority steps include

creating a stronger network of regional laboratories with modern equipment, implementing automated systems for DNA and digital evidence analysis, and building unified electronic databases for sharing forensic data between investigators and courts [4]. It is also important to strengthen international cooperation by increasing participation in Europol projects and EU cross-border operations, as well as to expand professional training programs to bring them in line with European standards. This would not only reduce the workload of Ukrainian experts but also raise the overall quality of forensic examinations and accelerate case processing.

Thus, while Ukraine and Germany pursue similar goals in the field of forensic science, the German model clearly demonstrates the benefits of a balanced federal approach, modern technology, and strong ties between science and practice [5]. The gradual adoption of these best practices could significantly improve the efficiency of Ukraine's forensic system, enhance the credibility of criminal proceedings, and increase public confidence in law enforcement and justice.

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VIOLATION OF THE RIGHTS OF VULNERABLE CATEGORIES DURING THE WAR IN UKRAINE

Topicality: The issue of violations of the rights of vulnerable categories during the war in Ukraine is highly topical in the current context. The armed conflict ongoing since 2014, as well as the full-scale invasion of Russia in 2022, has significantly aggravated the humanitarian crisis. Vulnerable categories, including women, children, persons with disabilities, internally displaced persons, the elderly, and ethnic minorities, have become subjects of human rights violations such as violence, discrimination, and restricted access to resources and healthcare. Analyzing these phenomena is essential for developing effective mechanisms to protect the rights of these groups at both national and international levels.

Purpose: The purpose of the research is to identify the main violations of the rights of vulnerable categories during the war in Ukraine, assess their scope and consequences, and develop recommendations for law enforcement agencies and international organizations to enhance the effectiveness of human rights protection in the context of armed conflict.

Main body:

Children's Rights During War

Children are one of the most vulnerable categories during wartime. Military actions have led to the deaths of hundreds of children and injuries to thousands. According to UNICEF, as of mid-2023, about 5.7 million children in Ukraine required humanitarian aid.

Violations include:

- Use of children in armed conflicts (violating Article 38 of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child).

- Forcible deportation of Ukrainian children to Russia. In 2023, the International Criminal Court issued arrest warrants for Russian officials for such crimes.

- Loss of access to education: over 40% of schools in eastern

Ukraine have been destroyed or damaged (data from the Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine) [1].

Women and Gender-Based Violence

Women often become victims of sexual violence, forced displacement, and discrimination during war. According to a UN report, numerous cases of sexual violence by Russian soldiers have been documented in occupied territories. The Council of Europe's Istanbul Convention provides for the protection of such women, but wartime conditions limit these measures [2].

People with Disabilities

More than 2.7 million people with disabilities in Ukraine face unique challenges due to the war. Inaccessible shelters, healthcare, and evacuation services put their lives at risk. Ukraine's Law "On the Fundamentals of Social Protection of Persons with Disabilities" guarantees their rights, but violations remain widespread [3].

Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs)

As of 2023, over 5.5 million Ukrainians became IDPs (UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs data). IDPs face challenges with housing, employment, and access to social services.

Statistics

- Over 500 children killed, more than 1,000 injured (data from the Office of the Prosecutor General of Ukraine).
- 60% of IDPs reported difficulties finding work (IOM survey, 2023).
- Over 8 million Ukrainians fled abroad, many of them women and children (UN data).

Below, we outline detailed recommendations for law enforcement agencies and international organizations to enhance the effectiveness of human rights protection.

1. Strengthening Monitoring of Human Rights Violations

Effective monitoring is the cornerstone of combating human rights violations. Specialized teams of experts should be established to collect and analyze evidence of violations. For example, documenting war crimes should focus on crimes against civilians, particularly vulnerable groups. Advanced technologies such as satellite imagery, drones, and artificial intelligence can play a critical role in identifying destruction, violence, or forced deportation in real-time.

2. Ensuring Access to Justice

One of the key aspects of human rights protection is ensuring justice for victims. Law enforcement agencies should create hotlines for victims of violence, provide legal support, and protect witnesses. International organizations, such as the International Criminal Court (ICC), can support the prosecution of war criminals and assist local courts. Special attention should be given to cases of sexual violence, often used as a weapon of war.

3. Expanding International Cooperation

Protecting human rights during war requires international solidarity. Coordination centers uniting international organizations, partner governments, and civil society should be established. For instance, collaboration among EU countries can ensure the rights of Ukrainian refugees seeking asylum. Additionally, international programs should support the rehabilitation of violence survivors and ensure dignified living conditions for displaced persons.

4. Providing Social Protection for Vulnerable Groups

Many citizens lose access to housing, employment, healthcare, and education during war. State bodies, together with international partners, must develop comprehensive social support programs. For example, mobile learning centers or distance education programs should be created for children deprived of education. Women and persons with disabilities should receive prioritized access to evacuation services and humanitarian aid.

5. Raising Awareness of Human Rights

Education and awareness-raising are essential components of human rights protection. Law enforcement, including police and military personnel, should undergo specialized training in international humanitarian law. Civil society organizations and media should inform the public about their rights and the available assistance during wartime.

Conclusions: Thus, this research highlights systemic human rights violations against vulnerable groups during the war in Ukraine, including violence, forced displacement, and restricted access to essential services. Children, women, persons with disabilities, and internally displaced persons face severe risks, requiring urgent intervention.

Key recommendations include strengthening human rights

monitoring, ensuring justice for victims, expanding international cooperation, and enhancing social protection programs. Effective legal measures and humanitarian aid are crucial to safeguarding the dignity and rights of affected populations.

Protecting vulnerable groups must remain a priority for both Ukraine and the global community to mitigate suffering and uphold fundamental human rights.

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PARTICIPATION OF FORENSIC EXPERTS AT A CRIME SCENE SEARCH: EXPERIENCE OF THE USA

A crime scene examination is an essential aspect of the criminal justice process in the United States, serving as the basis for gathering physical evidence that can lead to the identification and conviction of perpetrator. Forensic specialists, or forensic experts, play an important role in this process of applying scientific methods and their special knowledge to provide the quality collection, preservation, and analysis of physical evidence. Therefore, familiarization with the US experience in conducting crime scene investigations and borrowing from it will contribute to the improvement of investigation tactics and methods in Ukraine.

Forensic experts are integral to the comprehensive processing of crime scenes to maintain the integrity of evidence. Forensic experts have to document the crime scene using photographs, plans, and diagrams to create the most accurate registration of the scene. This documentation ensures that the scene's original state is preserved for further analysis and possible future demonstration in the courtroom. These experts must also identify and collect physical evidence, such as fingerprints, footprints, tire tracks, biological specimen, and others residues using techniques and methods that prevent contamination of the scene. Forensic experts follow a systematic approach starting with an initial assessment and continuing with evidence collection, ensuring harsh compliance with all regulatory laws. [1, p.25-37]

Moreover, forensic experts are responsible for prioritizing evidence collection and documentation based on its tendency to change or disappear easily. For example, biological evidence such as bloodstains or DNA, odors, must be collected immediately to prevent changes in their original properties and characteristics. This methodological process requires not only technical knowledge, but also a deep understanding of the legal norms governing the admissibility of evidence. [2, p. 2 -3]

Since forensic expertise is the basis for effective crime scene investigation, Forensic experts are trained in various forensic disciplines, including fingerprint analysis (dactyloscopy), ballistics, toxicology, and digital forensics, enabling them to handle diverse types of evidence. Forensic scientists must apply scientific methods to analyze evidence both at the scene and in the laboratory, ensuring the accuracy of research results. For example, an expert can use different types of lighting, such as perpendicular, oblique, diffused, and others, to detect invisible fingerprints or traces of biological liquids that are not visible to the naked eye. [3]

An important aspect of crime scene investigation involving a forensic scientist is the integration of this specialist into multidisciplinary investigation teams, which often include law enforcement officials, forensic medical experts, and prosecutors from the outset. This collaboration, known as the “team approach,” allows forensic experts to provide rapid conclusions using an investigation strategy directly at the scene of the crime, rather than simply collecting evidence post facto. This early involvement helps investigators make quick decisions about which evidence is most relevant to a particular case and evaluate the results of the forensic scientist's work directly at the scene. In addition, many US jurisdictions employ crime scene analysts or crime scene investigators who possess a combination of law enforcement skills and forensic knowledge [2, p.1].

Additionally, forensic scientists must stay updated on emerging technologies and methodologies. Jacqueline Trinkle Fish's doctorate dissertation «A Forensic Investigation Program to Bridge the Gaps Between Crime Scene Investigation and Forensic Science» highlights the importance of educational programs that train forensic experts to apply new forensic technologies at crime scene processing. For instance, achievements in DNA analysis, such as rapid DNA testing, have enhanced the ability of specialists to provide timely evidence analysis, which may be crucial in investigations that need to be resolved as quickly as possible. This proficiency ensures that forensic experts contribute to both the immediate investigation and the long-term development of forensic science. [4, p. 27 - 30]

Furthermore, forensic scientists sometimes serve as a witness at a courtroom. Their detailed reports and expert testimony are often critical in legal proceedings, where they must explain complex

scientific findings to judges and juries. Forensic scientists must possess communication skills to translate technical concepts into understandable terms for non-expert audiences. This role extends beyond law enforcement and includes interacting with prosecutors and attorneys to ensure that evidence collected at the scene contributes to broader investigations and court proceedings. [3, p.3]

One of the challenges for forensic scientists is the need for continuous professional development. As forensic science evolves, experts must keep abreast of new technologies and legislative requirements, which can be resource-intensive. Gaps in training programs may hinder the ability of forensic experts to apply the latest methods, which could potentially affect the quality of investigations. Additionally, forensic scientists often work under high-pressure conditions, where errors can have significant consequences, such as wrongful convictions or acquittals. Maintaining objectivity and adhering to ethical standards is extremely important in order to avoid bias.

Therefore, crime scene investigation in the United States is an extremely important aspect of pre-trial investigation, relying on forensic experts to collect, preserve, and analyze physical evidence. Through comprehensive documentation, priority processing of biological materials such as blood and odors, and modern techniques such as rapid DNA testing, these experts ensure the integrity of evidence and its legal admissibility. Multidisciplinary training in fingerprinting, ballistics, toxicology, and digital forensics, combined with continuing education, allows them to adapt to modern realities. Forensic experts also serve as a link between the crime scene and the courtroom, providing clear expert testimony and explaining their findings. However, challenges remain as following: the need for ongoing professional development, the need for resources, and the need to maintain objectivity to prevent bias or miscarriages of justice.

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THE POLICE A COMPONENT OF THE NATIONAL SECURITY SYSTEM: CONTEMPORARY CHALLENGES

A foundational premise for comprehending the role of the police in the contemporary context is the shift in the security paradigm itself, codified by the enactment of the Law of Ukraine “On National Security of Ukraine” (No. 2469-VIII). This legislative act represents a watershed moment, as it definitively integrated the law enforcement system into a unified security and defense sector (Article 12 of the Law) [1, Art. 12]. Whereas law enforcement agencies previously operated with a degree of autonomy from defense structures, the new legislative framework has established a cohesive state defense perimeter. Within this framework, the National Police transcends its traditional function as a crime-fighting body to act as a strategic entity responsible for ensuring national resilience. This incorporation into the overarching security architecture implies that police operations are governed by the sector’s fundamental principles, particularly democratic civilian control, thereby aligning with the standards of EU and NATO member states [1].

Of particular significance is the definition of national security enshrined in Article 1 of the Law, which is predicated on the priority of protecting the vital interests of the individual and the citizen. This establishes a direct causal link: the effective maintenance of public safety and order by the police (human security) constitutes the foundation without which the preservation of state sovereignty (state security) is unattainable. In the context of contemporary threats, it is impossible to construct a robust frontline defense if the rule of law and a sense of citizen security are absent domestically. Thus, the legislative framework has effectively elevated internal stability, ensured by the police, to a level of importance commensurate with external defense. This has created the legal basis for engaging police forces in territorial defense tasks and the repulsion of armed aggression in coordination with other components of the defense forces [2].

The contemporary security landscape of Ukraine has undergone radical changes, necessitating a re-conceptualization of the National Police not merely as a law enforcement agency but as a key factor in countering hybrid threats. According to the provisions of the "State Security Strategy," current challenges are characterized by the blurring of the line between conventional criminality and military aggression, which imposes a fundamentally new strain on the Ministry of Internal Affairs system. In the context of full-scale warfare, the militarization of crime has become a critical challenge, driven by the influx of significant quantities of firearms, ammunition, and explosives from combat zones into non-conflict regions. This not only escalates the public danger posed by common crimes but also creates fertile ground for enemy sabotage and reconnaissance groups, which may masquerade as ordinary criminal elements to destabilize the domestic situation. Beyond physical threats, the police are compelled to confront large-scale information-psychological pressure and adversarial attempts to exploit social tension to destabilize the state mechanism from within. In this context, ensuring public safety extends beyond street patrolling, evolving into a struggle for the stability of rear areas, where the police serve as the primary safeguard against chaos and panic. Cybercrime, telephone terrorism, humanitarian aid fraud, and the dissemination of disinformation have become instruments of war; countering them requires novel competencies and immediate responsiveness from police personnel. Consequently, the capacity of the police to effectively

neutralize these complex threats serves as a direct indicator of the overall robustness of the state's national security system [2].

An analysis of operational activities, as highlighted in the works of O.R. Sokol, indicates a radical shift in the functional workload of police bodies. In the context of full-scale aggression, the police execute a range of atypical tasks that are critically important for state defense [3, p. 4]. Priority areas have become the enforcement of curfew regulations, the protection of critical infrastructure facilities, and the organization of control over population movement during evacuation measures. A distinct challenge is the direct counteraction to enemy sabotage and reconnaissance groups, as well as the combating of specific wartime offenses such as looting and sabotage [3, p. 5].

An important aspect of system adaptation is deepened interaction with units of the Armed Forces of Ukraine and the Territorial Defense Forces, which facilitates a comprehensive approach to security. Beyond physical protection, the police play a key role in the information domain, countering the spread of hostile disinformation and panic-inducing sentiments [3, pp. 5-6]. At the same time, the implementation of these functions is accompanied by a number of challenges, among which the author highlights the lack of material-technical support in frontline regions, personnel shortages, and the significant psychological burden on the staff. The final stage of police work in conflict zones is the documentation of war crimes, which creates the legal basis for holding the aggressor accountable in the future [3, p. 7]. The integration of the National Police into the security sector transforms it from a law enforcement body into a strategic pillar of national resilience. By neutralizing hybrid threats and securing the home front, the police provide the internal stability strictly necessary for successful external defense. Ultimately, this functional evolution ensures that the safety of citizens and the sovereignty of the state remain inextricably linked.

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SWEDISH POLICE AND CIVIL ORGANIZATIONS: WAYS FOR SUCCESSFUL COLLABORATION

Job satisfaction is connected to perceived work-related stress, with work stress being a key determinant of job satisfaction. Research indicates that policing is inherently stressful, and the cumulative impact of daily stress and exposure to traumatic events can lead to negative outcomes such as burnout, mental health issues, reduced job satisfaction, and decreased job performance. Although research on policing has increased in Sweden over the past decade, following the integration of policing education into academic programs however, research remains limited, particularly in understanding how job stress affects mental health and the psychological impact of job stress, such as anxiety, depression, and trauma, are well-documented for police officers, especially in contexts of high stress.

In recent years, there have been growing concerns about rising criminal activities in Sweden, including organized crime, gang-related violence, and associated incidents like shootings and explosions. This trend has received significant media attention. Sweden, once known for low crime and safety, has seen a rise in crime, including youth recruitment into criminal networks, protection of crime data has been an evidence-based approach. While physical safety is a key area of focus, the raising of job stress (e.g., preoccupation with crime) has

become the core topic in Swedish society, media coverage, and public discourse. Police work, stress, and public safety have become central issues in Swedish society, media, and political discussions. In particular, increasing crime, including organized crime and gang violence, is often presented as a threat to safety and social values. Even when overall crime rates remain stable, media and political discourse frame rising crime as a significant concern. Transnational and national media, including the brand of national security and safety, have been used to highlight areas where crime, particularly in contexts of the police, remains a central concern for public safety, rapid responses to crises, and involvement of legal acts and physical interventions to prevent violence and security threats. Both public and private sectors aim for better frameworks—integrated and up-to-date frameworks remain the key focus [1].

The police are often seen as a central part of the response and prevention, with increasing public attention to crime and gang-related issues. Political parties, including both right-wing and liberal parties, have emphasized the importance of clearly defined roles for the police, positive organizational structures, and clear legal frameworks. This discussion has led to public safety as a central objective and support for extended training and development of law enforcement to smother and deter crime in public spaces and gang-related activity.

These topics have been part of public and political discourse for more than a decade. There is a clear focus on policing, law enforcement, and crime prevention.

The Swedish Police Authority defines crime prevention as activities that the police carry out or take part in with the primary aim of preventing crime. These activities are usually at the secondary level. The Swedish Parliament has recently introduced visitation zones that give the police a broader mandate, allowing them to perform tasks like visiting people and conducting vehicle searches without requiring specific suspicion of crime. The debate often includes discussions on immigration, ethnic diversity, and the role of integration policies in addressing societal challenges. These discussions have led to the rise of a so-called 'parallel society' and increased criminal activity. The police's definition of crime prevention is quite limited, focusing mainly on preventing crime in the narrower sense, without considering broader public safety initiatives. This lack of clear definition can lead to diverse

interpretations of what crime prevention involves. While the police provide two separate definitions of crime prevention and public safety, they are treated as distinct concepts. However, the police's definition is circular and lacks clarity. Sohlberg & Sohlberg highlight that unclear definitions and interpretations play a significant role in how police officers understand and implement crime prevention or public safety measures. The goal is solid, but the interpretation of crime prevention is not well understood, and the Swedish model has been shown to work. Even though the Swedish police see fighting organized crime as a top priority, most of the materials they use talk about things like trust, safety, meaningful work, and teamwork, which is different from the usual "fear of crime" stories you see in the media and politics. Like all public agencies in Sweden, they have to be objective, fair, just, and respectful [2].

In conclusion, the Swedish police authority identifies combating organized crime as one of its top priorities, most of the discourse focuses on strengthening the self-esteem and life skills of adolescent girls, enabling them to resist social and family pressures. This aligns with values such as trust, safety, meaningfulness, and collaboration. As with all public authorities in Sweden, there are requirements for being objective, fair, just, and respectful. As discussed above, the general goals are politically defined, which is why it would be surprising to find strong emotional arguments or explicit normative conclusions in official documents. However, the contrast between the general alarmistic discourse on criminality and how the police authority defines itself may present challenges in implementing political decisions regarding the police's mission and in gaining and maintaining citizens' trust.

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DOMESTIC VIOLENCE IN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES

Domestic violence remains a critical challenge in Europe, affecting a large portion of the population and producing serious social, economic, and health consequences. This thesis explores the scale and dynamics of domestic violence across European countries, reviews legal and policy frameworks (including the Istanbul Convention and recent EU-level legislation), examines obstacles to protection and reporting, and proposes evidence-based recommendations for prevention, support, and enforcement.

Domestic violence defined as physical, sexual, psychological, or economic abuse within intimate or household relationships is not confined to any single country in Europe. It is a pervasive issue that undermines human rights, endangers public health, and imposes heavy socioeconomic costs. Even as awareness and legal standards have improved, many victims remain invisible, and national responses vary. This thesis aims to synthesize current data and policy efforts, to highlight both achievements and remaining gaps, and to suggest a way forward.

According to a recent EU-wide survey by the European Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA), about one in three women aged 18–74 in the EU has experienced physical violence, sexual violence, or threats during their lifetime [1].

Around 18% of women reported physical or sexual violence from a partner or household member. Eurostat data also show that, per 100,000 population, 64.2 women reported being victims of sexual assault in 2022, while the number for men was significantly lower (10.9 per 100,000) [2]. Despite high prevalence, many incidents go unreported: only a small fraction of victims contact formal services or authorities. Rates of domestic violence differ widely across European countries. These variations reflect not only real differences in violence but also how willing people are to report, cultural norms, and the strength of state institutions.

The Council of Europe's Istanbul Convention provides a comprehensive legal framework for preventing violence, protecting victims, prosecuting offenders, and coordinating policies. Signatory countries are expected to align their national laws with its standards. In 2024, the European Parliament and Council adopted the first-ever EU-level directive on domestic violence and violence against women. This directive criminalizes female genital mutilation, forced marriage, and various forms of cyberviolence (such as non-consensual sharing of intimate images). It also mandates measures for victim protection, support services, prevention campaigns, and better reporting and evidence-gathering protocols. Member States have three years to transpose these rules into their national systems.

Domestic violence in Europe is a deeply rooted and widespread issue with severe individual and social consequences. While new EU legislation (2024) [2] and international frameworks like the Istanbul Convention mark major progress, significant gaps remain in prevention, service provision, and consistent enforcement. Strengthening data systems, deepening interagency cooperation, and ensuring that victims across Europe have access to robust, culturally sensitive support are critical next steps. Only sustained political commitment and adequate resources will turn legal standards into real protection.

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LINGUISTICS AND THE LAW IN THE SPHERE OF SECURITY AND DEFENCE: FOREIGN EXPERIENCE. INTERACTION BETWEEN THE POLICE AND THE PUBLIC

Topicality: Interaction between the police and the public is one of the main indicators of a democracy society. Every police interaction — from a simple question on the street to a courtroom testimony — depends on clear, accurate, and respectful language. When communication fails, misunderstandings grow, trust disappears and conflicts can escalate. But when language is used effectively, it builds understanding, safety, and public confidence in law enforcement. In modern conditions, effective cooperation between law enforcement agencies and citizens helps to ensure public order, prevent crime, and build trust in state institutions

Purpose: The aims of my research are to analyze how language shapes police–public interaction, to identify communication barriers that reduce mutual understanding, to examine successful international practices, and to propose linguistic strategies that can strengthen trust and safety. In other words, my purpose is to show that effective communication is not just a professional skill, but a foundation of justice.

Main Body: Police–public interaction is based on mutual trust, respect for human rights, and transparency. According to the Law of Ukraine “On the National Police” (Article 11) [1], the police must act on the principles of legality, openness, partnership, and respect for human dignity.

Key directions of interaction include:

Community policing – cooperation between police officers and residents to identify and solve local safety issues.

Public consultations and meetings – ensuring citizens’ participation in forming safety strategies.

Information openness – timely communication through the media and social networks.

Preventive work – educational projects, youth engagement, and awareness campaigns.

Effective communication and transparency increase citizens' confidence in the police and help create a sense of security and partnership. International practice shows that community-oriented policing reduces the level of conflict and promotes stability in society.

One of the useful perspectives for studying police communication is Communication Accommodation Theory (Giles H. 1973). It explains how people adjust their speech, tone, and style to fit the context and the interlocutor. In law enforcement, this means balancing authority and empathy: police officers must maintain professionalism and control while remaining understandable, respectful, and culturally sensitive. [2]

Modern societies require innovative approaches to law enforcement. As Ukraine aims to integrate into the European community and meet common democratic standards, it is vital to study and adapt the experience of other countries that have successfully built trust-based cooperation between the police and the public.

The United Kingdom provides one of the most developed models of community policing, where cooperation with citizens is central to maintaining public safety. British policing is still guided by the principles established by Sir Robert Peel in 1829 — particularly the idea that *“the police are the public and the public are the police.”* This philosophy underpins numerous community-based initiatives.

A key form of public participation is the Special Constabulary, which consists of trained volunteers who support the local police. Special Constables possess the same powers as regular officers but work part-time, usually four hours per week. They patrol neighborhoods, respond to incidents, and act as a direct link between the police and local residents.

The Belgian police system consists of two autonomous but interconnected levels — the Federal Police and the Local Police, forming an integrated structure that operates under democratic oversight. The Federal Police perform specialized administrative and judicial functions, while Local Police ensure safety in municipalities, working closely with community representatives.

The guiding philosophy of Belgian policing is “Community-Oriented Policing”, which emphasizes integration of the police into the community and joint problem-solving with citizens.

Both the British and Belgian experiences demonstrate that public trust and participation are key elements of modern policing. These models show that transparency, volunteer involvement, and local cooperation strengthen legitimacy and efficiency.[3]

Conclusions: To conclude, language is not only a tool of communication — it is a tool of justice, trust, and safety. The way police officers speak, listen, and respond reflects the values of the entire legal system. Foreign experience proves that effective linguistic practices lead to stronger communities, safer environments, and higher public confidence in the law. Integrating linguistics into law enforcement is therefore not a luxury — it is a necessity for modern democratic societies.

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MODERN CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION METHODS IN THE FIGHT AGAINST ORGANISED CRIME

Organised crime remains one of the most complex threats to public order and national security: its actors operate as established

hierarchical or networked structures, using a high degree of specialisation, cross-border connections, and concealment of illegal activities through legal business instruments and modern information technologies. These characteristics make it impossible to combat organised crime effectively using traditional forensic methods alone and highlight the need to introduce advanced forensic approaches that ensure the rapid, comprehensive and evidence-based recording, analysis and investigation of criminal acts.

It seems that today there are already several modern fields that are sufficiently developed to supplement the structure of the section on forensic technology. These fields demonstrate remarkable results in the technical and forensic support of crime prevention and have a high level of theoretical justification and practical effectiveness. Criminalistic examination of materials and products is a modern branch of criminalistics, which has been developing within the structure of this science from the very beginning. The same can be said about forensic weaponry, because, in fact, this section was developed to its current level by expanding the field of forensic ballistics due to its enrichment with achievements in the study of various types of weapons. As of today, there is evidence of a sufficient level of development of several modern branches that should complement the structure of the section 'Forensic Technology' [1, p.17]. These fields demonstrate remarkable results in providing technical and forensic support for combating crime and have a high level of theoretical justification and practical effectiveness. An addition to the previous sections is forensic DNA analysis, which in recent years has demonstrated high effectiveness in solving and investigating serious crimes related to organised crime. Its main technology is recognised as the 'gold standard' of forensic identification. Thus, forensic DNA analysis is a new branch of forensic science that studies the individual genetic characteristics of living organisms [2, p. 20].

Another new area of forensic science is the forensic examination of digital traces (evidence). This is a branch of forensic science that studies the patterns and mechanisms of digital (electronic) trace formation and develops methods for their examination.

These sections are not exhaustive or exclusive. As of today, there is an ongoing discussion regarding the classification of forensic

polygraphy as a criminalistic tactic or technique, the expediency of forming such sections as criminalistic investigation of the scene of the crime, criminalistic investigation of vehicles and traffic accidents, nuclear criminalistics, military criminalistics, etc. [3, p. 18].

Organised crime is one of the most dangerous threats to modern society, as it is constantly improving its methods, using modern technologies and has extensive international connections. In such conditions, modern forensic methods play a key role in countering crime, allowing not only identifying criminals, but also to effectively document their activities, collect evidence and ensure its admissibility in court. The combination of traditional and modern methods — from fingerprinting and trace evidence to digital forensics, big data analysis and social networks — provides a comprehensive approach to investigation. Digital technologies are particularly important in helping to uncover financial flows, communication networks and the hidden structures of criminal groups.

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PECULIARITIES OF POLICE ACTIVITIES UNDER MARTIAL LAW

The introduction of martial law in Ukraine requires a fundamental revision and adaptation of the activities of all state authorities, including the National Police of Ukraine, which, together with the Armed Forces, the Security Service of Ukraine and other components of the security sector, performs key functions in ensuring defense capability, maintaining order and protecting the population. The adoption of the Law of Ukraine №2123-IX of March 15, 2022 led to significant changes in the legislation regulating the powers and procedure for police activities during wartime. These changes are aimed at ensuring the efficiency, flexibility and effectiveness of police response to threats that arise in conditions of armed aggression.

In fact, police activities during martial law go beyond certain limits inherent in peacetime and acquire a number of features related to the performance of tasks of increased danger and national scale. It combines law enforcement, defense and humanitarian functions, acquiring a character similar to the activities of paramilitary formations. This is reflected in official explanations by legal experts and in scientific publications, which directly emphasize the growing role of the police in the state defense system.

One of the most important features of police activities in wartime is a significant expansion of its powers, which is directly provided for by legislative acts. In particular, Law No. 2123-IX temporarily amended the provisions of the Law “On the National Police”, establishing a set of new rights necessary to ensure security in wartime.

First of all, the right of police officers to demand documents from citizens was expanded. If in peacetime the verification of documents must be justified by suspicion or certain circumstances, then during martial law the police officers have the right to carry out such checks more often and without characteristic restrictions. They can demand a passport, military registration documents, certificates, permits, and also

check the authenticity of these documents. This practice is aimed at identifying individuals who may be involved in sabotage activities, illegal stay in Ukraine, evasion of mobilization or other offenses.

The police can also inspect the belongings, transport and luggage of citizens without the need to obtain additional permits or wait for special services. This allows for the prompt detection of weapons, explosives, dangerous objects or other means that may pose a threat to public safety.

The second feature was the right to collect biometric data. During the period of martial law, police officers were able to conduct fingerprinting, photographing and other identification measures without complicated procedures and with the restriction of some bureaucratic requirements.

In addition, the police are allowed to use a wide range of modern technical means: portable cameras, drones, license plate recognition systems, analytical programs for processing photo and video materials. Since most crimes and sabotage operations are carried out covertly, the use of such technologies significantly increases the police's ability to prevent offenses.

In wartime, the police receive a completely new set of functions that are not typical for peacetime. These tasks are directly related to the protection of life, health and property of citizens, maintaining law and order and interacting with other military and security structures.

The most important special tasks include:

- operational demining and disposal of explosive objects, which remains one of the most dangerous functions of the police;
- ensuring and organizing the evacuation of the population, especially in areas of active hostilities;
- escorting humanitarian cargo, their protection and delivery to regions where the population suffers most from hostilities;
- recording war crimes, documenting the consequences of bombings, torture, illegal detentions, murders, looting;
- interacting with units of the Armed Forces, the Security Service of Ukraine, the National Guard, volunteer territorial defense formations, coordinating actions at checkpoints, during special operations and patrols.

The function of documenting war crimes has become one of the key ones. Police officers working in the liberated territories collect

testimonies, draw up reports, record evidence, and examine the bodies of the dead, destroyed buildings, and places of mass torture. This evidence is of great importance for further criminal proceedings both in Ukraine and in international courts.

During martial law, police officers may work without uniforms, badges or insignia, if the specifics of their tasks require it. This applies to operational and investigative activities, work with agents, countering sabotage groups, as well as providing counterintelligence measures.

In the event of the use of weapons or special means, police officers must notify their management and the prosecutor, if possible. At the same time, due to military operations, such cases are becoming much more frequent, and therefore control mechanisms are adapted to the real conditions of service.

In wartime, the police also perform important social and humanitarian functions. Police officers participate in the evacuation of the population, guard shelters, help the elderly, children, and people with disabilities, and provide security for humanitarian centers and evacuation trains.

In many cases, it is the police who are the first to arrive at the scene of missile strikes, building collapses, accidents, and other emergencies, rescuing people and coordinating the actions of the State Emergency Service.

Martial law conditions significantly complicate the work of the police. Among the main challenges are:

- increased risk of human rights violations during checks and detentions;
- psychological stress on personnel, significant emotional and physical exhaustion;
- increased level of danger during the performance of official tasks;
- difficulty in coordinating with many military and security structures;
- risk of abuse due to the temporary narrowing of some forms of control.

That is why, after the end of martial law, it will be important to restore full-fledged public control, conduct official inspections and ensure the restoration of peacetime legislative standards.

Thus, the activities of the National Police of Ukraine under martial law are characterized by a significant expansion of powers, a high level of responsibility and the need to perform a new set of tasks aimed at protecting the state and citizens. The police have become an

integral part of the defense system, and their work requires efficiency, professionalism, stability and maximum efficiency. It is thanks to the interaction of the police, the military and the public that it is possible to ensure law and order, protect the population and counteract threats that arise during war.

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GENDER DYNAMICS IN POLICE PROFESSIONAL GROWTH AND CAREER DEVELOPMENT

The influence of gender on professional development in policing represents a highly pertinent issue in contemporary law enforcement, as

highlighted by studies such as the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) reports on women in policing[1].

Historically, policing has been a predominantly male profession, and despite advances in gender equality, women continue to be underrepresented in many law enforcement agencies worldwide. Identifying and understanding the barriers faced by female officers – such as organizational bias, restricted access to leadership roles, and persistent stereotypical perceptions of competence – is essential for fostering a more inclusive and effective police force. Addressing gender disparities is not only a matter of equity but also contributes to operational efficiency, enhanced community trust, and the broader legitimacy of policing institutions. Consequently, examining the role of gender in professional development offers critical insights into policies and practices that promote equal opportunities and support career advancement for all officers.

Women in policing frequently encounter cultural norms that favor male officers and reinforce traditional gender roles. These norms can manifest as subtle biases in performance evaluations, limited access to professional training, or exclusion from informal networks that influence promotions. A male-dominated workplace culture often leads to social isolation for female officers, negatively affecting their job satisfaction and engagement.

Gender discrimination remains a persistent obstacle in police careers. Women are sometimes perceived as less capable of performing physically demanding or high-risk tasks, which can influence decisions regarding assignments and promotions. These stereotypes not only undermine women's confidence but also restrict opportunities for skill development and leadership experience. Work-life balance is another significant barrier for female officers.

Today, the Ukrainian police can attract more female candidates through gender-neutral job descriptions, targeted outreach programs, and recruitment campaigns emphasizing equal opportunity. Many police departments lack sufficient policies for parental leave, flexible schedules, or support systems, disproportionately affecting women and limiting their career progression. Mentorship and professional networks are crucial for career advancement. Women in policing often have limited access to mentorship programs and senior-level guidance,

reducing opportunities to acquire leadership skills or gain visibility for promotion [2].

Gender diversity in policing improves relationships between law enforcement and the communities they serve. Female officers are often involved in less confrontational policing strategies, receive fewer complaints, and are more likely to de-escalate tense situations without resorting to force. Women are also perceived as more approachable and trustworthy by citizens, particularly in cases of sexual assault or domestic violence, which enhances public trust and encourages community cooperation.

Research indicates that diverse police teams generate broader perspectives, innovative problem-solving approaches, and more comprehensive decision-making [3]. Gender diversity can also reduce workplace harassment and discrimination by promoting inclusive norms and accountability. The presence of women in leadership positions sets an important precedent for career development in policing. Female leaders contribute to policy reforms, foster mentorship opportunities for junior officers, and challenge traditional organizational norms, ultimately shaping a more equitable and professional police culture [3].

Police departments can attract more female candidates through gender-neutral job descriptions, targeted outreach programs, and recruitment campaigns emphasizing equal opportunity. Early exposure to policing as a viable career for women can encourage greater participation. Formal mentorship and support networks provide female officers with guidance, skill development, and encouragement to pursue leadership roles. Peer networks also help officers navigate workplace challenges and maintain professional engagement. Implementing policies that promote work-life balance, including flexible hours, parental leave, and childcare support, is essential for retaining female officers and enabling career progression [4].

Anti-discrimination policies, bias training, and inclusive performance evaluation systems further strengthen the professional environment. Leadership development programs aimed at female officers can enhance skills, visibility, and confidence. Providing access to specialized training in management, negotiation, and strategic planning ensures that women are prepared to assume senior roles, as

demonstrated by initiatives such as UNDP Leadership Program for Women in Digitalization of Public Services [4].

The gender plays a significant role in shaping the professional development of police officers. Women in policing continue to face structural, cultural, and organizational barriers, including discrimination, stereotypes, limited mentorship opportunities, and challenges related to work-life balance. These obstacles not only hinder career progression but also affect the overall effectiveness and inclusiveness of police organizations [5].

The Ukrainian Association of Women in Law Enforcement (UAWLE) supports professional development and leadership opportunities for women in Ukraine's police and law enforcement agencies. Promoting gender diversity through inclusive recruitment practices, mentorship programs, leadership development, and supportive policies enhances both organizational performance and community trust.

Due to the war in Ukraine, female police officers have the opportunity to advance their professional development under unique and challenging conditions. By addressing gender disparities, law enforcement agencies can create a more equitable environment that enables all officers to reach their full professional potential, ultimately strengthening the legitimacy, effectiveness, and responsiveness of the police force.

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TRAINING POLICE OFFICERS FOR EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATION AND ARMED ACTIONS IN CRISIS SITUATIONS

Training police officers for effective communication and armed actions in crisis situations is instruction that combines legal knowledge, tactical training, psychological resilience, and refined communication in various forms (oral, visual, radio ones).

This subject should be considered from two aspects of legal and ethical blocks: police officers must clearly know the national legislation on the use of firearms, the principles of proportionality and the minimum necessary force; these aspects are basic guidelines for all practical exercises and must be reflected in training programs and briefings before sessions.

Practical training and rehearsing weapon handling should follow an algorithm: constant checking of weapon serviceability, mastering basic drills (grouping and accuracy of shots, reloading), exercising practicing shooting under physical and psychological load [1]. Practical sessions should include drills for accuracy, speed, recoil control and safety measures in conditions of limited visibility or confined spaces.

Communication is one of the main elements of training. It is necessary to be able to use clear, short phrases, including the ones for

radio communication (“prepare,” “fire,” “cease fire,” “problem,” “change firing positions”); in addition, clear reports upon completion of an exercise (“Private Sidorov has completed the exercise”) – all this must be practiced to the point of automation during training [1].

Great attention is paid to training in making decisions under stress: the application of an international standard called “human performance”-oriented methods (realistic scenarios, stress control, time constraints) allows modeling practical conditions and increasing officers’ resistance to errors under pressure [2]. Practical exercises involving the appearance of civilians in the sector or unexpected circumstances help to practice algorithms: threat assessment, the ratio of risk and the necessity of using force, and decision making.

Psychological training must include elements of stress management, attention concentration, breath control and recovery to a baseline state after high tension; research shows that an unstable psychological state can worsen shooting accuracy, therefore training must take into account fatigue factors and methods for their correction [3].

Practical sessions should have increasing complexity: individual drills – for basic skills; paired ones – for coordination and communication between trainees; group ones – for synchronization of actions, communication and tactical planning with allocation of sectors of fire. During collective exercises, clearly defined boundaries of responsibility, sectors of fire and rules of mutual covering are important, as well as pre-agreed codes/signals for the start and cessation of fire to avoid crossing sectors.

Training of police officers for armed actions in crisis must combine legal awareness, standardized technical training, rehearsed clear communication and psychological resilience. Such a comprehensive approach minimizes risks to civilians and unit personnel, improves decision-making quality and promotes responsible use of force.

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BUREAU OF ALCOHOL, TOBACCO, FIREARMS AND EXPLOSIVES: GENERAL OVERVIEW

The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) is a federal law enforcement agency within the United States Department of Justice (DOJ). It is the principal federal agency responsible for investigating and preventing federal offenses involving the unlawful use, manufacture, and possession of firearms and explosives; acts of arson and bombings; and illegal trafficking of alcohol and tobacco products. The ATF operates at the intersection of violent crime prevention and regulatory enforcement, playing a unique role in the U.S. federal justice system.

The ATF's core mission is to protect communities from violent criminals, criminal organizations, the illegal use and trafficking of firearms, the illegal use and storage of explosives, acts of arson and bombings, and acts of terrorism. Unlike agencies solely focused on enforcement (like the FBI or DEA), the ATF also has a significant regulatory function. It regulates the lawful commerce of firearms and explosives industries to prevent diversion to criminal markets.

This is the agency's most visible function is gun enforcement. The ATF enforces federal firearms laws, such as the Gun Control Act (GCA) and the National Firearms Act (NFA). ATF prevents trafficking

by investigating "straw purchasers" and unlicensed dealers who supply guns to criminals. ATF is operating the National Tracing Center, the only facility in the U.S. authorized to trace firearms recovered in crimes to their original point of sale. Also, the organization is managing the National Integrated Ballistic Information Network (NIBIN), which allows law enforcement to match shell casings found at different crime scenes, linking varied crimes to a single weapon.

The ATF is the primary federal agency for investigating bombings and arson. It deploys National Response Teams (NRT) to major fire and explosion scenes (e.g., the Oklahoma City bombing or the 9/11 Pentagon attack site) to assist local authorities with forensic expertise. The agency regulates the explosives industry, ensuring safe storage and licensing for users of commercial explosives (e.g., construction and mining).

Also, agency is managing alcohol and tobacco. While the collection of federal excise taxes on these products was transferred to the Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau (TTB) (under the Treasury Department) in 2003, the ATF retains jurisdiction over criminal activity in these sectors. This primarily involves stopping the interstate smuggling of contraband alcohol and cigarettes to evade taxes, which is often used to fund organized crime and terrorist activities.

The ATF's history is rooted in tax collection rather than traditional law enforcement. The agency traces its roots to the early days of the Republic when Congress imposed taxes on imported spirits to pay off Revolutionary War debts. The agency gained prominence enforcing Prohibition laws. For most of its history, the ATF was part of the Department of the Treasury. Following the 9/11 attacks and the passage of the Homeland Security Act of 2002, the law enforcement functions of the ATF were transferred to the Department of Justice in 2003. This shift reflected a change in focus from revenue collection to violent crime prevention and homeland security.

The agency is headed by a Director who is appointed by the President and confirmed by the Senate. The ATF is divided into 25 Field Divisions across the United States, with field offices in major cities. ATF has 2 specialized research facilities, which are the Fire Research Laboratory: A unique facility where experts can reconstruct full-scale arson scenarios to scientifically determine cause and origin and the National Tracing Center: Located in West Virginia, this facility

processes hundreds of thousands of trace requests annually for law enforcement agencies worldwide.

In summary, the ATF is a specialized agency with a dual identity: it is a regulator of industry and a fierce enforcer of criminal law. By targeting the tools of violence—illegal guns, explosives, and arson—the ATF aims to dismantle criminal networks and reduce violent crime rates across the United States.

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CRIMINOGENIC SITUATION IN CUBA : BETWEEN SAFETY AND SOCIAL PRESSURE

Cuba is a sovereign state in the Caribbean Basin that gained independence in 1902 and became internationally recognized for its vibrant cultural identity, rich musical and dance traditions, production of rum and cigars, socialist model of governance, and highly developed medical and educational systems; however, in the contemporary period it draws scholarly attention as a country facing a complex socio-economic situation, rising crime rates, the spread of shadow-economy practices, deepening shortages of food and energy resources, declining public security, and limited transparency of official institutions, which collectively create grounds for considering it an environment with elevated criminogenic risks.

Crime in Cuba in recent years has been characterized by a noticeable and rapid increase, although it is difficult to determine an exact crime rate due to the limited availability of official statistics and the lack of transparency of state institutions, which release only partial data. Independent observers and analytical groups note that since 2023, there has been a significant rise in both property and violent crimes on

the island, with the most pronounced growth occurring during periods of economic distress. In 2024–2025, the number of recorded offenses increased multiple times compared to previous years, indicating a substantial deterioration of the country’s criminogenic situation.

The causes of this sharp increase in crime are primarily linked to a deep socio-economic crisis. Prolonged shortages of food, fuel, medicines, and other resources, the progressive impoverishment of the population, rising unemployment, and declining living standards have created motivations for committing crimes, particularly survival-related offenses such as petty theft, robbery, livestock theft, and the trade of scarce goods. A significant factor is also the expansion of the shadow economy, including illegal trade, smuggling, and drug trafficking, which has strengthened organized criminal structures. An additional catalyst is the low public trust in government institutions and the rare publication of reliable crime data, creating a sense of impunity and further encouraging criminal practices.

In the context of limited effectiveness of official security mechanisms, local residents are compelled to adapt to the increasing risks themselves. The main strategies include heightened personal vigilance, avoiding dangerous areas at night, minimizing the display of valuable items and money, and strengthening familial and neighborhood networks of mutual assistance, through which people monitor one another, warn of potential threats, and collectively ensure everyday security. In urban communities, informal warning systems have developed, relying on the exchange of information about crimes through word-of-mouth and social media. Additionally, some of the population seeks to reduce risks by internally migrating to safer areas, adjusting daily routines, and adapting habits to the new conditions. Consequently, in the absence of structured state measures to ensure security, Cubans actively develop local survival strategies based on collective solidarity, self-monitoring, and flexible adaptation to the worsening criminogenic environment.

Crime in Cuba exhibits characteristics that differ significantly from most other Latin American countries. Organized crime, such as cartels or gangs, is virtually nonexistent. Strict government control over the entire country prevents the formation of large criminal networks, and the limited availability of firearms among civilians contributes to an extremely low level of violent crime. According to local residents,

drug trafficking is minimal and is generally carried out by individual operators or small, loosely connected networks, with no sophisticated hierarchical structures typical of other countries in the region. As a result, Cuba is relatively safe in terms of violence and drug-related crime, creating a calmer environment for both tourists and residents.

However, social forms of opportunism are widespread, particularly those involving tourists. The phenomenon known as a “jintero” (or “jintera” for women) refers to streetwise hustlers who direct tourists to specific restaurants, bars, or hotels, often receiving a commission for doing so. Tourists frequently engage in friendly conversations with locals who appear helpful and eager to provide recommendations, but these interactions can gradually become pressuring, as the jintero insists on directing them toward particular establishments. The goal of such activity is not direct fraud or theft but rather to extract financial gain from tourists. Female jinteras operate similarly, sometimes inviting men out for an evening or a walk with the expectation of payment or other benefits, including potential material support or assistance with emigration. Unlike overt prostitution, these interactions function more as psychological and social games, using friendly flirtation and subtle hints that gradually turn into pressure. Such practices are particularly common near nightclubs, tourist hotels, and central streets, with lone male travelers being the most frequent targets.

Government measures aim to control these forms of crime. In the late 1990s, authorities reported having arrested and imprisoned thousands of prostitutes and dozens of pimps and initiated social rehabilitation programs. Police occasionally conduct raids in clubs and public areas to curb illegal activity, and tourists engaging in such arrangements may find themselves on the “wrong side of the law.”

Overall, Cuba’s criminal environment combines a low level of violent and organized crime with widespread local and social opportunistic behaviors driven by economic hardship and limited resources. Both residents and tourists must exercise caution, vigilance, financial prudence, careful selection of accommodations and entertainment venues, and rely on community awareness and collective solidarity to mitigate risks. The combination of strict government control, social programs, and limited firearm access prevents large criminal networks from functioning, resulting in a crime landscape that is primarily localized and small-scale in nature.

The official rhetoric of the Cuban government regarding crime is characterized by inconsistency and unpredictability. In early 2024, the regime publicly denied any increase in criminal activity, despite citizen reports of a growing wave of thefts and murders. However, just a few months later, authorities were forced to acknowledge the obvious: the level of violence, including incidents involving firearms, was indeed rising.

In June of the same year, the government officially recognized the increase in criminal offenses, including the illegal circulation of firearms, marking a significant turning point in the official interpretation of the country's crime situation. Shortly thereafter, President Miguel Díaz-Canel publicly acknowledged not only the rise in crime but also the spread of drug addiction, linking both phenomena to the broader social decline of the country.

Despite this acknowledgment, in October the authorities again attempted to downplay the severity of the crisis, claiming a decrease in crime rates, a position that clearly contradicted public perception and reports from independent media. By the end of December, the government had to concede that crime levels remained high, despite previous statements intended to minimize the perceived seriousness of the problem.

Thus, the official rhetoric regarding the criminal situation in Cuba demonstrates constant oscillation between denial, acknowledgment, and attempts to downplay the issue, reflecting the complexity of the country's socio-economic and political context, as well as the difficulties the state faces in managing public perceptions of safety.

Overall, the criminal situation in Cuba is characterized by a combination of low levels of violent and organized crime alongside widespread local and social forms of opportunism, particularly targeting tourists. Strict government control, limited access to firearms, and a centralized economy prevent the formation of large criminal networks and reduce violent crime, yet economic hardship, resource scarcity, and social inequality foster small-scale crimes and social manipulations, such as the activities of *jinteros* and *jinteras*. Official

rhetoric regarding crime levels remains inconsistent, oscillating between denial, partial acknowledgment, and attempts to downplay the severity of the problem, reflecting both socio-economic tensions and the state's desire to control public perception of safety. For tourists and residents alike, caution, vigilance, and adaptation to the changing criminogenic environment are essential. Cuba thus represents a unique case where a formally safe environment coexists with intensive social forms of economic and psychological pressure, shaped by historical, political, and economic factors.

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ENSURING PUBLIC SAFETY AND HUMAN RIGHTS BY THE POLICE IN CONDITIONS OF ARMED AGGRESSION

With the beginning of the large-scale armed aggression of the Russian Federation against Ukraine, the activities of the National Police have undergone significant transformations. During this period, the police have become one of the key subjects of the national security system, ensuring stability in the rear, maintaining law and order, protecting the rights and freedoms of a person and a citizen, and maintaining public trust in state institutions. The legal basis for police activities in martial law is the Constitution of Ukraine, the Law of

Ukraine “On the National Police” and the Law of Ukraine “On the Legal Regime of Martial Law”. According to these acts, the police perform tasks related to ensuring public security and order, protecting human rights and freedoms, as well as the interests of society and the state, combating crime, and providing, within the limits established by law, assistance services to persons who, for personal, economic, social reasons or as a result of emergency situations, require such assistance [1].

Along with the expansion of powers, the level of responsibility of police officers for respecting human rights is also increasing. The key principle is the proportionality of using measures of influence. A police officer must act exclusively within the law, even in crisis situations when there is a need to quickly respond to security challenges. The linguistic aspect of police activities acquires particular importance in wartime. The correct use of legal terms, a clear explanation of decisions and actions, ethical communication with citizens - all these are manifestations of respect for a person and factors in the formation of trust. In situations of mass evacuations, shelling, checkpoints, movement restrictions, or detentions, it is extremely important that the police officer's speech must be clear, calm, and free of aggression and ambiguity. This has a direct impact on the perception of the police as a humane institution of state power. The issue of psychological readiness of police officers to work in conditions of armed conflict is also important. Continuous stay in a zone of increased danger, working with injured citizens, recording war crimes, finding the bodies of the dead - all this requires high moral stability, professionalism and support from the leadership. Therefore, it is advisable to create a system of psychological support for police officers, similar to the models operating in NATO countries (in particular, in Poland and Lithuania). During martial law, the National Police actively interact with military administrations, the Armed Forces of Ukraine, the State Border Service, the Security Service of Ukraine and the State Emergency Service. Thus, in the conditions of introducing martial law, police officers participate in ensuring public safety and order in special conditions of service - this is activity during curfew hours, when active combat operations are taking place (as part of the process of de-occupation of territories); searching for the already mentioned sabotage groups, etc. And all this takes place in cooperation with units, for

example, the National Guard of Ukraine, volunteer formations of territorial communities, etc. [2, c.226].

The experience of the European Union states shows that even during war, ensuring human rights remains a basic criterion for the effectiveness of the law enforcement system. In most countries, the principle of “minimum restriction of rights with maximum security” is applied, which allows maintaining a balance between law and order and civil liberties. This approach is gradually being implemented in Ukrainian practice - through regulatory updates, the introduction of European standards of ethical police conduct, and the expansion of public reporting. The police currently also represent and fulfill Ukraine's obligations to Interpol and Europol and organize interaction with other law enforcement agencies and the aforementioned institutions. In addition, during martial law, the police collect biometric data of individuals, including fingerprinting, in cases provided for by the Criminal Procedure Code of Ukraine [3].

Therefore, ensuring public security and human rights by the police in conditions of armed aggression is a complex and multidimensional process that combines legal, organizational, psychological and linguistic aspects of law enforcement activities. The success of these tasks depends on the ability of the police to respond promptly to security challenges, maintain professionalism, humanity and adherence to the rule of law even in extreme conditions.

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PREVENTIVE METHODS OF COMBATING DRUG TRAFFICKING ON THE BORDER OF THE UNITED STATES AND MEXICO

Using drugs is one of the most essential diseases of American society. The spread of drug abuse in the United States is just incredible — there are now consumed about three-quarters of the cocaine produced in the world, over two and a half million Americans "sit on the needle" or regularly use drugs in other ways, and we are not talking about relatively "easy", say about marijuana, which since the sixties has become almost an organic part of the subculture, and about drugs "heavy" — about two million cocaine addicts, does not less than percent of the total population; a huge army of consumers of heroin, crack and other means. In General, it is believed that one in ten Americans, including schoolchildren, is addicted to drugs.

Today, Mexico is the main supplier of drugs to the United States. As you know, the United States ranks first in the world in drug consumption, respectively, neighboring Mexico at one point became profitable to use this American weakness. Drug trafficking in the country began to flourish, and with it began to appear the first drug cartels. Between 2005 and 2010 alone, seizures of marijuana increased by 49%, methamphetamine by 54%, heroin by 297%, and ecstasy by 839% at the southern border of the United States [1].

In 1947 a special police was created, the main purpose of which was the fight against drugs, but in fact its leadership was involved in the implementation of drug trafficking, because the police could easily be bribed.

In the 1990s, there was a sharp rise in the cocaine trade in Mexico. One of the reasons, paradoxically, was the North American free trade agreement (NAFTA), which was concluded by Canada, the United States and Mexico in 1994. Many farmers, due to the appearance of cheap American goods on the Mexican market, could not realize the sale of their goods, followed by the ruin and poverty of the majority of

the population. In 2006, Mexican President Felipe Calderon decided to put end the unrest in the country and declared war on the drug cartels. He tried to counter police corruption, which had grown to unthinkable levels and was due primarily to the minimum wage of Mexican police officers. Calderon also added tens of thousands of troops to help the local police of the Mexican States, and in most cases completely replaced the local police force.

All this time, the United States saw the problem mainly only in Mexico, on its population that consumes drugs, they focused much less attention. Therefore, the next program to support Mexico's domestic fight against drug cartels was the program of providing funds for the purchase of weapons and equipment, as well as military training, which was called the "Merida Initiative" or "Plan Mexico". In fact, it was supposed to help Mexico eradicate problems with lawless crime, as well as normalize the situation on the common border, both with regard to migration and drug trafficking. But unlike previous bilateral actions, Merida was based on the fact that the United States ranks first in the world in terms of drug consumption, so the initiative to combat drug trafficking according to the plan had to be General.

However, Merida did not produce the desired results, although in 2010 the Congress made a proposal to extend the project.

Almost in parallel with the "Merida" in 2006, the government began to carry out "Project Coronado", which lasted almost 4 years and ended with the famous operation to destroy the Mexican drug cartel La Familia. The essence of it was about the same as that of the above operation. During the program, 1,200 people were caught who were involved in the drug business in one way or another.

In 2017 the newly elected 45th President of the United States Donald Trump signed a decree on the protection of the state border, according to which it is planned to continue the construction of a wall on the border with Mexico [4].

In addition, on the southern border of the United States, the number of armed clashes between Mexicans and U.S. customs services increased, which led to a high concentration of border guards and special agents not only at the crossing points, but also along the entire length of the border.

However, despite all the actions taken, the drug war in Mexico is going on to this day, and unilateral actions, even with the support of the

United States, are not enough for Mexico. Therefore, it seems rational to take measures in the United States, because the level of drug use by Americans remains very high, the demand does not decrease and Americans continue to sell firearms to Mexicans. Of course, as a solution, many propose the abolition of criminal liability for the use and possession of drugs, in particular marijuana - one of the most used drugs in the United States. But such a development is unlikely to help, since the loss of marijuana in the drug cartel markets will certainly affect the cartel's finances, but only slightly: savvy dealers will find another way to profit. In addition, it is necessary to take into account the difference in the laws of the us States. In some of them, taxes on certain goods of limited consumption may vary, so they are also sold on the so-called gray market. A similar situation can happen with drugs.

One solution is to decriminalize drug users and provide them with mandatory medical services. A controversial view, but in a report outlining these ideas, the drug policy Commission referred to the successful implementation of decriminalization programs in Portugal and Australia.

Increased border security, tighter migration policy, as well as mass arrests also did not affect the business of drug cartels, because dealers not only began to transit drugs by land, but also by air, water and underground. In addition, according to a report by the U.S. border patrol, one in four of the five drug detainees is a U.S. citizen. Dealers recruit ordinary American citizens, threaten them, offer huge money, etc. It remains to act against the main motivation of the drug business-money, to carry out actions aimed at financial restrictions, not to spend the profits, freeze accounts, etc. But here again, a big role is played by corruption, which can contribute to the transition of certain banks to the side of criminals: what you can find a lot of evidence.

Thus, it can be concluded that perhaps only Latin American countries, including Mexico, can stop this drug boom and the accompanying drug war. Once Mexico legalizes cocaine, it will descend on the United States, which will not be able to stop it. By moving drugs from the black market, the government will be able to destroy the source of huge revenues of drug cartels, which will greatly weaken their position. If this happens, the entire regime of world control over drugs and drug trafficking will collapse. Accordingly, the war on drugs will become meaningless. Of course, the developed countries,

together with the United States, which are the main consumers, will have to choose ways to solve the resulting problem, which can be reduced to the same legalization and simultaneous development of the national Institute of health in the field of drugs, as well as decriminalization of consumers, i.e. in the future it may be more rational for America to pursue policies aimed at minimizing the harm from drugs, rather than trying to limit drug trafficking.

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FEATURES OF COMMUNICATION BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT AND SOCIETY UNDER MARTIAL LAW

Today, in a multidimensional world, cooperation between different countries and peoples at different levels is becoming extremely relevant. But the full-scale invasion of the Russian Federation on the territory of Ukraine on February 24, 2022 and the subsequent introduction of a legal martial law regime in Ukraine changed the lives of Ukrainians, which affected other areas of the state's functioning and

its position at the geopolitical level. One of these areas is changes in the communication of the authorities and society and the lawyer, as well as the specifics of Ukraine's communication at the international level.

Communication with citizens during martial law has its own specifics and features and requires a high level of competence from state and military bodies. Features in the tactics of communication under martial law are prompt information about the security situation, regular reminder of the rules for handling explosive objects involving various channels of interaction with citizens, reception and placement of IDPs, informing about where to apply and how to get help if property was destroyed or damaged as a result of military operations, it is important to improve communication through social networks, in particular, it is necessary to expand the list of presence in social networks – such as Instagram, Telegram, etc. According to a study from the public organization "detector media", after conducting a quantitative study to determine the index of media literacy of Ukrainians for 2020-2024, it was concluded that the level of the overall index of media literacy has significantly changed since the beginning of the Great War. During the period from 2021 to 2022, the audience sector with an above-average level of the indicator increased by 26%, but at the same time the number of Ukrainians with a low and below-average level of media competence decreased (from 45% to 29%) [1].

It should be noted that the level of media literacy among young people aged 18-35 remains high. In the period from 2023 to 2024, there was an increase in audience interest in the category of socio-political content in social networks from 62% to 70% and instant messengers from 55% to 62%. The number of people who receive information about socio-political news in communication with others has increased. That is, we can conclude that with the beginning of a full-scale invasion, internet media resources act as the main alternative channel of communication and interaction between political authorities and society for obtaining and providing various operational or general information.

It is necessary to pay attention to the importance of providing psychological support to the population and helping to solve problems that arise in connection with changes in life. Features of tactics of communication with citizens under martial law in Ukraine have their own characteristics due to the influence of external and internal

circumstances. Providing psychological support to the population can be using different methodologies. The main aspects of psychological support in such conditions include Crisis Intervention (immediate assistance, stabilization techniques); psychoeducation (informing, training); support for the injured (trauma therapy, group therapy); support for children and adolescents (adapted working methods; working with families) and others. In addition, it is important to understand changes in the psychological state of the population and help in solving everyday issues that arise due to the constant emotional impact that affects changes in personal life.

Political communication between the country's authorities and society in war conditions and its effectiveness depends on legal factors of regulation and various organizational forms. For this purpose, the law "on public consultations" was adopted and subsequently signed. The project was developed by the secretariat of the Cabinet of Ministers in constant cooperation with the public. The purpose of creating this law was due to the ability of the authorities to find out the opinion and position of community residents regarding the future development of the settlement and, involving residents in the discussion process, legalize a particular decision of the community for example, providing benefits, benefits to individual business entities, discussing and approving the symbols of the territorial community, defining strategic goals and a plan for their implementation, public discussion of issues, by holding public events in the format of meetings, round tables, hearings, conferences, focus groups, meetings, video conferences, obtaining operational information and its further application [2].

The tough sanctions policy of the west towards the enemy, adopted by the efforts of Ukrainian diplomacy, forcing countries to either abandon economic and military-political cooperation by the regime or expose themselves to secondary sanctions. As officials note, we have raised our level on the geopolitical map, not only entering the state of world democracies, but also taking one of the leading places. It is worth noting that Western countries support the democratic regime in Ukraine, on December 13, 2022, the EU agreed on another package of assistance in the amount of 18 billion euros. Euro [3]. It is worth noting that Ukrainian diplomacy played one of the defining roles in the creation of an influential security belt of the world, diplomatic Ramstein, the core of which is the consolidated West, these are more

than 140 States of the world, which in the period from March to October 2022 voted for the UN General Assembly resolutions condemning the Russian annexations in Ukraine and supported the full restoration of the territorial integrity and sovereignty of the Ukrainian state.

Currently, Ukrainian diplomats carry out a set of measures to prepare and create and implement the necessary international conditions and international legal support for the procedure for punishing the aggressor country, creating appropriate standards and methods for using photo and video materials of the crime of aggression on the territory of the state to compensate for losses caused by the war.

So, modern methods of communication are quite broad and effective, which makes it possible to quickly and efficiently organize a wide range of problems, the role of Ukrainian diplomacy, in turn, will be an important element of the foreign policy strategy both before and after the conflict in order to prevent new and prevent a repeat of the invasion. Today, state diplomats and all state institutions carry out a set of measures to prepare and create and implement the necessary international conditions and introduce regulatory factors to ensure communications at the interstate level.

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POLICE ON THE FRONTLINE: TRANSFORMATION OF FUNCTIONS DURING THE PERIOD OF MARTIAL LAW

With the beginning of the full-scale armed aggression of the russian federation against Ukraine, the National Police found themselves in a unique situation, when the traditional tasks in the field of ensuring public order and combating crime were supplemented by a number of new functions characteristic of war conditions. The police became a kind of “rearline front”, because their activities directly affect the stability of society, the functioning of the infrastructure and the psychological resilience of citizens [1].

In peacetime, the key areas of police work were the protection of public order, the detection and investigation of crimes, and the protection of human rights and freedoms. However, after the introduction of martial law [2], the scope of tasks increased

significantly. Police officers check documents and inspect vehicles in border areas, guard strategic facilities, participate in countering sabotage groups, monitor compliance with curfews, and organize filtration measures. They also ensure public safety during evacuations, accompany humanitarian cargo, and assist in the resettlement of internally displaced persons. In many cases, the police perform functions that were not previously inherent to them, but without their implementation it is impossible to guarantee the normal functioning of rear areas [3].

Tasks in the field of combating looting, illegal arms trafficking, and property crimes have become particularly relevant. The war has created the prerequisites for an increase in the level of crime, in particular due to the displacement of a large number of people, economic instability, and limited control of state institutions in front-line areas. In these conditions, the police have become the main force restraining the development of criminal practices [4].

An important direction is countering cyber threats. Russia actively uses methods of information warfare - the spread of disinformation, hacking of state information resources, and attacks on critical infrastructure. Cyber police units perform tasks to detect and block such attacks, document crimes in the field of information security, and counteract hostile propaganda in social networks [5]. This indicates that police activities in wartime cover both physical and digital space.

No less important is the humanitarian component of police work. Law enforcement officers help evacuate civilians, including children, the elderly people and persons with disabilities. They accompany humanitarian corridors, provide security for columns of displaced persons, and maintain order in places of temporary stay of internally displaced persons. In this way, the police play the role of a social institution that ensures not only law and order, but also support for the most vulnerable categories of the population [3].

At the same time, the transformation of police functions gives rise to a number of problems. First, personnel: a significant number of employees have been mobilized into the ranks of the Armed Forces of Ukraine, others have left the service due to the high level of risk, which leads to a shortage of personnel. Second, legal aspect: legislation does not always have time to adapt to new realities, as a result, collisions

arise between the need to quickly respond to threats and the need to respect human rights. Third, organizational aspect: the police must operate simultaneously in different areas – from law enforcement to cyberspace – which requires additional resources and special training. Fourth, psychological aspect: police officers work in stressful conditions, which negatively affect their efficiency and motivation [4].

International experience proves that in conditions of military conflicts, the role of the police always changes. In Israel, for example, the police play a key role in countering terrorist threats within the country, while the army focuses on external threats. In the countries of the former Yugoslavia, the police ensured the safety of the civilian population during military operations and contributed to the recovery processes after the conflict. American experience shows that during military campaigns, the police are actively involved in protecting strategic objects and controlling internal security. These examples emphasize that the police in wartime become not just a law enforcement, but also a defensive element of the state.

Given the Ukrainian realities, it can be argued that the police have become one of the key institutions supporting the stability of society during the war. It combines the functions of a classic law enforcement structure and an element of national defense. Further development of this area requires improving the legislative framework, expanding international cooperation, ensuring an adequate level of material and technical equipment and social guarantees for police officers [1].

Thus, the police on the "front line" is the institution that allows society to survive in war conditions. At the same time, it performs tasks of ensuring law and order, combating crime, maintaining cyber defense, humanitarian aid and defense activities. Its transformation under martial law indicates the ability of state institutions to adapt to new challenges and ensure the safety of citizens even in the most difficult circumstances.

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INTERNATIONAL LEGAL ASSISTANCE IN CRIMINAL PROCEEDINGS: CURRENT STATUS AND PROSPECTS OF DEVELOPMENT

International legal assistance in criminal proceedings is a key tool for combating transnational crime, which is becoming increasingly globalized and complex in modern conditions. The concept of "international legal assistance" covers a set of actions by the competent authorities of one state at the request of the authorities of another one in order to obtain evidence, serve procedural documents, execute court decisions or carry out procedural actions necessary to ensure the legality and fairness of criminal proceedings [1].

Legislative and international regulation of the institution of legal assistance was established in numerous international treaties and

conventions, including the European Convention on Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters of 1959 and additional protocols thereto, as well as the provisions of the Geneva Conventions on Legal Interaction between States in Criminal Matters [2]. In Ukraine, the regulatory framework includes the Criminal Procedure Code (Articles 541-550), the Law of Ukraine “On International Treaties of Ukraine” and the Law “On Private International Law”. The central bodies implementing international legal assistance are the Ministry of Justice and the Prosecutor General’s Office [3].

The institution of international legal assistance covers several main forms:

- provision of evidence (testimonies, documents, material evidence);
- service of procedural documents;
- conduct of procedural actions on the territory of another state;
- extradition of persons who have committed crimes;
- transfer of criminal proceedings between states;
- recognition and enforcement of foreign court decisions.

The practical implementation of international legal assistance in Ukraine faces a number of problems. First, the length of procedures complicates the efficiency of the investigation and judicial proceedings. Second, the difference in the legal systems of the participating states can lead to conflicts and difficulties in executing requests. Thirdly, there are problems of ensuring human rights, since any action on the territory of another state requires compliance with international standards. Finally, insufficient coordination between state bodies complicates the effective execution of international requests [4].

According to the Prosecutor General’s Office of Ukraine, in 2023, more than 400 requests for international legal assistance were registered, of which 65% concerned obtaining evidence, 20% – extradition, and 15% – execution of court decisions [5]. These data indicate a high demand for international legal assistance and the need to improve the procedures for its implementation.

The prospects for the development of the institute include:

- harmonization of national legislation with international standards;
- use of modern electronic platforms for the exchange of procedural information;

- deepening cooperation with international organizations (Interpol, Europol, International Criminal Court);
- improving the skills of employees of justice bodies and prosecutors in the field of international cooperation [6].

Thus, international legal assistance in criminal proceedings remains a relevant and necessary tool for ensuring the rule of law and effective justice. At the same time, practice requires constant improvement of regulatory mechanisms, increased coordination between agencies, and compliance with international human rights standards.

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PECULIARITIES OF POLICE ACTIVITIES UNDER MARTIAL LAW

The introduction of martial law in Ukraine as a result of the armed aggression of the Russian Federation has significantly transformed the conditions for the functioning of the law enforcement system. The police, as one of the key actors in ensuring public safety, have faced new challenges – an increased level of danger, a rise in criminal activity, and growing threats of sabotage and terrorist acts. Under such circumstances, traditional approaches to maintaining public order have proven insufficiently effective, which has necessitated adapting police activities to wartime realities.

The Law of Ukraine “On the Legal Regime of Martial Law” defines the fundamental principles of the organization of state power during a special period, in particular establishing the legal status of military administrations, local self-government bodies, and law enforcement structures. Within the activities of the police, this legal act provides for a special procedure for maintaining public order, enhanced crime control, countering sabotage and terrorist threats, as well as stricter liability for crimes against state security [1].

An important component of modern police work under martial law is the implementation of digital technologies. The use of video surveillance systems with artificial intelligence elements makes it possible to detect suspicious behavior and record offenses in real time. Moreover, analytical platforms enable forecasting potential threats and responding promptly to changes in the criminogenic situation.

Equally important is the cooperation between the police, military administrations, local authorities, and the community. Such coordination allows for faster information exchange, better alignment of actions, and a comprehensive approach to crime prevention [3].

A special place in police activity is occupied by countering information and cyber threats, which have become an integral part of hybrid warfare. The use of modern cybersecurity tools, social media monitoring, and information campaigns helps to reduce the influence of enemy propaganda, prevent panic, and maintain public stability.

The conditions of martial law also require strengthening personnel policies within the police. Improving professional training, mastering tactical medicine, developing communication skills, and enhancing officers' psychological resilience are the key issues ensuring effective law enforcement performance in crisis situations [2, p.71].

Thus, police activity under martial law is characterized by high risk, the need for rapid response, and flexibility in decision-making. Effective performance of duties is possible only through a comprehensive approach that combines modern technologies, analytics, community cooperation, and proper professional training of personnel.

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COMMUNICATION AND LEGAL ASPECTS OF POLICE WORK: EXPERIENCE OF UKRAINE AND FOREIGN COUNTRIES

Effective police work is extremely important today for ensuring law and order, public safety, and building public trust in state institutions. Given the close attention paid by society, the communication and legal aspects of law enforcement activities are of particular importance. Successful interaction between the police and citizens, the media, and the public sphere in general depends on its openness, transparency, and willingness to engage in constructive dialogue, which is a necessary condition for forming a positive image and increasing the effectiveness of law enforcement. At the same time, any action taken by the police, whether routine patrolling or complex special operations, must be strictly regulated by law and based on the principles of the rule of law and unconditional respect for human rights and freedoms. In the context of the ongoing reform of the Ukrainian law enforcement system and the challenges of full-scale aggression, the need to study and implement international best practices is becoming critically important. The achievements of foreign countries that have successfully harmonized democratic control with a high level of professionalism and legal culture among their police officers serve as an important benchmark for the further development of the National Police of Ukraine.

Although police law has traditionally been viewed primarily through the prism of national law enforcement, the current situation is gradually changing, as evidenced by numerous scientific sources. Police authorities in different countries are now actively cooperating at the international level, exchanging information and data, and their cross-border activities are regulated by international agreements. There is another, less obvious aspect: the influence of other countries' legal systems on the development of national legislation. In many countries, for example, in European states, foreign experience is often taken into

account when formulating legal decisions or adopting new laws. Ukrainian legislation on the police has also developed along similar lines. This raises the important question of the need to take international experience into account when interpreting national police law. In the field of private international and tax law, another tool is used – “harmonisation of decisions”. This mechanism aims to ensure the uniform interpretation of legal terms both in the national legal system and in the legal system of another country with which Ukraine maintains legal relations, which is necessary for the recognition of this interpretation abroad. In the field of national policing, its elements are present in bilateral international agreements and provisions on cross-border exchange of personal data in the legislation of individual countries. Key concepts such as “public safety” and “public order” play a crucial role in such documents. Given the practice of harmonization, there is increasing talk of the denationalization of administrative law and the view that “the full alignment of Ukrainian law with European standards is only a matter of time” [3, p. 23-24].

The European integration vector necessitated the transformation of Ukraine's law enforcement system and the creation of the National Police (NPU) in July 2015 based on a centralized European model. This reform required a rethinking of the administrative and legal status of police officers, the key components of which determine the effectiveness of the service and the overall state of law and order. The main regulatory act – the Law of Ukraine “On the National Police” – establishes its tasks, principles, system, powers, procedure for the application of police measures, selection procedures, and accountability [1]. However, among the shortcomings is the insufficient legislative consolidation of the status of individual structural units, which is often determined only by subordinate acts. The administrative and legal status of a police officer is a combination of their powers, main duties, legal restrictions, guarantees of activity, and legal responsibility. It is a complex category that encompasses the general status of a citizen, the special status defined by the Law on the National Police, and the official status. The features of this status include powers (both internal and external), performing activities on behalf of the state, specific criteria for service, guarantees of professional activity, and special legal liability (administrative, criminal, civil, and disciplinary). Importantly, acquiring the status of a police officer narrows the scope of the general

legal status of a citizen. The powers of a police officer are of a state-authoritative nature, and their administrative and legal status includes elements enshrined both at the level of the position (job descriptions) and general elements defined by law for all police officers [2, p. 61-78].

The Japanese police, reformed after 1945 and regulated by the Police Act of 1954, operate within the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications as a centralized system headed by the National Police Agency. Its responsibilities include protecting life, preventing crime, controlling traffic, and maintaining public safety. Japanese police officers have broad powers, including the right to stop and question individuals (without coercion), provide emergency protection to individuals who are intoxicated or mentally disturbed (for up to 24 hours), and enter private property in cases of imminent danger. The use of firearms is strictly regulated and is only possible as a last resort to prevent resistance or escape in cases of serious crimes or arrests [2, p. 79-82].

The Israeli police is subordinate to the Ministry of Internal Security and is responsible for enforcing laws, maintaining public order and internal security, and combating terrorism (through the Yamam unit). Structurally, the police have a three-tier system (Headquarters, districts, and stations) and actively engage with the public, in particular through the Mishmar Ezrahim (volunteer assistants) organization. The Israeli police pays considerable attention to training and is known for its high level of professionalism, which is confirmed by the positive perception of its citizens [2, p. 82-84].

The Dubai Police operates under the Department of Internal Affairs and is governed by Sharia law, Emirate law, and the Commander-in-Chief's Orders. The 1993 reforms emphasized stability, respect for traditions, and equal treatment for all. The structure is three-tiered (Headquarters, General Departments, Precincts). A distinctive feature is the presence of the General Department for Human Rights and differentiated professional training. The service is mainly open to UAE citizens, with foreigners only allowed in special units (e.g., in the field of computer communications). The specifics of Islamic law impose strict restrictions on behavior in public places, and violations by foreigners can lead to deportation [2, p. 85-87].

Therefore, summarizing global experience, it is possible to identify common features of the administrative and legal status of

police officers: acting in accordance with the law, close interaction with the population, specific criteria for admission and service, professional training, and the use of various coercive measures in cases provided for by law.

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ACTIVITIES OF LAW ENFORCEMENT BODIES OF UKRAINE DURING THE WAR: CHANGES AND REFORMS

Topicality: The armed conflict ongoing since 2014, as well as the full-scale invasion of Russia in 2022, has significantly aggravated on the situation in the country as a whole, and especially on the system of state bodies that ensure the security of citizens.

Law enforcement agencies are part of the state mechanism and their role in the unstable time of difficulties and changes that arose since the full-scale armed invasion of Russia into Ukraine at the end of February 2022 was reflected in changes in the activities of law enforcement agencies. To ensure the safety of citizens were made amendments to the legislation.

Legislative changes have transformed the work of both the National Police of Ukraine and all law enforcement agencies.

The purpose of the study is to identify the main changes in legislation in the activities of law enforcement agencies, starting with the legal regime of the anti-terrorist operation of 2014-2018 and ending with the declaration of martial law on February 24, 2022 and the legal consequences for law enforcement officials, to assess their scope and consequences for law enforcement agencies and international organizations in terms of increasing the effectiveness of human rights protection in armed conflict.

Main body. Only the actual declaration of war by the Russian Federation, albeit carried out with the traditional for this country deceptive disguise as a “special operation”, led to the adoption of the initial decree of the Ukrainian Commander-in-Chief – the President of Ukraine “On the introduction of martial law in Ukraine”, which was adopted on February 24, 2022 and on the same day approved by the Law of Ukraine and subsequently repeatedly extended for 90 days according to the procedure established for this type of legal regime [1].

The decree on the introduction of martial law established general tasks (to repel armed aggression and ensure national security, eliminate threats to the state independence of Ukraine and its territorial integrity) and special tasks of state bodies (defined by the Law of Ukraine "On the Legal Regime of Martial Law" and special tasks of the State Emergency Service as a specialized law enforcement body), provided for the need for interaction to achieve these tasks and the possibility of restricting a certain range of human and legal entity rights.

The Law of Ukraine “On the Legal Regime of Martial Law” [2], to which the decree of the President of Ukraine refers, defines the following regulatory provisions addressed to law enforcement agencies:

1) the function of protecting public order and public security, which is entrusted to military administrations, the possibility of sending private and commanding personnel of law enforcement agencies to military administrations in a special order, other law enforcement functions of military administrations (Articles 4, 15 of the Law);

2) numerous possible restrictions of a prohibitive nature (e.g. ban on protest events, curfew), of a control nature (e.g. various inspections, surveys), regarding property (e.g. seizure of explosives, obligation to quarter the defense forces), regarding labor rights (e.g. special working time regime and involvement of the population in the construction of

defense structures) and others provide for a justified application and explanation to the population (Articles 8-9 of the Law). Obviously, compliance with the procedure regulated by law for such actions and settlement at the primary level of complaints about the actions of military officials is possible with the effective work of employees who have the competence to reasonably restrict rights: law enforcement officers;

3) the powers of the President of Ukraine regarding strategic leadership, involvement of law enforcement agencies in the implementation of measures of the legal regime of martial law (Article 11 of the Law);

4) a group of articles that define the legal boundaries of justified and not excessive restrictions on the rights of citizens, foreign persons and other non-residents, legal entities, guarantees of protection of rights in wartime, issues of justice regarding violations of rights (Articles 20-26 of the Law).

In general, compared to the legal bases of the anti-terrorist operation declared in 2014 and the joint forces operation in 2018, the legal regulation of the actions of officials, in particular law enforcement agencies, in 2022 looks more specific and addressed, among other structures, to law enforcement agencies.

The activities of the national police during the war also underwent significant changes. First of all, the new part of Article 8 of the Law of Ukraine “On the National Police” [3] states that during martial law, the police act in accordance with the purpose and specifics of their activities, taking into account those restrictions on the rights and freedoms of citizens, as well as the rights and legitimate interests of legal entities, which are determined in accordance with the Constitution of Ukraine and the Law of Ukraine “On the Legal Regime of Martial Law” [4; 2].

In order to systematically improve the activities of the national police at the first stage of the war, in 2022, several laws supplementing its legal regulation were adopted:

1) The Law of Ukraine “On Amendments to the Laws of Ukraine “On the National Police” and “On the Disciplinary Statute of the National Police of Ukraine” in order to optimize police activities, including during martial law” [5];

2) Law of Ukraine “On Amendments to the Law of Ukraine “On the Legal Status of Missing Persons” and other legislative acts of Ukraine on improving the legal regulation of public relations related to the acquisition of the status of persons missing under special circumstances” [6];

3) Law of Ukraine “On Amendments to Certain Laws of Ukraine Regarding the Assignment of Special Police Ranks During Martial Law” [7].

The legislator provided for the expansion of the list and improvement of the procedure for conducting police measures and operations, for example, the use of unmanned aerial vehicles and special technical means to counter their use; the use of any available means, and not only those special means provided for in Article 45 of the Law [8]. Also, for military needs, the procedures for conducting disciplinary investigations and bringing police officers to justice, their wearing of uniforms, certain aspects of assigning special ranks, and some other personnel procedures were simplified [9].

Conclusions. During the first stage of the Russian Federation's hybrid war against Ukraine (the legal regime of the anti-terrorist operation (2014-2018), the regulatory decisions adopted by the military command practically did not change the administrative activities of the law enforcement agencies of Ukraine. This period was marked by poor organization of the actions of the Ukrainian authorities, including law enforcement agencies, the possibility of insignificant forces of quasi-military forces and limited contingents of the armed forces of the aggressor country to take control and establish an occupation regime on a fairly significant territory of Ukraine. We conclude that such catastrophic consequences were due, among other things, to the insufficiency of administrative and legal decisions regarding the activities of authorities, the lack of clear instructions to authorities, in particular law enforcement.

When the legal regime of the joint forces operation replaced the regime of the anti-terrorist operation (2018-2021), the analysis of regulatory regulation indicates, on the one hand, the fragmentation and declarative nature of regulated changes in the activities of law enforcement agencies, and on the other hand, the inconsistency of the administrative and legal regulation of the actions of executive bodies and, in particular, law enforcement agencies in regulatory acts adopted

during the second phase of the Russian war against Ukraine. Law enforcement agencies did not receive detailed tasks and powers for the current phase of the war, and the tasks assigned to them were not coordinated or saturated with specific powers.

With the declaration of martial law, which was adopted on February 24, 2022 and approved by the Law of Ukraine on the same day and subsequently repeatedly extended for 90 days according to the procedure specified for this type of legal regime, a special decree established general tasks (repelling armed aggression and ensuring national security, eliminating threats to the state independence of Ukraine and its territorial integrity) and special tasks of state bodies, provided for the need for interaction to achieve these tasks and the possibility of restricting a certain range of human rights and legal entities.

The greatest regulatory and organizational regulation of activities during the war period occurred with regard to the national police, whose powers were strengthened precisely in terms of involving them in administrative procedures for supporting military operations, in particular, securing territories adjacent to combat operations and protecting their residents.

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INTERPOL'S EXPERIENCE IN COMBATING DRUG-RELATED CRIME

According to statistics, before the full-scale invasion, in 2022 there were 20,140 cases of criminal offenses related to the circulation of narcotic drugs in Ukraine without the purpose of sale, 10,162 with the purpose of sale, 1,716 cases of poppy and hemp cultivation, and 115 cases of smuggling. Interpol as International Criminal Police Organization that fights all types of crime has to counteract such crimes,

and also Ukraine as a member country of Interpol. So, I want to talk about INTERPOL's experience specifically in drugs fight because, at present, combating these criminal offenses is a very pressing issue, and INTERPOL has extensive experience in investigating and stopping them.

INTERPOL notes that Criminal networks traffic a range of drugs including cannabis, cocaine, heroin and synthetics such as methamphetamine and fentanyl. As international borders become increasingly porous, global abuse and accessibility to drugs have become increasingly widespread. This international trade involves growers, producers, transporters, suppliers and dealers. It affects all of our member countries, undermining political and economic stability, ruining the lives of individuals and damaging communities. The end-users and addicts are often the victims of a powerful and manipulative business. Drug trafficking is often associated with other forms of crime, such as money laundering or corruption. Meanwhile, trafficking routes are used by criminal networks to transport other illicit products including firearms, uncut diamonds and live pangolins creating a convergence of crime.

As criminals devise ever-more creative ways of disguising illegal drugs for transport, law enforcement officials face challenges in detecting such concealed substances. In addition, new synthetic drugs are produced on a regular basis, so police need to be aware of new trends and products on the illicit market. Since the types of drugs trafficked and the routes used are constantly evolving, it is essential that countries work together in a united and coordinated way. At INTERPOL, we offer a range of services including training and operational support to help law enforcement agencies around the world increase their capacity to detect and investigate drug trafficking.

Last successful operation was on 21 October 2025, when the Kenyan Navy intercepted a dhow around 340 nautical miles east off the coast of Mombasa. The operation came after intelligence was shared between the Regional Narcotics Interagency Fusion Cell (RNIFC) in Bahrain, and the Regional Coordination Operations Centre (RCOC) in Seychelles. Three days later, the vessel was brought to Mombasa, where a multi-agency coordination centre was established under the chairmanship of the Deputy Commander of the Kenyan Navy. In its advisory and mentoring capacity, INTERPOL played a central role in

overseeing search operations and ensuring rigorous crime scene management to support future judicial proceedings. INTERPOL also coordinated operational support from the U.S. Naval Criminal Investigative Service (NCIS), which deployed two officials to help with search operations and communication with crew members. In total, authorities uncovered 769 packets of a crystal substance weighing 1,024 kg. Forensic analysis by the Government Chemist confirmed the substance to be methamphetamine with a purity level of 98%. Experts in Kenya estimate the seizure to be worth more than KES 8 billion (USD 63 million). Six crew members were arrested and are facing drug trafficking charges. Investigations are ongoing under Kenya's Anti-Narcotics Unit. This operation highlights the importance of international cooperation and information sharing in addressing maritime drug trafficking and strengthening regional security across the Indian Ocean. In my opinion, this operation shows how experienced Interpol officers are and how important it is to cooperate with this organization and learn from their experience.

Other well-known operations are following: 1) Operation LIONFISH-HURRICANE (April–May) highlighted the evolving cocaine trafficking routes from South America to Europe via West Africa, leading to seizures valued at USD 1.6 billion. Authorities confiscated 56 tonnes of cocaine and over 500 tonnes of precursor chemicals, with more than 200 offenders arrested across 31 countries. Intelligence gathered further exposed the extent of poly-criminality, enabling the seizure of weapons, explosives, vehicles, and properties linked to organized crime networks. 2) Tri-Border Operation (December - Pre-Operational Phase): INTERPOL initiated the strategic planning for an operation targeting organized crime and poly-crime activities across the borders of Turkey, Bulgaria, and Greece. Intelligence and analytical officers were deployed to the tri-border region to prepare for a 2025 operation aimed at dismantling criminal networks, seizing illicit drugs, gathering intelligence, and strengthening border security in this high-risk region. 3) Project POSEIDON: Throughout 2024, INTERPOL provided intelligence and analytical support to Project POSEIDON, a joint initiative with EUROPOL analyzing the SkyECC dataset on organized crime activity in Africa. INTERPOL identified key intelligence matches related to a 750kg cocaine shipment from South America to Benin, facilitating a case

coordination meeting between the two countries to advance multijurisdictional investigations and joint operational action plans.

Successful operation of the National Police of Ukraine was on 13.05.2025. In a large-scale operation covering 15 regions of Ukraine, police successfully uncovered an organized group involved in the production and supply of psychotropic substances, including alpha-PVP, amphetamine, and mephedrone. The operation took place in the morning simultaneously in Kyiv and in regions such as Kyiv, Chernihiv, Sumy, Zhytomyr, Dnipropetrovsk, Kharkiv, Odesa, Lviv, Cherkasy, Kirovohrad, Volyn, Mykolaiv, Ternopil, and Khmelnytskyi. According to the National Police of Ukraine, the suspects created an extensive network of drug laboratories and warehouses where they manufactured, packaged, and stored illegal substances. Their facilities were capable of producing over 700 kg of drugs per month, which were supplied to consumers from various regions of the country. It is estimated that the market value of the drugs on the black market exceeds 300 million hryvnias. "Seventeen drug laboratories and 15 warehouses with psychotropic substances have been eliminated. Seized were 118 kg of mephedrone, 160 liters of reaction mixtures equivalent to 80 kg of mephedrone, 156 kg of alpha-PVP, over 30 kg of amphetamine, as well as 12 tons of precursors," the police stated. As we can see, the employees of the National Police of Ukraine are also successfully working to stop this type of crime, conducting large-scale operations. Ukraine can carry out operations together with Interpol forces in order to further develop in this area and improve the skills for investigating these crimes.

In conclusion, I want to say that studying the experience of such a global multinational organization as INTERPOL is very important because highlighting the expertise of specialists from different parts of the world can positively contribute to increasing the detection of crimes in the field of drug trafficking in our country. Currently, during the full-scale invasion, most law enforcement officers focus more on war crimes, and as a result, drug criminals try to expand their illegal business and circumvent outdated methods of preventing drug-related crimes. However, the National Police of Ukraine does not stand still and continues working to improve the situation in the country.

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U.S. POLICE EFFORTS IN COMBATING CRIME: STRATEGIES, CHALLENGES, AND OUTCOMES

The fight against crime remains a cornerstone of public safety, with police forces worldwide employing a variety of strategies to prevent, detect, and respond to criminal activities. In recent years, particularly leading into 2025, law enforcement agencies have adapted to evolving threats such as cybercrime, organized violence, transnational drug trafficking, and persistent community distrust following high-profile incidents of the early 2020s. We will try to examine the methods used by police to combat crime, the challenges they face, key statistics, measurable outcomes, and promising future approaches.

Police employ a multifaceted approach combining traditional enforcement with innovative technologies and community partnerships. Key strategies in 2024–2025 include:

- Hot-spot policing and focused deterrence (continued expansion in over 80 major U.S. cities).
- Precision policing initiatives that target the small percentage of repeat violent offenders responsible for the majority of shootings.
- Community violence intervention (CVI) programs using credible messengers and hospital-based interventions.
- Widespread adoption of the Group Violence Intervention (GVI).
- Integration of AI-driven predictive analytics, gunshot detection systems (ShotSpotter), and license-plate readers
- Real-time crime centers in more than 120 U.S. jurisdictions by mid-2025/
- Enhanced federal–state–local task forces under the DOJ’s Violent Crime Reduction Strategy (Project Safe Neighborhoods 2.0)

There are common technology trends in 2025 used by police to combat crime:

- cloud-based records and case management systems,
- mobile apps for officers and public reporting,
- body-worn cameras with live-streaming and automatic activation compliance monitoring,
- drone-as-first-responder (DFR) programs.

Public opinion shows 67 % of Americans favor addressing root causes (poverty, mental health, education) over simply “more police presence,” while 81 % still support maintaining or increasing police funding if paired with accountability reforms (Pew Research Center, June 2025).

Despite progress, major obstacles and challenges persist for law enforcement agencies in the USA, namely:

- Nationwide officer shortages: approximately 70,000–90,000 vacancies across U.S. agencies in 2025.
- Recruitment and retention crisis worsened by early retirements and low morale
- Declining case clearance rates: national homicide clearance rate fell to ~50 % in 2023–2024 (lowest since the 1960s).

- Explosion of cybercrime and cryptocurrency-enabled fraud (FBI IC3 2024 report: \$12.5 billion in losses).
- Federal funding uncertainty: proposed 2026 budget cuts to COPS Hiring Program and Byrne-JAG grants threaten sustainability of many violence-reduction initiatives.
- Eroded public trust in certain communities, particularly among younger and minority populations (Gallup 2025: only 43 % of Americans express “a great deal” or “quite a lot” of confidence in police—the lowest since 1993).

According to statistics and outcomes (2021–2025):

- FBI preliminary data (Q1–Q3 2025): violent crime down ~6 % nationally compared with 2024, continuing the sharp post-2020 decline.
- Homicide rates in major cities participating in focused deterrence/CVI programs dropped 15–60 % (Oakland: –56 % since 2021; Chicago: –21 % in 2024–2025; Richmond, CA: –70 % since re-implementation of Operation Peacemaker).
- DOJ’s Violent Crime Initiative cities (2022–2025): average 18 % reduction in homicides and 12 % reduction in non-fatal shootings.
- NIBRS transition completed: 94% of U.S. population now covered by modernized crime reporting (2025).
- Community violence intervention meta-analysis (Campbell Collaboration 2025): programs reduce violent incidents by an average of 30–50 % in treated areas

Conclusion. The police’s battle against crime in 2025 is characterized by innovation, evidence-based practice, and a gradual shift from purely reactive enforcement toward prevention and community co-production of safety. The most successful jurisdictions combine precision policing against the highest-risk individuals with credible community partnerships and social services. Sustaining these gains will require stable federal and state funding, aggressive recruitment and wellness initiatives for officers, continued technology investment, and honest reckoning with legitimacy and trust deficits. A purely enforcement-heavy approach is neither politically viable nor empirically optimal; the future of public safety lies in balanced, holistic strategies that treat violence as a preventable public-health problem while preserving the ability to respond decisively when prevention fails.

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FEATURES OF POLICE ACTIVITIES UNDER MARTIAL LAW

The National Police of Ukraine is fundamentally a civilian law enforcement institution, established to maintain public order, protect citizens' rights and freedoms, and ensure the rule of law throughout the country. Although the police possess special ranks and are vested with specific powers, such as the lawful use of firearms, special means, and other coercive measures, their overall structure and mission remain civilian in nature.

However, during periods of active hostilities, the National Police have had to adapt rapidly to new realities, taking on functions traditionally associated with paramilitary or defense formations. In addition to performing routine policing tasks, officers now participate in demining operations, counter-sabotage and reconnaissance missions, and security stabilization in liberated areas. These responsibilities often require direct engagement with enemy forces, including professional Russian military units, making the role of the police both complex and high-risk.

It should be emphasized that, under martial law, the scope of police authority has been significantly expanded. Police officers now have broader rights to apply coercive measures, conduct checks, detain suspects, and participate in defense-related operations. This extension of powers reflects the extraordinary circumstances of wartime governance, where maintaining law and order directly supports national defense. The delegation of such powers to police and other executive bodies aligns with the core objective of martial law - the protection of Ukraine's sovereignty, independence, and territorial integrity, as well as the restoration of public safety and stability in areas affected by military aggression [1, p. 97].

According to the Law of Ukraine «On the Legal Regime of Martial Law»,

«Martial law is a special legal regime introduced in Ukraine or in certain areas of its territory in the event of armed aggression or the threat of attack, danger to the state independence of Ukraine, its territorial integrity, and entails granting the relevant state authorities, military command, military administrations, and local self-government bodies the powers necessary to avert threats, repel armed aggression, and ensure national security, as well as the temporary, threat-related restriction of constitutional rights and freedoms of individuals and citizens and the rights and legitimate interests of legal entities, indicating the duration of such restrictions» [2].

In this context, special attention is drawn to the interaction between the National Police of Ukraine and paramilitary units in matters of ensuring public safety and order, as well as in joint operations at checkpoints during the period of national resistance, armed opposition, and martial law. Under martial law, police officers operate in special service conditions, participating in activities such as maintaining public order during curfews, ensuring security in areas of active hostilities, particularly within the process of territorial de-occupation, and searching for enemy sabotage and reconnaissance groups.

All these actions are conducted in coordination with units of the National Guard of Ukraine, volunteer formations of territorial communities, and other defense structures [3, p. 226].

As O. Chudnovskiy aptly notes, it is necessary to legally enshrine the provision that volunteer formations of territorial communities, when

performing tasks related to ensuring public safety and maintaining order jointly with the National Police, should be placed in operational subordination to police representatives. This subordination would ensure a unified chain of command, enhance coordination and control over joint activities, and prevent possible conflicts of authority or duplication of functions.

Such an approach would also contribute to the effectiveness and legality of security measures, particularly in settlements located within combat or de-occupied zones, where cooperation between police officers and territorial defense units is critical. Establishing a clear legal framework for this interaction would promote discipline, accountability, and the protection of citizens' rights while maintaining a consistent and organized public security system under martial law conditions [4, p. 44].

Regarding the maintenance of public safety and order, the Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine «On the introduction and implementation of certain measures of the legal regime of martial law» approved the Procedure for implementing measures during the imposition of curfew and establishment of special blackout regimes in areas under martial law [5].

According to this Procedure, checkpoints and patrols are established in such territories - not only by patrol police officers but also by members of the Armed Forces, the National Guard, and the State Border Guard Service, who perform duties along routes determined by the local commandant. These patrols are vested with a number of important powers during the curfew period, as defined by the Procedure [1, p. 97].

Thus, during martial law, the National Police of Ukraine functions not only as a civil law enforcement body but also performs paramilitary tasks aimed at protecting national security. Police officers cooperate with the Armed Forces, National Guard, and territorial defense units to maintain public safety, law, and order in conditions of armed conflict. Legal acts such as the Law of Ukraine «On the Legal Regime of Martial Law» (2015) and Cabinet Resolution № 573 (2020) define their expanded powers, including activities at checkpoints, during curfews, and in counter-sabotage operations.

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CONSTITUTIONAL AND LEGAL LIMITS ON THE RESTRICTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND FREEDOMS DURING POLICE MEASURES UNDER MARTIAL LAW

The introduction of Martial law in Ukraine, caused by the full-scale armed aggression of Russia, has changed the previously stable balance between ensuring public security and protecting individual rights. The National Police, as one of the key bodies of the security sector, has received significantly expanded powers, particularly regarding document checks, inspections of belongings, vehicles and housing, as well as the implementation of counter-sabotage and filtration measures. At the same time, such a concentration of powers, although necessary, inevitably creates risks of excessive restriction of

citizens' fundamental rights and freedoms [1]. The relevance of this topic lies in the urgent need for a clear legal distinction between permissible and excessive restrictions of human rights during police measures. The absence of unified criteria and clear methodological guidelines creates room for violations on the one hand, and legal uncertainty for police officers themselves on the other. This undermines public trust in law enforcement agencies and the foundations of the rule of law, even under wartime conditions. The study aims to analyse constitutional guarantees of human rights under Martial law and to determine clear criteria for the legitimacy of police measures that restrict these rights.

Defining the legal boundaries of police activity under Martial law requires analysing the restrictions established by the Constitution of Ukraine: both absolute (non-derogable) and situational.

There are non-derogable constitutional rights listed in Article 64 of the Constitution of Ukraine. This provision establishes a list of the rights and liberties that cannot be restricted under any circumstances, even under Martial law or a state of emergency. These include the right to life, the right to respect for human dignity, the right to liberty and personal security (in the part that protects against arbitrary arrest), as well as the guarantees of the presumption of innocence and the right to defence. For a police officer, this means that no necessity can justify torture, inhuman treatment or arbitrary deprivation of life. These rights form the core of an individual's legal status and define the limits of any coercive measures that may be taken against them. Any police action that violates these rights is unlawful and entails liability [2].

Situational limits include rights that may be temporarily restricted to achieve specific goals during wartime, and this is where most practical issues arise. These include such rights as freedom of movement (establishing checkpoints, restricting entry or exit), inviolability of housing (the possibility of inspection without a court decision in urgent cases), confidentiality of correspondence and telephone conversations (checking the contents of mobile phones), as well as the right to peaceful assembly. However, the mere fact that these rights may be restricted does not mean that the police are permitted to act without limits. The key criterion for the legitimacy of such interference is the general legal principle of proportionality. Although

not detailed in police legislation, this principle is part of the rule of law doctrine and requires that any restriction meet three criteria:

1. Legality – the interference must be directly provided for by Ukrainian laws ("On the Legal Regime of Martial Law," "On the National Police").

2. Legitimate aim – it must serve a defined purpose such as the protection of national security, public order, or the detection of sabotage and reconnaissance groups.

3. The minimum necessary measure to achieve the aim – the measure must be the least intrusive option required to address the security threat. If a security issue can be resolved without inspecting personal belongings, such an inspection would be excessive; if a vehicle stop has no grounds other than the officer's subjective desire, it is disproportionate. This third element is the most crucial, as minimal necessity is explained as the use of the least intrusive measures. Still, in practice, questions may arise, for example, whether stopping every car at a checkpoint is truly necessary to detect sabotage groups, or whether the same goal could be achieved by inspecting only vehicles matching specific intelligence descriptors [3].

It is also necessary to refer to the international standard. Ukraine has exercised its right to derogate from certain obligations under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the European Convention on Human Rights (Article 15 of the ECHR). However, as the case law of the European Court of Human Rights demonstrates, even such a derogation does not exempt the state from the obligation to prove that the measures taken were "strictly necessary" in light of the existing threats [4].

Thus, the study confirms that the expanded powers of the police under Martial law are not absolute. They are clearly limited by the list of rights guaranteed by Article 64 of the Constitution of Ukraine and by the general legal principle of proportionality. The primary conclusion is that the key challenge for law enforcement officers is striking a balance so that necessary security measures do not become arbitrary and excessive interference with human rights. To address future challenges, it is proposed to develop and implement unified methodological guidelines for police officers on criteria for assessing the legality of coercive measures under Martial law, as well as to

introduce mandatory training for cadets focused on analysing constitutional limits on human rights restrictions in wartime conditions.

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COMBATING INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM IN THE EUROPEAN UNION

Nowadays, the phenomenon of terrorism is quite common. Until recently, turning to terror as a means of solving political or religious problems was an exceptional, extraordinary phenomenon, nowadays, almost daily reports of terrorist acts are seen as inevitable. Terror has become an organic component of modern life and has acquired a global character.

Terrorism (from Latin *terror* - fear, intimidation) is a form of political extremism, the use of the most violent methods of violence, including the physical destruction of people to achieve certain goals.

Terrorism is committed by individuals, groups that express the interests of particular political movements or represent the country. Where terrorism is elevated to the rank of public policy. Terrorism is an anti-human way of solving political problems in the face of confrontation, clashing interests of different forces, manifestations of inequality in interstate, interreligious relations. It can also be used as a means of satisfying ambitions by individual politicians, as well as as an instrument of their goals by the mafia structures, the criminal world. Terrorism can be defined as a policy of intimidation, suppression of the enemy by force. There are three main types of terrorism: political, religious and criminal. There is little legal comment on the classification of acts of terrorism [1].

These include:

- Attack on government or industrial sites that cause material damage and is an effective means of intimidation and demonstration of force;

- seizure of state institutions or embassies (accompanied by hostage-taking, which causes serious public outcry);

- seizure of aircraft or other vehicles (political motivation);

- the release of fellow party members from prison; criminal motivation - demand for redemption);

- violent actions against the victim's identity (for intimidation or for propaganda purposes);

- kidnapping (for the purpose of political blackmail to achieve certain political concessions or release of prisoners; a form of self-financing);

- political killings (this is one of the most radical means of conducting a terrorist struggle; killings, in the understanding of terrorists, should free the people from tyrants);

- explosions or massacres (calculated on psychological effect, fear and uncertainty of people).

It should be noted that there are no terrorist organizations in Ukraine aimed at overthrowing the polity. The problem of terrorism in Ukraine is in a different plane, it can be noted "criminal terrorism" within the country and the activities of foreign terrorist organizations in the territory of Ukraine.

It is difficult to draw a clear line between criminal terrorism and ordinary banditry. It is believed that acts of terrorism are committed

against law enforcement officers. And the number of such actions in our country in recent years has been increasing. The terrorist attacks in Istanbul, Madrid, the terrorist attacks in Iraq, and the numerous terrorist threats against new attacks on various states spread through the media, especially the severe consequences of the terrorist attacks, manifested, first of all, in the death of a large number of innocent people, the boldness and cynicism of the perpetrators of the offenders give grounds to claim that despite the measures taken by the governments of the anti-terrorist coalition countries, the level of terrorists tion activity is high and tends to increase.

According to many experts, one of the main reasons for this horrific reality is the inconsistency of the level of counteraction by the anti-terrorist coalition countries with the real scale of the terrorist threat. The mass and geographical spread of terrorist acts, their occurrence in the vast majority of cases beyond the borders of one particular country, as well as the existence of a stable and carefully regulated network of connections between different terrorist groups, which operate even in different regions of the world, make it possible to characterize modern terrorism as a phenomenon, of international character.

On this basis, experts conclude that effective combating of international terrorism requires unification and coordination of actions of all countries within the framework of the interstate anti-terrorist coalition. At the same time, the coordinated activities of several states that are part of already existing international or regional political, economic, military alliances are considered as the first and most effective steps in practical implementation of this task.

The rise of acts of terrorism, the unpredictability of the consequences of these acts are of great concern to the world community, which is increasingly stepping up its efforts in the fight against terrorism. Since the twenty-seventh session, the UN General Assembly has been discussing annually on measures to prevent terrorism. In December 1972, a Special Committee on International Terrorism was formed, comprising representatives of 34 states. In early 1995, the UN General Assembly unanimously adopted the Declaration on the Elimination of International Terrorism. In recent years, more than ten conventions and protocols on the fight against terrorism have been drawn up. But complexity, variety of forms of its manifestations complicate the solution of this problem.

In this regard, we consider it appropriate to consider certain aspects of the European Union's activities as the most influential intergovernmental grouping in Europe in involving Member States' special services in the fight against terrorism.

It should be noted that the cooperation of the intelligence services of some European countries, in particular in the field of combating international terrorism, has been taking place since the early 1980s. The main content of their cooperation is the bilateral exchange of information on these issues. In 1975, the so-called TREVI Group (Terrorism, Radicalism, Extremism and International Violence) was formed, bringing together EU Ministers of Justice and Home Affairs to strengthen the fight against international organized crime, terrorism and drug trafficking. Now this group has given way to cooperation in the field of Justice and Home Affairs (JHA) in the EU, the so-called K4 Committee, which consists of high-ranking officials and prepares decisions in the JHA area and is responsible for their implementation. The Berne Club was founded in 1965 and unites 18 countries today. It meets at the level of heads of special services every 6 months and makes decisions only unanimously. It includes heads of intelligence services of EU member states. Since its inception in 1977, the Kilowatt Group has brought together 15 members (9 members of the European Economic Community (now the EU) as well as Canada, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland, the US and Israel. The NATO Special Committee on the integrates the security services of Allied countries, and is responsible for counterintelligence and counter-terrorism, especially to ensure the security of military troops deployed abroad [2].

Existing cooperation structures include the Conference of Ministers of the Interior of the Western Mediterranean, which was set up in 1982 on the initiative of France, of which France, Spain, Tunisia, Algeria and Morocco are members. The goal is to combat Islamic fundamentalism and organized crime. In the same row is the Middle European Conference (MEC), which brings together the heads of intelligence and security services in Eastern and Central Europe. The ILETs (International Law Enforcement Communication Seminars) seminars are designed to bring together, on an informal basis, representatives of special services for legal interception of telecommunications [3].

Summarizing the above, it should be noted that used at the beginning of the XXI century. The measures taken by the European Union to intensify the fight against terrorism in order to enhance the coordination of the activities of the intelligence services of the member states of the organization are quite meaningful and thoughtful, and in the future diligent work of organizations will be able to eliminate the problems of terrorism.

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UNITED STATES POLICE PRACTICES AGAINST VIOLENT CRIME DURING NATIONAL EMERGENCIES: LESSONS FOR UKRAINE

Topicality: The study of police practices in times of national emergencies, such as terrorism, pandemics, and civil unrest, is highly relevant in contemporary times. Law enforcement agencies around the world have continually been facing the challenge of maintaining public order and addressing violent crime during periods of extraordinary stress. The United States, having encountered multiple national crises, provides a unique opportunity to analyze effective policing strategies under duress. These strategies include the balance between security measures and the protection of civil liberties. For Ukraine, currently enduring a prolonged hybrid war and civil unrest in its post-war context,

examining U.S. practices could yield critical insights for strengthening its own law enforcement capabilities. The application of such lessons could be crucial for Ukraine as it seeks to restore peace, public order, and societal trust in law enforcement agencies during and after the conflict.

The purpose of this research is to explore the policing strategies and practices implemented by U.S. law enforcement agencies during national emergencies, with particular attention to their effectiveness in preventing violent crime. By examining the U.S. experience in dealing with crises such as the September 11 attacks, Hurricane Katrina, and the COVID-19 pandemic, the study aims to identify lessons that could enforce law enforcement reforms in Ukraine. The research will focus on key elements of policing during national emergencies: inter-agency cooperation, the role of community policing, the use of modern technology, and maintaining accountability during times of crisis. Furthermore, the paper will assess how these practices could be adapted and applied in the Ukrainian context, helping to enhance the security and legitimacy of Ukraine's police forces in both wartime and post-war periods.

Main body: the United States has faced numerous national emergencies, each posing unique challenges for law enforcement agencies. From the 9/11 terrorist attacks to the ongoing public health crisis of the COVID-19 pandemic, U.S. police have had to adapt quickly to shifting threats. One of the central strategies in U.S. law enforcement is the use of intelligence-led policing. This method emphasizes real-time data collection and analysis to identify emerging threats, with a focus on preventing violence before it escalates. For example, after 9/11, the U.S. established fusion centers to facilitate the sharing of information between federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies. These centers play a critical role in ensuring rapid and coordinated responses to violent crime during national emergencies (Bayley, 2006, p. 45-60). Another critical element in the U.S. response to crises is community policing. During times of national emergency, maintaining strong relationships with local communities is essential for ensuring public trust and cooperation. As Bayley (2001, p. 63-65) notes, community policing helps to mitigate tensions and prevent social unrest, which can exacerbate the likelihood of violent crime. By engaging directly with community leaders, religious groups,

and NGOs, law enforcement can better understand the concerns of the public and address potential sources of violence more effectively. Finally, the use of modern technology plays an indispensable role in U.S. law enforcement's ability to manage violent crime during emergencies. Tools such as predictive analytics, geographic information systems (GIS), and mobile command centers enhance operational efficiency, allowing law enforcement to respond quickly and effectively in volatile environments. However, as Bayley (2006, p. 127-144) and the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (2020, p. 12-18) warn, such technologies must be used responsibly and with respect for privacy and civil liberties to prevent overreach and maintain public trust.

Ukraine, grappling with the ongoing consequences of war and internal displacement, can benefit greatly from examining U.S. policing strategies. The following lessons are particularly relevant for Ukraine's law enforcement reform: In emergencies, U.S. law enforcement agencies work in close coordination with federal, state, and local authorities. Ukraine should aim to strengthen the flow of information between its police, military, and intelligence agencies. This will ensure faster response times and more efficient crime prevention in conflict zones and liberated territories (Lum & Koper, 2017, p. 102-118). Given the social divisions created by war, building and maintaining trust with local communities in Ukraine is crucial. U.S. practices show that law enforcement agencies can reduce violence and prevent the spread of disinformation by fostering close relationships with local leaders and citizens (Mastrofski & Willis, 2019, p. 90-115). Ukraine's police forces should emphasize community engagement, particularly in newly liberated areas, to facilitate reintegration and peaceful recovery. U.S. police forces have established various oversight mechanisms, such as independent review boards and the use of body-worn cameras, to ensure transparency and prevent abuses of power during emergencies (Bayley, 2006, p. 149-168). In Ukraine, implementing similar oversight structures will be essential for maintaining the legitimacy of law enforcement during both wartime and peacetime operations. The integration of technology is vital for enhancing law enforcement capabilities in any crisis. Predictive policing tools, surveillance technologies, and real-time communication platforms can provide the Ukrainian police with the ability to respond more swiftly to emerging

threats, particularly in regions affected by ongoing conflict (National Institute of Justice, 2022, p. 5-12). However, these tools must be deployed carefully to avoid privacy violations and ensure they are used in a manner that supports democratic principles.

Conclusions: The review of U.S. academic and governmental sources confirms that democratic policing requires a balance between accountability, legitimacy, and operational capacity. Bayley stresses that police reforms must be adapted to local political environments rather than directly imported, as this strengthens citizen trust and human rights protection (Bayley, 2001, p. 63–65; Bayley, 2006, p.45–60, p.127–144). Lum and Koper argue that evidence-based policing improves crime prevention outcomes by relying on tested strategies rather than assumptions (Lum & Koper, 2017, p.102–118). Mastrofski and Willis emphasize the need for continuous organizational development so police agencies can respond effectively to changing social expectations (Mastrofski & Willis, 2019, p.90–115). Modern policing technologies provide promising tools but also introduce risks that require transparency and oversight to prevent misconduct (NIJ 2022, p. 5–12). Homeland security guidance shows that counterterrorism must integrate with community relations to avoid undermining civil liberties (DHS 2020, p.12–18). Overall, sustainable police reform must be community-centered, evidence-driven, and consistent with democratic values, offering practical lessons for nations advancing toward more accountable security governance.

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THE CULTURE OF SPEECH IN DRAFTING PROCEDURAL DOCUMENTS AS A GUARANTEE OF HUMAN RIGHTS OBSERVANCE

According to the criminal procedure legislation of Ukraine (hereinafter CPC), an inquirer, investigator, or prosecutor (hereinafter referred to as the group of officials) are the persons who are the first to respond to a report of a committed criminal misdemeanor or crime, which obliges them to conduct a pre-trial investigation and record its course in procedural documents. Such persons must possess strong communication skills to establish contact with the victim, witness, suspect, and other participants in the criminal proceedings. At the same time, the manner in which this group of officials formulates the content of procedural documents of the pre-trial investigation determines the further course of judicial review.

According to V. Havryliuk, the culture of oral and written speech of an investigator is important, ranging from orthographic, punctuation, lexical, and morphological literacy to stylistic expressiveness and general ability to conduct dialogue [1], with which we quite agree. It

should also be noted that low level of professional speech and/or spelling by this group of officials in the framework of procedural documents of criminal proceedings may cause legal conflicts, complicate further judicial review of these documents, and cast doubt on the admissibility and compliance of the obtained evidence.

When considering the culture of speech, it is not only about the correct use of linguistic norms but also about the ability to choose language means appropriate to a specific communication situation, communicative goal, and audience. It is precisely this group of officials on whom it depends whether the suspect will cooperate with pre-trial investigation bodies, in what manner and to what extent, whether interrogations within the criminal proceedings will be effective, and whether they will be able to establish communication with participants of the criminal process. In each of these cases, accuracy, clarity, and logical consistency of speech are of great importance. Any vagueness or ambiguity may lead to procedural risks - misinterpretation of oral or written statements by this group of officials, misperception of their expressions by participants in criminal proceedings, which in some cases may be perceived as undue pressure.

Of course, establishing contact with every suspect, witness, or victim is not always possible, but the task of this group of officials is to do everything possible to achieve such contact, and the culture of speech plays a significant role in this process. In this context, the culture of speech performs two key functions: the communicative function – ensuring clear, understandable, and meaningful interaction of law enforcement officers with participants in criminal proceedings; and the procedural function - guaranteeing the legal significance and admissibility of the results of their activities (in particular, when drafting protocols, rulings, and motions).

Although not directly, the requirements for the culture of speech are enshrined in the CPC. In particular, Article 104 of CPC establishes general requirements for drafting protocols. A protocol must be written in the Ukrainian language, contain a complete and accurate account of the circumstances that occurred, and be signed by all participants. This means that the language of the protocol must be clear, unambiguous, legally precise, and at the same time understandable to all participants in the process. Furthermore, Article 277 of CPC sets clear requirements for the content of the notice of suspicion, which must necessarily

include a concise statement of factual circumstances and the legal qualification of the criminal offense of which the person is suspected. Similarly, Article 291 of CPC requires that the indictment contain a statement of the factual circumstances and the formulation of the charge. In these cases, the level of speech culture determines how clearly and precisely the accusation will be formulated, which directly affects the right of the person to defense.

Therefore, a low level of speech culture of this group of officials in procedural documents may have negative procedural consequences, namely: ambiguity, the possibility of evidence being declared inadmissible (due to non-compliance with the CPC), violation of the rights and freedoms of the suspect, and, consequently, the annulment of court decisions. Thus, the culture of speech in drafting procedural documents is not only a matter of professional and personal literacy of this group of officials but also a guarantee of the realization of constitutional rights and freedoms within the framework of criminal proceedings.

In the process of drafting procedural documents, this group of officials often commits lexical and terminological errors, using colloquial or everyday vocabulary instead of legally established terms (e.g., “fight” instead of “conflict involving physical violence”). Terminological mistakes may also be found in indictments, where officials indicate that a person “committed a criminal offense” instead of stating that the person “is suspected of committing” such an offense, which directly contradicts the presumption of innocence [2]. Errors may also be syntactic (structural), where formulations are too complex, convoluted, and lacking logical clarity, resulting in ambiguity in interpreting events and enabling the defense to challenge the content of the procedural document. It should also be noted that, as human beings, these officials sometimes draft procedural documents with excessive emotionality or evaluative judgements (e.g., “the detainee behaved arrogantly” instead of a factual description of actions), which directly contradicts the principle of objectivity. At the same time, the use of vague clichés without specification (e.g., “took measures” — without indicating which ones) may call into question the objectivity of such documents. Mistakes in spelling names, addresses, confusion in dates, procedural terms, and the absence of punctuation marks that may fundamentally alter the meaning of a document — all this may become

a formal ground for recognizing such a document as inadmissible evidence (Article 86 of CPC). A critical error may also be the omission of details which officials failed to assess as significant at the time of drafting the document, or incomplete/inaccurate reflection of the course of a procedural action, which contradicts the principle of completeness of pre-trial investigation.

Thus, speech errors in procedural documents are not merely “grammatical mistakes” or a sign of fatigue on the part of officials, but a factor that may directly affect the legality and admissibility of evidence in criminal proceedings, the rights of participants, and the outcome of a court case.

Therefore, the culture of speech of this group of officials is an integral part of their professional activity and has direct procedural significance. It ensures accuracy, clarity, and logical consistency of procedural documents, which are a guarantee of safeguarding the rights and freedoms of participants in criminal proceedings. Deficiencies in speech or errors in drafting documents may lead to legal conflicts, doubts about the objectivity and completeness of pre-trial investigation. That is why literacy and the culture of speech serve as a guarantee of the quality of pre-trial investigation and subsequent judicial review. The language of a law enforcement officer performs not only a communicative but also a procedural function, ensuring legality and effectiveness of the criminal process.

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ETHICAL AND LEGAL LIMITS OF THE USE OF POLYGRAPHS DURING INTERROGATIONS: GUARANTEES OF HUMAN RIGHTS

The use of polygraphs in criminal proceedings in Ukraine is a complex and controversial issue that combines legal, ethical and psychological aspects. On the one hand, polygraph testing can help obtain additional information during an investigation, but on the other hand, it can create risks of violating fundamental human rights, in particular the right to a fair trial and privacy [2].

A polygraph (lie detector) is a technical device that records a person's psychophysiological reactions while answering questions. Its purpose is to detect possible signs of dishonesty or concealment of information. In law enforcement practice, polygraphs are used during official checks, personnel selection, and criminal investigations. However, Ukraine lacks clear legislative regulation of the use of polygraphs in criminal proceedings, which leads to ambiguity in the interpretation of their results [2, p. 142].

Currently, the Criminal Procedure Code of Ukraine (hereinafter referred to as the CPC) does not provide for the use of polygraphs as a procedural action or source of evidence. According to Article 84 of the CPC, evidence in criminal proceedings is factual data obtained in accordance with the procedure established by law. Since polygraph testing is not regulated by law, its results cannot be recognised as evidence in court [1, p. 469]. Despite this, judicial practice shows that some pre-trial investigation bodies use polygraphs as an auxiliary means of guidance when verifying testimony or versions. This approach does not contradict the law only if the person voluntarily agrees to participate in the examination and if a professional polygraph examiner is present. The use of polygraphs during interrogations affects fundamental constitutional human rights. Article 28 of the Constitution of Ukraine guarantees everyone the right to respect for dignity and

prohibits subjecting a person to torture or other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment. Article 63 provides for the right of a person not to testify against themselves or their close relatives. Therefore, any coercion to undergo a polygraph test without consent may be considered a violation of these guarantees [ibid.].

The provisions of the Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms (Articles 6 and 8) also emphasise the right of everyone to a fair trial and respect for private life. The European Court of Human Rights (hereinafter referred to as the ECHR) has repeatedly emphasised in its practice that the use of coercive psychophysiological methods may be contrary to the principle of fair trial. In its judgment in the case of *Yalloh v. Germany*, the Court emphasised that even indirect coercion to incriminate oneself is contrary to Article 6 of the Convention.

Thus, polygraph testing may only be used on a voluntary basis, without coercion or deception, and with the individual's right to legal assistance and confidentiality of the test results guaranteed. Otherwise, its use violates the principles of criminal procedure and respect for human rights.

The question of the ethics of polygraph use is closely linked to the moral and legal limits of interference in a person's inner world. During polygraph testing, physiological indicators are recorded that relate not only to behaviour but also to the emotional sphere of the individual. Such interference can affect the mental state of the person being questioned, creating a feeling of control and pressure that is incompatible with the principle of respect for dignity. Scientists emphasise that a polygraph cannot be considered an objective tool for establishing the truth, as physiological reactions do not always indicate that statements are untrue. For example, anxiety, fear or stress can distort the results of the examination. Thus, the uncritical perception of the polygraph as a 'truth machine' creates the risk of technological reductionism, where complex psychological processes are reduced to physical indicators of the body [3].

The ethical problem also lies in the fact that a polygraph can be used not to seek the truth, but to exert psychological pressure on the suspect. This practice contradicts the fundamental principles of criminal justice, in particular the principles of presumption of innocence, adversarial proceedings and the inadmissibility of coercion

to testify against oneself (Articles 17 and 22 of the Criminal Procedure Code of Ukraine).

At the legislative level, the issue of polygraph use in Ukraine remains open. In 2020, the Ministry of Justice developed a draft law that would define the legal basis for the use of polygraphs in criminal proceedings, but it has not yet been adopted. This creates conflicts in law enforcement, as the results of polygraph tests can be interpreted differently by courts — from complete disregard to consideration as additional information.

Court practice shows that attitudes towards polygraphs are ambiguous. Some judges refuse to accept such data due to its questionable reliability and the possibility of manipulating the results, while others consider it as supporting evidence that can confirm or refute a particular version of events. However, no court ruling recognises polygraphs as independent evidence of guilt.

The use of polygraphs during interrogations requires compliance with clear legal and ethical boundaries. The main conditions are the voluntary consent of the person, awareness of the purpose and consequences of the procedure, and the participation of a qualified specialist [3, p. 121]. Any form of coercion or pressure that could violate the rights guaranteed by the Constitution of Ukraine and international treaties must be avoided. At the same time, the state must develop clear regulatory guidelines for the use of polygraphs in criminal proceedings, determine the status of their results, and establish requirements for polygraph examiners. This approach will promote a balance between the interests of justice and human rights guarantees, ensuring the principles of legality, fairness, and humanism.

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TRAINING OF SPECIAL POLICE UNIT *GIGN*

GIGN (National Gendarmerie Intervention Group) is the elite police tactical unit of the French National Gendarmerie. Among its missions are counterterrorism, hostage rescue, surveillance of national threats, protection of government officials, critical site protection, and targeting organized crime. Established in 1973 and becoming operational in 1974, the *GIGN* was initially created as a relatively small tactical unit specialized in sensitive hostage situations, but has since grown into a larger force with expanded responsibilities and capabilities.

Special training is the most important part of preparing special police unit officers of *GIGN*. There is a strict selection process for this unit, which has many requirements. Selection stages are:

1. Requirements and documents screening: French nationality, several years of prior service in the National Police or Gendarmerie, clean disciplinary record, and an age range usually around 24–34, verification of service history, medical certificates, professional references.

2. Pre-selection and initial tests: Intense physical fitness events running, swimming, obstacle courses, long marches with heavy packs.

Basic firearms safety and marksmanship checks. Psychological interviews to gauge stress tolerance and motivation. Group tasks to evaluate teamwork and leadership potential.

3. Comprehensive medical and psychological evaluation: Full medical examination covering cardiovascular health, eyesight, hearing, and endurance under stress. In-depth psychological assessment focusing on decision-making, emotional control, and adaptability.

4. Main selection course: Advanced endurance events and night operations. Tactical scenarios such as simulated hostage rescues and high-risk arrests. continuous observation of leadership qualities, cooperation, and mental stamina.

5. Final interview and command board: panel of senior officers reviews each candidate's overall performance, motivation and suitability for special operations.

6. Initial specialized training program: Advanced firearms and sniper training,

close-quarters combat and breaching techniques, parachuting, diving, or maritime assault skills where required, negotiation and crisis communication, surveillance, intelligence gathering and technical operations.

7. Assignment and ongoing training: Graduates are assigned to operational teams such as assault, observation, VIP protection, or technical support, regular refresher courses and joint exercises with military or international special units maintain peak readiness.

This unit successfully fulfills its responsibilities and has shown its effectiveness throughout its existence. Since its creation, GIGN has taken part in over 1800 operations, rescued over 600 hostages, arrested or eliminated over 1500 suspects. Only four members of the Group has been killed during operations: three of them — during operations involving armed individuals (“forcenés”) and another one — during an operation against illegal gold-mining in French Guiana (March 2023).

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BRITISH MODEL OF POLICE TRAINING

The organisation of professional police training in the United Kingdom constitutes a comprehensive and multilayered system that combines theoretical education, practical preparation, adherence to ethical standards, and structured interaction with society. Unlike many other jurisdictions where training of law enforcement personnel is confined to vocational academies, the British model is distinguished by its integration with the higher education sector. Such integration reflects the recognition that policing is a knowledge-intensive profession, which requires not only operational and physical preparedness but also advanced analytical capacity, communicative competence, and ethical responsibility. This systemic approach ensures that officers are capable of responding to the growing complexity of criminal phenomena and the increasing demands of a democratic society.

A pivotal element of this framework is the Policing Education Qualifications Framework (PEQF), introduced in 2020 as part of a nationwide reform of law enforcement education. The framework establishes three distinct entry routes: the Police Constable Degree Apprenticeship, the Degree-Holder Entry Programme, and the Pre-Join Policing Degree. Each pathway combines academic knowledge with professional practice, thereby enabling recruits to acquire higher education qualifications alongside operational skills. This dual preparation equips officers to address contemporary challenges, including cybercrime, terrorism, and organized criminality, while also cultivating their ability to engage with communities and uphold democratic values [6].

The reform thus elevated policing to the rank of professional service careers such as medicine or education, emphasizing its intellectual and socially responsible character.

The normative foundation of British police training is provided by the European Code of Police Ethics, which establishes principles of legality, proportionality, accountability, and respect for human rights.

Training programs therefore pay particular attention to diversity, equality, and the restriction of coercive powers to situations of absolute necessity. The growing emphasis on ethical policing reflects public demand for transparency and accountability, especially in light of recent protest movements and high-profile incidents that have undermined public confidence [3]. Within this context, police officers are prepared not only as enforcers of legal order but also as mediators and facilitators of social dialogue, whose legitimacy depends on their ability to exercise authority in ways that strengthen community trust [1].

Another defining characteristic of the British model is its pronounced orientation toward community policing and voluntary engagement. From the earliest stages of training, officers are introduced to practices of cooperation with civil society organizations. Notable examples include Street Pastors, volunteers who assist vulnerable individuals in urban environments and help to prevent escalation of conflicts [7], and Crimestoppers, a nationwide charity enabling anonymous reporting of crimes [4]. Furthermore, structured volunteer programs such as Special Constables and Police Support Volunteers are incorporated into the police service, ensuring that the ethos of civic participation becomes an integral part of officer professionalization [2]. This model embodies the principle that public safety is most sustainable when co-produced by law enforcement institutions and local communities.

Contemporary police training in the UK also reflects the dynamic evolution of security threats. Globalization, digitalization, and social fragmentation have produced new forms of crime and insecurity, requiring officers to develop competencies in areas such as digital forensics, intelligence analysis, and counter-terrorism. Strategic documents, most notably the Policing Vision 2030, underline the necessity of early prevention, protection of vulnerable populations, safeguarding of public trust, and reliance on scientific data and technological innovation [5]. In this way, the orientation of police education shifts from a reactive paradigm toward a preventive one, wherein officers are trained as guarantors of long-term social stability and custodians of democratic resilience.

In sum, the British model of police training can be described as holistic and future-oriented. It integrates academic study with

operational practice, grounds professional competence in ethical and human rights principles, and places strong emphasis on collaboration with communities. This model demonstrates that effective policing cannot be reduced to technical enforcement alone; it requires a broader understanding of social processes, civic engagement, and normative legitimacy. By aligning professional training with democratic values and European standards, the United Kingdom has constructed an advanced framework of police education that may serve as a reference point for states seeking to modernize their law enforcement systems in accordance with the requirements of the twenty-first century.

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CRIMINALISTIC ASPECTS OF COMMUNICATION IN THE INVESTIGATION OF TRANSNATIONAL CRIME

In modern conditions of globalization, the problem of transnational crime has become especially relevant. Such crimes often have a complex structure, covering several jurisdictions, different languages, legal systems, and cultural environments. This creates significant challenges for law enforcement agencies, which must ensure effective communication, coordination of actions, and the reliability of information exchange between states. Therefore, communication in international investigations acquires not only organizational but also forensic significance [1].

The forensic aspects of communication in the investigation of transnational crime include the use of special methods and techniques for obtaining, transmitting, and analyzing evidentiary information. Communication serves as a means of ensuring proper coordination among investigators, experts, prosecutors, Interpol, and other international structures. Of particular importance is ensuring the accuracy of information during its transmission, as even minor distortions or errors can affect the outcome of the investigation and judicial proceedings [2].

The international legal framework for such cooperation is defined by the Law of Ukraine "On Amendments to the Criminal Procedure Code of Ukraine and Other Legislative Acts of Ukraine Regarding Cooperation with the International Criminal Court" [3] and the European Convention on Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters [4]. These documents regulate the mechanisms for providing mutual assistance, sending requests, executing procedural assignments, and conducting joint investigative actions. According to the Criminal Procedure Code of Ukraine [1], international investigative actions must be documented in compliance with procedural requirements, ensuring the admissibility of the obtained evidence in the national court.

Special attention should be paid to the issue of intercultural communication during interrogations, witness interviews, or interactions with foreign colleagues. Successful communication in such situations requires consideration of national, linguistic, and cultural characteristics. For this purpose, a police officer or investigator must possess not only professional vocabulary in a foreign language but also understand the specifics of nonverbal behavior, ethical norms, and cultural taboos characteristic of a particular society. Ignoring these aspects can lead to misunderstandings, misinterpretation of testimonies, or even a loss of trust between the parties to the investigation.

According to the Law of Ukraine "On the National Police" [2], the activities of police officers, including in international cooperation, are based on the principles of legality, respect for human rights, impartiality, and professional ethics. This means that any form of interstate communication must be carried out with strict adherence to procedural guarantees and confidentiality. In this context, a police officer's communicative competence is an integral part of professional culture, and its development is an important component of personnel training.

The forensic aspects of communication are also evident in the use of modern technologies. International databases, forensic accounting systems, and automated information exchange platforms (in particular, through Interpol and Europol) require accuracy in recording and transmitting data. Inconsistencies in formats, translation inaccuracies, or technical errors can lead to the loss of evidence or complicate its use in criminal proceedings. Therefore, a modern forensic expert must be not only a specialist in evidentiary law but also a competent user of information systems.

Moreover, communication plays a key role in the formation of joint investigation teams. Such cooperation involves constant exchange of evidence, coordination of procedural actions, and joint planning of operations. In these circumstances, it is important to ensure a balance between compliance with national legislation and the requirements of international law. For this purpose, investigators must have knowledge not only in forensics but also in international public and criminal law [3].

Thus, communication in the investigation of transnational crime is a multilevel process that combines legal, forensic, psychological, and

intercultural components. Its effectiveness directly affects the outcomes of investigations, the possibility of bringing offenders to justice, and the achievement of fairness in criminal proceedings. The development of communicative culture and intercultural competence among law enforcement officers is an essential part of training modern professionals in the field of forensics and international law enforcement.

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WAYS TO IMPLEMENT THE LAW OF UKRAINE “ON THE USE OF THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE IN UKRAINE”

The adoption of the Law of Ukraine “On the Use of the English Language in Ukraine” marks a decisive stage in Ukraine’s strategic course toward European and global integration. By legally recognizing

English as a language of international communication, the law establishes not only a symbolic but a functional framework designed to modernize Ukraine's administrative, educational, security, and public service systems. It positions English as a necessary instrument for international cooperation, foreign investment, diplomacy, cross-border law enforcement, and participation in global institutions. Yet, the true substance of the law lies not in its declarative provisions but in the practical mechanisms through which it can be implemented. The effectiveness of this legislation depends on a coordinated, systemic approach that transforms English from a formally recognized language into an operational tool used across key spheres of public life [1].

A crucial direction of implementation is the development of clear, standardized requirements for English-language proficiency among public officials and personnel whose work involves direct or potential interaction with foreign partners. The law stipulates that specific categories of public servants must demonstrate proficiency in English, and these categories will be defined by the Cabinet of Ministers. To ensure consistency, the government should adopt national standards aligned with the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR) and, in the case of the security sector, with NATO language requirements such as STANAG 6001. Integrating these standards into recruitment procedures, promotion criteria, and professional evaluations would transform English proficiency into a functional competency rather than a formal expectation. Furthermore, offering financial incentives, such as a salary bonus for verified proficiency at level B2 or higher, would motivate public servants to pursue certification and maintain high language standards. This approach aligns with global public-service models and ensures that Ukraine's institutional communication capabilities rise to international expectations [5].

Another significant pathway stems from the law's requirement that public authorities ensure the accessibility of official information in English. To implement this provision effectively, ministries, agencies, regional administrations, and local governments must develop and maintain complete English versions of their official websites. These websites should include detailed information about organizational structure, leadership, decision-making processes, regulatory acts, public services, and contact data. Beyond static website content,

Ukrainian institutions must systematically prepare. English versions of key administrative documents, including procedural instructions, public notices, regulatory communications, and informational materials for foreign citizens, investors, and international organizations. In practice, this requires institutional restructuring, such as creating dedicated translation units or appointing English-language coordinators responsible for maintaining bilingual documentation. The introduction of unified templates and standards for bilingual documents would help maintain consistency across institutions and reduce linguistic discrepancies [1].

Education and professional training represent another vital component of implementation. The law emphasizes the state's responsibility to promote the learning of English at all levels of education, from early childhood to higher education. This initiative requires not merely increasing the number of English classes but redesigning curricula to reflect practical communication needs. For future lawyers, prosecutors, investigators, border-guard officers, and specialists in public administration, general English proficiency alone is insufficient; therefore, developing specialized modules in legal English, forensic English, and administrative English is essential. Incorporating simulations, case studies, mock trials, bilingual interviewing exercises, and drafting of procedural documents in English will significantly enhance the readiness of graduates to work in internationally oriented environments. Furthermore, cooperation with foreign police academies, European judicial institutions, and international organizations would allow Ukraine to implement joint training programs where English serves as the working language, giving students and professionals invaluable real-world experience [3].

International cooperation plays an increasingly significant role in the practical realization of the law. Ukraine's participation in Europol, Interpol, Eurojust, and various EU and NATO initiatives already requires communication in English, and strengthening this cooperation would accelerate the internal implementation of the law. Joint investigations, cross-border operations, international legal assistance, and multinational training exercises create natural environments in which Ukrainian specialists use English as a working tool. Such activities not only enhance language proficiency but also elevate institutional competence, bringing Ukrainian standards closer to those

of its European partners. Additionally, exchange programs with EU institutions, internships in foreign law-enforcement academies, and collaborative seminars with international experts would further strengthen Ukraine’s human capital and accelerate integration [4].

In addition to the law’s formal mechanisms, several innovative strategies could enhance implementation. One such approach is the creation of “English-ready public service hubs” – pilot centres in selected regions or airports, railway terminals, administrative-service centres, and border checkpoints where all informational materials, communication channels, signage, and staff interactions are bilingual. These pilot hubs would serve as laboratories for testing best practices, identifying logistical challenges, and generating models for national replication. Another forward-looking measure is the development of sector-specific English-language courses tailored to the needs of law enforcement, emergency services, judiciary, customs, and migration services. These programs should emphasize not only linguistic knowledge but also operational communication skills needed for interviewing, reporting, international correspondence, crisis management, and field operations [2].

For the law to be fully effective, it must also be supported by robust institutional oversight. Regular monitoring of implementation progress, including audits of Englishlanguage website accessibility, evaluation of proficiency levels among public officials, and assessment of bilingual documentation practices, is essential. Establishing transparent key performance indicators would allow the government to evaluate effectiveness and adjust policies as necessary. Moreover, public reporting on implementation progress would ensure accountability and encourage continuous improvement across government agencies.

In conclusion, the Law of Ukraine “On the Use of the English Language in Ukraine” sets a forward-looking framework for strengthening Ukraine’s position in global political, security, economic, and educational spheres. Its successful implementation requires a multifaceted approach that extends beyond legal compliance and encompasses systemic educational reforms, digital innovation, administrative restructuring, international cooperation, and public engagement. Through these measures, English can become not merely

an additional language used within certain institutions but a critical component of Ukraine's institutional culture, operational efficiency, and global integration strategy. In this sense, the law serves not only as a legislative act but as a transformative instrument shaping the future trajectory of the Ukrainian state.

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METHODS OF COLLECTING AND FIXING EVIDENCE IN CRIMINAL PROCEEDINGS OF VARIOUS LEGAL SYSTEMS

Evidence is the cornerstone of criminal proceedings, and methods of collecting and fixing evidence directly affect the legality, admissibility and reliability of the obtained factual data. Globalization of crime and international cooperation require a deep understanding of the peculiarities of evidentiary law in different legal systems. Comparative analysis allows us to identify the advantages and disadvantages of national approaches and promotes their harmonization.

The world criminal process is traditionally divided into two main systems: continental (inquisitorial/mixed) and Anglo-American (adversarial) ones [1, p. 14].

In the continental system, pre-trial investigation is the prerogative of state bodies (investigator, prosecutor), which have broad powers to collect evidence.

In Ukraine, the prosecution collects evidence by conducting investigative (search) actions (interrogation, search examination etc.), as well as covert investigative (search) actions covert investigative(detective) actions (CIDA) (audio-, video surveillance of a person, removal of information from transport telecommunication networks, etc.) [2, p. 143].

An important aspect is the right of the defense to collect evidence, in particular by requesting documents and objects, conducting its own interviews of persons, obtaining expert opinions [3, p. 121].

The key methods are investigative actions, i.e. procedures formalized by law, aimed at identifying and fixing factual data, and CIDA, i.e. methods that are carried out in a covert manner and aimed at obtaining information about a crime that is being prepared or committed [4, pp. 260–262].

The Anglo-American system is predominantly adversarial, with the parties (prosecution and defense) bearing the main burden of gathering evidence, although the police play a key role at the initial stage.

Key methods of gathering evidence are:

1) "Miranda Warning" (USA): Mandatory warning of a person about his/her rights before interrogation, which affects the admissibility of testimony [1, p. 210]. The absence of such a warning makes the collected testimony inadmissible (fruit of the poisonous tree doctrine).

2) "Rule of Exclusion" (Rule of Exclusion): Strict control over compliance with constitutional rights when collecting evidence (searches, arrests). Illegally obtained evidence is excluded from consideration. In Ukraine, this corresponds to the principle of admissibility of evidence (Article 86 of the CPC of Ukraine) [4, p. 84].

Fixation of evidence is the procedural consolidation of factual data, which is a necessary condition for their admissibility. The main method of recording is the preparation of a procedural document - a protocol of investigative (search) action or NSRD [2, p. 103].

The protocol must contain an accurate description of the actions performed, the results obtained, the time and place of the action, as well as the signatures of the participants [4, p. 104].

It is also mandatory to use technical means that provide for recording by photography, sound or video recording during a series of investigative actions (search, covert actions) and court proceedings. These media are an appendix to the protocol and part of the evidence [2, p. 107].

The recording of testimony is carried out by entering their content into the interrogation protocol or the court session journal [4, p. 353].

In an adversarial process, recording is less dependent on a single procedural document, but is strictly controlled with respect to the chain of custody. In such a system, the methods of recording can be written reports, audio and video recordings, and court session protocols.

A comparative analysis of methods of collection and recording is incomplete without taking into account the rules of admissibility and assessment of evidence, which determine the ultimate procedural weight of the collected information.

The admissibility of evidence is the compliance of the procedure for its collection and recording with the requirements of the law [4, p. 86].

In the continental system, evidence is inadmissible if it was obtained as a result of a significant violation of human rights and freedoms guaranteed by the Constitution and international treaties [4, p. 87]. Such violations include: violation of the right to defense, obtaining testimony under duress, conducting investigative actions without the permission of the investigating judge, if one is required.

In turn, in the Anglo-American system, the Rules of Evidence governing admissibility are stricter and more specific. In addition to constitutional violations, there are rules on hearsay, which are generally inadmissible, as well as rules on admissibility (opinions, not facts).

Regarding the assessment of evidence, it should be noted that in the continental system, evidence is assessed according to the internal conviction of the court (investigator, prosecutor), which is based on a comprehensive, complete and objective study of all the circumstances of the proceedings as a whole [4, p. 94]. Each piece of evidence is important, but no piece of evidence has a predetermined force.

The Anglo-American system attaches greater importance to oral testimony in court. The jury (or judge) evaluates the evidence, guided by the principle of "beyond reasonable doubt" for the prosecution. Evidence collected outside the court (protocols, reports) has less weight than live testimony.

The comparative analysis showed that the methods of collecting and recording evidence differ significantly in the criminal process of different legal systems, reflecting their historical and philosophical foundations.

In the continental system (including Ukraine), the emphasis is on official procedural actions (investigative/search actions) and recording their results in protocols, which is the main evidentiary source.

In the Anglo-American system, the key role belongs to the adversarial nature of the parties in collecting evidence and strict control over their constitutional admissibility ("Exclusion Rule", "Miranda Rule"). When recording, special attention is paid to documenting the chain of custody of physical evidence and live oral testimony in court.

The Ukrainian CPC (2012) is mixed, but in terms of collecting evidence it retains a predominantly continental approach with enhanced

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

is performed by the National Cyber Investigative Joint Task Force (NCIJTF), headed by the FBI. Its role is to unite the efforts of cyber units across various agencies, including the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA), the U.S. Secret Service, the Department of Justice, and state-level police. In practice, this ensures rapid information exchange about incidents, centralized operational planning, and a clear distribution of powers between departments. Initial cybercrime reports are received through the Internet Crime Complaint Center (IC3), which systematizes complaints from individuals and companies [1, c.45-47]. The analytical division then sets investigation priorities, identifies potential overlaps between cases, and provides recommendations to investigative teams. This approach eliminates duplication of work and ensures prompt response. Within criminal proceedings, adherence to the provisions of 28 CFR Part 23 is particularly significant, as this regulation governs the collection, storage, and dissemination of criminal intelligence. It guarantees the legality of data sources, controls access to databases, and mandates periodic data review – minimizing risks of misuse and personal data breaches.

In the United Kingdom, the National Crime Agency (NCA) plays a central role in the cybercrime framework through its National Cyber Crime Unit (NCCU). It coordinates regional cyber units and implements the National Intelligence Model (NIM), which sets unified analytical standards. Under this model, strategic and tactical assessments, problem profiles, and target profiles are developed to structure criminal proceedings and ensure consistency. The Tasking & Coordination Group determines which materials proceed to the procedural stage and which are retained for further analysis. Information reliability is verified through the 3×5×2 system, which standardizes the evaluation of source credibility and information accuracy, ensuring that evidence meets judicial requirements. Such methods guarantee reproducibility of forensic results and the integrity of electronic evidence documentation [2]. The British approach is characterized by strict procedural discipline – no operational action begins without an approved analytical product, and every investigative decision must be justified within a documented risk assessment.

Canada combines centralized management with flexible interagency cooperation. The Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP)

leads the effort through the National Cybercrime Coordination Centre (NC3), which coordinates law enforcement activities at the federal, provincial, and municipal levels. At the strategic level, the Criminal Intelligence Service Canada (CISC) analyzes cybercrime trends, compiles national threat reports, and sets priorities for operational divisions. These entities work closely with the private sector and financial institutions, enabling rapid response to phishing, corporate network breaches, and data leaks. In criminal proceedings, special attention is paid to maintaining the integrity of digital media: creating exact copies with hash value verification, logging all evidence access, and ensuring chain-of-custody control. Provincial digital forensics units operate under standardized methodologies developed by the RCMP, ensuring that digital evidence remains compatible and admissible in court.

The European Union has developed its own system of international cooperation in combating cybercrime. Its foundation lies in the Europol European Cybercrime Centre (EC3) and the Joint Cybercrime Action Taskforce (J-CAT), which coordinates the efforts of EU member states in tackling cross-border botnets, malware, online fraud, and cyber espionage. The Budapest Convention's 24/7 Network serves as a crucial communication channel for urgent data preservation and the exchange of requests between national authorities. Joint investigation teams (JITs) operating under Euro just facilitate parallel investigations across multiple jurisdictions and the prompt sharing of forensic results [3]. The European model underscores that efficiency depends not only on technical capacity but on procedural harmonization: each request follows a unified format, has a defined execution deadline, and includes oversight mechanisms to safeguard procedural rights.

The general standards for investigating cybercrime in these jurisdictions follow a consistent structure. The first stage involves preserving data without altering its content – creating verified copies, recording checksums, and documenting every access. The second stage requires prompt cooperation with service providers and platforms while observing legal safeguards. The third involves conducting digital forensics – reconstructing event logs, analyzing network traffic, and processing mobile and cloud data using reproducible methods. The fourth focuses on verifying the reliability of results and integrating them

into the evidentiary process. Special protocols govern the handling of cloud storage, social networks, and user accounts located in multiple jurisdictions. All operations are time stamped, ensure file authenticity, and verify source integrity, guaranteeing the admissibility of evidence in court.

The organizational approach to cybercrime investigations abroad can be summarized by three principles [2]. First, permanent coordination— a designated central authority oversees investigative priorities, allocates resources, and prevents overlapping work. Second, standardization— approved methods for collecting, preserving, and analyzing digital evidence are recognized by courts as valid and admissible. Third, partnership with the private sector— banks, telecommunications operators, hosting providers, and technology companies participate in joint efforts through memoranda and internal protocols that ensure the legality of data sharing. This framework enhances evidentiary quality and ensures the effectiveness of investigations even in complex cross-border cases.

In conclusion, international experience demonstrates that combating cybercrime requires not only technical resources but, above all, uniform procedures and a culture of lawful enforcement. The United States, the United Kingdom, Canada, and the European Union illustrate how standardized analytics, joint planning, and respect for procedural guarantees ensure consistent results – establishing guilt through digital evidence recognized by national and international courts. For Ukraine, adopting these models would significantly improve the effectiveness of criminal proceedings, accelerate evidence acquisition, strengthen international cooperation, and create a unified standard of cyber security practice aligned with global norms.

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INVESTIGATIVE AND FORENSIC AGENCIES: INTERNATIONAL EXPERIENCE

In the modern world, investigative and forensic agencies in many countries operate within highly integrated systems that combine criminal investigation, scientific expertise, and cross-border cooperation. Forensic science plays a central role in this process, acting as a bridge between law enforcement agencies and legal procedures, enabling evidence-based investigations to extend beyond national borders [1, p. 15]. Investigators and forensic specialists utilize scientifically grounded methods for evidence collection and analysis, which improves the quality of investigations and allows the integration of data into international information systems.

A prominent example of effective international cooperation is Interpol. The Interpol Pollution Crime Forensic Investigation Manual describes how 190 member countries coordinate forensic methods and information exchange to combat environmental crime. This system ensures not only standardization of investigative methods but also compliance with legal norms and the protection of human rights during international forensic operations [1, p. 42]. Interpol serves as a platform for experience sharing and training law enforcement personnel from different countries, increasing the efficiency of joint investigations.

An important international standard is the Minnesota Protocol, endorsed by the United Nations. Known as the Minnesota Protocol on the Investigation of Potentially Unlawful Death, this document establishes clear forensic-medical procedures for investigating suspicious or extralegal deaths. The Protocol is widely recognized as an international benchmark in cross-border forensic investigations, ensuring high scientific and legal quality. Its implementation standardizes approaches to death investigation, enabling the compatibility of results across jurisdictions [2, p. 9-14].

The effectiveness of international forensic cooperation largely depends on trust among governmental agencies, transparent governance, and a legal infrastructure that balances accountability with operational effectiveness. Researchers emphasize that stable and efficient cooperation between law enforcement agencies requires not only modern technical resources but also mutual trust and clear legal regulation of interactions [3, p. 87-92].

A modern trend in international forensics is the use of forensic intelligence, which involves the systematic integration of crime scene data, laboratory results, and investigative information. The integration of such data allows for more effective detection of criminal patterns, prediction of offenses, identification of serial offenders, and formulation of operational investigative hypotheses [4, p. 45-50]. The application of forensic intelligence enhances the effectiveness of law enforcement internationally and enables timely responses to complex criminal threats.

The use of emerging technologies, such as artificial intelligence and video analytics, allows large volumes of evidence to be processed efficiently and accurately, significantly increasing the effectiveness of investigations. These technologies help analyze criminal data at scale, detect complex relationships between events, and provide a reliable evidentiary base for judicial processes [5, p. 33-37].

Professional associations, such as the Chartered Society of Forensic Sciences (CSFS) in the UK, play a key role in harmonizing international forensic standards. They coordinate research, implement quality standards, and exchange best practices among specialists, which promotes global interoperability and ensures a high level of professional training for forensic experts [6].

The Scientific Working Group on Digital Evidence (SWGDE) in the USA develops guidelines for preserving and analyzing digital evidence. These guidelines are shared globally to ensure consistency and interoperability of forensic digital evidence [7].

Some national forensic units adopt integrated scientific structures, such as the South Wales Joint Scientific Investigation Unit in the UK, which unites experts from local police forces under a single specialized accredited laboratory. This approach increases investigative capacity, reduces duplication of efforts, and ensures consistent quality of forensic examinations [8].

International cooperation in investigative and forensic activities is essential for combating transnational crime. The use of standardized methods, professional networks, trust, legal frameworks, and modern technologies enhances the efficiency, legitimacy, and quality of forensic investigations.

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SUPPORTING OF LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES

In every country in the world, law enforcement officials are at the frontline of efforts to combat organized crime. The building of criminal investigative and other law enforcement capacity is a core component of UNODC's work (United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime). Technical assistance includes institutional and operational capacity building of law enforcement and judicial bodies to strengthen investigation and prosecution of organized crimes. Training is offered to police investigators, prosecutors and judges, criminal intelligence analysts, specialized drug and organized crime investigators and customs officials.

UNODC delivers a range of trainings to law enforcement officers on topics of relevance to fighting organized crime in their local contexts. It also employs modern technical training such as computer-based training as well as assistance in improving information exchange between law enforcement agencies, custom and border control authorities in different countries.

UNODC also supports evidence-based law enforcement responses by analyzing report questionnaires submitted by States parties to the Organized Crime Convention. On this basis, research conducted by UNODC is vital in identifying regional and global

organized crime trends, forecasting future trends and strengthening the capacity of States to respond reactively and proactively.

Criminal intelligence has been described as the lifeblood of the fight against transnational organized crime. It is the foundation for all proactive investigations and a cross-cutting issue since the same expertise and methodology is used for all serious crimes, including, corruption, drug trafficking, and terrorism. A fundamental component of building law enforcement capacity involves enhancing understanding of how criminal intelligence works and how practically to develop, share and use it.

In order to operate internationally, individual Member States must have the capacity within their own law enforcement structures to collect, collate, analyze and disseminate information on criminals and the organizations within which they operate. UNODC is supporting criminal intelligence capabilities of law enforcement agencies through the provision of policy advice, assessment and gap analysis, and training of criminal analysts (including in using specialist analytical software), front-line law enforcement and policy makers, including through the use of a set of recently published criminal intelligence training manuals.

In this context, UNODC has published a series of criminal intelligence guides for managers, analysts and frontline law enforcement respectively, to serve as reference tools for law enforcement officials performing their respective roles, or to accompany and reinforce training courses in the discipline. Capacity building initiatives are supported by training that emphasizes the importance of international cooperation in the investigation of transnational organized crime.

In addition, UNODC supports the criminal intelligence capabilities for a growing number of regional coordination centers such as the Central Asian Regional Information and Coordination Centre for combating illicit drug trafficking (CARICC) based in Tajikistan; the Joint Planning Cell (JPC) which is part of the Triangular Initiative; the Transnational Crime Units under the West African Coast Initiative (WACI) and the and the Gulf Council Intelligence Centre (GCIC), based in Doha.

The international community is increasingly concerned about the use of kidnapping by organized criminal groups. In the most severely affected countries, several hundred kidnappings occur annually.

Criminal groups are involved in kidnapping for the purpose of extortion, as a method of accumulating capital for other criminal activities, such as trafficking in firearms, money laundering, drug trafficking, trafficking in people and crimes related to terrorism. In its resolution 2002/16 of 24 July 2002, the Economic and Social Council vigorously condemned and rejected kidnapping in any circumstance for any purpose, and resolved to treat it as a serious crime, particularly when it was connected with actions of organized criminal or terrorist groups.

While definitional and recording problems make the crime difficult to assess the incidence of kidnapping at the international level, it is clear that States generally consider this crime to be a serious one. When committed by an organized crime group, the crime can be addressed in the framework of the provisions on mutual legal assistance and extradition of the Organized Crime Convention.

Three interconnected recommendations that appeared appropriate in response to information-gathering efforts by UNODC, concern increased efforts to: harmonize definitions and constituent elements of the crime; monitor the crime according to this common definition, and cooperate to exchange best practices to strengthen responses.

UNODC released a Counter-kidnapping Manual in 2006 aimed at providing authorities with guidance on preventing and investigating kidnapping cases.

Border control officials are often at the frontline of defense against organized crime and may be called upon to identify and apprehend criminals and protect and assist victims. It is therefore essential that border control officers be supported in their role as first responders.

UNODC's Border Liaison Officer (BLO) programme supports countries to better manage their borders and to better communicate with their counterparts on the other side of the same border. Specific activities and interventions within the BLO programme differ depending on the particular context and the funding available. Often border officials are sparsely equipped, with limited resources with

which to patrol borders and react when borders are breached. The BLO programme provides beneficiaries with technical resources (such as computers) and transport resources (such as motorbikes) with which to strengthen their responsive capacity. Additionally, the programme acts to build trust and dialogue between border staff on both sides of the border and strengthen communication between them so as to empower both sides to act and respond quickly to border threats.

The results of UNODC's BLO programme have included demonstrated improvement of border management through strengthened communication and collaboration between border agencies. Increased confidence and trust between personnel has led to regular meetings between actors on both sides of the border, efficient information exchange and the development of joint operations, patrols and surveillance. This increased communication and collaboration in turn means that effective border management becomes self-sustaining.

International trade is one of the significant contributing factors as well as by-products of globalization. Trade can significantly contribute to sustainable development through increased economic opportunities in movement of goods around the world. However, many developing countries do not have the capacity to effectively harness the goods of international trade, while also ensuring trade security and standards at their ports, handling terminals and borders.

Although freight containers are an important part of the trade supply chain, they are used by organized criminals to traffic illicit drugs, precursor chemicals, weapons, explosives and other contraband. Where the trafficking of illicit goods through containers is not intercepted by law enforcement authorities, it fuels the commission of other serious crimes. For instance, trafficking of weapons and explosives raises concern about trafficking in containers being used directly or indirectly for terrorist attacks.

The UNODC Container Control Programme, in partnership with the World Customs Organization, aims to assist governments to establish effective container controls that serve to prevent illegal activity while also facilitating legal trade.

Through this programme, Joint Port Control Units, comprised of customs and police officers, are established at selected ports. Border guards, sea port authorities and other relevant agencies can also be beneficiaries of the programme. Staff are trained and equipped to

identify and inspect high-risk freight containers with minimum disruption to legitimate trade and business. The Control Units have regular access to experts and specialist mentor services and are encouraged to forge partnerships and links with the trade and business community. A comprehensive basis for Joint Port Control Units is established for the exchange of information and intelligence and use of risk assessment and targeting techniques to identify high-risk consignments for law enforcement scrutiny, without hindering free flow of legitimate trade.

The programme further aims to promote the formation of alliances between customs, trade and enforcement communities as a means of collectively preventing the abuse of legitimate commercial trade for the purposes of organized crime.

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FEATURES AND CHALLENGES OF APPLYING A GENDER APPROACH IN UKRAINE'S SECURITY SECTOR

The relevance of researching the application of a gender approach in Ukraine's security sector is due to the large-scale transformation of defence and law enforcement institutions in the context of military aggression, the transition to NATO standards, and the need to ensure equal access to service, career advancement, and decision-making for women and men. Gender integration has a practical dimension in terms of improving the effectiveness of operational response, optimising the use of human resources,

preventing discrimination and creating a safe environment within units, and is also linked to Ukraine's implementation of its international obligations under UN Security Council resolutions.

Due to traditional gender norms and stereotypes, the security sector is predominantly viewed as a male sector. At the same time, men risk injury or death in the line of duty, so most believe that women, as mothers, need to be protected from such danger. Norms regarding parental roles and responsibilities are reinforced by the fact that men rarely take leave to care for children or stay home with sick children.

However, attention should also be focused on achievements in this area in Ukraine's security sector. In particular, the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Ukraine has been tasked with a set of objectives and functions for the implementation of a gender component in the work of management, personnel, structural units, missions and operations, higher education institutions with specific training conditions of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Ukraine, etc. [1, p. 8].

The representation of women in areas that were previously considered 'purely male' reflects real changes that have taken place at both the legislative and practical levels and are indicators of Ukraine's development as a state governed by the rule of law. The effective implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1325 'Women, Peace and Security', the provisions of the Constitution of Ukraine and legislation, the national plan 'Women, Peace and Security', the Law of Ukraine 'On Ensuring Equal Rights and Opportunities for Women and Men' and other legislative acts guarantee citizens equal rights for men and women in all spheres of activity.

The results of this implementation can be seen in the increase in the number of women in the Armed Forces of Ukraine, who, on an equal footing with men, defend our state from enemy invasion. Women have gained access to military and police education, etc.

The implementation of the principle of gender equality contributes to the formation of a modern worldview of equal rights and opportunities for men and women, based on the humanistic principles of justice, freedom, equality and humanity.

During any acute social, political and economic crises, the development and implementation of gender equality policies serves as one of the effective mechanisms for consolidating society to solve various problems and overcome discrimination. Eliminating

manifestations of gender discrimination and preventing its recurrence in the future contributes to the unconditional recognition, realisation and guarantee of human rights and freedoms by the state. The implementation of this principle into legal reality as one of the most important features of a state governed by the rule of law leads to the recognition of every person, regardless of gender, as a higher social value [2, p. 5].

The introduction of gender equality in Ukraine's security sector means combining the experience, knowledge and interests of women and men in its activities. The inclusion of gender in the tasks and priorities of reforming Ukraine's security sector makes it possible to respond more effectively to the various security needs of society, to the changing nature and demands of the security sector, and to optimise operational efficiency and communication with the public [1, p. 7].

The implementation of international gender equality standards in national legislation and practice is a systemic process that requires a comprehensive approach and political will. The practical significance of integrating women into the armed forces is linked to the need to make effective use of human potential, especially in the context of demographic challenges and limited human resources.

The presence of women has its own characteristics, which are closely related to the individual traits and abilities of each particular woman. These characteristics not only enrich the security sector with new approaches to performing tasks, but also contribute to strengthening the morale and resilience of teams.

In stressful situations, women adapt quickly, keep a cool head and make informed decisions. Women are also distinguished by their high level of responsibility and attention to detail [3, p. 102].

The institutional framework for gender equality in the security and defence sector in Ukraine consists of: the President of Ukraine, the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine, the National Security and Defence Council of Ukraine, the Government of Ukraine, the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Ukraine, the Ministry of Defence of Ukraine, the Security Service of Ukraine, the Ministry of Justice of Ukraine, the Human Rights Commissioner of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine, the Government Commissioner for Gender Policy, local public authorities and others. Among the most effective tools and procedures for ensuring gender equality and implementing international legal standards in the

security and defence sector are, in particular, gender-legal expertise of normative legal acts, anti-discrimination expertise, the institution of gender advisers, etc.

The existing tools and procedures are considered to be somewhat imperfect and ineffective, as gender-legal expertise is conducted formally, and changes and amendments to legislation are rarely made based on its results, and there is no accountability. In contrast to gender-legal expertise, anti-discrimination expertise appears to be more effective, since if a draft regulatory act contains discriminatory provisions, it is returned for revision together with the conclusion [4, p. 201].

The implementation of gender equality principles in the security sector contributes to the expansion of the range of competencies and skills of personnel, the improvement of organisational culture and the socio-psychological climate of teams. Studies of the impact of gender on the effectiveness of units show that the involvement of women in tasks in areas of armed conflict increases the effectiveness of missions, especially in interaction with the local population, gathering intelligence and conducting stabilisation operations [3, p. 103].

The active reform of Ukraine's security sector has contributed to the implementation of the principle of gender equality in the security forces. The issue of gender correlation in law enforcement should be aimed not only at developing and adopting new guarantees to ensure gender equality in the security sector, but also at solving existing problems of equality between men and women by eliminating gender imbalances in the service, which will optimise service activities [1, p. 12].

Thus, the application of a gender approach in Ukraine's security sector is not a formal requirement, but a real tool for strengthening institutional capacity and increasing the resilience and effectiveness of defence and law enforcement structures. Taking into account different experiences, removing barriers to women's participation in decision-making, building a non-discriminatory personnel environment and integrating the standards of UN Security Council Resolutions create conditions for more professional management, proper accountability and respect for human rights, even in complex security circumstances.

This approach promotes the optimal use of human potential, strengthens public confidence in the security sector, and shapes a

modern model of service that meets the requirements of wartime and Ukraine's international obligations.

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DIGITAL INFORMATION AS A NEW TOOL OF EVIDENCE IN CRIMINAL PROCEEDINGS

Digital information is increasingly used in criminal investigations. This is due to scientific and technological progress and new ways of committing offenses. The widespread use of computers, software, smartphones and the Internet by criminals has raised a number

of questions regarding the admissibility and use of digital data as evidence. The scientific literature draws attention to the fact that “the use of digital sources of evidentiary information remains almost unregulated in national criminal procedural legislation, which complicates the effective use of modern technologies and sources of information.” Despite legislative gaps, digital data is increasingly being used as evidence in criminal cases.

Investigation practice shows that electronic devices — phones, smartphones, computers, portable geolocation devices (GPS, GLONASS), digital photo and video cameras, webcams, network routers, payment systems, etc. — are increasingly used by criminals, as a result of which traces of their illegal actions are stored in the information space. These digital traces are detected during investigative (search) actions on specific information carriers. In our opinion, digital information can be used in an investigation in different ways. In particular, when investigating certain types of criminal offenses, the investigative situation can change under the influence of forensic tactics — through the adoption and implementation of various tactical decisions. Such measures help to obtain evidentiary information, in particular regarding: a) sources of its origin; b) overcoming resistance from interested parties; c) cases of its concealment; d) risks of further concealment; e) difficulties with recalling or interpreting information by individuals, etc.

It is digital data that often determines the direction of tactical decisions in these situations. Digital evidence requires the implementation of modern approaches to its collection, storage, use and research in the process of proving in criminal proceedings. When working with such evidence, it is important to adhere to a number of principles, in particular, ensuring proper professional training, attracting expert support and observing reasonable caution [1, p. 14-15].

The US Federal Code of Criminal Procedure provides for the possibility for a magistrate judge to accept complaints, issue warrants (resolutions) or execute subpoenas using reliable electronic means of communication (clause 4.1). In accordance with paragraph "a" of part 2 of rule 41, the procedure for conducting a search and seizure of property is determined, which means documents, books, business papers, any material objects and information.

Digital evidence is recognized as evidentiary information that is stored or transmitted in digital form and can be used by a party to the proceedings during the trial. Such information consists of two components:

1. content — that is, direct data (text documents, images, databases, etc.);

2. metadata — information about this data, containing information about the creation, modification or access to them. Metadata describes who, when and how a file or data set was created or modified, as well as under what conditions access took place.

Procedural aspects of working with electronic evidence in the United States are regulated by the Guidelines for the Search and Collection of Electronic Evidence. Before accepting electronic evidence in court, a party must prove its authenticity through a standard procedure for verifying an electronic document or by describing the process of its creation or the system by which the corresponding result was obtained. In this case, it is necessary to confirm that the system or process ensures the accuracy and reliability of the data.

The authenticity of computer records in US law is based on two principles:

- first, the absence of specific evidence of interference, even if there is a theoretical possibility of such interference, does not affect the reliability of the record;

- secondly, the rule of “best evidence” (Article 1002) applies, according to which there is no obligation to submit the original recording to the court.

The current direction of development of digital forensics in the USA is the study of electronic databases (Data Mining), which accumulate information about the activities of a person, including his possible criminal behavior. The essence of Data Mining in forensic activities is the systematic analysis of large amounts of information - collection, filtering, extraction and intellectual processing of data to identify forensically significant information. For example, through the use of geographic information systems, it is possible to establish the location of a person or other important circumstances.

In the UK, the key regulatory act regulating work with electronic evidence is the Computer Use for Unlawful Purposes Statute. It contains criminal law provisions on computer crimes, as well as

procedural provisions on conducting a search, seizing electronic evidence and determining the powers of law enforcement agencies.

In addition, the Association of Chiefs of Police of England, Wales and Northern Ireland has developed a Handbook on Working with Digital Evidence, which details the practical aspects of their detection, preservation and analysis [2, p. 223]. In conclusion, we note that the legislation of leading countries of the world is gradually becoming “technological” in nature: modern terms, technologies and approaches to the use of electronic evidence in criminal proceedings are being integrated into legal norms. In the USA, where the judicial procedure for forming evidence allows the parties to provide the court with information in any form, electronic evidence has a wider application. This is due to the fact that the concept of evidence in the US legal system is broader than in Ukraine, and does not require a mandatory indication of the specific source of its origin.

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EFFECTIVE DCIME REDUCTION STRATEGIES: INTERNATIONAL CASE STUDIES

Today, crime knows no borders, creating complex challenges for law enforcement agencies and politicians. Together with the development of crime, strategies to combat it must also develop. By

studying international crime-fighting efforts, we can gain valuable insights into effective practices and adapt these lessons to improve crime prevention and public safety around the world. An analysis of international crime-fighting experiences indicates that in modern conditions, criminal activities pose a real threat to democratic development and national security in most countries worldwide. Criminal elements, with close interregional and international connections, are increasingly directing their efforts towards establishing control over the most profitable areas of economic relations.

Case Study 1 (Community Crime Prevention): Stay Alive Program (Brazil)

The end of the 20 th century saw a steep rise in homicide rates in the city of Belo Horizonte, Brazil and other Brazilian state capitals. Most of these homicides occurred in the slum areas of the cities, and involved young males under the age of 24. Various community partners were brought together in the development and implementation of the crime prevention interventions. Such partners included; the Belo Horizonte City Office, State Social Defence Office, local and federal police, business organisations, NGOs and local communities. Many of the interventions targeted youth, and included components relating to social support, education and recreation. Numerous workshops were also run, addressing issues such as violence, drugs, and sexually transmitted diseases, through programs that focused on sports, arts performance, job training, and computer skills. Additionally, crime and violence prevention training was provided to local police officers, community members, social workers, health care workers and educational staff. Thirty months after the implementation of the program, there was a decrease in violent crimes in the piloted areas. Homicides decreased by 47%, attempted homicides decreased by 65% and bakery robberies decreased by 46% [1].

Case Study 2 (The impact of information systems and technology on police investigate effectiveness in Norway). Investigation is the police activity concerned with the apprehension of criminals by the gathering of evidence leading to their arrest and the collection and presentation of evidence and testimony for the purpose of obtaining convictions. The performance of police investigation units is subject to considerable variability. One potential explanation for such variation is the extent to which detectives have access to information technology

and electronic information sources. Knowledge work in police investigations is based on a variety of information sources such as incident reports, crime scene investigator reports, witness statements, suspect statements, tip lines, crime scene photographs and drawings, fingerprints, DNA, physical evidence (e.g., ballistics, tool marks, and blood spatters), informants, and property tracking. Four examples of IT in police work can be examined. These systems have functionality that typically covers more than one stage in the stages of knowledge management technology model. Therefore, these examples of policing systems suggest that the stages are overlapping. However, as we shall see at the functional and user level, stage perspectives might determine system perceptions. The first example is COPLINK, it is an application for information and knowledge sharing in law enforcement. The system uses a three-tiered architecture. The user accesses the system through a Web browser. The middle tier connects the user interface and the backend databases and implements the work logic. COPLINK Detect is targeted for detectives and crime analysts. In COPLINK Detect, detailed criminal case reports are the underlying information space, and concepts are meaningful terms occurring in each case. These case reports contain both structured (e.g., database fields for incidents containing the case number, names of people involved, address and date) and unstructured data (narratives written by officers commenting on an incident, e.g, witness A said he saw suspect A run away in a white truck) [2, c.28]

Case Study 3 (Rehabilitation and social reintegration programs in Sweden, Norway and Germany). Several countries have shifted their focus from solely punitive measures to rehabilitation and reintegration. Sweden, Norway, and Germany have developed comprehensive rehabilitation programs aimed at reducing recidivism rates by addressing the underlying social and psychological factors that lead individuals to criminal behavior. These programs often include education, job training, and psychological support, helping former offenders reintegrate into society. Research has shown that countries with strong rehabilitation programs experience lower crime rates and better long-term outcomes for individuals and communities alike [3].

Case Study 4 (Legislative reforms and strengthened legal frameworks in Japan and Australia). Effective crime control often depends on robust legal frameworks that allow for quick, decisive

action. Japan, for instance, has implemented stringent anti-gang legislation, resulting in a significant reduction in organized crime activities. Other countries, like Australia, have introduced strict anti-corruption laws to curb financial crimes, creating greater transparency and reducing the influence of criminal elements in both the public and private sectors. Legislative reforms that address specific forms of crime, such as human trafficking and cybercrime, are critical to keeping up with the changing tactics of criminal organizations.

Given the interconnected nature of criminal networks, international cooperation is crucial too. Cross-border collaboration has proven effective in combating transnational crime, such as human trafficking, drug smuggling, and cybercrime. Organizations like INTERPOL and the European Union Agency for Law Enforcement Cooperation (Europol) facilitate information sharing and joint operations among countries. A successful example of this cooperation can be seen in the European Union, where member states work closely to address organized crime and terrorism. By sharing intelligence, conducting joint investigations, and harmonizing laws, European countries have been able to disrupt criminal networks that operate across borders.

The examination of international crime reduction strategies demonstrates that effective crime control requires a multifaceted approach. From community-based interventions to advanced technology use, rehabilitation programs, and legislative reforms, countries around the world are employing diverse and innovative methods to combat crime. Each case study highlights the value of tailoring crime-fighting efforts to address the specific social, economic, and cultural contexts in which crime occurs. Ultimately, by learning from these international experiences, policymakers and law enforcement agencies can develop more effective, comprehensive strategies that not only deter crime but also foster safer, more resilient communities. The global fight against crime requires ongoing adaptation, collaboration, and a commitment to understanding the factors that drive criminal behavior across diverse regions. Through these efforts, nations can strengthen their capacities to protect public safety and uphold democratic values in an interconnected world.

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ENSURING PUBLIC ORDER AND THE SAFETY OF CITIZENS IN UKRAINE AND ABROAD

Public order and the safety of citizens are fundamental elements of any democratic and stable state. They ensure not only the protection of human rights and freedoms but also the proper functioning of society and the state. Maintaining public safety involves the activities of various institutions — the police, emergency services, the judiciary, and local authorities — which cooperate to prevent and respond to threats to life, health, and property. In recent decades, both Ukraine and many other countries have faced serious challenges in ensuring public security — including terrorism, organized crime, mass protests, natural disasters, and cyber threats. Therefore, studying and comparing Ukrainian and foreign approaches to maintaining public order is vital for improving the efficiency of national security systems and strengthening public trust in state institutions.

In Ukraine, the responsibility for maintaining public order and ensuring the safety of citizens lies primarily with the National Police of Ukraine, created in 2015 as part of a major law enforcement reforms. The reforms aimed to build a new model of policing based on transparency, trust, and respect for human rights. The National Police performs a wide range of tasks: preventing and stopping offenses, protecting citizens' rights and freedoms, maintaining public order, and providing assistance during emergencies. Special police units, such as

patrol police, special purpose units, and criminal police divisions, operate across the country. The patrol police, in particular, became a symbol of reform — focusing on communication with citizens, rapid response, and visible presence in communities. Public safety in Ukraine also involves cooperation with the National Guard, the State Emergency Service, and local self-government bodies. The National Guard assists the police in maintaining order during mass events, countering riots, and ensuring security in conflict-affected areas .Since 2014, Ukraine has faced unique challenges due to

Russia’s aggression and the war in the east have significantly influenced the approach to public order and safety. The state had to strengthen the system of territorial defense, introduce martial law regulations, and adapt policing to wartime conditions. Despite the difficulties, Ukrainian law enforcement agencies have continued to ensure security in cities, protect critical infrastructure, and assist civilians. Furthermore, Ukraine is actively implementing community policing practices — involving citizens in the process of ensuring safety. Initiatives such as “Safe City” programs, cooperation with NGOs, and installation of CCTV systems have improved the ability to detect and prevent crimes. Digitalization also plays an important role: the introduction of the “Police 102” mobile application, the Unified Information System of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, and video surveillance networks allow for faster response and coordination.

Different countries have developed their own models of ensuring public safety, based on historical traditions, governance structures, and levels of technological development. However, there are common trends: decentralization of police work, strong community involvement, use of modern technology, and emphasis on prevention rather than punishment.

Thus, the United Kingdom’s approach is often cited as one of the most democratic and effective in Europe. The Metropolitan Police Service (Scotland Yard) and regional police forces operate under the principle of “policing by consent,” meaning that police legitimacy is based on public trust rather than fear of authority. The UK has a strong system of community policing, where officers work closely with residents, local councils, and schools to prevent antisocial behavior and crime. Massive networks of CCTV cameras, advanced communication systems, and data-driven policing tools are widely used to monitor and

respond to incidents in real time. During public demonstrations or large-scale events, the British police apply the principle of proportionality — ensuring that any force used is minimal and lawful. This approach helps maintain a balance between security and freedom of expression.

Germany maintains public order through cooperation between federal and regional (Land) police forces. The Federal Police (Bundespolizei) are responsible for protecting borders, airports, and railways, while regional police deal with day-to-day law enforcement and local safety. A distinctive feature of the German model is preventive policing — identifying and addressing potential threats before they escalate. This includes close monitoring of extremist groups, cybersecurity units, and programs to combat youth crime and domestic violence. Germany also emphasizes human rights and the rule of law in police operations. Officers receive comprehensive training not only in tactics but also in communication, psychology, and conflict mediation. The use of excessive force is strictly regulated, and transparency in police actions is a key principle.

Japan is considered one of the safest countries in the world, largely due to its unique policing system. The foundation of Japan’s public safety model is the “kōban” system — small neighborhood police stations located throughout cities. Officers stationed there interact daily with residents, offering assistance, advice, and presence. Japanese police emphasize prevention, community trust, and moral responsibility. Society as a whole plays an active role in maintaining order, and citizens often cooperate with police voluntarily. Strict laws, strong cultural discipline, and the integration of modern technologies such as facial recognition systems and crime data analytics contribute to Japan’s extremely low crime rate.

Scandinavian states — such as Sweden, Norway, and Finland — take a humanistic and social approach to public safety. The focus is on education, equality, and social welfare as the foundations of security. Their police forces prioritize dialogue and conflict prevention rather than coercion. Public order during demonstrations or festivals is usually maintained through communication and mediation. Moreover, the high level of digitalization and social trust allows Scandinavian police to rely on minimal physical presence while maintaining very low crime and violence rates.

When comparing Ukraine’s system of ensuring public order with foreign models, several similarities and differences emerge. Like Western countries, Ukraine is moving toward community-based policing, greater transparency, and digitalization. However, the main challenge remains ensuring stability during wartime and post-conflict reconstruction. In contrast, Western European countries benefit from decades of peace and well-established democratic traditions. Their focus is mainly preventive and service-oriented, while Ukraine must balance between civil safety and national defense. Nevertheless, Ukraine’s reforms — including the establishment of a modern National Police, partnership with local communities, and technological innovations — demonstrate significant progress and alignment with European standards.

Ensuring public order and the safety of citizens is one of the most important tasks of any modern state. Both Ukraine and foreign countries have shown that success in this area depends not only on the strength of law enforcement but also on public trust, cooperation, and preventive strategies. The experience of the United Kingdom, Germany, Japan, and the Scandinavian countries proves that effective policing is based on respect for human rights, technological advancement, and community engagement. Ukraine, despite facing unique challenges related to war and internal transformation, is taking confident steps in this direction. By combining national experience with international best practices, Ukraine can build a modern, democratic, and resilient system of public safety that will ensure peace, stability, and the protection of citizens’ rights for years to come.

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THE USE OF CRIMINAL INTELLIGENCE IN COMBATING CRIME: THE EXPERIENCE OF THE UNITED STATES, CANADA, AND THE UNITED KINGDOM

The use of criminal intelligence in combating crime represents a system of targeted collection, verification, analysis, and application of information that enhances the efficiency of criminal proceedings and ensures the validity of managerial and procedural decisions. Its main goal is not the accumulation of large data sets, but the creation of a reliable analytical foundation for law enforcement activities. In modern practice, the core methodology is *intelligence-led policing* (ILP) – a concept that integrates strategic threat assessment and tactical support of criminal proceedings based on the processing of data from multiple sources. This approach involves a clearly structured analytical cycle: setting priorities, collecting data, conducting analytical processing,

formulating conclusions, and delivering the product for decision-making. It also emphasizes compliance with standards for evaluating the reliability of information and protecting personal data.

In the United States, criminal intelligence is embedded in the law enforcement system through a network of *fusion centers*, which serve as hubs for collecting and processing criminal information at the federal, state, and local levels. The legal standards governing these centers are established by *28 CFR Part 23*, which defines requirements for the collection, verification, storage, and dissemination of analytical materials, prohibits the retention of irrelevant data, and mandates periodic review of stored records. Within this framework, the *Nationwide Suspicious Activity Reporting (NSI)* program operates, providing a standardized description of suspicious activities and their automated transmission to competent authorities [1, c.11-12]. This mechanism creates a unified format for information exchange across all levels of law enforcement and ensures rapid response to emerging threats. Analytical products developed under the ILP framework are directly applied in criminal proceedings – during evidence preparation, initiation of investigative actions, or determination of investigation priorities.

Canada has developed its own model of criminal intelligence through the *Criminal Intelligence Service Canada (CISC)* – an interagency network that unites federal, provincial, and municipal police forces. CISC coordinates the analytical activities of law enforcement agencies, produces national strategic assessments of organized crime, issues threat reports, and maintains unified data exchange standards. In practice, CISC uses analytical products to set investigative priorities and design operational plans. Information exchange is supported by the *Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP)*, which administers the *Criminal Intelligence Program*, integrating analytical reports into ongoing investigations and utilizing interprovincial databases and criminal registries. This model not only facilitates coordination among law enforcement bodies but also prevents duplication of operational efforts and improves the documentation of organized criminal groups.

In the United Kingdom, criminal intelligence operates within the framework of the *National Intelligence Model (NIM)*, which defines the standards for collecting, processing, and using information in policing.

NIM includes three key levels of analytical products: strategic assessments (long-term trends and threats), tactical assessments (short-term risks and priorities), and *problem/target profiles*— analytical descriptions of specific subjects or problems. Coordination is carried out by the *Tasking & Coordination Group*, which determines the sequence of operational and investigative actions based on analytical findings. Data reliability is evaluated using the 3×5×2 system, which assesses the credibility of sources and the accuracy of the information. This model standardizes information assessment, ensures a shared analytical language among units, and upholds the principles of legality, proportionality, and necessity in data processing [2, c.7-9].

Although the analytical cycle in these countries follows similar stages, their priorities differ. In the United States, the focus is on data integration between agencies and government levels, which enables the detection of transregional threats and the formation of nationwide risk assessments. In Canada, the emphasis lies in strategic evaluation of organized crime and the creation of a unified information space accessible to all police bodies. In the United Kingdom, the key feature is procedural discipline: no operational activity begins without an approved analytical product, and all actions are planned based on substantiated data. Despite these differences, all three systems share the same principle – analytics does not replace investigation but structures it, providing a logical sequence of actions that increases the effectiveness of evidence gathering in criminal proceedings.

The practical tools of criminal intelligence can be divided into five main categories [3, c.10-11]. The first is strategic assessments, which define long-term threat perspectives and investigative priorities. The second is tactical products, including subject profiles, event timelines, and link analysis charts that support operational planning. The third is *deconfliction* mechanisms, which prevent overlapping operations conducted by different units. The fourth concerns standards for assessing data quality, distinguishing between “information” and “intelligence.” The fifth involves legal oversight – maintaining access logs, conducting audits, and regularly reviewing data relevance. Such structure not only ensures analytical accuracy but also compliance with procedural standards of evidence.

The legal guarantees of criminal intelligence operations in all three countries share a common feature – the legality of data sources.

In the United States, this aspect is regulated by *28 CFR Part 23*; in the United Kingdom, by the *Data Protection Act 2018* and internal NIM standards; and in Canada, by federal privacy legislation and internal RCMP and CISC policies. Analytical units operate exclusively with lawfully obtained information, and the results of their work are formalized in a way that allows their direct use in motions, official requests, and judicial evidence. This approach maintains a balance between security needs and human rights protections.

In conclusion, the use of criminal intelligence in the United States, Canada, and the United Kingdom demonstrates the emergence of a new model of law enforcement activity in which analytical processes are an integral part of criminal proceedings. The U.S. model emphasizes data integration and standardization, the Canadian model promotes interagency cooperation and strategic planning, and the British model focuses on disciplined management of analytical products. Collectively, they show that criminal intelligence is not an auxiliary tool but the logical core of modern crime prevention and investigation, ensuring the efficient use of evidence and a consistent, data-driven response to threats.

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INTERPOL AND FORENSIC SCIENCE INSTITUTES: GENERAL OVERVIEW

Forensic investigation agencies play a key role in the criminal justice system: they detect and suppress criminal activity, document crime scene traces, collect evidence, and conduct forensic examinations. In today's globalized world, crime is increasingly acquiring a transnational character - cybercrime, organized crime, and terrorism do not recognize borders. This makes international cooperation between investigators and forensic experts extremely important.

One of the most important international structures coordinating criminal investigations at the global level is Interpol [1]. It maintains international databases of fingerprints, DNA, facial images, and other biometric identifiers, which help establish links between criminals, crime scenes, and criminal networks. Interpol also operates the "Innovation Centre" in Singapore a center that brings together law enforcement, scientists, and the private sector to exchange knowledge on emerging technologies and threats.

Through its activities, Interpol supports forensic standards and infrastructure, facilitates information exchange between laboratories worldwide, and organizes the International Forensic Science Managers' Symposium — an annual or periodic forum where forensic laboratory directors meet to share experience, new methodologies, and standards. An example is the "Operation Identify Me" project — an Interpol initiative aimed at identifying unidentified deceased women in Europe through forensic methods such as DNA analysis, facial reconstruction, and more.

The Interpol Innovation Centre has helped law enforcement worldwide better understand technological threats (cybercrime, new communication tools) and develop responses. "Operation Identify Me" is a real example where international cooperation enabled investigators to identify deceased victims using DNA, facial reconstruction, and biometric methods. Interpol coordinates the exchange of forensic

information, allowing detection of transnational crime chains and identification of suspects crossing borders.

European Network of Forensic Science Institutes (ENFSI) is one of the most influential international networks of forensic laboratories and expert institutions in Europe [2]. The Kyiv Scientific Research Institute of Forensic Examinations is a full member of ENFSI, which enables Ukrainian experts to participate in international projects, exchange knowledge, and standardize their practices according to European requirements. ENFSI promotes the implementation of pan-European methodologies, laboratory accreditation, and the unification of forensic procedures. Within ENFSI, thematic working groups exist (e.g., DNA, drugs, trace analysis), where experts from different countries jointly address issues and improve methods. ISO Standards: National forensic laboratories (e.g., in Ukraine) aim to harmonize with international standards by participating in the ISO Technical Committee ISO/TC 272 “Forensic Sciences” [2].

Through ENFSI, member laboratories can exchange best practices, standardize methodologies, and participate in working groups (e.g., drug analysis) that advance forensic science.

Participation has enabled Ukrainian forensic laboratories to raise their quality standards and adopt internationally recognized methods. International experience demonstrates that the effective functioning of forensic investigation agencies is impossible without integration into global cooperation networks, methodological standardization, and the implementation of advanced technologies. Institutions such as INTERPOL and ENFSI provide interaction, data exchange, and innovation development, significantly improving the quality of criminal investigations.

Modern investigations increasingly rely on innovative technologies. International experience highlights several trends and Machine Learning to research on international forensic practices, Artificial Intelligence (AI) is used for analyzing video and photographic data, as well as video analytics systems. The concept of forensic intelligence integrates diverse forensic data (e.g., traces, video, geolocation analysis) to build comprehensive criminal activity profiles. Examples include studies that apply deep learning to reconstruct objects at crime scenes using virtual reality (VR) environments. There are also

models that optimize server operations and automate preparation of digital evidence, enabling experts to perform analysis 24/7.

Technological advancements from artificial intelligence to digital forensics enable faster and more accurate evidence analysis, while organizational models differ among countries, showing that the optimal approach combines centralized standards with regional operational capabilities.

Ukraine, integrating into European and international structures, gains opportunities to develop its forensic science in accordance with modern global standards.

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IMPROVING THE LEGAL MECHANISM FOR SETTLING ARMED CONFLICTS WITHIN A STATE: FORMULATION OF THE SCIENTIFIC PROBLEM

Currently, armed conflicts are increasingly occurring in different countries of the world. Unfortunately, Ukraine is no exception in this matter. Under such conditions, the world practice of making management decisions in the security sector proves that the settlement of armed conflicts within the state occupies one of the first places in the system of ensuring state security.

Armed conflicts occurring within a state represent one of the most complex challenges for national and international legal systems. They typically involve a combination of political, social, ethnic, and economic factors, which makes their legal qualification and subsequent regulation significantly more complicated than in cases of traditional

interstate conflicts. One of the central scientific problems is the differentiation between internal disturbances, insurgencies, and non-international armed conflicts as defined by international humanitarian law (IHL). Misclassification of such situations may lead to legal uncertainty, inadequate state responses, or violations of international obligations [1].

The relevance of improving the legal mechanism for settling internal armed conflicts has significantly increased due to the proliferation of hybrid forms of warfare, the involvement of non-state armed groups, and the spread of transnational threats. Traditional approaches, based primarily on applying domestic law, no longer meet modern security realities. Instead, states are increasingly required to integrate standards of IHL and international human rights law (IHRL) into their national legislation and law enforcement practices. This integration is complicated by inconsistencies in legal terminology, gaps in domestic law, and varying interpretations of the thresholds of armed conflict under the Geneva Conventions and Additional Protocols [2].

A crucial theoretical and practical problem is determining the proper balance between a state's right to maintain internal security and its obligation to protect human rights during internal armed conflicts. Excessive reliance on force, insufficient regulation of special operations, and the lack of transparent accountability mechanisms often result in human rights abuses, undermining public trust in state institutions. Modern international experience demonstrates that effective conflict settlement requires a comprehensive approach that includes transitional justice instruments, mediation, reintegration of former combatants, and restoration of democratic governance [3].

Another key challenge is ensuring effective cooperation between national institutions and international organisations. States experiencing internal armed conflict often receive support from the United Nations, the Council of Europe, and regional organisations. However, the effectiveness of such cooperation depends on the clarity of domestic legal procedures and the adaptability of national legislation to international standards. Without this alignment, international assistance becomes fragmented and insufficiently effective. Comparative research shows that states with harmonised conflict-related legislation achieve faster stabilisation and more sustainable post-conflict recovery. The role of transitional justice also constitutes

an important scientific dimension. Internal armed conflicts often result in long-term trauma, destruction of institutions, and erosion of social trust. Transitional justice mechanisms — such as truth-seeking, prosecution of grave crimes, reparations, institutional reforms, and guarantees of non-recurrence — are essential for sustainable peace. However, their implementation in domestic law is frequently irregular or incomplete. Research indicates that states which successfully integrate transitional justice into their legal frameworks achieve faster reconciliation and more stable post-conflict governance [4].

Thus, the scientific problem lies in developing a coherent, modernised legal mechanism that integrates the norms of domestic law, IHL, IHRL, and best international practices. Addressing this problem requires identifying gaps in current legislation, analysing international standards, and formulating proposals aimed at enhancing the predictability, transparency, and effectiveness of state actions during internal armed conflicts. Only by integrating these components can states develop effective, transparent, and resilient legal frameworks capable of protecting human rights, ensuring national security, and promoting long-term peace in the face of modern and evolving security challenges.

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MODERN METHODS OF POLICE OFFICER SELF- PRESENTATION AND PUBLIC PERCEPTION

In the 21st century, the role of the police is changing. Society expects not only safety and protection, but also respectful, open, and professional behavior from every officer. Because of this, self-presentation has become a key part of police work. Self-presentation is how a person shows their identity, values, and intentions to others. For police officers, it affects how people see them — as protectors, partners, or sometimes as threats. The way officers behave, speak, and even look can change public opinion, increase cooperation, or create conflict [1].

In both Ukraine and the United States, the public image of the police is under constant observation — especially during times of crisis, protests, or war. Citizens now receive information not only from personal experience but also through media and social networks. That is why modern police officers must understand how to manage their own self-presentation — in real life and online. This helps to build trust, reduce tension, and improve the overall effectiveness of policing in democratic societies [2].

1. Theoretical Background of Self-Presentation

The idea of self-presentation was studied by sociologist Erving Goffman. In his famous book “The Presentation of Self in Everyday Life” (1959), he compared social behavior to a theatrical performance. According to Goffman, each person plays a “role” in front of others, using expressions, speech, and actions to create a desired impression [2]. Police officers, like actors on a stage, must perform their role with discipline, confidence, and awareness of their audience — the public.

Self-presentation has two main goals: first, to show the right image; second, to control how others respond. In the case of police officers, they often want to show strength, authority, calmness, and fairness. This image helps citizens feel safe and protected. However, if officers appear too aggressive, cold, or careless, people may feel fear or

mistrust. That is why understanding the psychology of first impressions is so important in police training [3].

Modern theories of communication and social psychology also add that self-presentation is not only about behavior. It includes nonverbal elements (posture, eye contact, facial expressions), verbal skills (tone of voice, vocabulary), and visual symbols (uniform, badge, body language). A well-presented police officer can quickly calm a situation, gain cooperation, and reduce the risk of violence — while a poorly presented officer may create unnecessary conflict [4].

In the digital age, self-presentation becomes even more complex. Social media, videos from mobile phones, and body-worn cameras mean that almost every interaction can be recorded and shared. Because of this, officers must now think not only about how they act in the moment, but also how their behavior will appear on camera or online [4]. This creates a new level of responsibility — both individual and institutional — for the modern police force.

2. Appearance and Communication

Police officers usually wear a uniform. It shows they are part of the government and have authority. In both Ukraine and the U.S., the uniform is a symbol of order and law. But it can also cause fear or stress for some people. That is why police need to combine formal appearance with polite and friendly communication.

In the U.S., police also use body cameras. These cameras record their work and help show transparency. This builds trust between police and people (NIJ, 2017). In Ukraine, the police follow a model called *community policing*, which means working closely with the local community to solve problems and reduce crime [3].

3. Online Self-Presentation

Today, many police departments use social media. They post on Instagram, Facebook, and YouTube. They show videos of daily work, training, and helping people. For example, Austin Police Department in Texas uses Instagram to show real-life moments and connect with the public.

However, police officers must be careful online. In the U.S., there are rules that say officers cannot post confidential information or anything that damages the reputation of the police (OJP, 2017). In Ukraine, rules about online behavior are still developing.

4. Psychological and Ethical Side of Self-Presentation

Police officers face difficult and stressful situations. People can be angry, scared, or aggressive. Police must control their emotions and stay professional. If they show calm and respectful behavior, it improves their image.

In the U.S., police learn special communication techniques. One example is Verbal Judo — it helps officers manage conflict using calm and smart language [4]. In Ukraine, officers are also trained in conflict resolution and emotional control.

5. Gender and Cultural Aspects

Self-presentation also depends on culture and gender. Female police officers often must show that they are both professional and respected. In the U.S., there are many programs that support women in policing. They show that women can be strong and effective officers. Some people feel more comfortable when talking to female officers, especially in sensitive situations (SAGE, 2012).

6. Police Image During War or Crisis

Since 2022, Ukrainian police work in war conditions. They do more than usual patrol work — they help with evacuations, protect important places, and support the army. In this situation, the police image has changed. Now, police officers are often seen as heroes — brave and kind. Media stories about their work create a strong emotional connection between people and the police [5].

Modern self-presentation of police officers includes not just appearance, but also communication style, emotional control, social media behavior, and professional ethics. It is important for building trust and improving the relationship between police and the public.

Ukraine is moving towards European values and also learning from American experience. But at the same time, Ukrainian police are creating their own model — based on war realities, people’s needs, and the goal of building an open and fair police system.

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WAYS OF IMPLEMENTING THE LAW OF UKRAINE ON THE USE OF THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE

The adoption of the Law of Ukraine “On the Use of the English Language in Ukraine” is a significant milestone in the nation’s movement toward European integration and modernization. The law aims to strengthen the role of English as an international language in education, administration, business, and public communication. Its proper implementation requires large-scale coordination between state institutions, educators, private companies, and society [1].

One of the most important directions of the law’s implementation is the modernization of the national education system. Schools must not only increase the number of English lessons but also focus on the quality of teaching. Interactive methods, project-based learning, digital tools, and international educational platforms provide students with opportunities to immerse themselves in the English-speaking environment. Additionally, cooperation with foreign educational centers improves teacher training and supports the development of strong language competence.

Higher education institutions must introduce English-language courses across various disciplines. This includes the development of bilingual programs in law, economics, engineering, and public administration. The introduction of English proficiency standards for graduates ensures that Ukrainian specialists are competitive on the European and global labor markets. Universities also benefit from academic mobility programs, allowing students to participate in international exchanges and research projects [2].

Another necessary component of the law's implementation is teacher development. Educators must have access to professional courses, international training initiatives, and certification programs. The continuous improvement of teaching skills is essential, as teachers play a crucial role in shaping the linguistic competence of the next generation.

The implementation of the law also transforms the system of public administration. Government institutions must provide citizens and foreign visitors with English-language versions of official documents, public services, and information. Civil servants working in international communication roles or positions connected with foreign cooperation must demonstrate English proficiency. This strengthens diplomatic relations, improves transparency, and increases Ukraine's presence in global processes [3].

The business sector is another important area influenced by the law. Ukrainian companies that use English in communication with international partners become more competitive. The business environment benefits from bilingual documentation, English-language marketing materials, and corporate training programs. Such changes also increase the country's investment attractiveness and promote integration with global markets.

In cultural and social life, English serves as a tool for international communication. The expansion of English-language media, bilingual public signage, and cultural events strengthens Ukraine's global visibility. This encourages citizens to use English in daily life, especially in tourism, technology, and communication fields [4].

Ultimately, the successful implementation of the law depends on cooperation between the government, schools, universities, businesses, and the public. Strengthening English proficiency supports economic

development, enhances the quality of public services, and promotes integration with the international community. This effort contributes to Ukraine's modernization and establishes a foundation for long-term growth and global engagement.

In conclusion, the Law of Ukraine "On the Use of the English Language in Ukraine" is not merely a legislative act but a strategic step that opens new opportunities for development. Its implementation supports cultural openness, economic progress, and educational transformation.

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INTERNATIONAL EXPERIENCE IN COMBATING CYBERCRIME

In the modern digital era, cybercrime has become one of the most serious and rapidly growing threats worldwide. With the increasing reliance on information technologies, criminals exploit vulnerabilities in digital systems, targeting individuals, companies, and governments. Cybercrime affects national security, economic stability, and the

protection of personal and corporate data. Its transnational nature makes international cooperation essential, as cybercriminals can operate across borders with anonymity. One of the first international efforts to address cybercrime was the Budapest Convention on Cybercrime, adopted by the Council of Europe in 2001. It serves as a framework for harmonizing national laws, improving investigative techniques, and enhancing cross-border cooperation in criminal investigations. The Convention criminalizes activities such as hacking, identity theft, online fraud, and child exploitation, providing a foundation for international collaboration [1].

Additionally, the United Nations has recognized the importance of cybersecurity and has promoted several initiatives to strengthen global cooperation. For instance, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) supports member states by providing technical assistance, training programs, and guidance on drafting effective cybercrime legislation. The European Union Agency for Cybersecurity (ENISA) provides critical threat intelligence and cybersecurity guidelines to EU member states. According to the ENISA Threat Landscape 2023, European institutions and private companies face an increasing number of cyberattacks, ranging from ransomware campaigns to phishing and data breaches. Strengthening cyber resilience and sharing threat intelligence among countries is emphasized as a priority for mitigating risks [2]. Interpol also plays a central role through its Global Cybercrime Programme, uniting law enforcement agencies from 195 countries. It provides training, operational support, and technical expertise to detect and prevent cybercrime.

Interpol coordinates multinational operations against organized cybercriminal networks, including ransomware groups, malware distributors, and online fraud rings [3]. The FBI's Internet Crime Report 2023 reported that cybercrime caused over \$12 billion in losses in the United States alone, highlighting the economic and social impact of cyber threats. The report emphasizes the importance of international intelligence sharing and technological support to enhance prevention and prosecution efforts [4].

In Ukraine, the Cyber Police Department actively collaborates with Europol and Interpol to detect and neutralize transnational cybercriminal groups. These initiatives focus on preventing phishing

attacks, ransomware campaigns, and other forms of cybercrime, demonstrating Ukraine's commitment to international cybersecurity standards [5]. Similarly, countries like India have strengthened their national cybercrime frameworks. The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) dismantled transnational networks targeting minors and foreign nationals in operations supported by Interpol, reflecting the importance of cross-border collaboration [6].

Combating cybercrime requires not only legal and institutional measures but also technological innovation and public awareness. Countries invest in AI-based threat detection, advanced encryption, and secure cloud computing solutions. Public awareness campaigns and digital literacy programs help citizens and organizations recognize phishing schemes, malware, and other cyber threats. For example, the World Economic Forum emphasizes that cybersecurity is not only a technological issue but also a social and economic one. Their reports stress the need for global cooperation, information sharing, and capacity building to ensure safe and resilient digital environments [7].

International experience shows that combating cybercrime effectively requires a combination of legal harmonization, institutional collaboration, technological innovation, and public awareness. Organizations like the Council of Europe, ENISA, Interpol, and national agencies demonstrate that global cooperation and proactive measures are essential to reduce cybercrime threats. Only through continuous international collaboration and innovation can the global community ensure a safe and secure cyberspace.

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THE USE OF MODERN TECHNOLOGIES IN COMBATING CRIME: INTERNATIONAL EXPERIENCE

The use of modern technologies in combating crime has become a defining element of contemporary law enforcement strategy, shaping both operational practice and policy frameworks. Rapid advances in digital forensics, biometric systems, artificial intelligence (AI), predictive analytics and cyber-investigation tools have expanded investigative capabilities far beyond traditional policing methods. These technologies enable law enforcement agencies to process large volumes of digital evidence, uncover complex criminal networks, and respond more quickly to cyber-dependent and cyber-enabled threats. Recent strategic assessments emphasise that the integration of technological instruments into policing is not merely a matter of acquiring equipment, but requires coherent institutional adaptation, interoperability between agencies, and legal-ethical calibration to preserve democratic oversight and civil liberties [1].

The relevance of studying international experience in technological applications for crime control is underscored by the transnational nature of many contemporary offences. Cybercrime markets, digital fraud schemes and organised online exploitation routinely cross national borders, thereby demanding international cooperation and shared technical standards. Analyses conducted at the European level reveal persistent trends: growth in the scale and

sophistication of online criminal activity, increasing misuse of commodified cyber tools, and the emergence of new operational challenges for evidence preservation and attribution [1]. Parallel research from the United States documents how analytical methods such as crime-forecasting and data-driven deployment strategies have been trialled across multiple jurisdictions, producing mixed evidence on effectiveness and fairness that calls for careful empirical evaluation before wide application [2].

A critical dimension of modern technology use in policing concerns predictive and analytical tools which aim to anticipate criminal activity and guide resource allocation. Predictive policing systems apply statistical models to historical incident data, environmental variables and human mobility patterns to produce risk maps and patrol suggestions. Proponents argue that these tools can improve the efficiency of patrol deployment, reduce response times and enable proactive interventions targeted at high-risk locations or behaviours. However, empirical studies and implementation reviews caution that predictive methods are highly sensitive to data quality, reporting biases and model assumptions; without robust validation, they risk amplifying existing policing disparities and generating unjustified surveillance of marginalised communities [2]. Thus, responsible application requires transparency of algorithms, continuous performance monitoring, and mechanisms for independent oversight.

Biometric technologies and automated identification systems represent another major area of deployment. Fingerprint databases, facial recognition, and DNA analysis have demonstrably improved identification speed and accuracy in many investigations. At the same time, the diffusion of face recognition in public-facing settings raises profound policy questions about consent, proportionality and error rates, particularly when algorithms are trained on non-representative datasets. Internationally, regulatory responses vary: some jurisdictions emphasise strict procedural safeguards and limited operational use, whereas others prioritise capability expansion for counterterrorism and serious crime detection. Comparative evidence indicates that effective governance frameworks — combining legal limits, audit trails, and redress mechanisms — are essential to maintain public trust and to ensure that technological benefits do not come at the expense of fundamental rights [1][3].

Cyber-investigation and digital forensics have become indispensable as criminal activity migrates online. Law enforcement agencies deploy specialized tools for malware analysis, network tracing, and the extraction of evidence from encrypted devices. Cross-border cooperation and information sharing platforms enable coordinated takedowns and the tracing of criminal proceeds through complex financial and cryptocurrency channels. Yet these operations confront technical obstacles (such as widespread encryption and anonymisation services), legal fragmentation among states, and the need to reconcile investigative imperatives with data protection regimes. Strategic reviews recommend enhancing capabilities in cyber-forensics, investing in specialised personnel, and fostering cooperative frameworks that balance investigatory reach with due process safeguards [1].

Robotics, unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) and sensor networks are being trialled for situational awareness and tactical support. Drones provide dynamic aerial surveillance, while ground robotics can access hazardous environments; Internet of Things (IoT) sensor data can augment incident reconstruction. These platforms increase operational flexibility but also introduce new vectors for misuse and technical failure. It is therefore crucial to integrate resilience planning, standards for evidence admissibility, and clearly articulated deployment protocols that reflect proportionality and necessity principles. Lessons from pilot programmes suggest that multidisciplinary evaluation — combining technical, legal, and community perspectives — is required before scaling deployments.

A growing body of policy research also addresses the governance of AI in criminal justice contexts. AI applications for risk assessment, recidivism prediction, and investigative prioritisation promise resource efficiencies but pose risks related to opacity, bias and accountability. Recent governmental reviews have recommended stronger requirements for model documentation, impact assessments, human-in-the-loop decision architectures and public reporting on outcomes. These recommendations align with field evidence showing that algorithmic systems must be embedded within broader institutional safeguards to prevent unintended harms and to maintain legitimacy [3]. Moreover, capacity building within agencies — including digital literacy for frontline officers, legal training for prosecutors and judges,

and technical expertise for oversight bodies — is necessary to translate technological potential into durable public safety gains.

International cooperation emerges repeatedly as a precondition for effective technological responses to modern crime. Operational partnerships, shared investigative toolkits, and joint training programs enable faster cross-border casework and foster harmonisation of best practices. Nevertheless, cooperative arrangements require mutual legal assistance, interoperable technical standards and agreed safeguards for handling personal data across jurisdictions. The experience of recent multinational operations demonstrates that when states combine technical tools with shared investigative protocols, they can achieve significant disruption of criminal networks; however, success is contingent on trust, capacity parity and legal interoperability [1].

In conclusion, modern technologies offer powerful instruments to detect, deter and investigate crime, but their deployment entails complex trade-offs. Empirical evidence from European and American contexts indicates that technological effectiveness depends as much on governance, transparency and human capital as on the tools themselves. Policy priorities should therefore include: ensuring data quality and model validation for analytic systems; establishing clear legal frameworks and oversight mechanisms for biometric and AI deployments; investing in specialised cyber-forensic capacity; and strengthening international cooperation to address transnational threats. Only through integrated strategies that combine technical innovation with ethical governance and rigorous evaluation can states harness technological advances to enhance public safety while upholding democratic rights and the rule of law [1][2][3].

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PECULIARITIES OF POLICE ACTIVITIES UNDER MARTIAL LAW

The full-scale invasion of Russian troops, which began against Ukraine in February 2022, posed numerous security challenges for the state and its law enforcement agencies, which had to be addressed as quickly as possible and with the most effective use of available forces and resources. The National Police of Ukraine, as part of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Ukraine, has been defending the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the country since the first days of the war [1].

According to the Minister of Internal Affairs, Ihor Klymenko, before the full-scale invasion began, the total number of police personnel was approximately 98,000. It is important to note that these forces were evenly distributed throughout the country. However, during the legal regime of martial law, the majority of them were moved to the combat zone and transferred to enhanced duty. In particular, according to his data, about 10 % of personnel are currently involved in combat missions on the front lines, while another 25 % of police officers are directly serving in regions where hostilities are ongoing (Zaporizhzhia, Donetsk, Kharkiv, Kherson and Sumy regions). In total, approximately 40–45% of personnel are currently involved in performing functions that are not typical for the police, as some law enforcement officers from rear areas also periodically perform combat tasks on a rotational basis, in particular, demining territories [1, с. 7-8].

Therefore, it should be noted that under the legal regime of martial law, the personnel of the National Police not only perform purely law enforcement functions, but are also involved in protecting state sovereignty, providing assistance to the civilian population during

enemy attacks, and performing humanitarian tasks (evacuation of the civilian population, delivery of humanitarian aid, etc.) [1, c. 8].

The specifics of the activities of the National Police under martial law are determined by the current legislation, primarily by the Law of Ukraine "On the Legal Regime of Martial Law". According to this law, the National Police facilitates the activities of the military administration, courts, prosecutor's office, and judicial bodies during the period of martial law; reports to the military administration on the legal situation in the relevant territory, fights crime, maintains public order and the results of its activities [2, c. 88].

Thus, the additional powers of police officers during martial law are:

- escorting persons detained on suspicion of committing a criminal offense, taken into custody, accused or sentenced to imprisonment, as well as protecting them in the courtroom;
- operational demining by the police: neutralization and destruction of explosive objects; detection;
- representation and fulfillment of Ukraine's obligations in the International Criminal Police Organization - Interpol;
- cooperation with the European Police Office (Europol) [2, c. 88].

In addition, the grounds for checking a person's documents and stopping a vehicle by the police have been expanded. Thus, documents are subject to verification in the following cases: if a person has external signs similar to those of a wanted person, or a missing person, or has arbitrarily left a place for holding prisoners of war; if there is information indicating that the driver or passenger of a vehicle is a person who has arbitrarily left a place for holding prisoners of war. It is also stipulated that during the martial law regime, police officers are guaranteed free medical care in health care institutions of any form of ownership [4, c. 246].

Having considered the additional powers of police officers, a problem arises in connection with the intensification of the service activities of police officers. A set of organizational, legal, preventive, operational and other measures related to the special regime of performance of official duties and the participation of a large number of police officers, the purpose of which is the rapid stabilization of the operational situation, given the available forces and means, directly

when in the daily regime of carrying out services related to public safety and order, their activities are impossible [2, c. 88].

In order for the National Police to effectively ensure public order and security during martial law, it is necessary to properly organize these activities. To this end, taking into account the social, political and economic conditions, it is necessary to take measures to provide them with the necessary material and technical resources to develop algorithms for police actions during a possible emergency situation such as the seizure of government buildings, especially important facilities, hostages, etc. [2, c. 88].

Psychological training, special physical training and professional training of the personnel of the National Police of Ukraine are of great importance. Since officers are usually prepared for martial law conditions, even sudden, unpredictable situations do not lead to problems in the implementation of their activities by the police [2, c. 88].

Thus, a significant contribution to the work of police officers under martial law was made on March 15, 2022 by the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine, which adopted amendments to the Law of Ukraine "On the National Police" in order to optimize the activities of the police, in particular during the martial law regime. The amendments provide for the addition of new paragraphs to Article 23 of the Law of Ukraine "On the National Police" and the granting of the police with the powers necessary to perform the tasks assigned to it, including under martial law [3, c. 132].

In conclusion, we can say that the National Police officers focus their activities on the internal threat of martial law in Ukraine, especially social criminalization, the development of the "shadow economy", various manifestations of terrorism, inadequate law and order, and a low level of security.

Therefore, the main function of law enforcement agencies in ensuring martial law is to respond to threats, which is achieved by addressing issues such as combating crime, terrorism in all its forms, ensuring public safety, etc.

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PREVENTING ORGANIZED CRIME IN FOREIGN COUNTRIES

Ukraine has declared its desire to join the European Union, which has high standards of human security, well-being and standard of living, as well as the priority of human rights, the rule of law, ensuring the inevitability of punishment for those who have committed crime. In Ukraine, there has long been an urgent need to develop an effective strategy in the field of organized crime prevention, taking into account the positive foreign experience and European policy on combating organized crime.

Identifying and overcoming risk of crime is a task that involves systematically and thoroughly examining the external risks of crime that threaten a particular object: a structure, product, service, business model, or other entity that may be related in some way. with crime. First of all, it analyzes the probability of committing a crime and the possible harm that will be caused to certain objects [2]. To summarize the views expressed by Western criminologists, in general, two main approaches are used to counter organized crime: repressive and preventive or traditional and unconventional. Regarding the preventive approach,

nowadays, more and more different countries are beginning to develop and implement non-traditional measures to prevent organized crime. Mainstreaming is prevention, which covers various programs designed to influence communities (for example, providing citizens with information on the various losses and risks posed by organized crime, the introduction of hotlines; participation in the work of various civil organizations). Increasing participation of citizens in various prevention programs is a powerful anti-criminogenic factor.

For example, in Palermo, 25,000 children annually attend an educational program aimed at changing cultural norms that allow the mafia to spread. It is emphasized that the training has both a short-term effect (affecting the activity of reports of committed crimes that are becoming known to citizens) and a long-term effect (reducing the desire to participate or assist criminal organizations). Active participation of citizens in public life at local and national levels is supported through public associations [3].

A positive example is when Italy has shifted from a change in consciousness of people rather than economic factors to positive developments in the fight against organized crime. In the 70-80s of XX century. few politicians, administrators, journalists, and public figures fought against the mafia. Church representatives were particularly prominent among them. One of them, the Italian Jesuit B. Sorje, became a legend for this country more than 30 years ago (having worked as the editor-in-chief of the magazine, he left journalism and was sent to Sicily for a missionary mission - to help free this island from the mafia). According to this religious figure, the mafia is, first and foremost, a cultural phenomenon, a mentality phenomenon. And it is possible to change culture and mentality through cultural institutes, such as schools. Of course, laws are important for this purpose, police are needed, but education is the decisive element in the fight against the mafia. To defeat the Mafia requires a genuine cultural upheaval, as well as the support of the public. Padre B. Sorje admits that the mafia is not afraid of weapons as they have them. She is not afraid of politicians because she chooses and controls them. He is not afraid of judges, because he kills some and bribes others. She starts to get scared when the culture changes. For example, the changes that took place in Palermo were primarily related to changes in culture. Political education schools were established (there were approximately 200 such

schools nationwide) that were not affiliated with any of the parties. The task of such schools is to identify and educate people (especially teachers), to promote ideas of legitimacy and to formulate a new vision of politics [4].

We believe that the determining factors in the development of any society are moral and cultural factors. For some components of the theory of prevention in foreign countries, the main areas are social prevention, rehabilitation approach, situational prevention, strategies of law enforcement agencies aimed at timely detection and punishment of criminals.

So, in the light of European experience, strategic directions for combating organized crime in Ukraine are actions aimed at activating all levels of civil society, decriminalizing cultural norms and consciousness of a significant layer of citizens, influencing the motivation of potential criminals, reducing the factors of organized crime for activities that increase the risk for the offender to be caught and punished, complicate the commission of crimes, reduce the claims against the crimes committed, less ing incentives criminal activity.

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WAYS TO IMPLEMENT THE LAW OF UKRAINE “ON THE USE OF THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE IN UKRAINE” IN THE FIELD OF EDUCATION AND PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

The adoption of the Law “On the Use of English in Ukraine” is an important step towards Ukraine’s European integration, removing certain barriers and increasing the competitiveness of our state. The purpose of its creation is to promote the use of English as one of the languages of international communication throughout the territory of Ukraine in public spheres of public life. The state creates the necessary programs, expands the number of training courses, creates bilingual educational programs in order to increase the level of English proficiency of its citizens.

The legislator guarantees the use of English in the educational process for children of different age categories, in higher education institutions, the creation of conditions for the implementation of activities to provide English language learning services by educational entities, the improvement of standards of the relevant levels of education based on the scale of recommendations of the Council of Europe for language education (CEFR), ensuring the training and advanced training of pedagogical and scientific and pedagogical workers who teach English, and promoting the creation, implementation and dissemination of innovative digital resources for learning English [1].

In the field of public administration, the law establishes requirements for English language proficiency for civil servants. There are certain requirements for persons applying for a public office, including language proficiency. Professional training provides for advanced training, including language skills. The Strategy for Reforming Public Administration in Ukraine contains a requirement to improve the professional competence of civil servants, including knowledge and proficiency in English. There is a need to improve the qualifications of personnel, create conditions for regular training, and

introduce language certifications for officials to use English in government structures, which will contribute to more effective interaction with foreigners, international partners, organizations, and investors [2].

Despite the significant potential of the Law of Ukraine “On the Use of the English Language in Ukraine”, its successful implementation faces a number of challenges. First of all, these are the uneven level of English proficiency among the population, the difference in the quality of teacher training and the availability of educational resources in cities and rural communities.

An additional problem is the lack of qualified teachers and specialists capable of providing English-language education at a high level. There are also financial difficulties, since the implementation of language programs, training courses and a certification system requires significant investments from the state and local communities. Some institutions resist changes, which complicates the implementation of new requirements. At the same time, the prospects for the implementation of the law are significant.

The spread of the English language will contribute to raising educational standards, professional growth of citizens and strengthening the international positions of Ukraine. The successful implementation of the requirements of the law will allow expanding international cooperation, supporting innovation and attracting foreign investment. It is important that the state, educational institutions act together, creating conditions for the sustainable development of language competence.

To increase the effectiveness of the implementation of the law, it is necessary to develop a number of specific recommendations. Educational institutions should modernize curricula, provide teacher training, increase the number of English language courses and expand access to digital resources. It is advisable for state bodies to provide funding for language programs, improve the system of certification of English language proficiency and stimulate the professional development of civil servants. In addition, an important direction is the development of public-private partnerships, when business invests in language education of personnel, cooperates with universities and creates joint educational initiatives. This is a comprehensive approach

that will ensure the successful and full implementation of the law in all areas of public life.

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ENHANCING THE RIGHT TO PEACEFUL ASSEMBLY: PATHWAYS FOR IMPROVEMENT

In the modern world, one of the signs of a democratic, legal state is the protection and implementation of human and civil rights. This includes a guarantee of the ability of citizens to form and control the activities of government. Among them, an important place is occupied by the right to peaceful assembly, enshrined in Article 39 of the Constitution of Ukraine, according to which citizens have the right to assemble peacefully, without weapons and hold meetings, rallies, marches and demonstrations [1].

With the beginning of full-scale armed aggression against Ukraine, the issue of the implementation of the constitutional right to peaceful assembly takes on a new context. Although martial law has introduced a temporary restriction that directly affects the practice of holding mass rallies, public events and protests, Ukrainians continue to exercise their right to peaceful assembly, realizing its full value. Despite the objective threats during martial law, a democratic state must strive

not only to improve the legal regime, but also to improve the implementation of the right to peaceful assembly.

One of the most pressing issues in the legal protection of freedom of peaceful assembly in Ukraine remains the lack of a special law that would regulate all aspects of organizing, holding, or terminating such events [2]. Due to the absence of a law, all participants and organizers of peaceful assemblies find themselves in a state of legal uncertainty. There is no real understanding of the form and terms of a peaceful assembly, the procedure for considering a notification of an assembly by authorities, the powers to terminate such assembly, etc. Moreover, without a special law, a wide range of discretionary powers is created for state authorities.

This does not meet the standards enshrined in Article 11 of the Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms and the case law of the European Court of Human Rights [3].

In the period of modernization and digitalization, it is appropriate to introduce electronic notification of peaceful assemblies. Currently, there is no single form or procedure for notification of an assembly, therefore, it is quite appropriate to create an electronic register of notifications of peaceful assemblies and the possibility of submitting such notifications through state online platforms. The mechanism of electronic notification can be implemented by creating an integrated electronic service available through the “Diia” portal or official websites of local governments. In addition, the use of an electronic signature (ES) will allow confirming the identity of the organizer and giving the notification the legal force of an official document.

One of the another improvement is the creation of liability for unlawful obstruction of peaceful assemblies, in particular by officials of state authorities and local governments. Currently, such acts can be qualified under the general norms of the Criminal Code of Ukraine, for example, as abuse of power or official authority (Article 365 of the Criminal Code of Ukraine), however, there is no direct norm that would provide for liability specifically for obstruction of the exercise of the right to peaceful assemblies [4].

In conclusion, it is worth noting that the implementation of the right to peaceful assembly in Ukraine needs to be improved due to the presence of significant problems, both legal and organizational. The level of democratic maturity of society, its ability to self-organize and

take responsibility depends on how effectively Ukraine ensures freedom of expression and peaceful protest. The implementation of these steps will contribute to the formation of a modern European standard of freedom of peaceful assembly.

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ENGLISH AS A TOOL OF INTERNATIONAL COMMUNICATION IN LAW ENFORCEMENT

English has become a universal instrument of communication in the law enforcement sphere, ensuring effective coordination of actions between different states and international institutions during the investigation of criminal proceedings. For police officers, prosecutors, and analysts, it is not only a means of communication but also a fully functional working tool that enables the exchange of data, the formulation of requests, the coordination of actions in joint investigative teams, and the presentation of investigation results before international bodies. In modern investigative practice, the use of English allows integration into shared databases, prompt responses to partner requests, and the establishment of unified standards for the

description of evidence and procedural documents [1, c.45-47]. Thus, English in law enforcement activity is not merely a linguistic tool but a key element of professional competence without which international cooperation would be impossible.

In the context of transnational crime, including cybercrime, human trafficking, and financial fraud, English serves as a shared procedural “code” that guarantees the accuracy and clarity of legal information for partners from different jurisdictions. When preparing requests for international legal assistance, exchanging analytical data through Interpol or Europol channels, compiling reports for Eurojust or coordination groups, the language of the document must be as clear, precise, and legally correct as possible. The key principles are simplicity of expression, accuracy in translating procedural terms, and the avoidance of ambiguity. In a criminal proceeding with an international element, English-language documents must be as structured as domestic ones: they should specify the case number, provide a concise description of the circumstances, indicate the legal qualification of the actions, outline the basis of the request, and describe the expected outcome [2, c.132-135]. This approach prevents misunderstandings between parties and ensures the timely execution of investigative actions across different countries.

International police networks such as Interpol, Europol, and bilateral cooperation channels function largely because English is their working language. When exchanging information about persons, vehicles, financial flows, or cyber threats, English-language communication standards ensure the unification of terminology and the clarity of messages for all participants. For instance, Interpol’s databases use standardized codes to describe crimes, characteristics of wanted persons, and types of evidence, which helps reduce the time needed to process requests. Europol, in turn, employs the secure information exchange system SIENA, where all documentation – including analytical reports and operational messages – is prepared in English. This guarantees consistency in data handling and legal transparency in actions. Moreover, English remains the main working language of joint investigative teams, allowing representatives from different countries to conduct a single investigation, coordinate actions, avoid duplication of efforts, and promptly exchange results of expert examinations or interviews [3].

A separate area of importance is the use of English in cooperation with international technology companies that are key partners in obtaining digital evidence. Most providers of social networks, email services, or cloud platforms accept requests only in English and according to standardized templates. The precision of wording in such documents determines whether the request will be processed and whether investigators will obtain the necessary data. In this context, English becomes not merely a means of communication but an integral part of the evidentiary process, since translation errors can lead to the loss of evidence or its inadmissibility in court. For this reason, many police and prosecutorial departments have introduced bilingual request templates, concise term glossaries, and internal guidelines for drafting English-language communications.

English is also the primary language for preparing analytical documents such as threat assessments, risk evaluations, and reports for international partners. These documents use a concise, structured style that is clear to analysts and investigators from different countries. Standardized formats – including executive summaries, situational reports, and intelligence briefs – ensure a consistent logic for presenting facts and recommendations [2, c.132-135]. This enables the transmission of analytical materials without additional translation and promotes interoperability among units during joint operations. In particular, in cases involving cybercrime or financial investigations, the use of English-language reports accelerates cooperation with international banking structures, transaction monitoring services, and analytical platforms operating in the global domain.

An equally important element is the professional training of police officers, prosecutors, and investigators. Courses in professional English conducted in departmental academies and through international programs focus on practical skills such as drafting requests for legal assistance, participating in coordination meetings, preparing short reports, and communicating during joint operations. Such training develops not only linguistic proficiency but also legal literacy in the context of international cooperation. Officers fluent in English become vital links in joint teams, maintaining constant communication and mutual understanding among partners from different countries. As a result, investigations improve in quality, document coordination becomes faster, and procedural decisions are made more efficiently.

At the same time, English in law enforcement is not merely a technical tool of communication but also a factor of trust. In international criminal proceedings, the accuracy of translation and clarity of expression directly affect how evidence is perceived and how willing partners are to cooperate. When documents are written clearly, without redundant formulations, and in compliance with legal language standards, they project a professional image of Ukrainian law enforcement agencies and facilitate further cooperation. Such materials are regarded as reliable and suitable for use in international courts or mutual recognition of evidence.

In conclusion, English has become an integral component of international cooperation in the field of criminal justice. It ensures unified standards of communication, accelerates evidence exchange, contributes to the development of a common legal space, and helps Ukrainian law enforcement integrate into international investigative structures. The use of English in criminal proceedings enhances the quality of documentation, ensures the accuracy of legal actions, and enables the effective presentation of Ukraine's work results at the international level. In modern conditions, English has evolved into an essential tool of justice – one that connects national systems within a shared global framework for combating crime.

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