

The influence of socio-economic factors in the field of security, the Kosovo case study

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Abstract:

The field of security is the most important and sensitive segment of a society; respectively, of a country. The security, as an ontological attribute of a country, requires a continuous governmental attention, dedication, treatment and care. On the contrary, the state becomes a subject of attacks, its sustainability is jeopardized and in the end, even its own existence is endangered. The factors that have impact in the security of a country are numerous, internal and external. The socio-economic factors are, undoubtedly, among the internal factors that have the greatest impact in the security of a country and individual citizens' security of a given country. Nowadays, the security is a challenge even for countries that are known for their steady judicial and political tradition, for their consolidated security apparatus, let alone for new countries that suffer from institutional fragility and from security system, which is not consolidated well, such as Kosovo.

In the efforts to consolidate the security system of Kosovo and in the creation of a sustained security, the socio-economic stability is of a pivotal importance. In other words, the socio-economic factors are the factors that determine the level and the quality of security. Which are these factors, what is their impact, which are the Kosovo policies and what is the rapport – how are these factors interfaced with the state of security are the points or issues that are going to be dealt with in this paper.

Key words: socio-economic, security, country, system, Kosovo.

INTRODUCTION

The security, despite the fact of being an important segment for a country and a society, is being constantly and progressively endangered, and its sustainability is being undermined at nations' level; and especially, in the international theater. The international trends and global developments, without evading the process of globalization and other integrating processes, have imposed a different dynamics, pace and approach from those employed so far, as in the aspect of identification, so in the aspect of perception of phenomena, processes, heritage, and the future perspective. Under the incessant influence of these trends and this dynamism, the economic and social development has been the most attacked and hindered segment of societies in transition, including Kosovo, as one of the newest countries and which, as a new socio-political and socio-economical reality, has been facing many challenges and often times being the epicenter of developments – influenced by numerous factors, is enduring multiple crisis in its efforts of institutional consolidation, and moreover, the sustained security – in order to, naturally, transform itself in a stable and secure country with cultural and national diversity. This has been the objective of ideological architects and other spiritual leaders of this specific social, political and ethnical entity, as during the history, so nowadays. The socio-economical factors have their influence, as in individual's security, so in family's and, naturally, country's security. Countries in general - including even Kosovo, in order to secure an institutional socio-economical, judicial and political sustainability, have to focus their attention and to seriously and promisingly treat the underprivileged social categories; to social processes and phenomena, altogether with increased attention and utmost

dedication and treatment towards economical factors, economical developments and processes that altogether as whole hinder its political and judicial system, and especially, its security system.

1. THE SOCIAL STATE OF AFFAIRS IN A COMMUNITY AND ITS RELATION WITH SECURITY

The social state of affairs in a socio-political and administrative community is the real state in which citizens of a given country and/or community dwell; respectively, the welfare, public health and all other essential attributes for a sustained well-being in a community, or a country. This well-being, with all its essential attributes, that - as a matter of fact - are subject to change depending on economical, social, political, cultural and global development with all its finesses -as complex process have a great deal of factors with various intensities that determine it and thus have impact in it. The social policies are the huge projects that impact the social state of affairs and in its stability or instability of a society, a country. *‘In order to preserve the social order in the conditions of all-around transformations of social system ... during transition, the social policies have to be changed, as in its substance, so in its form. It was needful for the institutions of civil defense to undergo an all-around reform, so that an accepted social environment would be created and for the purpose of warranting security for the socially unprotected groups.’¹ (Xhumari Merita, *Procesidhe Institucionete Politikës Sociale, botimiitretë, Tiranë, 2009*). Despite the fact that the social and political policies are drafted by the government, they may be influenced upon even by other entities and interest groups. The social policies are, especially and closely interlinked with the security policies that, undoubtedly, are the determining factor for the stability and perspective of a society. The social policies that mitigate and serve as solution for social problems have a positive impact in*

the security state of affairs. 'Given to the fact that social problems constitute a menace, not only for the individual's existence, but also for the society as whole - where the one lives, the social policies are concentrated in determining the effective interventions for the purpose of treating these social problems' ². (Xhumari, Merita, Procesidheinstitucionet e Politikës Sociale, botimiitretë, Tiranë, 2009).

2. PROCESS OF TRANSITION AND REFLECTIONS ON THE SOCIAL AND SECURITY OF AFFAIRS IN KOSOVO

As many other countries that have arisen - were created from the process of dissolution of former socialist countries - Kosovo has gone through stages of an inescapable and a very complex transitory process, with many repercussions for the social life, citizens' well-being and their security. In former socialist countries, except other characteristics – the fundamental characteristic of the former judicial-political order was the state of affairs pertaining to the property, which was considered, chiefly, as public, commune and governmental property. The societies in transition were distinct for the following features: social re-stratification and institutional consolidation. *'New societies in the process of transition have found themselves overwhelmed with a great pressure – as to how to shape and create institutional framework of a democratic society – this framework would yield the state's and its institutions' competence to successfully deal with all challenges that had followed the establishment of the new institutional order and network, so as not to put at peril and crisis the new system and the new societies during transition*³ (Masllesha Ramo, *Temat Kriminalistike, revistëshkencorekriminalistike e kriminologjike, nr. 1 – 2, Universitetii Sarajevës, Sarajevë, 2007*). As the other societies in transition, Kosovo, too, deal even with the growth of unemployment – as a result of economic stagnation or lack of

development- on one hand; and on the other hand, the process of privatization, causing a considerable number of people to be left out jobless – upon transferring the public and governmental property into private entities, causes the growth of social dissatisfaction among citizens, decrease of the income as a consequence of increased number of unemployment and lack of development – all these elements as a whole have an impact on the outburst of deviant and criminal phenomena that, again combined together, have an impact on creation of social insecurity and addition of social problems.

3. SECURITY CHALLENGES AND WELFARE IN TRANSITIONING COUNTRIES, THE CASE OF KOSOVO

Generally, nowadays - in contemporary societies - whether in developed societies, whether in transitional societies, the basic every-day feeling is that of fear and insecurity, in both national and international level. “We live at a cultural time when the basic feeling is that of fear.”⁴. (Sofragijja Halima, *Temat Kriminalistike, revistëshkencorekriminalistike e kriminologjike*, nr.1-2 , Universitetii Sarajevës, Sarajevo, 2007). This situation where the reception and uncertainty are the soul blunt frame consumption and advertising, without a collective perspective seems to be personal solace. During the transition period the decline of social cohesion and increasing anomie are features associated with a rise in crime and the factors threatening and suicide and that together the situation of security and at the same time present tension and pressure on state institutions for a reconfiguration and restructuring policies and strategies in the revival of basic principles and values of democratic primary. Even Kosovo is followed by phenomena like the growing of anomie, the weakening of social cohesion and the increase of crime, especially organized crime for the entire post war period. “*That in Kosovo organized crime*

forms, indeed, exist and that there is a need for an appropriate governmental policy to prevent and combat the organized crime. This is confirmed also by the US Department of State, which - in the part pertaining to Kosovo, which is dedicated to human trafficking - points out that the majority of human sexual trafficking victims used in the country are females from Kosovo. Children from Kosovo and neighboring countries are used for forced begging within the territory of Kosovo”⁵ (Vula Veton, Kriminalitetii Organizuar, Prishtinë, 2013). Kosovo and other countries in the so-called transition countries face and challenged by all modes of organized crime, classical crimes like theft, murder and especially the challenge of its kind is the increased delinquency of minors. Rising delinquency of minors in Kosovo and region among others is explained by the weakening of the role of the family as an institution of informal control.

4. SOCIAL AND SECURITY POLICY, STRATEGIES FOR SUSTAINABLE SECURITY IN TRANSITION COUNTRIES

As noted above, authentic social policy, social policy designed from the top down is a determining factor of stability in the country, influencing factor in the security sector. “Such social policy should be an organized action, which incorporated the goals that form the core of human living and the aimed living conditions are realized aiming that those will always advance. As noted above, authentic social policy, social policy designed from the top down is a determining factor of stability in the country, influencing factor in the security sector. "A social policy such activities should be organized in which to incorporate the goals that form the core of human life and the conditions under which life goals are realized in order that they always promoted social training .With policy measures, individual and larger groups of people (rich, poor, unemployed) enter the real world

*being involved in the work process, education system and health."*⁶ (Skenderi Nagip , Politikat Socijaledhebazatligjorenë Kosovë, Prishtinë, 2010). Thus, social policy is the planning of a community, state, in order to advance solutions of social problems and to insure a stable welfare for its people. Besides the social policy, the Security policy is the mandatory frame within which new strategies and policies of a country are realized. The state crates a security system through which, in cooperation with other systems protects and guarantees fundamental values of a state. The State drafts different other strategies through which it regulates, protects and implements its goals and objectives in a certain social life sector or segment. Kosovo also designs its own policies and strategies as do the other regional countries. One of the key strategies - that directly interferes in the field of security is the state strategy against organized crime and Action Plan 2009-2011.

*"This strategy is based on the Constitution of the Republic of Kosovo, legislation in force, relevant legal instruments and international best practices against organized crime. Kosovo's government also approved the action plan of the Republic of Kosovo organized crime, which foresees general and specific objectives, the activities to be developed, and support institutions, timelines and costs."*⁷ (Gashi Rexhep, Krimi I Organizuar, Prishtinë, 2014). Of course for every policy, for every strategy, in every system there is also a component of the control as a necessary dimension to monitor the realization of objectives, measuring the performance and quality of implementation of each task by the institutions of the entities specified in the strategy as a concrete carrier concrete for the concrete activities in the light of the major development goals and objectives determined in advance." Control is an integral part of every system and everything carried out the act must be exposed to control. This phenomenon is not only the security system, but that control has connotation and importance ... control should be permanent in all functions of the security

system"⁸ (Bisic & Kovacevic, Temat Kriminalistike, revistëshkencorekriminalistike e kriminologjike, nr.1-2, Universitetii Sarajevës, Sarajevo, 2008)

CONCLUSIONS

In the end, we may conclude that the socio-economic factors have in continuity influenced in the security state of affairs of a country and beyond. In the countries in transition, the influence of social and economic factors is, generally, even greater; especially, in the security state of affairs. Likewise, even countries in transition have to pay close attention to the social welfare, social policies and economical development policies, since they are two very important and influential segments in the sustained national security. Countries in transition, mainly in the first stage, face a great level of unemployment, a huge lack of material goods – in one hand; whereas in the other hand, a collective frustration and an increased level of aggressiveness. All these factors and other factors that have not been listed, have an impact in the increased level of criminality, outburst of violence, fear mongering – in other words, causing a collective sense of insecurity. Kosovo, too, after the end of the last war and the great changes that have occurred during this stage – during beginning of the third millennium, had to face numerous challenges, as in the field of socio-economics, so with the direct challenges in the field of security, such as organized crime and terrorism – these phenomena less present in the times prior to transition. Kosovo is distinctly known as a new country with a young population, with a great number of people employed in western countries, who from the fruits of labor, every year deliver ‘fresh cash’ into Kosovo – the said money constitutes 35% of current annual budget of Kosovo. A great number of youngsters – who are potential workforce – idle in vain, without employment opportunities, without promising perspective. This

factor may easily degenerate into deviant behavior or actions. A serious challenge, with even greater impact on social and security state of affairs are corruption and the inclination of a certain number of youngsters to get involved with organizations exhibiting suspicious and menacing activities for the security.

If we tackle the given situation – from a more encompassing aspect – and the experiences observed so far in countries in transition, henceforth, even in Kosovo, the socio-economic factor proves to be one of the determining factors of the security state of affairs. When we claim what has been stated above, we bear in mind the fact that in most of the identified and legally prosecuted criminal cases and few proceedings on suspicions of terrorism, the perpetrators of these criminal and terrorist activities come from lower social strata; hence, members of underprivileged strata, or with unstable socio-economic status. Whilst consolidating security system, for each country another significant factor is expected to be socio-economic stabilization. With socio-economic stabilization – in this field, we understand employment, increasing gross domestic product per capita, sustained social welfare, medium-term and long-term development planning, as well as advanced security policies by consolidating the ranks along security subsystems and independent agencies – that directly or indirectly facilitate and yield influence in the field of security.

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