

## SECURITY THREATS FORMS IN THE CONTEXT OF PRIVATE PROTECTION OF PEOPLE AND PROPERTY

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**Abstract:** This paper will present different forms of endangering security from the aspect of discussion in the protection of people and property. In today's time of technological development, liberalization of the public security sector and physical border security, the setting of democratic standards has opened up large gaps to which the state sector does not have an adequate response. The answer lies in expensive technical equipment and practical training of personnel, which, however, many countries cannot afford. In addition, different interpretations of legal provisions, lack of competent personnel, although officially there are qualified personnel, in addition to that open space, allows various forms of endangering security in the interior of the state territory, and increasingly demanding challenges are posed to various security subjects. In order to protect people and property, the private security sector has been imposed, which often grows into private armies, which we have in the examples of the former Black Waters, or Academi, up to today's Wagner group. The main goal of this paper is to show the forms of threats to security, and to set the limits of engagement of private agencies for the security of property and persons. The subject of the work is the classification of security threats. The problem of this work arises from the subject, and it refers to the correct detection of threats to security, which contributes to the adequate reaction of security entities. This work has universal significance because it is about general, universal forms of security threats that can happen anywhere and anytime. Especially the countries of the Balkans are vulnerable, given the results of the post-socialist tradition. Therefore, it is not necessary to give a spatial and temporal determination of the processing of the mentioned topic. Nevertheless, a review of the topic of the importance of endangering security is from Bosnia and Herzegovina, where it is a decentralized state with decentralized security authorities that are very often an obstacle to achieving complete security or a more or less high level of security.

**Keywords:** security, endangerment, criminality, sources, forms

### Introduction

This section will discuss the most common forms of security threats. The subject of this paper is the protection of property, and therefore, various forms of endangering property and individuals will be listed. Without understanding the forms of threats and assessing the level of vulnerability, it is not possible to devise, plan, design, and implement adequate protection. This paper starts with the premise that security and safety are not the same concepts. Security, in the broadest sense, implies the absence of potential and

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actual dangers to individuals and society (Abazović, 2002). If there is no real, tangible danger, then it is referred to as objective security. On the other hand, the absence of fear of danger in an individual or group denotes subjective security. Regarding the concept of safety, according to the same author, this term represents the elimination of all activities and attempts that endanger individuals, public order, objects, or a given space (Abazović, 2002). Therefore, security pertains to the current implementation, while safety refers to an abstract model. However, a system deemed safe in all respects does not guarantee a secure system (Pleskonjić, 2011). Within these concepts, as noted by Milosavljević (2014), the notion of legal security stands out, referring to the state of society where the law is known in advance and precisely applied, with certainty about the content of the law, its reliability, and its realization (Vuković 1998, p. 21). It is important to note that in our language, criminal-legal terminology often uses security and safety as synonyms without clear criteria. Therefore, it is entirely correct to consider regulation and control of relationships in certain areas, such as the safety of individuals and objects, under the term safety. These are determined by the norms of competent authorities and bodies, prescribing the foundations, means, and forces protecting the given individuals and objects.

The goal of this paper, considering the concepts of security and safety, is to identify the basic elements of endangering the safety of individuals and property, whether private, state, or public. There are various forms of endangering security, and the challenge in this work is defining the forms of endangerment that can be eliminated through preventive and preventive-repressive measures. Subjects influencing the increase in the level of security through their preventive, proactive actions on one hand, and repressive actions in accordance with legal regulations on the other hand, are considered different police agencies within their jurisdiction, civil protection units, as well as organizations and services of the private security system.

In this sense, this paper is theoretical and concise, explaining and elaborating on the concepts of security threats from various sources and listing the authorities responsible for eliminating dangers related to security threats.

The method used for the development of this paper is content analysis, moving from deduction from general to specific.

## **1. Concept of endangerment**

Endangerment is a complex issue and cannot be easily defined. From a criminal law perspective, endangerment denotes causing a threat to a societal good or value (Sržentić, Stajić, and Lazarević, 1981). It is a phenomenon related to the living world in terms of degeneration and/or destruction. Although the living world primarily feels and suffers endangerment, it is not limited to living entities alone (Modly, Šuperina, Korajlić 2008). Property, as a form of inanimate nature, can be endangered, but the consequences of its endangerment are subjectively felt by individuals, i.e., the living world. It involves activities directed against the general safety of people and property, where security, according to Abazović (2002), in the broadest sense, implies the absence of potential and actual dangers to individuals and society. Therefore, endangerment encompasses a state that threatens protected individuals, property, and other values to be damaged, destroyed, unlawfully alienated, or otherwise compromised in their security. In this sense, it is acceptable to agree with Vejnović's statement (2007)

that endangerment, in a form relevant to private security, represents a social phenomenon or behavior resulting from human (individual or group), natural, or technical-technological system actions over an extended period. This phenomenon is of significant scope, where harmful consequences for the integrity of individuals, their freedom, property, as well as the integrity and subjectivity of the state and its institutions, can arise.

Some consequences of endangering security include various injuries or threats to the property of protected objects, spaces, or individuals, and even threats to the lives of those individuals. Considering the above, it can be stated that endangerment to safety encompasses all phenomena and processes that are destructive to reference values and interests, as they hinder or impede their attainment, existence, enjoyment, and development.

## **2. Sources of endangerment**

Protected objects, spaces, or individuals are often subjected to various forms of endangerment to their security and, consequently, safety. Sources of endangerment can be categorized as social, natural, and technical-technological sources of endangerment.

Social sources of endangerment involve actions and activities that harm or endanger a significant societal good or interest, practically realized by causing the consequences of a criminal offense. Natural sources of endangerment are categorized into lithospheric-seismological (earthquakes), atmospheric (wind, hail), hydrospheric (rain, snow, ice, floods, avalanches), and biospheric (droughts) sources. Technical-technological sources of endangerment manifest as phenomena accompanied by ionizing radiation, chemical contaminations, accidents in the chemical industry, fires, traffic accidents, and workplace accidents (Savić and Stajić, 2006).

## **3. Basic Forms of Security Endangerment**

Regarding the basic forms of security endangerment, Bilandžić and Mikulić (2007) state that Europeans consider the following as the most important forms of security endangerment: Poor governance; Environmental endangerment; Lagging in science and technology; Natural disasters – elemental calamities; Sale of social wealth; Technological disasters; Crime; Social unrest; Military threats.

As previously noted, there are social, scientific, technical-technological, and armed sources of endangerment. Unarmed forms of security endangerment include: a) Sabotage; b) Criminality; c) Fires, floods, earthquakes; d) Environmental endangerment.

Sabotage is a deliberate and covert activity that causes material damage to economic goods within a working organization or economy by individuals or groups-organizations working on objects where damage occurs (Abazović, 2002, p. 245). Sabotage can occur through both action and inaction. Special forms of sabotage include causing epidemics of infectious diseases in humans, animals, and plants.

Criminality encompasses all forms of behavior by individuals or groups that, in any way, fall under the treatment of criminal legislation because such behavior causes harm to individuals, institutions, or society as a whole (Krivokapić, 2006). Therefore, the fundamental characteristic of criminality is that it involves actions that violate criminal law.

Fire represents the uncontrolled occurrence of fire that has engulfed a larger area without the influence of human factors, both in igniting the fire and in neglecting the

implementation of fire protection measures (Bojanić, 2011). Arson is a fire that has intentionally been caused by human factors. Fire is any controlled burning (Radmilović and Kolar-Gregorić, 2010), while burning is defined as the chemical process of fuel oxidation with oxygen (oxygen from the air, releasing light and heat (Basarić, Vežzagić, 1998). The basic characteristics of fires and arsons involve the spatial engulfing of a larger area, i.e., the site affected by fire. Due to the high temperature, various forms of combustible substances, oxygen levels, and thermal effects, various destructions and deformations of the material affected by fire occur. The frequency of fires, immense material damage, and human casualties necessitate a more comprehensive examination of this problem and the implementation of broader societal action, more complete and effective measures, both in terms of preventive protection and in suppressing and preventing more severe consequences (Aleksić and Kostić, 1983).

A flood is the occurrence of an unusually large amount of water in a specific place or area due to the action of natural forces or other causes (such as dam failure, bridge collapse, blockage of drainage channels, etc.). Earthquakes are sudden, unexpected, and brief movements of the Earth's crust layers, which, in the form of shocks, waves, trembling, and roaring, cause seismic events (What is an earthquake, seismology, and how earthquakes are classified, 2016).

Environmental threat is phenomena that significantly endangers the environment, with consequences affecting human safety, states, international regions, or the planet. Ecological risk is a risk to the biological survival of humans and their environment, arising from environmental pollution processes. The environment can be jeopardized in the following ways: a) natural occurrences; b) technological and technological occurrences; c) occurrences originating from human activities.

Furthermore, one can discuss both military and non-military threats to security, where military threats to security include (Abazović, 2002): a) Armed aggression; b) Armed intervention (invasion); c) Military pressures; d) Armed rebellion; e) Civil war.

Armed aggression represents an unprovoked and sudden attack by one state on another, sanctioned by international law. It is the most destructive form of endangering the security of a state and its citizens, as well as international law. It directly affects global security (Abazović, 2002).

Armed intervention is the unauthorized interference in the internal affairs of a state through the use of armed force, denying its sovereignty and independence (Abazović, 2002).

Military pressures involve a combination of direct physical pressure with serious threats calculated to completely incapacitate subjects for resistance. Armed coercion manifests as intimidation, self-help, and extortion. Intimidation is a threat of armed force (Abazović, 2002).

Armed rebellion constitutes an armed action by an indefinite number of individuals aimed at jeopardizing the constitutional order and security of a state. As Abazović (2002) notes, the characteristic of a rebellion is that it is short-lived unless it is an introduction to certain broader social changes, such as a coup, revolution, or uprising. Armed rebellions either succeed or are suppressed.

Civil war is an internal war in a state between two clearly marked and organized opponents – enemies (Abazović, 2002). It is a type of social conflict that manifests in mutual armed combat among internal groups – classes, layers, nations, or religious groups.

Specific forms of security threats are terrorism and subversion. They do not fall into classical military forms of threats, but they are carried out with military means, weapons, and equipment. Depending on their character, subversion can be considered a terrorist act.

Terrorism is a criminal offense in national criminal legislations, including the criminal legislations of Bosnia and Herzegovina. It involves the deliberate and systematic use of violence to instill fear among an undefined number of people and government representatives to achieve personal political and other ideological goals. Whether the actions of a group are labeled as terrorism can depend on its goals and program (Mimica and Bogdanović, 2007).

Subversion is not specifically criminalized by the laws of Bosnia and Herzegovina, but certain activities that could lead to subversion are criminalized<sup>7</sup> Generally, it involves any intentional harm to the interests of a group or society as a whole (Abazović, 2002). Political subversion, psychological subversion, economic subversion, and military subversion are distinguished.

Non-military forms of security threats are occurrences that do not involve mass use or threat of the use of weapons. This group includes threats to security of natural, technological, technological, and human origin. Non-military forms of security threats are: a) Seismic activities; b) Earthquakes; c) Landslides; d) Atmospheric – meteorological disasters; e) Hydrosphere disasters; f) Biosphere disasters, causing significant harm to humans and other living organisms.

Hydrosphere disasters encompass all destruction caused by water, such as floods, avalanches, landslides, while biosphere disasters manifest as: a) Epidemics; b) Epizootics; c) Droughts.

Epidemics are the unusually frequent occurrence of a disease in a population (Uzunović, 2012). Usually, these are infectious diseases. When the number of cases within a population exceeds a certain threshold or percentage within a specific population, it is referred to as an epidemic. Epidemics that cross national or continental borders are referred to as pandemics. A recent example of an epidemic and pandemic is the Covid-19, which was declared by the WHO to have ended on May 5, 2023 (UN News, 2023, WHO, 2023).

Considering that epidemics pose a threat to the human population, it is important to note that animals also experience so-called epizootics, a condition similar to epidemics in animals. Many infectious diseases are shared between humans and animals, known as zoonoses or anthrozooses. The occurrence of these diseases, especially in the form of epizootics, is crucial for epidemiology as they often transmit to humans (Medical Lexicon).

Drought has profound consequences for the survival of populations, and modern scientific and technical methods can help anticipate, predict, and implement technological measures to mitigate its effects. Compared to other natural disasters, droughts manifest slowly, last for a long time, and affect large areas. One of the most negative consequences of drought is the emergence of famine, causing direct losses in human and animal populations, which can be more drastic than any other natural disaster. Currently, Spain is facing alarming consequences of drought, with part of the population already threatened by a lack of drinking water. Drought in Europe also affects Southern France and Northern Italy. The shortage of

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<sup>7</sup> For example, the provision of Article 165 of the Criminal Code of Bosnia and Herzegovina criminalizing the sending and transfer of armed groups, people, weapons and ammunition to the territory of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Criminal Code of BiH (Official Gazette of BiH, no. 3/03, 32/03, 37/03, 54/04, 61/04, 30/05, 53/06, 55/06, 32/77, 08/10, 47/14, 22/15, 40/15, 35/18, 46/ 21, 31/23.).

rainfall in Western Europe and the Alps negatively impacts hydrological conditions in various regions.

### 3.1. Crime as a Form of Endangering Security and Safety

Behaviors that do not violate legal norms but deviate from established, customary, and moral rules of conduct are called deviant behaviors. They are not legally sanctioned or punishable, but they are subject to condemnation by society. Additionally, there are behaviors that are legally regulated by various statutes and laws, and non-compliance with them carries a certain sanction. Such behaviors are called offenses, and they can be subject to either administrative or criminal sanctions. The most severe form of offenses is criminal acts, or in other words, crimes. Punishable and unlawful behaviors are criminalized by criminal laws, and they can result in appropriate criminal sanctions.

Therefore, the fundamental legal document that regulates activities endangering individuals and social groups is the criminal law. It informs us about what constitutes crime or a criminal act and the consequences for committing such acts. It also regulates behaviors and explains the institutes that exempt individuals from criminal responsibility. In this context, the question arises: what is crime as a form of endangering security? Starting from the premise that humans live in society (social groups), crime is defined as socially dangerous activity, i.e., engaging in socially dangerous acts for which criminal sanctions are prescribed. Crime does not refer to the violation of social rules not subject to criminal sanctions. Every society takes measures to combat crime. These measures are essentially of a preventive and repressive nature. Additionally, these measures can be taken from the perspective of private security and the implementation of private security measures, through the activities of interested parties and the engagement of agencies and their physical and technical protection, in accordance with positive legal norms and their authorizations. Preventive measures involve activities to eliminate the causes of crime. Therefore, the installation of technical means (cameras, alarm systems, burglar-proof doors, various locks) represents measures for prevention and deterring individuals from committing criminal acts. On the other hand, repressive measures are applied to the perpetrator of a criminal act after the act has been committed. One possible repressive measure is the deprivation of liberty of the perpetrator caught in the commission of a criminal act. It should be noted that this division is relative because preventive measures can contain elements of a repressive nature, and conversely, repressive measures can contain elements of a preventive nature.

Forms of crime have changed with the development of society depending on socio-economic relations, but some have remained the same to this day, only the methods of their execution have changed or been modified. What is called classical crime has retained traditional forms of manifestation over time, such as theft, grand theft, robbery, murder, and rape. Therefore, these forms of crime are now called general or classical forms of crime, and they can also be referred to as violent crime. Violent offenses, in the broadest sense, are antisocial and often antisocial behaviors characterized by aggression as their dominant trait. These are criminal acts that are inherently violent or fall within legal descriptions of acts with elements typical of violence (Modly, 1998). The term "violent offenses" was not structured by legal science but by practice and criminology (Cajner and Kovčo, 1992). According to various legal provisions, violence involves the use of force through action or inaction against someone

else. In this regard, force and power can be positive or negative, benevolent or malevolent, legitimate or illegitimate, public or secret (Modly, 2001). Violent behaviors that culminate in offenses have violence, force, threat, and abuse as their essential elements. Looking more professionally and precisely, consulting criminal law, general or classical crime includes criminal offenses: a) Against life and body; b) Against property; c) Against sexual freedom and morality; d) Environmental crimes; e) Crimes endangering security; f) Organized crime.

## **Conclusion**

Every security system, whether it is physical or technical, aims to reduce the risk of threats while increasing the risk for attackers to be detected and identified. According to Duvnjak (2004), there are specific criteria that apply to all entities in the security system, especially companies. These criteria involve measures proportional to the risk, having a preventive nature, and requiring interagency collaboration, as well as collaboration with other security system structures. It is essential to understand that security tasks are incompatible with other activities, and the quality of the security service is more important than the number of guards. Security personnel or agencies providing security services must prioritize self-protection during their duties. The strength of a company's security system is only as strong as its weakest point. Well-thought-out implementation of security measures and equipment enhances the protection system, which is complemented by preventive measures and physical security, always ready to respond to potential attacks or threats. In practice, several physical security systems are used, such as (Duvnjak, 2004): using specialized agencies for physical and technical protection, organizing an in-house security service, or setting up a joint security service for multiple companies located in the same building or nearby. Factors and subjects, according to Ostojić and Knežević (2003), that can potentially trigger security system responses include people, animals, vehicles, and fires.

The primary task of a security system is to deter attacks, emphasizing prevention. Desired goals achieved through specific physical or technical security systems against threats may include:

- a) deterring perpetrators and protection measures against all forms;
- b) early detection of security threats and perpetrator identification;
- c) alerting perpetrators and intervention teams;
- d) slowing down perpetrators or other threats;
- e) physical protection intervention or intervention teams and other subjects;
- f) perpetrator identification or identification of the type of threat and implementing measures to prevent severe consequences.

To meet these requirements, a combination of different physical and technical security systems should be employed. What is gained by combining different technical security systems in the overall security system of a facility or space? A suitable combination reduces the number of techniques and devices in the technical security system. Proper assessment and solutions for technical security in protected areas reduce the number of guards while improving the efficiency of the protection model. Also, technical security systems are expected to minimize false alarms to the greatest extent possible. The current performance and equipment of technical security allow for this, and systems can operate automatically and autonomously for extended periods.

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