

The State and Movement of Criminality in the Pollog Region after the Covid-19 Pandemic

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ABSTRACT

Based on the general evaluations regarding the appearance and dynamics of criminality, the volume of this negative social phenomenon is constantly increasing, also due to the fact of the appearance of different forms of criminality. The Tetovo Department of Internal Affairs, within the scope of its powers, during 2021, continuously acted on the basis of the decisions and protocols approved by the Government of the Republic of North Macedonia, which are related to the prevention of the spread of the disease infectious Covid 19. Consequently, due to non-compliance with such protocols, DIA-Tetovo has filed criminal charges for committing the criminal offense of "Failure to act according to health regulations during an epidemic" and "Transmission of contagious disease". On the basis of the Decree on the mandatory keeping of personal protective equipment by citizens when leaving their homes, convictions for misdemeanours were also registered in the DIA Tetovo region this year.

During the Covid-19 pandemic, as well as after the pandemic period, as perpetrators of various criminal offenses, both natural persons and legal entities are presented to different authorities.

After the time of the Covid-19 pandemic, especially during the period of 2021 and 2022, according to statistical data from SPB-Tetovo, we notice that criminal offenses have been committed such as; abuse of official duty, unconscious working during duty, criminal offenses in the field of economic crime, organized crime and corruption, etc.

Key words: criminality, pandemic, progress, prevention.

Introduction

Criminality represents the totality of all types of crime committed in a certain time, space, and period.

During the period after the Covid-19 pandemic, specifically during the year 2021, a slight increase in the criminality of 0.39% was observed in the DIA Tetovo region compared to the previous year 2020, i.e. an increase of 8 criminal offenses was noted.

DIA - Tetovo during the year 2021, due to non-compliance with the decisions of the Government of RNM for the prevention of the spread of the infectious disease Covid 19, presented a total of 340 (Tetovo- 175, Gosivar- 165) criminal reports against 419. (Tetovo-242, Gostivar 177) perpetrators of which 24 (Tetovo) legal persons and 395 (Tetovo- 218, Gostivar-

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177) natural persons, for committing a total of 344 (Tetovo- 177, Gostivar- 167) criminal offenses of which 64 (Tetovo) criminal offense "Transmission of communicable disease" provided for and punishable by article 205 of the Criminal Code of RNM and 280 (Tetovo- 113, Gostivar- 167) criminal offense "Not acting according to health provisions during an epidemic" provided for and punishable under Article 206 of the Criminal Code of the RNM. So, compared to last year, we note a decrease in the number of crimes registered by 6% (2020 - 366 criminal offenses).

During the year 2022, in the DIA Tetovo region, a crime rate of 4% is observed. In the above-mentioned period, a total of 1161 criminal offenses were committed (2021-1215), from which we note a decrease of 4%. For the committed criminal acts, a total of 768 criminal charges were submitted to the Tetovo Basic Prosecutor (2021-874 criminal charges), while the offenses were committed by 991 perpetrators (2021- 1174).

In 2022, in the region of DIA Tetovo, in the field of organized crime, 12 criminal offenses were discovered, according to the nomenclature, it is about 10 criminal offenses "Forgery of money" provided for in article 268 of the CC of the RNM, 1-offense criminal "Laundering of money and other contributions from a criminal offense" provided in Article 273 Criminal Code of the Republic of North Macedonia, 1- the criminal offense of bribery.

During the 2022 period, we note an increase in the detection function of 33%, compared to the previous year (2021 -9 Criminal Offenses). While in the field of organized crime, 4 criminal charges were filed against 4 perpetrators.

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It is a fact that from criminality, as a negative social phenomenon, no society has been and currently is not immune, regardless of the time of its action and regardless of its socio-political regulation.⁴

On 31 December 2019, the WHO China Country Office was informed of cases of pneumonia of unknown cause detected in the city of Wuhan, Hubei Province, China. Chinese authorities made a preliminary determination of a new coronavirus, designated SARS-CoV-2,

⁴ Ejup.Sahiti&Ismail Zejneli-E drejta e procedures Penale e Republikes se Maqedonise, Shkup, 2017, pg. 1

identified in a hospitalized person with pneumonia in Wuhan. The coronavirus transmission rate (infection rate) began to escalate in mid-January 2020. Now, one year later the virus shows no sign of slowing down. However, with the development of COVID-19 vaccines by many pharmaceutical companies the situation is expected to improve significantly. Though, mass production and launching effective vaccination campaigns remains the main challenge for the pharmaceutical industry and health authorities.⁵

“According to the statistics of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, in the period from March 12 to April 12, 2020, 79 criminal offenses of domestic violence were registered, which is a figure 28% lower compared to the same period last year. On a weekly basis, an increase was observed only in the first week of April, while during other weeks, cases of domestic violence were stagnant, compared to many European countries, but also globally, where the increase in domestic violence since the beginning of the isolation has increased over 25%”, states the report of the Helsinki Committee for Human Rights of the Republic of North Macedonia. However, according to the Helsinki Committee this data confirms the long-standing problem of non-reporting of domestic violence by the victims, but also the inappropriate way of registering criminal offenses and keeping statistics disaggregated by gender. Another reason for this data might be the inadequate way of qualifying cases of domestic violence, which are often treated as offenses against public order and tranquillity, rather than as criminal offenses.⁶

The Tetovo Department of Internal Affairs, within the scope of its powers, during 2021, continuously acted based on the decisions and protocols approved by the Government of the Republic of North Macedonia, which are related to the prevention of the spread of the disease infectious Covid 19.

DIA- Tetovo during the year 2021, due to non-compliance with the decisions of the Government of RNM for the prevention of the spread of the infectious disease Covid 19, presented a total of 340 (Tetovo- 175, Gostivar- 165) criminal reports against 419. (Tetovo- 242, Gostivar- 177) perpetrators of which 24 (Tetovo) legal persons and 395 (Tetovo- 218, Gostivar- 177) natural persons, for committing a total of 344 (Tetovo- 177, Gostivar- 167) criminal offenses of which 64 (Tetovo) criminal offenses "Transmission of communicable

⁵ Albana.M-Stojanova&Ismail.Zejneli- The impact of COVID-19 on domestic violence, The Second Online International Scientific Conference on Social and Legal Sciences (OISCSLS '20): RULE OF LAW, GOVERNANCE AND SOCIETY IN THE TIME OF PANDEMIC, fq-4

⁶ Ibid - Monthly Report on Human Rights in the Republic of North Macedonia – April 2020, Helsinki Committee for Human Rights, Available at: <https://mhc.org.mk/sq/njofitime/raport-mujor-per-te-drejtat-e-njeriut-ne-republiken-e-maqedonise-se-veriut-prill-2020/>

disease" provided for and punishable by article 205 of the Criminal Code of RNM and 280 (Tetovo- 113, Gostivar- 167) criminal offense "Not acting according to health provisions during an epidemic" provided for and punishable under Article 206 of the Criminal Code of the RNM. So, compared to last year a decrease in the number of crimes registered by 6% is noted (2020 - 366 criminal offenses).

When it comes to the volume, dynamics, types, and forms of criminality in a country, criminal statistics, whether national or international, usually serve as indicators of these characteristics.⁷

In the following, we will present the statistical data of the DIA of Tetovo for the crime in the region of Pollog for the years 2021 and 2022.

During the year 2021 in the DIA Tetovo region, there is a slight increase in criminality of 0.39% compared to the previous year 2020, i.e. an increase of 8 criminal offenses was recorded. In the above-mentioned time period, a total of 2028 criminal offenses were committed (2020-2020), or an increase of 0.39%, of which in the region of PS Tetovo 1215 criminal offenses (2020-1309 criminal offenses) or a decrease of 07%, while in the region of PS Gostivar 813 (2020- 711 Criminal Offenses) or an increase of 12%.

A total of 1,398 criminal charges were submitted for the committed criminal acts, of which 874 criminal charges were submitted to the Tetovo Basic Prosecutor, while 524 criminal charges were submitted to the Gostivar Basic Prosecutor (2020-1425 criminal charges from where Tetovo 994 - Gostivar 431), while the crimes were committed by 1823 perpetrators, and 1174 perpetrators from the PS of Tetovo region, while 649 perpetrators from the PS of Gostivar region. (2020 – a total of 1870 from where in the region of PS Tetovo 1318, while in the region of PS – Gostivar 552).

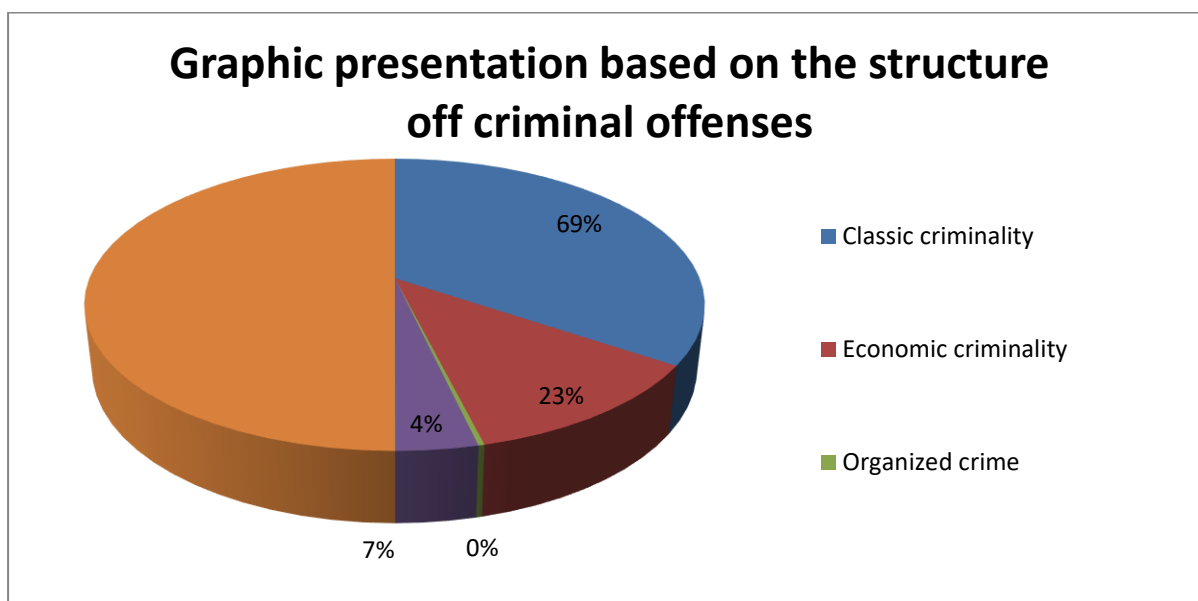
In the same period, as a function of the detection of criminal offenses at the level of DIA Tetovo, an overall efficiency of 79% (2020-78%) has been achieved, of which in Tetovo 84% (2020-78%) while in PS Gostivar with 71% (2020-70%).

This achieved efficiency can be evaluated as real, taking into account the objective causes, which were forced into the interventions of the Crime Police and Uniformed Police officers, to maintain the security situation, in such conditions where they lack technical equipment and

⁷ Ragip Halili, Kriminologjia, Prishtinë, 2016, pg.-116

spaces, which results in the impossibility of securing strong material evidence for the processing of cases.

In the structure of cases, criminal offenses in the field of classic criminality dominate, namely with 1,396 criminal offenses, which in total constitute 69%, followed by criminal offenses in the field of economic criminality with 474 offenses or 23% of the total amount. criminal offenses in the field of illegal trade in drugs, weapons, and other goods with 146 criminal offenses, which constitute 7% and 11 criminal offenses in the field of organized crime or 1% of the total amount, and 1 criminal offense against the state.



During the year 2021, 25 criminal offenses were recorded which cannot be recorded in the automatic data processing system, the same ones committed by legal persons, and those: 20 criminal offenses "Failure to act according to health provisions during an epidemic" previously in article 206 of the CC of the RNM, 3 criminal offenses "Tax evasion" article 279; 1 criminal offense "Fraud" article 274 and 1 criminal offense "Danger of safety in traffic" article 297 of the Criminal Code of the RNM.

During the year 2022, in the DIA Tetovo region, a crime rate of 4% is observed. In the above-mentioned period, a total of 1161 criminal offenses were committed (2021-1215), from which we note a decrease of 4%. For the committed criminal acts, a total of 768 criminal charges were submitted to the Tetovo Basic Prosecutor (2021-874 criminal charges), while the offenses were committed by 991 perpetrators (2021-1174).

In the same period of time in function of the detection of criminal offenses at the level of DIA Tetovo, an overall efficiency of 83% has been achieved (2021-84%).

In the structure of cases, criminal offenses in the field of classic criminality dominate, namely with 963 criminal offenses, which in total amount constitute 83%, followed by criminal offenses in the field of economic criminality with 130 offenses or 11% of the total amount, criminal offenses in the field of illegal trade in drugs, weapons, and other goods with 53 criminal offenses, which constitute 5% and 12 criminal offenses in the field of organized crime or 1% of the total amount, a criminal offense from the Gaming Law of luck, and 2 criminal offenses based on the Health Protection Law.

| Types of criminal offenses | 2022 | 2021 |
|--|-------------|-------------|
| Classic criminality | 963 | 886 |
| Economic criminality | 130 | 243 |
| Organized crime | 12 | 9 |
| Illegal trade in narcotic substances, weapons and other goods | 53 | 76 |
| Criminal offenses against the state | 0 | 1 |
| Gambling | 1 | 0 |
| Health protection | 2 | 0 |
| Total: | 1161 | 1215 |

So, based on the data of DIA Tetovo, referring to the table above, we will notice that during the period of 2022, a total of 1161 criminal offenses were committed, including the following offenses; Economic crime, organized crime, illicit trade in narcotic substances, weapons and other goods, etc.

During the year 2021, 25 criminal offenses were committed by legal persons, and those:

- 20 criminal offenses "Failure to act according to health provisions during an epidemic" provided for in Article 206 of the CC of the RNM,

- 3 criminal offenses "Tax evasion" Article 279; 1 criminal offense "Fraud" Article 274 and

- 1 criminal offense "Endangering traffic safety" Article 297 of the Criminal Code of the Republic of North Macedonia.

Conclusion

Preventing and fighting criminal offenses and the perpetrators first of all requires a comprehensive social commitment. They play an important role in the prevention of criminal offenses; the police, the prosecution, the courts, the written and electronic media, the internet, etc.

The efficiency of the police during the period of dealing with the progress and volume of criminality shows a significant achievement compared to the previous years of the study.

In the same period, as a function of the detection of criminal offenses at the level of DIA Tetovo, an overall efficiency of 79% (2020-78%) has been achieved, of which in Tetovo 84% (2020-78%) while in PS Gostivar with 71% (2020-70%).

This achieved efficiency can be evaluated as real, taking into account the objective causes, which were forced into the interventions of the Crime Police and Uniformed Police officers, to maintain the security situation, in such conditions where they lack technical equipment and spaces, which results in the impossibility of securing strong material evidence for the processing of cases.

The forensic data show that a considerable number of people from the Tetova area, owners of hotel facilities, do not respect the protocols approved for their work during the Covid-19 pandemic.

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