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Това издание е продължение на утвърдената вече традиция ВТУ „Св. св. Кирил и Методий“ да се развива като международен и национален център на академични изследвания в сферата на сигурността, намерили израз в повече от десет конференции и в публикуваните в седем тома с доклади на поредицата за трансгранично сътрудничество „Нови предизвикателства пред сигурността на Балканите“, В. Търново: „Ивис“, ISSN 2335-0056.

The series of scientific collections “Problems of Social and Economic Security” has been published by the University Publishing House “St. Cyril and St. Methodius” starting from 2021 – it presents papers from international and national scientific conferences of the Department of National Security at the Faculty of Philosophy of “St. Cyril and St. Methodius” University of Veliko Tarnovo, scientific studies of members of the Security Department and partners from the country and abroad, of students and doctoral students. Articles go through double-blind review. The topic of the book series reflects the most important dominants in the specifics of scientific research on security in the Veliko Tarnovo Alma Mater – on various aspects of societal (public) security – economic, social, spiritual (cultural), personal, corporate (corporate), demographic, medical in order to explain the specific challenges and risks in these areas and policies to overcome them.

This edition is a continuation of the already established tradition of “St. Cyril and St. Methodius” University of Veliko Tarnovo to develop as an international and national center for academic research in the field of security, expressed in more than ten conferences and in the published in seven volumes reports of the Cross-Border Cooperation Series “New Challenges to Security in the Balkans”, V. Tarnovo: Ivis, ISSN 2335-0056.

SECURITY CHALLENGES AND RISKS DURING THE PANDEMIC COVID-19

Ratomir Antonović,
Ilija Životić, Birsena Duljević

Abstract: The whole world was affected by the great crisis caused by the pandemic of the deadly virus COVID-19. Since the end of 2019, when this virus appeared, life on the global level has changed greatly. New rules for the functioning of society have been adopted, based on the necessity dictated by the virus pandemic. In addition to health, which was first hit by the pandemic, severe consequences were also borne by the economy, the economy, service activities, education, as well as other vital social branches. From the aspect of this paper, the impact of COVID 19 on the security of society will be primarily observed, as well as new manifestations of crime and criminal activities that have experienced their expansion in extraordinary circumstances, caused by this virus. In particular, the paper will deal with new ways of committing old crimes, taking advantage of weaknesses that have necessarily arisen in the conditions of defending vital values, and in the first place the lives of people.

Keywords: pandemic; security; crime; robbery; money laundering; theft; murder; smuggling.



Introduction

At the end of 2019 and the beginning of 2020, the whole world was in big trouble. Mankind has been attacked by an invisible enemy, who has brought all the countries of the world, even the most developed ones, to their knees. The health systems of almost all countries of the world have collapsed in front of the new deadly virus COVID-19 or Corona virus, which has become one of the most dangerous deadly diseases due to its danger to human lives. COVID-19 is originally from China, more precisely, it is related to the province of Wuhan. The official version of the origin of this infection is related to the market in Wuhan, where various groceries are sold. Thus, through the food chain, in which bats in this country also participate, the COVID-19 virus, which previously existed in bats, entered the human body. According to Chinese tradition, bats are used to make soup. It is assumed that these bats that were transmitters of the virus were not well heat-treated, which conditioned the survival of the virus and its transmission to the human population.

It is not possible to claim with certainty when exactly this virus originated. At first glance, it has all the characteristics of seasonal viruses. However, it has a much more destructive effect on the respiratory system, in a short period of time it disables the respiratory organs and leads to the inability to breathe. Therefore, patients with

COVID-19 must be connected to a respirator, and most of them have a hard time surviving and receiving healing. Precisely for this reason of great coincidence with seasonal viruses, it is not known whether epidemiologists immediately established the presence of a new virus or it was done with a delay. Chinese experts pointed out the problem of this virus in a timely manner, but despite the warnings, it was not adequately approached from preventing its spread.

The virus has spread rapidly around the world, causing great consequences, mostly in Italy, Lombardy, Spain, South America, the United States, Germany, Austria and other countries. The victims were massive, without the possibility that of all the victims being buried in accordance with traditional customs. They were buried in mass graves, without the presence of relatives and friends. Long convoys of special vehicles transported the dead from the hospital to the cemeteries. The world is shrouded in black, and what is most alarming is the fact that little or nothing is known about COVID-19, that there is no cure, nor can we know approximately what could be applied in the treatment process. Also, little or nothing is known about the characteristics of this virus. It has been speculated and assumed without adequate bases and scientific grounds. That is why there was a lot of controversy, such as that the COVID-19 virus has similarities with the HIV virus, that it is not resistant to high temperatures, that it only affects the elderly population, while young people are completely immune to it, that it causes sterility that COVID-19 can get sick only once, without the possibility of recurrence and the like. Most of these assumptions have been disputed, and have been disputed by practice and experience with this virus.

The Republic of Serbia has also been targeted by the new virus. The first infected case was registered at the beginning of March 2020 with a prominent businessman from Subotica, who brought this virus from Italy. At lightning speed, this virus began to spread throughout our country, opening hotspots such as Kikinda, Valjevo, Belgrade, Nis, Novi Pazar and other cities, where it began to appear in a large number of cases. Almost all hospital facilities were subordinated to COVID-19, and the hospital for COVID patients at the Military Medical Center in Karaburma was renovated and built in record time. Also, thanks to good organization and diplomatic relations, the leadership of the Republic of Serbia has provided a large number of respirators, necessary for saving human lives from dangerous diseases. Thus, the health system of the Republic of Serbia was greatly strengthened and prepared for dealing with a contagious disease, and during the first round of the fight, the Serbian health system proved to be much more ready and capable than the systems of much more developed and economically stable European Union countries.

Economic and organized crime during the COVID pandemic 19

At the time of the COVID-19 pandemic, the door was opened to new forms of crime, and the area of money laundering was strongly affected by the increasing number of predicate offenses, through which illegal funds were acquired, which were then integrated into legal channels already developed mechanism. The thresh-

old of tolerance in relation to corruption and criminal acts of fraud has also been lowered, which can be seen as a consequence of the crisis caused by the pandemic.

In order to minimize the consequences of money laundering during the crisis caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, MANIVAL came out with certain recommendations to member states aimed at supporting political function holders, private sector management officials, and other social actors with certain management responsibilities. These recommendations are also aimed at national legislatures, which are specifically required to harmonize their national regulations with FATF standards, and to pay special attention to the protection of the private sector through the process of transmitting information on possible risks of money laundering. The aim of these legal changes is to adapt the private sector to new risks and trends, such as communication with customers at a distance, due to restrictions caused by the corona virus. Also, more attention is required in e-business due to more frequent cyber scams and other criminal acts. The problem of cross-border crimes and criminal acts was also noticed, which is a consequence of the closing of borders and difficult communication between the states. Also, it is pointed out that special attention must be paid to public procurement, which even in regular circumstances is a very common source of illegal money, and now, in times of crisis, they are especially suitable for acquiring illegal capital.

Due to the difficult conditions for the circulation of people, goods and capital in the conditions caused by the pandemic, the process of monitoring the implementation of measures against money laundering is also difficult. Therefore, the competent authorities working to combat money laundering must rely more on modern technology, such as cyber intelligence, video conferencing and electronic exchange of information and documentation.

As persons from criminal structures also have problems in movement due to the rigorous regulations that apply during the pandemic period, they must also provide their own mechanisms of international cooperation. This is achieved through „phantom“ companies, established in various remote destinations, with the intention of misleading the authorities. Therefore, in this period, the cooperation of the competent institutions must be even more intensive and involve the timely exchange of information on all legal entities and their legal actions. In the same context, there must be quality cooperation of all relevant entities and at the level of nation states.

In April 2020, the FATF issued a publication that identified all the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic and sublimated examples of good practice.¹ In fact, this publication aims to point out the increased threats from money laundering and terrorist financing caused by the pandemic. These threats concern finding new ways to evade liquidity control measures for legal entities; misuse of electronic financial services and online money transfers; abuse of state incentives in order to preserve the solvency of legal entities in order to integrate illegal money into legal flows; abuse of those legal entities that are most affected by the consequences of the pan-

¹ The full title of the publication is: “COVID-19 – related Money Laundering and Terrorist Financing – Risk and Policy Responses.”

demic, through whose business money of criminal origin is integrated; abuse of various means of solidarity, either domestic or foreign, as well as the accession of the so-called. highly liquid transactions that involve a larger amount of money without prior verification of its origin.

The decline in attention to the phenomenon of money laundering during the crisis caused by COVID-19 favors the flare-up of the crimes that preceded it, as well as money laundering itself. In this chain of criminal offenses, those entities that otherwise participate in the money laundering process can play a significant role. This primarily refers to banks, but also to many economic entities that belong to the corpus of service activities, such as hairdressing salons, restaurants, nightclubs and others, which, among other things, were most affected by the crisis caused by COVID-19. These activities were forced to suspend their work during the strongest wave of the crisis, and it is logical that their incomes were significantly reduced in that period. However, the example of an Italian restaurant clearly indicates the connection of the same with money laundering for the Italian mafia, because, despite the fact that he did not work for almost three months, it reported income that was the same as in the period when business was completely orderly.² Also, in this period, intensive buying of those legal entities that experienced bankruptcy due to the consequences caused by the crisis was noticed. There is a clear indication that these legal entities were purchased by criminal entities, which intend to use and exploit them for the purpose of committing criminal offenses.

When it comes to money laundering great challenges arise in the banking sector, which is vulnerable and prone to abuse even in regular circumstances. In the circumstances caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, the banking sector is particularly faced with the problems of identity theft and abuse due to the lack of direct client-bank contact, which is a consequence of the new principles of doing business in emergency epidemiological conditions. Distance business, intensification of electronic business, reduction of operatively engaged workers and social distance, have contributed to abuses in the banking sector, which has created favorable conditions for money laundering. Also, we should not ignore the existence of cyber-attacks, frauds and abuses, which are especially related to online shopping, procurement of groceries, medicines and other basic needs, which are intensified in the conditions of COVID-19 and disabling freedom of movement for most people.

According to Europol's forecasts, in the context of the COVID pandemic 19, criminal activities will take place in the following three phases: current, which records an increase in quarantine crime, medium-term, indicating reduction of restrictive measures with a current increase in criminal activity according to the level before period of COVID-19 and long-term, which consists in adapting organized crime to the conditions of a pandemic, with the acquisition of maximum property benefits. It should also be noted here that offshore systems, the construction and real

² For more details see: COVID-19-economic + tax-measures-in-states-SEE-April-2020, visited on 12.10.2020.

estate sectors, as well as money laundering through investments and transfers of funds can be used for this purpose.³

UNDOC, ie the United Nations Department on Drugs and Crime, held a briefing in April 2020, related to money laundering during the crisis caused by COVID 19. There was a rapid increase in fiscal and non-fiscal frauds, followed by fraud with cryptocurrencies and various forms of pyramid savings. On the other hand, due to the difficult communication between the countries and the closing of the borders, the number of classic courier money transfers and classic types of money laundering in this way has been reduced. Therefore, as an alternative, there are jobs related to cryptocurrencies, foreign exchange transfers through the intensification of economic activities, taking advantage of the difficult business situation for most businesses that operate legally.

Money laundering in the conditions of the crisis is becoming more intensive in the areas of procurement of medical equipment funds and medicines, which entered the market illegally or were obtained illegally. Then through internet scams, when an advance payment was required and the goods were not delivered. Also, there are frauds in the humanitarian sector, where humanitarian actions were organized, and the donated funds were not directed to the target address, but were used to cover criminal activities.

Many illegal activities were in the area of selling disinfectants, protective masks and gloves, which were in short supply at the beginning of the epidemic. This opened up great possibilities for forgery of equipment and pharmaceutical products, which ultimately endangered the lives and safety of a large number of people, who endangered their lives and health by buying these products. For example, in Bosnia and Herzegovina, there was a case of fraud with respirators, ordered from China. The respirator was ordered through a suspicious company that is engaged with the purchase and processing of „Silver Raspberry“ raspberries, and the value of the order was 5.25 million euros. The purchased respirators were completely brought in defective and unusable condition for the treatment of patients with COVID 19. Apart from the fact that the company „Silver Raspberry“ did not have the authority or right to import devices such as respirators, a later investigation revealed that Montenegrin companies were also involved in this fraud, and that it was a chain of organized crime and that there was an association for the purpose of committing criminal acts in the acquisition – money laundering, forgery of official documents, abuse of official position and accepting bribes.⁴

That the case of „Silver Raspberry“ is not the only one, it is indicated that the abuse that occurred related to the purchase of a mobile hospital, ordered by the Gov-

³ **Musić, S.** “Trenutna situacija oko pandemije Korona virusa u svijetu i BiH”, Global analitika, Centar za društvena istraživanja, dostupno na: <https://globalanalitika.com/zajednickim-radom-i-planiranjem-bosna-i-hercegovina-moze-ublaziti-posljedice-korona-virusa/> visited on, 12.10.2020. at 8 p.m.

⁴ See more details at: <https://www.oslobodjenje.ba/vijesti/bih/sokantno-otkrice-srebrena-malina-kupila-respiratore-preko-crnogorske-firme-placeni-3-9-miliona-eura-554639>, visited on 14.10.2020. at 12 A.M

ernment of Republic of Srpska from the company „Global“ from Bijeljina, worth one million and 825 thousand euros. According to the order contract, the hospital was supposed to cover 6,000 square meters and have a capacity of 500 hospital beds. However, the entire procurement was controversial from the very beginning, because the company „Global“ was not authorized to import and trade in medical devices and equipment, and the final epilogue was such that the hospital was never procured, but tents were delivered instead of the hospital. A pre-investigation procedure is still ongoing by order of the Republic Public Prosecutor's Office, in order to determine the existence of elements of a criminal offense in connection with this disputed procurement.⁵

Therefore, from the mentioned cases, which were not isolated and similar were registered on the territory of the entire region, and beyond, it is obvious that for the purposes of money laundering and committing certain crimes, there was a conscious circumvention of legal procedures when procuring medical devices and equipment that companies of dubious origin, ownership structure and inadequate activities were used, and that there was a non-fulfillment of contractual obligations and abuses. Justification for such actions was sought in the emergency of the situation itself, due to the higher interest in providing the devices and means necessary to save human lives and the need for urgent action. The impact of the crisis caused by COVID 19 has been conducive to criminal activity at the global level, because there has been a forced partial non-application of legal norms and measures to prevent money laundering, and at the same time new channels have been opened for committing illegal and activities.

Apart from the fact that corruption can be spoken of as a legal phenomenon, it certainly represents a kind of social phenomenon. Primarily, corruption in today's society represents a special kind of power or privilege that can only be enjoyed by select individuals, members of the community, who either have money or have strong acquaintances and connections with respectable people. This primarily refers to people with political influence or people who have large capital, usually acquired in an illegal and dubious manner, under very dubious circumstances. When one of these conditions is met, or both conditions cumulatively, usually a person who has this type of protection is considered more privileged than another person who does not have such privileges. Therefore, there is a blatant deviation from the basic principles of human rights, which are the right to equality and equal treatment of state and judicial bodies towards every person, equal conditions for every person in investigative and pre-investigation proceedings, then equal conditions for every person in court proceedings, then in relation to state bodies and administrative bodies, the right to life and health of all people, inviolability of private property, the right to work and rights arising from employment, the right to education and training, the right to political rights and electoral rights (active and passive suffrage), the right

⁵ See more details at: <https://www.slobodnaevropa.org/a/policija-izuzima-dokumentaciju-u-slu%C4%8Daju-nabavke-pokretne-bolnice-u-rs/30648570.html> visited on 14.10.2020 at 12 A.M.

to information and notification, freedom of expression and opinion, freedom of religion and other basic human rights, guaranteed by the constitutions of all modern democracies of the world.⁶

There is a particularly positive trend when it comes to the Scandinavian countries, which are rated as the least corrupt countries in the world, and when it comes to EU member states, the countries with the lowest corruption rates are Sweden, Denmark and Finland. The problematic countries, from the aspect of corruption, are Spain and Greece, where slight shifts in the fight against corruption are noticeable, but not enough for those countries to bounce more drastically on the list of corrupt countries in the world. In the last period, Spain has been particularly tormented by corruption scandals in which the main actors are politicians of the ruling party. Hungary and Poland also received a bad grade in terms of corruption due to the extremely strong influence of politicians and people close to them on many social events and occasions, thus creating favorable conditions for trading in influence, as a special form of corruption. The worst countries in terms of corruption in the European Union are Bulgaria, Romania and Greece, with the assessment that only the Greek government is taking certain concrete steps in combating corruption and fighting it as a phenomenon.⁷

Cybercrime in the conditions of the COVID pandemic 19

As an example of a very serious cyber-attack, Europol cites the example of the attack on the university hospital in Brno, Czech Republic, on March 12 this year, in the middle of a pandemic in Europe. Due to the attack, emergency surgical interventions had to be postponed, the entire information system of the hospital had to be turned off, and new emergency patients were redirected to a nearby clinic. A hacker attack is qualified as an attack on a vital infrastructure facility.

The report states that fraudsters also very quickly adapted already known forms of fraud to new circumstances, in order to take advantage of people's fear and concern.⁸ Their victims are individuals, companies and organizations. Activities include various adjusted versions of telephone scams, scams related to the procurement of goods and scams with decontamination. Europol states that the fraudsters have already adjusted various false investment schemes, which offer citizens speculative investment in actions related to the pandemic and the alleged large profit.

Due to the attempts of criminals to make the most of the insecurity of the population of the whole of Europe, it can be expected that a large number of new or adapted old types of fraud will appear in the coming weeks. The report warns that

⁶ **Jončić, V.** "Korupcija i ugrožavanje ljudskih prava", Korupcija i ljudske slobode, Tara, Udruženje za međunarodno krivično pravo, 2019, 320–356.

⁷ **Milošević, Z.** "Korupcija u Evropskoj uniji", Srpska politička misao, broj 1, 2019, 29–39.

⁸ **Urošević, V.** "Internal frauds in online environment on financial banks", Strani pravni život, broj 3, 2011, 266–268.

one of the key activities of criminals during the pandemic is the trade in counterfeit goods and goods of lower quality. Europol emphasizes that since the outbreak of the crisis with the corona virus, the number of criminal acts related to the sale of counterfeit medical and sanitary products, personal protective equipment and counterfeit pharmaceutical products has multiplied. There are reportedly fears that counterfeiters will take advantage of shortages of certain products to boost the supply of counterfeit alternatives, either online or otherwise.

Some of these illegal activities are of particular concern from a medical point of view, such as the sale of fake home test kits for the presence of coronavirus, the report said. It is stated as an example is the international operation PANGEA, in which 90 countries took part under the leadership of Interpol, and in which 37 organized counterfeiting groups were exposed around the world from March 3 to 10, 2020, and 121 of their members were arrested. Nearly 34,000 counterfeit face masks, 13 million euros worth of potentially dangerous pharmaceutical products were seized, and 2,500 links on websites, social media and online stores were deactivated.

Europol estimates that the particularly high demand for medical and sanitary products has already created a significant market for counterfeiters, fraudsters and profiteers, and that counterfeiting of these products, as well as groceries, hygiene products and other useful items, will continue to grow.

The report states that in the area of organized property crimes, criminals quickly adapted and adopted different approaches in order to take advantage of the current situation. This includes the already known pattern of thieves posing as representatives of public services in order to obtain other people's valuables. Europol expects that in the future, trade facilities and medical institutions will be especially targeted by organized burglaries.

A number of countries have reported to Europol a similar treatment by thieves, who enter citizens' homes by posing as medical workers who need to deliver information material or means or take a coronavirus test. A case was also reported where criminals announced the arrival of a medical team by phone, which must perform testing. And although all citizens are potential victims, it is obvious that particularly vulnerable members of society, for example the elderly, are especially under attack. Europol warns that the threat of crime remains dynamic despite the isolation and quarantine measures introduced in many European countries, and that new or adapted forms of criminal activity will continue appear to during and after the crisis.

The number of cyber-attacks on branches run by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and other health and pharmaceutical facilities in the United States has increased. The attacks are said to come from China, and researchers are urged to be careful. Although such warnings are disturbing, they are not surprising, since the American security agencies have previously accused Chinese hackers of similar attacks. It is still not clear what steps could be taken to prevent such practices, and why countries do not exchange the results they achieve, and how to eliminate the virus as soon as possible.

Blood and sexual offenses in the context of the COVID pandemic 19

Homicidal behavior has been characteristic of man since the beginning of humanity and civilization. Depending on the degree of development, civilization and the development of moral and ethical norms, homicide had different treatment, emphasizing the fact that it was always considered a harmful and dangerous social phenomenon. In every period of the development of civilization, murder was seen as a serious violation of religious, moral, cultural and legal norms and customs. Those societies that abound in criminal acts of murder are considered unsafe and bad for life, the citizens who inhabit such states do not have security for their own lives and security of personal integrity. Every murder raises a lot of other questions, and those are questions of motives, reasons, manner of execution, the question of general and individual prevention, the question of timely reaction of the competent authorities and the like. In this regard, some authors divide homicide into expressive and impressive. Expressive murders include those murders committed in affection, with the use of relative violence, which in most cases is an end in itself, which is fulfilled by the very use of violent behavior. This violence is manifested through endangering other people, inflicting physical and psychological injuries. Impressive murders are committed in order to achieve a specific, mostly material goal. These can be murders that occur during the commission of robberies and robberies, so they can also be murders within criminal organizations, in order to achieve superiority and superiority in the organization itself or in a conflict between several of them. It also includes the killings of those who can in any way thwart the criminal work of the organization itself, such as witnesses, government officials, prosecutors, police officers and the like.

The situation caused by the consequences of the COVID 19 pandemic had a very negative impact on the psychological health of most people. Signs of anxiety, depression, aggression were noticed in most of them, and an increased number of cases of domestic violence was registered. It is this negative impact on human behavior and psyche that is the cause of the increased number of blood and sexual crimes on a global level.⁹

These facts are supported by statistical data on the number of divorces globally. In the Republic of Serbia, compared to 2013, the number of divorces has tripled since the beginning of 2020. According to the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Serbia, the number of victims of domestic violence since the beginning of 2020 is 12,332, of which 8,924 are female victims, or 72.4 percent.¹⁰ When it comes to the number of women killed in domestic violence, their number is 15 since the beginning of the year, which is slightly more than last year in the same time period.

The rate of domestic violence during the pandemic caused by COVID 19 on the territory of the Republic of Serbia is especially a bit expressed in the southern

⁹ **Watson, P.** Psihologija rata, Vojna akademija, Uprava za školstvo i obuku, 2002, 115–119.

¹⁰ <https://www.mpravde.gov.rs/> visited 05.11.2020. at 5 P.M.

province of Kosovo and Metohija, where since the beginning of 2020, a 30 percent increase in cases of domestic violence has been registered. According to the data obtained by the organization for the protection of women's rights „Women Kosovo“, women were exposed to all-day physical and mental abuse by members of the male sex during the period of movement ban and social isolation. Official data from the police authorities confirm the data of this non-governmental organization, stating that domestic violence is drastically increasing in Kosovo and Metohija, and that a record 500 cases of reported violence within one family were registered in the first five months of 2020. It is believed that the dark number or the number of unreported cases of domestic violence is far higher. What should also be pointed out is that this phenomenon is equally present in Serbian and Albanian communities, which breaks down stereotypes about different religious, cultural and family patterns in relation to women.¹¹

Also, there has been an increase in violent behavior, which can also be linked to the situation caused by the consequences of the COVID 19 pandemic, and the most drastic example is the case from Russia, in the city of Elatma, where a 32-year-old man killed five people with hunting weapon. five people because, at the time of the ban, they were making a lot of noise in their apartment. Due to the great nervousness and tension caused by the emergency situation, the perpetrator of this multiple murder decided to take justice into his own hands and deal with the neighbors who do not respect the rules of house rules in the apartment building.¹²

When it comes to the oldest craft, which is incriminated in most European countries, despite the COVID 19 epidemic, there has been no decline in demand, as well as the supply of sexual services. On the side of the providers of these services, the reasons for that are of an existential nature, because they mostly live from these services and earn income for everyday living expenses.¹³ On the other hand, people who seek this type of service generally ignore the possibility of getting sick in this way or have insufficient awareness of the danger that the epidemic brings with it to life and health.

An example of the problem caused by the epidemic in this illegal branch can be illustrated among the workers from one of the largest brothels in Europe, called „Paradise“, in the Catalan city of Honkeri, on the border of Spain and Portugal. Two thousand seven hundred square meters of this „Paradise“ and 80 rooms, in which

¹¹ As an example, the data from 2019 for the same period are given. Since the beginning of 2020, 11 cases of domestic violence have been registered in North Kosovska Mitrovica, while in the same period only 4 cases of domestic violence were registered. In Leposavic, the difference is only in one case more compared to the same period last year. The first case of domestic violence was registered in Zubin Potok in 2020, which this municipality has never encountered before.

¹² <http://rs.n1info.com/Svet/a585790/Rus-ubio-petoro-iz-lovacke-puske-zbog-bukena-ulici-u-vreme-izolacije.html>, visited 05.11.2020. at 5 P.M.

¹³ **Bataveljić, D.** „Najstariji zanat – specifičan oblik pružanja usluga“, Pravni fakultet Univerziteta u Kragujevcu, Usluge i zaštita korisnika, 2015, 1181–1182.

prostitutes normally receive clientele, were emptied due to the virus, as well as other brothels in Honker. On the other hand, in countries where prostitution as an activity is legal, employees in this sector have received a certain type of subsidy from the state.¹⁴

The increase in the rate of prostitution during the COVID 19 pandemic is also recorded in Montenegro, a country where this activity is not legal. Due to growing poverty and job losses due to the epidemic, there are more and more people offering sexual services, and there are more and more cases when a woman, at the urging of her husband, starts working as a prostitute. Prostitution services were offered more during the day, in order to avoid the measures of movement ban that were valid from the declaration of the epidemic.

Property crimes in the conditions of the COVID pandemic 19

That the COVID 19 pandemic does not negatively affect the perpetrators of property crimes is shown by the fact that in the period since the epidemic was active all over the world, an increased number of thefts and robberies were registered. An increased number of these crimes has been registered on the territory of the Republic of Serbia, and the public has been disturbed by the insolence of the perpetrators of crimes, who abused such a difficult situation caused by the state of emergency and movement bans.

The targets were mainly shops, restaurants, pharmacies, but also apartments that were empty due to the emergency situation, because their owners were either receiving treatment in a hospital, or decided to go to one of the cottages or country houses during the ban. Also, the organization of criminal groups was noticed, which are established with the intention of committing criminal acts of theft and robbery during the state of emergency caused by the COVID 19 epidemic. The most famous was the group from Vranje, which intercepted older women and with the threat of cold steel, she stole their purses and jewelry. During the period when the ban on movement was in force (in the evening and at night on weekdays and on weekends), members of this group broke into houses, apartments, yards, auxiliary buildings, from which they took and carried out valuables.

That the pandemic favored this type of crime is best illustrated by the example from New Zealand, where a group of perpetrators stole as many as 97 motor vehicles from one parking lot, at a time when movement was restricted. The parking lot and the vehicles were owned by a car rental agency, which, thinking that no one would have in mind the theft during the movement ban, left the keys in the vehicles, which only made things easier for the perpetrators of these acts.¹⁵

¹⁴ An example is the Netherlands, which gave each prostitute EUR 1,100.00 in short-term assistance. In Amsterdam alone, in the famous neighborhood of “red lanterns” De Valen, about 300 women live from prostitution.

¹⁵ https://rtv.rs/sr_lat/zivot/zanimljivosti/ukrali-97-automobila-na-parkingu_1121719.html, visited 06.11.2020. at 12 A.M.

Terrorism in the context of the COVID pandemic 19

In the past few months, with the escalation of the COVID 19 pandemic, there has been an escalation of terrorism worldwide. More developed European countries were again targeted by terrorists, and the reason was more or less the same as the reasons for previous terrorist actions, which shook the world in the relatively recent past.

Humorous and inappropriate caricatures of the Prophet Muhammad, which hurt the religious feelings of the entire Islamic world, were already the reason for the terrorist attack on Paris and the headquarters of the satirical newspaper „Charlie Hebdo“ on January 7, 2015. On that occasion, 12 people were killed and three were seriously injured.¹⁶ Five years later, on October 19, 2020, the almost forgotten incident with Muhammad's caricatures was actualize again by history teacher Samiel Pati, who showed those caricatures to his students again in class, after which his student, eighteen-year-old Chechen Abdullah Anzorov, cut off his head.

This event only opened Pandora's box in France and caused a whole series of terrorist acts all over the country with the same or similar method of execution. Also, the atmosphere was additionally heated by the statement of the President of France, who announced a showdown with Islamic terrorists and the deportation of all illegal migrants. The attacks followed in Nice, where three people were killed, and Avignon, where one person was killed, while a guard was seriously wounded at the French embassy in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia. French police have arrested an attacker suspected of killing three people with a knife, one of whom cut off the head of a woman. Several other people were injured in this attack. France, after a series of attacks, declared the highest level of caution against terrorism.

At the same time, in Iraq, Palestine, Bangladesh, Somalia and Pakistan, protesters burned French flags and Macron's portraits. Nowadays, the Islamic world celebrates Mawlid, the birthday of the Prophet Muhammad. Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan announced that he would use all diplomatic and legal possibilities so that „Charlie Hebdo“ would be sanctioned because of the caricature in which the Turkish leader is sitting in a white T-shirt and underwear.

Terrorism during the pandemic not only affected France, but also the capital of Austria, Vienna, where five people were killed and 24 were seriously injured on November 2, 2020, when an attacker fired on bystanders from firearm. The perpetrator of this terrorist act is a 20-year-old Albanian, Kujtim Fejzulai, originally from Northern Macedonia, who was radicalized and felt close to the Islamic State. He has already been sanctioned for trying to join extreme Islamic and terrorist organizations. He applied for a program of support young citizens of Vienna, and received a lease agreement, which he signed in early May this year. It is interesting that Fejzulai received social assistance of 917.35 euros, and that amount should have been reduced at the beginning of December due to lack of funds.

¹⁶ **Bataveljić, D; Antonović, R.** „Savremena migrantska kriza u Evropi i njen uticaj na religijski terorizam“, *Pravna riječ*, godina XIV, broj 52, 2017, 325–336.

As already mentioned, the negative impact of terrorism on tourism is related to the period of the Cold War, ie the period of awakening of the so-called Islamic consciousness after the Islamic revolution. Although it took place on Iranian soil in 1978, the Islamic Revolution had a significant impact on most Asian countries where Islam is the ruling religion. The goal of the revolution was to change the rule of Shah Mohammed Reza Pahlavi and to establish an Islamic republic, led by the religious leader, Ayatollah Khomeini. One of the main reasons for the revolution was dissatisfaction with Pahlavi's great connection with Western culture, specifically the culture of the United States, and his approach to Western cultural and political patterns. For Islamic revolutionaries, Pahlavi's policy was extravagant and Westernized, openly in favor of the richer social strata, in whose favor economic and cultural domination was exercised on the one hand, and the exploitation of the poor on the other.

The ideology of the Islamic revolutionaries, which then served well for the needs of Islamic terrorists, was based on an uprising against tyranny and injustice with clerical leadership and under the cloak of religion. What is the substrate of aggressive Islamic ideology is the idea of „protecting“ Muslims from non-Muslims and unconditional obedience to Sharia law and norms of Sharia law. Every action had to have a religious justification and basis with a very hostile attitude towards any form of innovation, especially those that would come from the West.

As tourists and tourism itself are the heritage of Western civilization, it is clear that there was a pronounced animosity towards it and that, therefore, tourists were declared the legitimate target of the attack. In the observed period from 1985 to 1998, there were a total of 70 terrorist attacks on tourists and tourist facilities in the world. Out of that, 1994 was the worst year for tourism, because the most terrorist attacks took place – 11.¹⁷

The impact of the COVID 19 pandemic on social peace

Globally, most of the world's major economies are resorting to stagnation with almost all vital economic activities until the pandemic of the COVID 19 virus stops and the danger of this infection becomes minor. The economic consequences, which are clearly discussed, are subordinated to the interest of public health and the preservation of human lives, as the most important values, protected by all international declarations and normative acts. However, as time has passed since the beginning of the pandemic, the question of how long the world economy can suffer the consequences of its inaction and what the consequences will be from the aspect of the global economic crisis is becoming more and more topical. The epidemic, in addition to endangering health, also endangers the economy, and indeed preventive measures are being taken to preserve health, and the necessity of taking measures to preserve the economy, economic activity and liquidity of economic entities is being noticed. An indicator of the economic crisis in the world are stock exchanges, which

¹⁷ **Pizam, A., Smith, G.** “Tourism and Terrorism: A Historical Analysis of Major Terrorism Acts and Their Impact on Tourism Destinations” *Tourism Economics*, Vol. 6, 2000, No. 2, pp. 123–138.

are characterized by increased volatility due to the behaviour of traders who have directed their activity towards intensive sales, as opposed to the suspension of trade activities globally, which has caused confusion in most world markets. In almost all markets, and even the gold and oil markets, which are considered the most stable, there has been a decline, while financial markets, especially cryptocurrencies, have suffered the biggest impact. The thesis on the movements of bitcoin prices in relation to standard financial instruments was refuted.¹⁸

As certain production and service activities are completely frozen during the pandemic period, the question of the status of certain branches of activity, as well as the persons employed in those sectors, is a raised for a reason. An increase in the unemployment rate would be just an aggregate of the economic crisis in the world, which could only give impetus to the crisis in the world. However, when it comes to the world economic crisis, it is considered that it appeared in 2008. This period of crisis in the Balkan region is also characterized by an increase in the unemployment rate, which was expanding until 2014, when it began to decline. The only exception was Romania, where the unemployment rate was stagnant all the time. Romania, like Bulgaria, has a constant unemployment rate of 5 per cent over the years. In Serbia, Montenegro, Croatia and Albania, the unemployment rate averaged between 15 and 20 percent from the official beginning of the global economic crisis to the crisis caused by the pandemic. Bosnia and Herzegovina has made progress in reducing the unemployment rate, reducing the unemployment rate by 10 percent from a decade ago. The reduction of the unemployment rate in the developed countries of the European Union was positively affected by the conspicuous migration process, which included the influx of able-bodied labour force of various educational profiles.¹⁹

According to International Labor Organization (ILO) estimates, a pandemic caused by COVID 19 could produce about 25 million unemployed workers in the international labor market. According to these estimates, the crisis caused by COVID 19 would overshadow the effects of the 2008 crisis, when about 22 million workers lost their jobs. Also, the ILO estimates that phenomena such as non-registration of workers and their illegal work will increase, without any rights arising from employment, while the effects of self-employment will be reduced to a minimum, without the results it has given so far. Raising the unemployment rate has other unintended consequences, such as declining purchasing power of citizens, reduced consumption of goods and poorer provision of services and service activities, which could have an estimated impact on the world economy, estimated at \$ 3.4 trillion. Therefore, from these assessments, it is completely clear that the world

¹⁸ **Brković, R., Antonović, R.** „The certainty of global economics crisis and rising uneployment due to pandemic a COVIDE 19“, *Kultura polisa*, Vol. XVII, 2020. 69–75.

¹⁹ **Nešković, S.** “The national security paradigm and national interest in postmodern globalization flows,” *Cross – Border Book Series “New Challenges to Security and Development of the Balkans”* Vol. 7, *Problems of National and Corporate Security, Proceedings of International Scientific Conference 22–23. 11. 2019, University “St. Cyril and St. Methodius” Veliko Tarnovo Bulgaria*, 2020. 15.

is facing one of the biggest economic crises, which cannot be compared to any crisis that has happened in the past. The reason for that is certainly great uncertainty because it is not known and it is not possible to project how long the crisis caused by the pandemic will last, because for now very little is known about the virus that is the initiator of the pandemic. In a state of fear for life and health, people decide to buy only basic groceries, which has a devastating effect on production. Also, the amount of corporate debt at the end of 2019 was significantly higher in relation to the economic crisis from ten years ago, when the debt amounted to 75 thousand billion dollars.²⁰

Employees in all economic entities were hit by the COVID 19 pandemic on two grounds: as people whose lives and health were endangered and as persons whose employment status was significantly endangered. From the aspect of the topic of work, we will talk about the labor law position of employees, as well as about the disturbed relations on the labor markets in the world. Employers have an obligation to protect every job, in accordance with their capabilities, to protect the liquidity of their business, but also to protect the lives and health of their employees. Of course, these three goals are in a certain contradiction, because saving the health of workers implies their release from classic work obligations, because epidemiological measures require minimal social contacts, distance work, special treatment for the elderly, which significantly reduces productivity of work process. The reduction of production and work activity, on the other hand, causes lower incomes, which calls into question the existence of the economic entity and its business.

According to the prognosis of the International Labor Organization (ILO), due to the pandemic, three key problems will crystallize on the labor market: the problem of job supply, the problem of the quality of work provided and the problem of negative impact on particularly vulnerable categories of workers. According to the same assumptions, three possible scenarios are expected in the coming period, according to which the unemployment rate could be low, around 5.3 million, medium, around 7.4 million and high, around 22 million. Expectations in the coming period on the labor market are not at all optimistic. The impacts to labor market that occurred at the beginning of the pandemic will eventually turn into a drastic drop in the price of labor, which will automatically lead to a reduction in employee salaries. On the other hand, it is expected an increase in the so-called informal employment and the expansion of flexible working relationships, which are largely to the detriment of employees, and the benefit of employers, because it reduces their obligations to a minimum.

Conclusion

The COVID 19 pandemic can certainly already be called the greatest catastrophe that could have befallen humanity. The silent killer, who is not visible to the

²⁰ Nešković, S. "Savremena paradigma korporativne bezbednosti i metodologija implementacije kriznog menadžmenta u zemljama Zapadnog Balkana", Nauka i tehnologija 9 / 2017, Travnik: Internacionalni Univerzitet Travnik, 2017. 14.

naked eye, from which it is difficult to protect oneself and find an adequate measure of prevention already now, after less than a year, has taken over a million lives, and currently over fifty million people are sick. All the world's resources are engaged precisely with the goal of opposing this terrible and cruel enemy and finding a cure that would save the health and lives of people on the planet.

However, as the entire social, political, economic, economic and other segments of life must adapt to the new circumstances due to the pandemic, so do crime, as well as the activities of criminal groups adapt to new circumstances. In the paper itself, new ways of committing certain criminal acts are presented, using certain benefits, created as forced solutions due to the pandemic. On the other hand, there are traditional criminal acts, current in all historical epochs, present from the beginning of humanity until nowadays. These criminal acts and the ways of their execution have not changed, but we can talk about their increase. The reason for this should be sought in specific social, economic, but also health reasons, provoked by the difficult world situation, due to the COVID epidemic 19.

The motives for committing crimes during the pandemic have not changed significantly. There have been significant changes in the circumstances that precede the commission of an illegal act, as well as in the way of social reaction to them, because all events in nation states, as well as globally, are subjected to the pandemic and consequences of COVID 19. One terrible fire should be mentioned for illustration which happened on the night between March 20 and 21, 2020 in New Belgrade, when six apartments in a multi-storey building burned down. On that occasion, six people died, while six sustained severe, life-threatening injuries. As this event overlapped with the beginning of the pandemic in Serbia, the public, which otherwise reacts very violently to such news, completely turned a deaf ear to this tragedy, because the focus of interest was on the pandemic. Even the media briefly informed about this fire, of unprecedented proportions in Belgrade recently.

Precisely in such a mental and spiritual state, the public at the global level is not ready to react to any events that are not directly related to the COVID 19 pandemic. Therefore, criminal groups can act less noticeably. And the epicenter of public interest as well as action of state international institutions are no longer on them, but on saving the lives and health of the world's population. Difficult movement, communication, burden of the public with health problems, decreased attention and permanent fatigue, are favorable circumstances that have contributed to the promotion of crime and criminal activities.

Finally, it is necessary to look back at the tragic events which, despite the occupation by the COVID 19 epidemic, disturbed the world public. These are intensive terrorist activities on the territory of Europe, specifically France and Austria. The world public was shocked by the degree of audacity and ruthlessness of terrorists who were encouraged in the circumstances when their focus was directed on the world health crisis, and they chose the most ruthless methods to deal with their so-called. rivals. These terrorist methods are reflected in the ruthless liquidation of innocent people, in a way that only disgust can cause a normal person, and that is beheading in a public place, on the street and in a church.

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