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ACTIVITIES OF JUVENILE PREVENTION UNITS OF THE NATIONAL POLICE OF UKRAINE IN THE CONDITIONS OF WAR: PROBLEMS AND PERSPECTIVES

The declaration of martial law in Ukraine in February of this year, due to the invasion of Russian troops, causing massive internal displacement of residents from war zones into safer regions. With this, many families who remain breadwinners...
(men, parents), permanent place of residence, work and income are forced under difficult living conditions. An excessive stressful situation affects the behavior of people, especially the behavior of the more vulnerable age group – children. Deprived of a comfort zone with accustomed material goods, unable to critically assess their actions, children decide to do wrongful acts in order to satisfy their physiological and/or domestic needs. Thus, “pre-war” juvenile delinquency with the predominance of mercenary and mercenary-violent criminal offenses will obviously progress, if not without the attention of law enforcement agencies.

These factors, combined with such factors as changes in the places of residence of internally displaced persons, lack of coordination between the subjects of the system of registration and relevant work with such families, untimely transmission of information about children on the preventive registry at their previous residence, etc., lead to an uneven burden on employees of juvenile prevention units of the National Police and generally affects the quality of their main activity – prevention, aimed at preventing violence against children.

Ukrainian law enforcement agencies, borrowing the positive experience of foreign countries, lack experience in functioning under martial law. In the scientific environment there have been many studies in the field of crime prevention and organization of police activities of some foreign countries. However, the experience of countries in conflict has not been taken into account. Taking this into account, it would be advisable to conduct a number of studies in this direction and to borrow practices that are acceptable for the Ukrainian legislation.

Thus, the most feasible ways of improving the activities of these units in today’s conditions include the following: temporary (for example, for the period of martial law, subject to regular receipt of information from bodies responsible for registering internally displaced persons) redistribution of staff of these units, taking into account the state of the crime situation in the relevant service territory; to develop an interagency legal act (for example, temporary, for the period of military status) of the type “On Approval of the Procedure of Interaction of Entities Carrying Out Measures to Prevent Juvenile Delinquency”; to conduct thorough scientific research and identify practices acceptable to Ukrainian legislation.

Keywords: juvenile prevention units of the National Police of Ukraine, preventive activities, minors, martial law.

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