Wolfgang Benedek, Christopher Daase, Vojin Dimitrijević and Petrus van Duyne (Eds.): *Transnational Terrorism, Organised Crime and Peace-building (Human security in the Western Balkans).*

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The introduction of *Transnational terrorism, organised crime and peace-building* brings an overview of post-modern society security issues and human security problems encountered in responses to crime in the Western Balkans. It is followed by an examination of the fundamental problems and trends setting the course for the future efforts of institutions dealing with new (and old) forms of terrorism and organised crime in society. Intertwined in the work are polemics, critical thinking and arguments about contemporary peace building processes and the role of transition states curbing transition problems. The basic concepts of and relevant limitations to the field of the continuing research on the topics of organised crime and terrorism thus being defined, the authors focus on human rights issues on the Western Balkans.

Through in-depth analysis of many international theorists on the problems of terrorism and organised crime in the Western Balkans, the authors highlight human security issues and try to present some solutions that could be implemented in the region. The analytical design here represents a fundamental beginning for the study of contemporary processes in transit societies, particularly regarding reactions of state institutions, in the context of which the authors point out the role of the weak states. Its wide applicability reflects in the fact that the analysis of the current status and errors provide useful information constituting adequate grounds on which responses to different forms of crime could be planed. Due to multi- and interdisciplinary nature of the studied topics, the authors to deal with the issues from a great variety of aspects spanning criminology, law, security,

political science, and sociology, among others. Further, its added value rests in the presentation and analyses of various sometimes little-known forms of terrorism, organised crime activities, different groups or transition processes, for example the democracy in the Brcko District.

The work's analytical design, and a mixture of EU and local authors, not only represents a fundamental starting point for the study of contemporary processes in society and its reaction to crime, helping state institutions and the public, in particular, deepen the understanding of crime issues, but also realizes the seriousness these put before the modern society and peace-building processes. With a due critical distance, it defines the role of crime and criminal policy through several periods of time, focusing on issues surging in the transition period. Theusefulness of this work also shows in the fact that, according to good practices, it gives certain information on which actions and security measures could be planed for social safety in the future.It also provides for the fundamental terminology applicable to a continuous search for answers to the questions posed by future-oriented issues.

The book is divided into three parts, focusing on (i) the concept and methodologies; (ii) transnational terrorism and organized crime in the Western Balkans, and the impact of these phenomena on peace-building; (iii) and finally the role of the international community. Let me now highlight the most important parts of the articles that will provoke researchers, students, practitioners, policy makers and others to grab the book and read it in a breath and then carefully and thoroughly reread the points of interest, as I did. In the introduction, the authors define some notions (e.g.: Western Balkans and Human Security Approach) and explain the concept and the methodology of the book to overcome any misconceptions of the Western Balkans.

The introduction to the first part of Wolfgang Benedek's article based on human security approach focuses on security needs of the individual, the main victim of terrorism and organised crime, the handicapped and vulnerable in many ways. He points out that a weak state is characteristic of post-conflict societies failing to provide adequate protection to their citizens while sometimes even repressing some of them. That is why the international community is to support the states weakened by conflicts, with the aim of ensuring freedom from fear and respect of human rights. Svetlana Djurdjevic-Lukic and Vojin Dimitrijević analyse peace-building and human security issues as new concepts in Western Balkans emerging with the transition from socialism into capitalism which embodies hassle privatization. They propose that post-conflict reconstruction of the economy and transition to market economy in the Western Balkans need to be researched within the framework of human security and freedom from fear and dignified life as a priority. Whether the international community's post-conflict reconstruction effort in the Balkans a success or a failure is the question raised by Denisa Kostovicova and Vesna Bojicic-Dzelilovic in their article on human security in a weak state in the Balkans. They claim state weakness is a structural cause of human insecurity. They also expose informal networks as a parallel system to those of the state, which are connected to the informal economy and oppose economic reforms and peace-building processes. They conclude that a weak state is usually accompanied by a weak civil society exposed in most of the transit countries. Christopher Daase

raises another question: Are terrorism and organised crime one or two challenges? These two are joining forces to challenge states and threaten human security. His state-of-the-art table provides for a visualisation of differences and similarities between organised crime and transnational terror organisations. He also points out some theoretical and methodological problems that are reflected in the normative implications of the crime-terror debate. He concludes that this debate is just another example of a trend towards differentiation of post-modern society.

In "Fear of Terrorism Coping Paradox and Gender" by Sarah Ben-David and Karen Cohen-Louck, the analysze reactions to terrorism and a higher level of psychological vulnerability (more frequent symptoms of PTSD, depression and anxiety) in women than in men. Understanding the way that victims of terrorism perceive the threat and their coping potential is important in planning and conducting a successful therapy. Georgios Kolliarakis describes current phenomena of networks with the connection to criminal and terroristic organisations. He focuses on criminally or politically motivated clandestine groups acting in a covert way. By understanding the instrument of networks mechanisms, member recruiting, resource acquisition, etc., it will have an impact on the way we design and implement the policy and the strategy to control and steer them. The first part ends with legal distinctions of money laundering and financing of terrorism as analysed by Marianne Hilf. Since money laundering, a new offence in many countries in transition, causes many problems, the main question is how to define financing of terrorism, either as a predicate offence of money laundering or as a statutory offence. In the definition of money laundering, financing of terrorism was not adopted as a predicate offence by the EU commission.

The second part on transnational terrorism and organised crime in the Western Balkans is introduced by Hans-Jörg Albrecht and Anna-Maria Getoš, and their overview of researches on terrorism and organised crime in Southeast Europe. They present relevant scientific research facilities in southeast Europe, a selection of relevant governmental agencies (law enforcement- and intelligence-related), a selection of relevant international players and other relevant publications. A rather surprising conclusion claims that the Balkan countries are a safer place than most western European countries. It is mainly a surprise to the developed countries in the EU, though it has been noted at some conferences and meetings of scientists in the EU, where the West meets the East, such that a rather dramatic picture of organised crime and warnings from the flow of crime from the East was pointed out. This was mostly due to the fact that until now research was carried out exclusively by actors outside the region. Additionally, new developments of local interdisciplinary research are proposed. Dejan Anastasijevic asks, through organised crime mapping, whether we are getting better or organised crime is endemic to the region. Having analysed organised crime activities in Macedonia, Serbia, Kosovo, Montenegro, Bosnia-Herzegovina, and Croatia, he concludes that organised crime is no longer a serious threat to stability mainly because of successful reforms, cooperation between countries and decent life after wars. The crucial stability factors in the future will be curbing corruption and respecting the rule of law. Peter Andreas points out the role of humanitarians and profiteers in the battle for Sarajevo. He emphasizes the importance of criminalisation of war

economy, especially when profit and greed are involved, and tha t it is hard to distinguish patriots from profiteers. Ljubov G. Mincheva and Ted Robert Gurr present evidence on the linkages between trans-state terrorism and crime networks based on the case of Bosnia developed on the methodology applied in the previous cases of Albania and Turkey. They find that ethno-national identification has long been an active agent of trans-state cooperation, and after the war, trans–state Islamic networks are engaged in these activities. The question is how the state will establish control over terrorist and criminal networks developed as alliances during the conflict situations. This should be a focus of future research on trans-state political-criminal alliances. The second part concludes with a discussion of the small arms and light weapons problem in the Western Balkans by Iztok Prezelj. He states that the security situation has definitely improved and the gravity of the problem of small arms and light weapons decreased, although he points out that, in case of a conflict supported by moderate nationalists waiting for an opportunity (Great Albania, Kosovo and South Serbia and other), the issue will burst out again. He urges that international and regional approaches need to be better tailored to the ever changing national circumstances and supported by local independent experts.

The third part, on the impact of peace-building and the role of the international community on the Western Balkans, is introduced by Ulrich Schneckener and is entitled: "Dealing with armed non-state actors in peace and state-building, types and strategies". I must point out his table in which he so clearly presents the types of armed non-state actors, from guerrillas through clans, mafia, murderers and their motivations. In his conclusions, he exposes that the external actors lack the knowledge about the non-state armed groups, which is why an adequate strategy is not chosen. Lada Sadikovic describes Bosnia and Herzegovina's system of security in the Western Balkans. She discusses the fact that state security does not exist there, and that establishing internal security is an urgent task, so these countries they must strengthen central authority and pass a modern social and economic legislation; in short, they need a strong state to become a member of the EU. Cornelius Friesendorf, Ursula C. Schroeder and Irma Deljkic shed light on obstacles to international counter-crime strategies in Bosnia. They point out two weaknesses and challenges of counter-crime implementations, a persistent lack of reliable data on the crime situation and over-determination of policy outcomes due to the number of international actors. Nevertheless, they conclude that we are witnessing positive changes. From my point of view, Nicholas Dorn's article focuses on the crucial issue in the whole region, the corruption of human rights, and the problem of "good intensions". He exposes historical driving forces of corruption and the way of normalizing them in daily business and politics. An urge to build a civil society, ensure the rule of law and implement criminal procedures sometimes undermines human rights as it relies on repressive measures too much. That is why all processes should be analysed and studied more deeply, and a different approach based on human rights needs to be developed. The participation of victims in the criminal justice system and its impact on peace-building is presented by Alline Pedra Jorge-Birol. The topic is controversial and still needs further research. She proposes research on psychologically supported meetings between

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the victim, the offender, and the community. The last article in this volume is that of Sarah Correia addressing nationalist violence in post-Milošević Serbia; exposing extremist right-wing youth groups as instruments of individualisation of civic-minded individuals and organisations. Those groups represent a serious challenge to the democratization processes in Serbia in the circumstances of weak civil society. Strengthening civic values is the best way to curb influence of the radical right, and the media should play a crucial role by promoting values and condemning hate speech.

The conclusions by Wolfgang Benedek are really in the field of transnational terrorism and organised crime. He reaches far beyond the state and focuses on a new concept of human security, that with a human being at the pedestal, pointing to the process of individualisation of security. In the future, a self-defence behaviour should be researched because the main institution in charge of providing security is still the state which can, on the other hand, threaten human rights. He exposes the 'dark networks' and corruption as the links developed between politicians and crime or, recently, the so-called tycoons. He expresses his concerns with many conclusions in this book, where weak states and a non-functioning rule of law connect all other threats characteristic of the Western Balkans. That is why corruption and the rule of law should be studied extensively in the future.

In their in-depth analyses, most of the regional and EU authors dealing with issues of terrorism, organised crime, and peace-building go well beyond the frameworks of classical criminological thinking, adding a new dimension to the specific nature of this scientific knowledge and compelling the reader to think about the processes of globalization. I strongly believe that this work is useful as foundational material for policy makers, state institution officials, Universities, researchers and others; for the book addresses many new issues which should be researched in the future. With its comparative methods it identifies strengths and weaknesses of specific solutions, thus steering a critical reader to develop his creative thinking skills. Descriptive methods based on cognitive factors are used to analyse differences and similarities in defining the effects of crime and terrorism not only on the Western Balkans but in modern society as a whole. Due to a great variety of authors, some topics are treated more sophisticatedly than others, yet some weaknesses, where they appear, do not diminish the general value and usefulness of the book. On the whole, this work presents a detailed analysis of fundamental concepts in criminology and introduces all modern and newly raised concepts in the era of globalization. With a subtle sense for terminology, the authors apply the lexical units used by modern European and world authors, bringing the rich content of the Western Balkans languages to the EU culture by keeping and maintaining some original Balkan terms.

The book is based on an analysis of the developments in late modern society and focuses on the phenomenon of transition which we have witnessed in the Western Balkans. The authors discuss the phenomena that have affected the relevant processes in their societies, focusing in particular on the influences of economics and white-collar crime on the development of repressive institutions that respond to crime and peace–building process. Emphasizing that repression does not provide sufficient answers to peace-building problems, they claim the

answers must be sought elsewhere, especially in prevention, strong civil society and the corruption-free state. Further, some of them tackle the problem of the so-called crimes of the elites in the countries where democracy is under development and where there are no mechanisms that could detect such crimes, for the media as the fourth branch of government does not play a role of a supervisor yet. At this point we can also raise a question of establishing informal links and networks between major players in the economy and politics, which, due to their interests, then lead the weak state so as to maximize the profits and increase the wealth of a narrow circle of people taking advantage under the guise of a repressive fight against modern enemies of society, terrorism and organized crime. Let me conclude with a thought I have been presenting at conferences worldwide for decades and a quote from this very book: "The Balkan countries are a safer place than most Western European countries."

Bojan Dobovšek