

SECURITY IMPLICATIONS AND CHALLENGES OF THE MIGRANT CRISIS IN EUROPE

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March, 2017; 2 (1)

ABSTRACT

Europe is probably facing the greatest humanitarian catastrophe since the end of the World War II until now, as well as a huge political crisis caused by the population mass movements, from the crisis regions in the world towards its territory. The main migration courses are oriented towards the highly developed countries and the area where the European Union is not only mostly desired for the past several years, but it is also an easily reachable destination. What is evident is that the countries and the institutions of the European Union have recognized the migration problem too late, or rather, they have underestimated it as a phenomenon which carries a huge security risk, with reference to the fact that the migrations as a global problem are often connected to the transnational crime and terrorism. Because of this dimension, the implications that the refugee crisis have on the human, national and international security are huge. In this paper I will pay attention specifically to the reasons of the occurrence of the contemporary migration as a particular security problem.

Key words: migrants, security risks and threats, human security, national security, regional security



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Article type:

1.02 General scientific articles

UDK: 325.254-022.326.5-049.6(4)

Date of received:

September 30, 2016

Date of acceptance:

January 30, 2017

Declaration of interest:

The author reported no conflict of interest related to this article.

1. INTRODUCTION

Lately, Europe is facing with a flow of an enormous number of refugees, and in just few days the complete national systems proved to be powerless. As a result of the omissions made by the competent institutions, hundred thousands migrants emerged on the territory of Europe, on which entrance haven't been identified or well registered (photographs or fingerprints). The opening of the corridor for an uncontrolled flow of migrants has broken the legal and security regime of the European Union (Ružić, V. Šutić, B. 2016).

The conflicts which take place in the weakened countries of North Africa, Middle East and Central Asia (Libya, Syria, Northern Iraq, Afghanistan) have forced millions of people to migrate. We are witnessing the massive and complicated migration through the ``Balkan route`` and through the Mediterranean, which was probably not seen since 1945.

The wave of migrants on the Balkan is a result of the perennial process of transition of the Middle East and North Africa as a part of the so called Arab spring. These operations in Syria and Libya have caused instability and humanitarian crisis in their neighboring countries, especially in Turkey and Lebanon, where most of the refugee centers are located. Following the condition in Syria and Libya, this flow of refugees was expected, and thus for that reason appropriate analysis and assessments should have been prepared. Unfortunately, this has not been done within the European Union because it hasn't been taken account of the character of this transitional process. It is a question of long lasting and comprehensible processes in the Arab world, which considerably change the political and economic situation in Europe. In other words, Europe should prepare for multi – year engaging in the migrant flow, its causes and consequences (Tadić, Dragović, Tadić. 2016).

2. THE NOTION OF MIGRATION

Migration is a process that with centuries marks the human history and the movement of the people in terms of immigration and expatriation from a certain area. Migration as a permanent movement process means global phenomenon which affects almost all the countries in the world, whether it is a country of origin, a transit or a destination for the migrants (Lalić Novak, G., Kraljević, R. 2014.). Migration is a spatial movement

with the aim to change the area of living, oriented outside the borders, and if this movement crosses the border of the national country, that means international migration. This group includes: expatriates, returners, economic migrants, legal emigrants, as well as refugees with different motifs. Traditionally, migrations can be temporary or permanent, and the population can move willingly or unwillingly within the borders of a certain country, from one socio – cultural environment or regional environment into another (internal migrations), or from one country into another (external migrations). Migrants (emigrants) leave the environment (emigration area) in which they lived and come (immigrants) in the new environment (immigration area). During the movement (transit), from the previous place of residence (the origin country) to the new place of leaving (destination country), migrants pass through certain transit areas, and then they are considered to be transit migrants (Lalić Novak, G., Kraljević, R. 2014.).

3. REASONS FOR CONTEMPORARY MIGRATIONS

3.1. Push factors

The push factors of the migrations are as the name tells, reasons because of which someone decides to leave his home, residence, country, or even continent. Mainly, the adverse circumstances for a normal and primarily for a safe life are: war, political persecution, fear of violence, slavery, forced war, different types of discrimination (race, gender, religion...), poverty, hunger, unemployment, low chances to resolve the problem of material existence, low chances of marriage, bad climate conditions, poor health conditions, natural disasters, and other circumstances which make the human life insecure. The low living standards, especially in the poorest countries in Africa and Asia, are among the main push factors for leaving the country and heading towards the developed and rich economic areas, like the European Union (Durakovic, A. Durakovic, S, 2016).

With the current military actions, the economic resources of the underdeveloped countries are further weakening, causing forced migrations to increase. In this context, of course, it should be noted that in the areas of Syria and Iraq was developed the jihadist Islamic State of Iraq (ISIS, ISIL), with the tendency to be further developed; and even with sending threats to Europe. For that reason, the migrations of the population of those areas receive a new security dimension, which makes space for increased engagement not only of UNHCR, but also of OSCE and other regional organizations in greater number than before as it was the case with the problem with the migrants (Марковић, Д. 2016).

3.2 Pull factors

Pull factors are the benefits provided by the life elsewhere, outside of the person's own residence, outside the country, or outside the continent. The pull factors are more subjective than the push factors because mostly they are not a product of experience, as the case with the circumstances that motivate the human to emigrate, but they are those circumstances which contradict the negative aspects of the life of the potential migrant: peace, absence of violence, tolerance among the people, which lowers the possibility of discrimination to a minimum, greater guarantees of personal safety (Solimano, A., 2010), greater chances of employment, greater political and religious freedom, better educational opportunities, better health care, developed industry, better climate conditions, better chances of marriage, family relationships, and generally better life conditions (Марковић, Д. 2016).

As immediate causes for the huge flow of migrants in 2015, analysts also cite: a) opening new (mostly on land) refugee routes rather than marine; b) reducing the cost of the transport per person of 5,000 or 6,000 US dollars to 2,000 or 3,000 dollars (Yahya, M. 2015); c) season – summer which allows easier movement especially at sea (Sly, L.,2015).

4. CATEGORY OF PERSONS

Considering the reasons and the types of migration, when it comes to the term migrant, it is impossible to give only one universal definition. In practice, different kind of terminology is used, thus because of that it is talked about the mixed migration flows which include different types of people – refugees, asylum seekers, irregular migrants, economic migrants, victims of trafficking, who leave the origin country due to various reasons, moving and crossing the border without having any proper documents and illegally entering the destination country (Ivančević, T. 2016).

Economic migrants are people who leave their country of origin because of economic reasons, or to improve their financial condition. Such migrants don't meet the criteria for refugee status and therefore, they have no right on international protection as a refugee. Unlike the refugees, the economic migrants enjoy the protection of their country, and if they wish they can return to it.

According to the Convention on the Status of Refugees from 1951, refugee is a person who is not in the country where he is a citizen, and be-

cause of well-founded fear of persecution due to race, religion, nationality, membership in a certain social group or political opinion, cannot or because of that fear does not want to be put under protection of the concerned state; or a person without nationality which is situated outside the country of previous residence, but who cannot, or because of fear does not want to return in that country.

Asylum seeker is a person who seeks security from persecution or serious injustice in another country and awaits a decision on the refugee status according to relevant international and national regulations. In case of negative decision, the person must leave the country immediately, and even may be expelled in case there are some irregularities or illegalities in the procedure of obtaining asylum, unless the permission for residence is based on humanitarian and other related reasons (International Organization for Migration, 2011)

A victim of human trafficking is any person who is traded due to forced prostitution, pornography, sexual tourism and entertainment, illegal employment and adoption, begging, fake and forced marriage, and human organs trafficking. The difference between a migrant and a refugee is in the fact that the migrant is looking for a new living space to improve the quality of life, economic factor for migration, while a refugee is a person who changes the living space primarily out of fear for their own life and freedom (Ivančević, T. 2016).

5. SAFETY ASPECTS OF THE MIGRATION

The clash of different cultural practices and religious customs in the destination countries endangers the functioning of the social system in terms of security, health, education, social policy and the labor market. For the capacity of even the largest countries in the European Union are not enough to integrate large numbers of migrants.

The dilemma is how to find a solution in order to save the order and the security in the country by applying legislative measures, but on the other hand, not compromising customary rights and habits of migrants, because without any doubts, if the migrants come into conflict with the applicable legal system of the European Union, they may be solved depending on the willingness of one or the other to compromise; or by following the applicable laws or by giving in to the habits of the migrants.

In the both cases, the valid principles of security are violated. In the first case, it means violating the legal system, and in the second it means endangering the fundamental human rights of the migrants.

However, despite all of the problems and dangers that are carried by the mass flow of refugees, the positive aspect of this issue is their employment potential, bearing the fact that mostly it is a question of young people and working population. Putting this migrant labor force into function of the development strategy of the European Union, under the policy of transforming the dangers into chances, in a way all of the above mentioned problems are being compensated (Stevović M. Crnobrnja M, 2015).

6. RISKS OF CONTEMPORARY MIGRATIONS ON HUMAN SECURITY

The concept of the human security offers an effective approach of the mass movements of the population than the traditional model of national security. The traditional model deals with the consequences whereas the concept of human security seeks to influence the causes of the existing problems (Vietti, F., & Scribner, T. 2013). The concept of human security is based on two complementary elements: the absence of fear of war, conflict and violence, and second, the absence of economic hardship, poverty, disease and other problems that hinder the social development (UNDP, 1994). The inability to establish decent living conditions greatly affect the voluntary or forced movement of the population in politically and economically stable prosperous regions in the world. From the perspective of the human security, it is crucial to establish legal mechanisms, institutions and structures that will effectively respond to the existing challenges and secure the safety of the escaped population. It primarily means ensuring the physical security and protection, preventing physical and sexual violence, human trafficking, and principally providing basic living conditions and health care (Vietti, F., & Scribner, T. 2013).

The humanitarian catastrophe and the movement of the population on certain areas is primarily a matter of human rights. The countries are obliged to respect the human rights contained in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the European Convention on Human Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, and other international conventions. Respecting the right on human life, the prohibition of torture, the inhuman and degrading treatment or punishment, the right to asylum, the freedom of movement and other human rights (Lalić V. Đurić. S. Lipovac, M. 2015) should be especially emphasized.

7. RISKS OF CONTEMPORARY MIGRATION ON NATIONAL SECURITY

National security is much more than physical safety of the population, the territory and the sovereignty over the territory and the population. Nowadays it covers the safety of the society (regardless of the ethnic, religious, racial and ideological determination of the members), and the security of the country and their participation in the international and global security.

The mass migrations at the beginning of 2015, caused a “crisis” on the human, financial and material-technical resources, and as well as on the regulatory frameworks for work on the bodies and public authorities of the state through which migrants transit. However, although they had apparently developed security systems of the borders of the state, many countries were organizationally and functionally unprepared to face this problem. The forced “reasonable response” of the mass migration not seldom was “irrational and unjustified” – refusing the refugees and the asylum seekers to be accepted, building walls and setting a police cordon and a barbed wire; “Hungary put walls so that to keep the migrants outside its borders; Bulgaria built 33km long and 3m high fence from a barbed wire on the border with Turkey, which is controlled by more than thousands of police officers; barbed wire and 4m high fence also separates Greece from Turkey; due to more than 180% asylum requests, in the first five months of 2015, Austria stopped processing the asylum applications; etc. (<http://www.nspm.rs/savreme-ni-svet/velika-evropska-migraciona-kriza.html>)

Such treatment has all the marks of the secondary victimization with an inadequate response of the state authorities, or it rebuilds a victim of a person who is already a victim of the armed conflicts (a refugee) and of the repressive regimes (an asylum seeker). The repressive and inhuman relationship of the countries with the refugees and asylum seekers “spoils” the image of the country in the international relations, and can condition international conviction, pressure and sanctions.

Furthermore, the mass migrations caused numerous controversies, discussions and confrontations in the national political structures and in the structures of the international organizations. The consequence of that was the disruption of the national and political unity, which implies on the national security. For instance, the political opposition in the Hungarian Parliament fiercely confronted with the government about the quota of the refugees who would be deployed in the states - members of the Europe-

an Union, primarily in Hungary. The same thing happened in some other countries (Germany, Czech Republic, Poland, France etc.). Moreover, the migrations affect the economic and financial stability of the states. The consequence of the mass migrations is also the destabilization of the existing national labor markets, due to a mass influx of new workers. At the same time, new and so called black labor markets develop, which destabilize the legal labor market, the public finances and the state budget. The threatening of the existing black labor market seriously encourages conflicts of organized criminal groups because of dominance over the black labor market, which could seriously destabilize the country.

Mass migrations also lead to an increase in the volume and the variety of all types of crimes, primarily migrant smuggling, human trafficking and other crimes that have to do with migration (falsifying documents, illegal crossing the state borders, mediation in illegal crossing of the state border, kidnapping, coercion, etc.) (Mijalković, S. Petrović. I. 2016).

The volume growth and the diversification of the organized crime, which although take complex network forms and transnational dimensions, certainly jeopardize the national, but above all the human security (Mijalković, S. Petrović. I. 2016).

The refugee crisis must necessarily be viewed through the prism of the regional security in the light of the armed conflicts in the Middle East that to great extent led to it. The situation in the Middle East has major implications not only on the region but also on the international security. The exodus of the population, the tensions in the international relations, the war crimes, the physical violence, the flagrant violations of human rights, the military intervention – are the reality of the Middle East. The question of the acceptance of the migrants and the refugees leads to tensions and divisions within the European Union. The representatives of the so called Eastern bloc of the European Union, that make Hungary, Slovakia and Romania, oppose to the plan of the European Commission for allocation of the refugees (Lalić V. Đurić. S. Lipovac, M. 2015). Deutsche Welle reports that the existing migration processes can result in a conflict between the member states, and brings the example of Denmark, which tried to return the tightened controls on the borders with Germany several years ago, France, which at one point closed the borders with Italy, as well as other similar examples. Such tensions could endanger the Schengen agreement, or the free movement of goods and people without any control in the states, the so called Schengen zone. Other example is the deterioration of

relations between Hungary and Croatia due to the refugee crisis. Hungary set a wire fence on the border with Serbia and then with Croatia.

These examples call into question the effectiveness of regional and international cooperation in the field of security. When an external threat appears, and endangers the interests of various countries, which belong to the same political, cultural, economic and security space such as the European Union, in the same or similar manner, the principles of the regional cooperation and collective security have no meaning, but the individual interests of the nation-states, that are often contradictory and led to tensions and serious deterioration in the bilateral relations, are emphasized (Lalić V. Đurić. S. Lipovac, M. 2015).

8. CONCLUSION

The modern world is facing such migration movements as never before. The enormous number of trouble spots on the areas of military conflicts in Asia and Africa, whose expansion threatens the world peace and also the undemocratic regimes in some of the countries in those areas, act stimulating on the emergence of massive migrations in the world.

Due to the economic development, as well as the developed system of respecting the human rights of the citizens, including the benefits of the process of resolving the status of asylum seekers, the countries of the European Union to a great extent, are the last destinations for the migrants from the security vulnerable areas, and the territory of Republic of Macedonia is one of the main transit routes for the migrants to the countries of the European Union.

There is a necessity of a scientific review of the security implications of the migration in general, which is with even greater importance to those that take place in an illegal way, and their goal is to identify the specific security threats on the reference facilities and to take adequate security measures. The fact that the organized crime has found its mine in the current migrant crisis is very worrying for all the security services in Europe. Organized crime groups have taken control of the movement of the migrants in Europe, thus realizing huge economic gain. The possible recruitment of certain structures of the migrants in order to carry out terrorist acts, make illegal immigration a major factor that endangers the security.

The refugee crisis has endangered the regional security in Europe. The refugee crisis, currently, is the biggest security problem for the European

region and will have long term consequences for the regional stability.

Due to the poor living conditions and even bigger economic differences between the rich and the poor regions, as well as the unstable security situation in certain areas of the world, it can be certainly expected that the migration pressures of the economic developed countries of the West will continue in the future.

The European Union has kept its action on the migration crisis to the level of crisis management and still hasn't reached consensus about the basic issues.

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