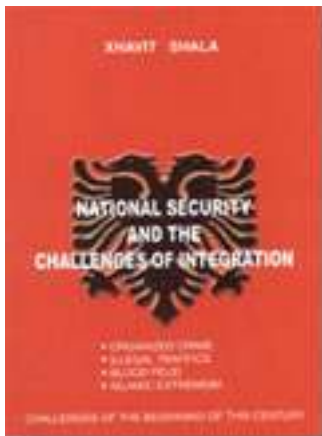


FOREWORD



When the author of this book, Colonel Xhavit Shala, informed me on the project to write “National Security and the Challenges of Integration” I felt the obligation to encourage him and even promised to him to write its foreword. And today when I read this work I felt an emotion as benevolent and encouraging as appraiser about the very interesting themes that are presented in this publication

Let me state at the beginning that this is a serious publication where the author brings in front of the reader, being he professional or interested, a series of analytical writings, that give a new possibility to see beyond the non-real and sometimes speculative imaginary or fancy, these themes very requested and very problematic for the Albanian society in transition

The national security problem and the challenges that the Albanian society is facing in the road toward integration of the country in the Euro-Atlantic structures, remain among the principal concerns of the author, who as a professional and head of direct structures of the fight against illegal traffic of human beings, organized crime, terrorism and the fight against criminal bands, etc., has demonstrated devotion and high professional and analytical abilities, courage and bravery, incompatibility with crime, by using visionary practices and ideas. These were the features that gave him success as direct head of many operations.

Correlative view of national security in relation to organized crime, human being traffic and that of women for prostitution purposes, blood feud, strategy of fight against vehicle traffic and permanent fight against trafficking, make up the main axes of this publication. The author has successfully entered in the relations of the national crime with the international one and the forms of the danger emergence and the tendencies to use our country for international terrorism purposes. These problems written by a professional, who knows how to give the fact and event simply and well, create a more real vision of the dangerousness that they present to the Albanian society and the Albanian state itself. Therefore the main messages that penetrate the themes of this publication are very meaningful and with practical and theoretical values.

So, in the fight against organized crime section, the author undertakes to analyze the causes, tendencies, forms and sophisticated methodologies that this crime uses in Albania, the consequences and dangers for the national security and also to sensitize the state structures and the civil society for the strong sustain they must give. He gives not only concrete professional, juridical and institutional recommendations, but also the relevant strategy to increase the efficiency of the fight against organized crime.

Because of the spread of Islamic extremism after the event of September 11, the author uses all its professional background in analyzing the reasons, inclinations, forms and methods of the dissemination of Islamic fundamentalism in Albanian and its dangerousness for the national security. In addition, the author presents the strategy, ways and means to prevent the dissemination of the phenomenon by the responsible structures of the state with the sustain of the civil society and religious communities.

Meanwhile, it is the merit of the author who in the study and analyses of these facts does not remain only in the Albanian area but relates them to the counterpart phenomena in the countries of the region and wider. The idea that the front against crime or terrorism cannot be successful without having an organization and coordination of the structures of all countries and nations is naturally emphasized. In this regard the study of Mr. Shala crosses the frontiers of our country.

Analytical methods of applied criminology find application in the treatment of the specifics of the traffic of women for prostitution purposes in the District of Fier. The author, being for sometime in the role of the senior head of the Policy in this district, truly brings the situation there of the traffic of the human beings and women for prostitution purposes by deeply analyzing the dynamic, specifics, reasons and consequences of this cruel traffic, that knows no moral, norms or law at all. The author notices, it is an open challenge toward the rule of law and democratic society.

Even for this keen social problem Mr. Shala, not only makes the scientific analyze of this phenomenon, but gives the possible solutions. The author has drafted and implemented in Fier the first program for the protection of the witnesses in Albania, by establishing the **Reception and Protection Center of the Victims of Traffic**, the strategy for collecting the weapons left in the hands of the population in 1997, etc.

Being initiator and drafter of a number of regional and national strategies of the fight against human being trafficking, the author has transmitted to the interested specialists and colleagues his experience, without naming it as his own, but being always available for discussion.

Another problem that concerns the author is the ancient crime diffusion of revenge and blood feud. Through the study and analyses of the phenomenon, the author seeks the roots and causes of its reappearance, evolution, relations with murders for other motives and consequences for national security. In addition, he presents the forms, methods and strategies that must be used for reduction and interruption of this very dangerous phenomenon for the frail Albanian democracy.

The author strongly asks for the contribution that all actors and factors should give including state organisms, civil society, community, media, etc. in the fight against illegal traffics, organized crime, corruption and other crimes that infringes not only national security but also delays the integration of Albania in the Euro Atlantic structures.

The whole structure of this interesting publication, where the technical – scientific and professional treatment is harmonized with the applicative treatment in the area of police strategies in the fights against all crimes especially against those that are problematic for our country, is at the same time an evidence that the Albanian state and state police, its healthiest and the most professional part have all the possibilities to be victorious in the fight against crime. This has been my conviction and my motivation for the work done together with good specialists when I headed the Ministry of Public Order for two years. Among them a special place belongs to the author of this book.

Therefore I commend the author and the researcher of police, Mr. Xhavit Shala, for the contribution he gives in the national security area, in the area of police research, fight against illegal traffics, visions for the future of police, etc. I also estimate the fact that he treats such important problems for the first time.

I hope that his courageous initiative not only must be evaluated and supported but it must be followed by other works of this kind, to complete the gaps in the professional literature for the police officers, students of the academy, researchers and interested readers in the area.

SPARTAK POÇI