International human trafficking as a security threat

In this article we will consider the issue of modern slavery as a threat to international security, we will analyze the phenomenon of illegal migration as a component in the slave trade and we will offer solutions to the problem.

Globalization has engrossed almost all spheres of human life nowadays and has affected not only economic, political and social processes but also those ones which are connected with activity of criminal groups giving them transboundary nature. It creates a great danger for world community because transnational criminal groups operate under the clearly well-wrought and organized schemes and there are no state borders for such schemes. They get into management and government agencies where they successfully lobby their interests primarily causing damage to the states’ national interests and the citizens’ rights. The fact of the existence and activity of transnational crime threatens moral values, cultural and spiritual heritage acquired by humanity over many centuries. The encroachment on fundamental human rights, freedoms and security takes place and thus on the security of society and the state.

Nowadays such kinds of transnational crime as terrorism, arms, drug and human trafficking have reached an unprecedented scopes. While the first kinds have appeared relatively recently, the phenomenon of human trafficking has been known since the ancient Greece and Rome. Today human trafficking gained the grand scale of its spreading and it has affected almost all European countries and their neighboring regions.

International organizations constantly conduct research on determining and identifying the major threats to international security. For example, in the report of UN any event or process that leads to large-scale death or lessening of life chances and undermines States as a basic unit of the international system is defined as a threat to international security. In this manner there are six groups of risk which humanity faces today, in particular:

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economic and social threats; inter-State conflicts; internal conflicts, including civil wars, genocide and other large-scale atrocities; weapon of mass destruction (radiological, chemical, biological); terrorism; transnational organized crime (drug, weapon and human trafficking) [1, II].

German researchers distinguish some other group of threat, in particular for the European security system. In accordance with their research threats associated with military disorders and disasters, soft security issues such as illegal migration, drugs and human trafficking, etc. are the main ones [2, 10].

Nowadays there are a lot of kinds and forms of human exploitation. Although slavery was abolished in 1957, today human exploitation is still widespread both in traditional form and in more modern ones. So «trading in personality» is the feature of the economy of the late XX century. This is the result of absence of a legal basis and social protection [3]. Economic globalization and enhancement of human labor mobility (migration), increase in demand on so-called «services of private character» in developed countries, growing level of unemployment among women and also increase in number of Internet users which almost is not controlled by law and it is used for criminal purposes to recruit and inveigle potential victims also have influence on the development of this phenomena.

Illegal migration plays significant role in the process of human trafficking as it becomes a great phenomenon of globalization and it is connected with the intensification of activity of transnational organized criminal groups which provides existence of illegal migration’s powerful networks, people smuggling and human trafficking.

Very often human trafficking is confused with illegal migration since both phenomena are connected with shadow economy and they constantly fuel corruption, money laundering, hindering economic and democratic development of society. Human traffickers use illegal migration and people smuggling for providing more profits because they don’t need to spend significant money on documents production, legalization, insurance and other items required by law. Thus, according to the FBI, annual profit of organized crime groups from illegal migration is about $ 12 billion. The flow of illegal migrants is constantly growing. There are price lists of services according to which, for example, crossing from China to the UK costs $ 30 thousand, from Turkey to Germany is worth $ 1–3 thousand, from Mexico to the USA costs from $ 200 to $ 1 thousand [4].
Such features as mass, uncontrolled illegal migration processes, high organization and scope increase of human trafficking not only became a threat to international security and challenge for the international community but also found its real unavailability to confront these phenomena. According to the Head of the OSCE Office in Tajikistan Ivar Vikki human trafficking makes transnational threats which need to be solved within the integrated security system. It is needed to create cooperation model of government agencies, nongovernmental and international organizations for effective counteraction to this problem. [5] International community has developed the principle of «5 Ps» for development such a strategy: Prevention, Protection, Prosecution, Punishment and Partnerships. That is a combination into a unified system such measures as human trafficking prevention, protection of victims and witnesses, prosecution, punishment and criminal penalties for such activities, partnership and cooperation at all levels. In general the strategy of counteraction and combating human trafficking in a particular country can be divided into the following main areas:
  – cause liquidation of people leaving for abroad in searching of a better life;
  – level rise of public awareness about phenomenon and its consequences;
  – status change of individual and personality, and support of persons who belong to the potential risk groups;
  – improvement of legislation and actions of law enforcement agencies;
  – providing adequate assistance to victims.

Taking into consideration the leading role of illegal migration in the human trafficking process considerable attention also should be paid on the migration policy and the role and protection of the state border. It is impossible to provide adequate borders’ protection because of a very high speed of people moving and it actually provokes human trafficking. In general protection of state border covers political, economic, environmental, sanitary, veterinary, phytosanitary protection and protection against phenomena and events that can jeopardize the safety of people and the state in general. The function of providing external (international) and internal (regional and local) security is the most important in the context of the researched problem
Detailed analysis of the phenomenon of human trafficking and illegal migration gives possibility to define the following groups of risks to international security:

1. Negative economic effects that can be defined as:
   - additional expenditures of budget funds on maintenance, service, identification, return of illegal migrants and victims of traffickers;
   - expenditures linked to the operation of support centers and temporary stay of human trafficking victims, illegal migrants and refugees;
   - expenditures necessary for effective cooperation between agencies and organizations that will deal with management and coordination of migration processes;
   - state expenditures caused by stay of illegal migrants in their territory and employment of these migrants on the shadow economy sector;
   - consumption of public benefits, goods and services produced in the host country by illegal migrants.

2. Negative socio-demographic consequences:
   - complication of ethnic and religious composition of the population;
   - problems of integration into the society of the host country;
   - increase in transboundary and ethnic crime;
   - spread of atypical infections and AIDS.

3. Political and administrative consequences:
   - problems of governance organization that are created by powerful criminal groups of human traffickers and smugglers, mass stay of a significant number of non-citizens in the country;
   - formation of the negative international image of the origin, destination or transit country as the state which is unable to counter effectively illegal migration and human trafficking.

Thus, we have considered the phenomenon of international human trafficking and we have proved that human trafficking is one of the threats to international security and one of the most pressing problems of mankind. In the current situation successful resistance and combat against human trafficking and illegal migration is impossible without coordination efforts of the international community and the development of effective cooperation of all competent actors of international relations. It is necessary to elaborate a comprehensive approach for all Member-States, global strategy which would include providing support and assistance to the victims
and would integrate the fight against this phenomenon in a broader activity directed against transnational organized crime which nowadays has become a global business and actually threatens statehood and security of many countries.

Список источников и литературы


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Глобализация мировой политики и политические риски

Глобализация мировой политики предполагает, что международная система, сложившаяся в XXI в., отличается от всех прежних международных систем в одном важнейшем отношении: все государства, даже великие державы, будут жить в ситуации взаимозависимости, сокращающей степень свободы их деятельности ввиду возрастающего значения институтов политической глобализации.

Сегодня все большую актуальность приобретает вопрос о функционировании специальных легитимных наднациональных институтов,

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