

Theses

Major (retired) Zoltán Bebesi

DRUG RELATED CRIMES AND TERRORISM

Doctorial (PhD) Treatise

Author's Summary

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Formulation of the Scientific Problem

At the turn of the century, the developed democracies faced a new type of challenge in the form of global, trans-national terrorism that is closely intertwined with organised crime, especially drug trafficking. This new threat represents an enormous force that seems to possess unlimited resources which can destroy the fundamental institutions of society.

Drugs appeared as a social problem on a mass scale in the late 20th century in a wide variety of forms. The threat to the communal and individual health of various drugs is different. Some legal systems tolerate certain „mild” drugs, while others (including the Hungarian penal code) are against any kind of them. Drugs present a complex problem for criminology, law, the medical science etc., and place heavy burden on societies. Anti-drug policies try to formulate in general terms how the community should respond to the challenge, while various studies on public health, psychiatry, sociology, criminology and national security raise the necessity of prioritizing and harmonizing the different strategic approaches to the problem.

We need a pragmatic, problem-solving approach to find the appropriate means by which to reach our strategic goals. From a scientific perspective, we are dealing with an interdisciplinary problem that requires the integration of defence policy, internal and external security, criminological and other aspects within the sphere of broadly interpreted security studies. This topic has a vast professional literature, which provides the foundations for a complex, detailed analysis.

Research Targets

1. Drug usage and drug related crimes are closely related, and so called narco-terrorism is a derivative concept. Although it is true that the problem-solving is a complex civilian, social and educational task, the police, the judiciary and other law enforcement agencies have their special responsibilities. Highlighting those special responsibilities and methodologies, I would like to prove the complex nature of the issue, but also to propose some possible solutions or methods to fight the drug-problem on different levels and fronts of the broadly interpreted security spectrum.

2. It was also my aim to analyse and to summarize the experiences accumulated in this field, pointing out the possible practical adaptations and applications of theoretical research.

3. I also make some proposals for the law enforcement authorities to modify their present anti drug and anti-terror theories and policies so as to be able to reach their tactical and strategic goals more effectively.

Research Methodology

- Tapping the library resources to study and critically summarize the available literature on the topic, and aggregation of data and opinions, pointing out characteristics of different approaches and synthesizing them;
- The accumulation and evaluation of my own experiences gained through extensive field studies „on the spot” during numerous training courses, exercises and participation in actual law enforcement activities for several years;
- A theoretical, all source analysis of available numerical data and other information by deductive and inductive logic, and a synthesis of the conclusions;
- The method of historical analogy, as understood by the military sciences, adjusted to the characteristics of our special topic, to uncover the underlying processes of drug related crime and terrorism.

Hypotheses

4. Embedded in the complex, global relationships of the threats and challenges in the 21st century, the drug related international crimes and the trans-national terrorism is combined in the form of narco-terrorism, thus endangering national and international security, even – possibly – global stability. This threat, coupled with other risk factors, can endanger Hungary and her allies as well; therefore it should be handled by the close cooperation of relevant domestic and international law enforcement, military, national security and other organisations, by improved methodology and a harmonization of professional efforts.

5. The experiences of Hungary in this field seem to support the conclusion that in the fight against narco-terrorism we don't need reorganizations in the first place, but a more precise definition of the tasks and responsibilities of the various law enforcement and national security agencies instead, together with a well organised and coordinated information sharing arrangement, and a controlled system of covert operation methodologies.

6. The necessary changes point towards the special integration of the defence sector.

The Structure of the Dissertation

In the first chapter, I make an overview of the present situation of drug related crimes and their prospects, together with the anti-drug measures of various domestic, foreign and international agencies concerned. I also touch upon matters of internal and external cooperation and its strategic background, aims, methods and institutional framework.

In the second chapter I uncover the relationship between drug related crimes and terrorism. The concept of terrorism is hard to define, and although it has historical antecedents, it developed into a global problem only in the second half of the 20th century. Its ideological foundations and practical manifestations are quite diverse. Since the end of the century, a new type of terrorism has emerged, targeting democratic societies in novel ways. Now we have to face new threats like nuclear, biological or cyber terrorism. This new type of terrorism often supports itself financially through crime channels. Especially, the close relationship between drug related crimes and terrorism creates a serious challenge. Both are characterised by a high degree of organisation, in some respects along similar principles. Certain manifestations of terrorist organisations can also justly be considered as drug cartels. A typical form of terrorism can be seen in South America, where the drug cartels are intertwined with political movements, which I had the opportunity to study on the spot.

The third chapter of my thesis wraps up the possibilities of the fight against drug related crimes and terrorism. My starting point was that it is best to tackle the problem by prevention rather than dealing with the „post-traumatic stress syndrome”. As one of the traditional types of organised crime, drug related activities induced such police (and sometimes military) methods, that serve crime prevention in order to preemt the escalation of the underlying social problems. The usage of so called „operative measures” together with intelligence gathering and analysis as well as information sharing among the relevant organisations: that is probably the best „package” in the fight against drug related crimes, because it can prevent the drugs’ appearance in the market, weakening the drug cartels by eliminating their profit, and saving society from huge losses. These experiences can be utilised in the fight against terrorism as well, in which case it is even more important to deprive them of the means of operation, to uncover their organisations and to perform pre-emptive strikes against them.

In the final chapter of the thesis I evaluate the present conditions of anti-drug activities in Hungary, including organisational, strategic, and legal background, and make some proposals to increase the effectiveness of the fight against narco-terrorism.

I have finished my research on 24th of August, 2009.

New Scientific Results

1. My research confirmed that drug related crimes and narco-terrorism constitute a global threat that requires the harmonisation of security policy, military and police strategies as well as close international cooperation.

2. I made concrete proposals for intelligence and operative methods alongside the existing Hungarian institutional framework to prevent and detect acts of drug related terrorism. I identified the main tasks of, and the allocation of responsibilities among the relevant authorities. Some overlaps were highlighted, and anomalies in the mechanism of cooperation uncovered with the aim of improving efficiency.

3. My results prove that separate sub-sectorial and agency responses can not deal effectively with the problem. Nor can reorganisation campaigns. The more effective functioning of the existing structures should be ensured by improved methodology and cooperation. The findings point towards the special functional integration of the defence sector.

Proposals for practical applications of the findings

- It is not necessary to create new specialised agencies to fight drug related crime and terrorism, but we have to ensure the smooth functioning of the existing organisations instead.

- The basic conditions for cooperation among the law enforcement, national security and military organisations are in place, but there are some overlaps and parallels in the tasks and responsibilities. Some rationalisation may be necessary, but the most important thing is information sharing among the relevant agencies so that each should possess the information that is necessary to perform its tasks.

- We have to improve intelligence methodology and coordinate information sharing. The present system of cooperation may seem to be inadequate, but a more effective utilization of the existing coordination mechanisms and the overall fulfilment of the individual (agency) responsibilities would certainly result in better crime prevention and/or detection, thus reducing the adverse impact on society.

- It was one of my chief aims to introduce a complex research and discussion methodology in dealing with the problem, so as to make this dissertation the basis for a practical professional

handbook, to be used as a textbook in universities or – complemented with classified data – in in-house professional courses at the law enforcement agencies.

A list of publications on the topic of the dissertation

Articles:

1. A kábítószer fogyasztás Magyarországon (*Drug-consumption in Hungary*). In: „a Hazai kábítószer-helyzet történeti áttekintése a rendszerváltás időszakáig” 2005. (Rendvédelem-történeti Füzetek XI. évf/13. sz.. 5-15. p.
2. Narkóterrorizmus (*Narco-terrorism*). Kard és Toll 2004/2. 131-140. p
3. A jelentősebb Dél-Amerikai terrorszervezetek szerepe a kábítószer-bűnözésben és az ellenük folytatott harc (*The Role of Major South-American Terrorist Organisations in Drug Related Crimes and the Fight Against Narco-terrorism*). Felderítő szemle /KFH/ IV. évfolyam 1. sz. 2005. március 88-100. p..
4. *Drug-terrorism*. <http://www.zmne.hu/dokisk/hadtud/bebesi2.pdf>
5. *Covert Techniques in Combatting Terrorism*
(What was left out from the Conference of 14th November 2002)
<http://www.zmne.hu/dokisk/hadtud/Bebesi.pdf>
6. Narkóterrorizmus (*Narco-terrorism*). Nemzetvédelmi Egyetemi Közlemények 8. évfolyam 2. szám. (nemzetközi tudományos konferencia anyaga) 52-62. p
7. Titkosszolgálati módszerek a terrorizmus elleni harcban (*Secret Service Operational Methods against Terrorism*). Nemzetvédelmi Egyetemi Közlemények 7. évfolyam 4. szám. (nemzetközi tudományos konferencia anyaga) 175-179. p
8. Légi támogatás szerepe a terrorizmus és a kábítószer-bűnözés elleni harcban (*The Role of Air Support in the Fight against Terrorism and Drug Related Crimes*).
http://www.szrfk.hu/rtk/kulonszamok/2004_cikkek/bebesi_zoltan.pdf
9. A koka levéltől a kokainig (*From the Coca Leaf to the Cocain*). Győri Tanulmányok Tudományos Szemle 25/2001. 119- 129. p.
10. A Dél-Amerikai - speciálisan kiképzett rendőri erők harca a kokain ellen. (*South American Special Trained Police Forces Fighting Against Cocaine*). Zrínyi Miklós Nemzetvédelmi Egyetem Tudományos lapja, 2002. Hallgatói közlemények, VI. évf. 1. különszáma. 147-165. p

Conference lectures, presentations:

1. 2000 — Szemere Bertalan Magyar Rendvédelmi Tudományos Társaság Csendőr szakosztályának konferenciája (*Hungarian Law Enforcement Society, Gendarmerie Chapter*). Budapest
2. 2001 — Szemere Bertalan Magyar Rendvédelmi Tudományos Társaság Csendőr szakosztályának konferenciája (*Hungarian Law Enforcement Society, Gendarmerie Chapter*). Budapest
3. 2000 — Hedonizmus konferencia (*Hedonism*), Győr
4. 2001 — Homoludens konferencia (*Homo Ludens*), Győr
5. 2001 — Az európai és a magyar rendvédelem XIX-XX. században (*European and Hungarian policing in the 19th-20th century*). Budapest
6. 2001 — Szemere Bertalan Magyar Rendvédelmi Tudományos Társaság Somogy megyei csoportja által rendezett rendvédelmi szimpózium ((*Hungarian Law Enforcement Society, Somogy County Police Chapter*). Kaposvár
7. 2002 — Szemere Bertalan Magyar Rendvédelmi Tudományos Társaság Csendőr szakosztályának konferenciája (*Hungarian Law Enforcement Society, Gendarmerie Chapter*). Budapest
8. 2002 — Győr a vizek városa konferencia (*Győr, the Town of Waters*). Győr
9. 2002 — Szemere Bertalan Magyar Rendvédelmi Tudományos Társaság Somogy megyei csoportja által rendezett rendvédelmi szimpózium ((*Hungarian Law Enforcement Society, Somogy County Police Chapter*). Kaposvár
10. 2003 — Szemere Bertalan Magyar Rendvédelmi Tudományos Társaság Csendőr szakosztályának konferenciája (*Hungarian Law Enforcement Society, Gendarmerie Chapter*). Budapest
11. 2003 — A terrorizmussal kapcsolatos aktuális feladatok – tudományos konferencia (*Actual Tasks in Combatting Terrorism*), Budapest
12. 2003 — Szemere Bertalan Magyar Rendvédelmi Tudományos Társaság Somogy megyei csoportja által rendezett rendvédelmi szimpózium (*Hungarian Law Enforcement Society, Somogy County Police Chapter*). Kaposvár

13. 2004 — Nemzetközi konferencia „Esély a drogellenes stabilitásért” (*Chances for Anti-Drug Stability*) Szerbia-Montenegró, Szabadka
14. 2004 — Gazdaságosság, hatékonyság és biztonság a repülésben tudományos konferencia (*Economic Efficiency and Safety in Air Traffic*) Szolnok
15. 2004 — Valahol Európában c. konferencia (*Somewhere in Europe*), Győr
16. 2004 — Doktorandusz-konferencia (*Doctorandus*), Budapest

Bio Notes

Personal data:

Name: Bebesi Zoltán university lecturer
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Residence: 8600 Siófok, Fő utca 45 I/C/14
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Studies:

2002-2005 Zrínyi Miklós National Defence University (ZMNE) Military Science Faculty, post-gradual studies on *Drug Related Crimes and Terrorism*.
1999-2002 ZMNE, Department of Security and Defence Studies
1999-2002 ZMNE, Department of Defence Administration
1991-1995 Police Academy, Department of Criminology
1988-1991 Rudnai Gyula Professional Middle School, Tab
1982-1985 No. 529 Vocational School, Tab

Professional Courses:

1996 — German Police Anti-Drug Intelligence Methods, Budapest
1997 — German-French Police Methods Against Organised Crime, Budapest
2002 — Shooting Instructor Course
2003 — International Law Enforcement Academy (ILEA), Budapest
2005 — Law Enforcement Special Examination

Foreign Languages:

- English, (C), including military terminology
- Russian, intermediate level (C) including military terminology

Other Professional Activities:

2001 — Hungarian Society of Military Sciences, Intelligence History Chapter founding member
2001 — Szemere Bertalan Hungarian Law Enforcement Society, member
2001 — Somogy County Homeland Study Society, member
2002 — Pro Scientia Gold Medalists' Society member
2002 — Hungarian Police Scientific Council, Public Security Section, member
2002 — Ministry of Interior PhD College Council, member
2007 — International Association of Officers for Combatting Drugs and Terrorism, member

Scientific Honours

- 2000 — Students for Science (TDK) 1st prize (autumn session)
- 2001 — TDK 1st prize (spring session)
- 2001 — TDK 1st prize (autumn)
- 2001 — National Competition (OTDK) 1st prize
- 2001 — OTDK Special Award from the National police Chief
- 2001 — Latin-American Competition, 1st prize
- 2001 — Pro Scientia gold medal
- 2001 — Military History of the 1000 year old Hungarian State, 2nd prize
- 2001 — Hungarian Military History Society, Special Award
- 2002 — TDK 3rd prize (spring session)
- 2002 — Szemere Bertalan Prize
- 2003 — OTDK 3rd prize
- 2003 — Hungarian Police Anti-Crime Service, Memorial Plaque (proposed by FBI, DEA, ATF instructors for the achievements during the ILEA training)
- 2004 — Doctorandus Competition, Narco-terrorism Chapter, Special Award