

## **The Growing Responsibilities of the Private Sector on State Defense**

For many years the threat of terrorism has become a devastating and vicious phenomenon in our lives and in recent years it has evolved into a global threat which almost every country in the world is exposed to.

Many terrorist groups are operating today in order to achieve different goals, among them there are groups that operate in specific countries and groups that operate around the world. The cooperation between the different terror groups is becoming tighter and we are witnessing terror attacks that are planned and executed by several terror groups.

The terror organization of Al Qaida is a phenomenon that sets an example to that leap in the severity of the threat, its geographical expansion and in the level of cooperation between Al Qaida and other terror groups; Al Qaida operates its own terror cells as well as other terror groups that serve as subcontractors for the organization.

Every country in the free world is now dealing with a serious challenge – fighting global terrorism; preventing its attacks and defending the soft belly of modern society. Since terrorists' ideology is that the cause justifies the means, they do not distinguish a fighter from a civilian and so the hardest attacks are those committed against innocent civilians, in city centers and in the very heart of these countries. Dealing with terrorism requires combining forces between the countries of the free world in the areas of intelligence and operational activities.

On a national level, there must be cooperation between the different security forces and the civilian population. Watchful and alert civilians are able to assist in identifying people that behave suspiciously, detect plans for terror attacks and objects suspected to be explosive devices or car bombs.

Since security forces in charge on internal security are limited in extent while the sites that need protection are many and diverse, the need to use private security companies increased substantially. Every country has security forces - the army, intelligence units, police, etc. Veterans who served in security apparatuses, accumulated, over the years, vast experience and valuable knowledge, therefore they serve as excellent security personnel for private security companies. Today these companies take a major part in infrastructure protection around the world. This part will expand, for terrorism will continue its ruthless activity against us and may even expand its activity in the coming decade.

The main role of private security companies is to reinforce the activity of national security bodies, assist defending the vulnerable state home front, assist in supervision and control of people's movement in and out of the country, assist in turning the cities safer, assist in dignitary protection, assist securing sensitive sites, etc.

The national security forces cannot provide a complete solution for terrorism. Within the war on terror the role of the state is focused on two distant circles:

1. Intelligence collection in remote areas, locating targets, thwarting terror attacks.
2. Defending the borders and preventing from hostile elements from entering the country. In this circle the role of private security will grow and it is a matter of time before private security will take bigger part in border security as well and not only in managing and securing border checkpoints.

The close circle, which deals with securing sites in the home front, will be controlled mainly by private security elements and state security will deal with securing state symbols such as the president, the president's office, etc.



To conclude, the combination between national and private security elements in the air, sea and land is essential for it enhances substantially the ability and efficiency of dealing with terrorism, because terror attacks will occur whenever the opportunity arises. Since the number of potential targets for terror attack is endless and the state's resources are limited, the role of private security companies in defending the state and its citizens will continue to grow in the coming years.