

Foreign Experience in Ensuring Public Safety During Rallies, Meetings, Demonstrations and other Mass Events

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Abstract:

In this article, the foreign experience of ensuring public safety during rallies, meetings and demonstrations was studied, as well as the opinions of some experts were analyzed. The system of ensuring public safety, legislative practice, as well as measures taken by law enforcement agencies of some foreign countries, in particular the United States, the Russian Federation, Poland, Great Britain, France and Scandinavian countries during rallies, meetings, demonstrations and other public events were studied. Conclusions were drawn about the introduction of positive features of the experiences of foreign countries to ensure public safety in national legislation during rallies, meetings and demonstrations.

Keywords: foreign experience, integrated approach, Scandinavian model, public safety, public mood, ensuring public safety, rally, assembly, demonstration.

The problem of ensuring public safety is one of the most pressing issues that are in the center of attention of any state. The fact that today's rallies, marches and demonstrations have turned into mass riots is seen as a threat to the stability of the country's social and political life. Therefore, it would be good to adopt the world experience in preventing riots during rallies, meetings and demonstrations, and eliminating threats to public security emanating from there.

Activities to ensure public safety during rallies, meetings and demonstrations in Russia, the USA, France, Germany and other developed countries include measures in two areas:

- long-term;
- current or short-term [4].

Long-term measures cover activities aimed at solving problems before holding direct rallies, meetings and demonstrations. At the same time, not only law enforcement, but also state bodies perform the functions and assigned tasks to eliminate the causes and important social problems that can cause rallies, meetings and demonstrations, and also organize effective interaction between them.

Current or short-term measures provide for measures taken to eliminate the situation of mass riots or violations of the law during rallies, meetings and demonstrations on socially significant issues. Based on this, the relevant tasks are mainly performed by law enforcement agencies and, if necessary, military troops. This stage is directly related to the use of force, characterized by the introduction of a state of emergency throughout the country or in some regions.

Appropriate programs and concepts have been adopted in both directions and constant monitoring of their implementation has been established.

1. Long-term measures are much broader in terms of coverage of established programs and concepts, which may include issues related to political, economic, social, legal and other areas of public life. Because deep problems in these areas will lead to riots or other criminal activities in the

future. In this regard, in this direction, it differs from the other in that such tasks are set as the study of various problems of the population, monitoring, and the search for their favorable solutions.

In the direction of long-term measures to prevent the occurrence of rallies, meetings and demonstrations in the Russian Federation, the main attention will be paid to the concept of "public mood", which reigns in society [7]. It is characterized mainly by the general psychological attitude of the mass of a large number of people in relation to the events taking place in society.

If the public mood becomes negative, then the likelihood of rallies, meetings and demonstrations increases. Therefore, the main emphasis in the first direction is on maintaining the public mood in a normal state.

In the Russian Federation, several evaluation criteria have been developed to determine whether public sentiment is positive or negative, using these criteria, it is possible to determine the levels of public sentiment in any territory of the country according to socio-economic indicators in each region.

Criteria for assessing public sentiment:

- unemployment rate;
- the level of poverty;
- inflation rate;
- the level of public services;
- the number of protest actions;
- the difference between the strata of the population (rich, middle, poor);
- state of infrastructure (education, health care, road construction and other services);
- the presence of conflict situations between representatives of different nationalities;
- the level of legal literacy of the population;
- trust in state authorities and governing bodies;
- number of crimes;
- the number of unemployed among young people;
- average monthly income of the population;
- the quality of the system of work with the problems of the population [10].

These evaluation criteria are constantly monitored by government agencies for the development of public life in each territory, but from the point of view of the possibility of carrying out further various revolutionary actions in developed countries, on the basis of each criterion, appropriate programs are adopted and the functions performed by state bodies are clearly defined.

In addition, analytical and research centers constantly carry out activities based on the above evaluation criteria by regions, and based on the results of the analysis in which regions the "public mood" becomes negative, eliminates the existing problems in these regions by preventing rallies, meetings and demonstrations.

A.P. Nazaretyan believes that the mass mood of a negative nature is very contagious and spreads quickly. Another specific aspect is that the state must first of all prevent the division of society into groups [9].

2. Measures in the current and short-term direction, as mentioned above, provide for the process of overcoming it with the use of force, when illegal actions in the process of rallies, rallies and demonstrations take place in the state.

In activities aimed at ensuring public safety in foreign countries during rallies, meetings and demonstrations, basically, the police and other law enforcement agencies participate in cooperation.

The specifics of the interaction of the police with other units of law enforcement depends on the structure of the police systems of states, which can be considered according to the existing models of internal security systems, which are divided into fragmented, centralized and integrated [3, p. 167-174].

A fragmentary model exists in the United States, Canada and Switzerland, whose characteristic feature is the traditional participation of the armed forces (land, sea and National Guard) in maintaining public order. For example, the US National Guard is one of the components of the army reserve, which serves to make up for losses during combat operations. In peacetime, the National Guard is at the disposal of the governors and, by their decision, can also perform a number of other tasks, such as the elimination of the consequences of natural disasters, the fight against riots and terrorism.

The centralized (continental) model of the police system is used in France, Italy, Taiwan, Singapore and other countries.

The centralized model is divided into two types. The first group includes countries such as Sweden, Denmark, Norway, Finland and Ireland, which do not have a special police force of the armed forces, but only a civilian police force that provides internal security. The second group includes countries such as France, Spain, Portugal, Israel, Turkey and China, in which there are special police units of the Armed Forces - the gendarmerie. These countries are characterized by the use of both the national police and the gendarmerie in ensuring public safety. The Gendarmerie is an unarmed organization whose purpose is to ensure security and the rule of law.

When it comes to the third integrated (holistic) model of the police structure, Western theorists often perceive it as a "moderately decentralized system."

The list of countries with this model includes Germany, Austria, Great Britain and others. A feature of this police system is that there are several independent law enforcement agencies in the state, they switch to a centralized system when a real state of danger to public safety arises. The Ministry of Internal Affairs in this case acts as a coordinating body.

Another specific system for maintaining public order in European countries is the existence of a single mechanism within the framework of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, which unites 30 states of the region.

At present, this organization can be regarded as a coordinating body for ensuring the legal activities of bodies that ensure public order in the Member States, arming them with special means and creating a unified management system.

In particular, the organization has developed the concept of CRC - Crowd and Riot Control (Crowd and Riot Control), which serves as a special guide to ensuring public safety for members of the organization, including organizing work to prevent illegal acts during rallies, meetings and demonstrations, as well as to elimination of riots. In addition, the concept of riot control is a document that embodies the powers and means for riot control, special tasks of the plan and other measures [2, p. 34].

According to the concept, after the start of illegal rallies, meetings and demonstration actions by the crowd in a certain territory, the main attention is paid to the activities of the special forces related to its liquidation.

In accordance with the concept of "Crowd and Riot Control", the members of the organization must perform the following tasks. In particular:

firstly, based on the concept, it develops a program of actions for special forces during illegal rallies, meetings and demonstrations;

secondly, it creates special units to ensure public security and prevent riots during illegal rallies, meetings and demonstrations;

thirdly, provides them with tactical and logistical support in accordance with the provisions of this Concept;

fourthly, it provides training for representatives of a special unit at training courses organized by NATO and obtaining the appropriate certificates.

Another feature of the concept is that in order to ensure public safety, special attention is paid to the control of rallies, meetings and demonstrations, which allows you to control the movement of the crowd and stop it before it becomes serious.

Based on the experience of France, in accordance with the concept, a special program has been developed, which defines the tasks of the National Police forces, consisting of the following stages [13].

Reconnaissance and forecasting - includes the determination of all data on the movement of participants in rallies, meetings and demonstrations, their approximate number, material base, third-party intervention, infrastructure facilities in this area, available weapons, approximate routes of movement.

Modeling and evaluation of the real situation - involves the creation of a virtual situation and the simulation of the environment before the onset of counter actions. This process serves to enhance the training of the security forces.

The use of surveillance and communications equipment is used to monitor the movement of participants in rallies, meetings and demonstrations using drones and street cameras, to coordinate the actions of security forces using communications equipment, and to inform the command about the situation in real time.

The control and command center is a control point located at a specific facility, equipped with special information and communication systems, in which full control and monitoring of the movement of the crowd and security forces is carried out.

Ensuring the legitimacy of the activities of the security forces - provides for the legislative assignment to the security forces of such powers as the use of force against participants in necessary situations, that is, in the event of illegal actions following rallies, meetings and demonstrations, self-defense when using violence, making independent decisions in case of aggression.

Training, consulting and assistance - this refers to the educational activities of the security forces in organizing training sessions to ensure public safety during regular rallies, meetings and demonstrations, training them to adapt to threats and circumstances, and use modern means of countering riots.

Logistics of the security forces - includes the movement of security forces from one place to another, material support, medical care, provision of modern vehicles and special weapons.

You can also see the specifics of the legislation of individual states on the protection of public order and security during mass events related to rallies, meetings and demonstrations.

In Poland, in connection with ensuring public safety, municipal authorities prohibit the holding of a public assembly if its purpose or the very fact of holding it violates the Assembly Act, if the assembly violates the provisions of criminal law, or if its holding creates a significant threat to the life or health of people or property that has significant value.

In Poland, holding an assembly without prior notice is an offense (clause 1 (2) of article 52 of the Code of Administrative Offenses) [5].

In addition, in Poland, mass events organized with the help of new technologies such as the Internet or social networks without the notification of the authorities are considered illegal. For example, for a meeting organized (via Facebook) on April 27, 2013 in Zakrzówek, the organizer - Anna K., was accused of organizing a mass meeting without obtaining permission and fined [1].

In order to maintain public order and safety, the notice of the assembly includes information about the measures that the organizer requests from the municipal authorities.

In the UK, in order to ensure public safety and prevent riots, street demonstrations and rallies are allowed only after obtaining official permission from the police authorities.

In addition, the head of the police authority, due to certain circumstances existing in the area of his jurisdiction or part of the area, in order to prevent possible serious disturbances during public events, such as rallies or demonstrations, has the right to apply to the local council with a request to issue an order prohibiting the holding of any mass events in the area for up to three months [14].

In the UK, it is also widely used to involve the population in cooperation with the police (for example, patrols, duty in the most crime-prone areas). For members of the public, free issuance of "police" uniforms (without insignia and service paraphernalia), even radio communications equipment, batons, handcuffs and even weapons for "combat" patrols in police vehicles is practiced. All this activity receives moral and material support from society and the state [6].

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