

HUMAN SECURITY: CONSEQUENCE OF AND INCENTIVE FOR NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL SECURITY

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In the evolution framework of modern society conflicts, even though not of a global outreach, have unprecedently increased in number and effects. As a result, human security, has become of top concern in democratic states. In order to understand this trend and as a result of the importance acquired by the the concept of “human security”, it is important to undertake an investigation into its dimensions and variables. Thus, the assumption underlying this article is that human security is both a consequence and an incentive for the national and international security.

Key words: *human security, economic security, food security, environment security, personal security, community and political security.*

At the moment, both specialized literature and the external policies of some states offer a a plethora of definitions related to the concept of human security.

Thus, one such definition belongs to Kofi Annan, the seventh UN General Secretary between 1997-2006, and is included in the ”Millenium Report” [1]. According to him, due to contemporary conflicts, the concept of security has evolved. If in the past, it was synonymous with territorial defense against external attacks, because of current security imperatives, the concept has also come to refer to community and people’s protection against state domestic violence. The necessity of

a more people centered approach to security is argued by threats such as the weapons of mass destruction and, more specifically, nuclear weapons.

The same former UN representative emphasized the complex relationship established between the concepts of peace and security. Thus, to him, peace is more than the absence of war. On the other hand, human security can no longer be understood strictly form a military point of view. Thus, human security also refers to economic development, social justice, environmental protection, democratization, disarmament and respect for human rights and state sovereignty.

Other opinions of importance for the proper understanding of the concept of human security belong to Sadako Ogata, former United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, Government of Canada, and UN Development Program and underline two aspects of human security. First, the concept refers to ensuring security against chronic threats such as famine, diseases and repression. Second, it refers to identifying the right means to protect people against the sudden and painful disruption of their daily work and life patterns [2].

Authors such as Kanti Bajpai [3], Anne Hammerstad [4], Gary King and Christopher Murray [5] take a broader view on the concept. Thus, they believe that, regardless of the approach taken to security (*i.e.* critical or human), the latter's aim is to ensure the social, political, economic and environmental conditions needed for a free and dignified life.

In our opinion, human security must be viewed in accordance with the provisions of legal principles in the field and is the result of the relationship established between human rights and the obligation of international actors to respect them. The human rights we are referring to here are the fundamental ones that any human is entitled to. As for the states and international organizations it is within their power and responsibility to ensure the necessary framework for the exercise of human rights.

Based on the above definitions, it is obvious that human security is a global issue, of concern to

the people from both poor and developed countries. Thus, many of the current threats, such as human rights violation, organized crime, drugs, pollution, unemployment, are common to all countries. Even though their intensity differs from country to country, on overall, they are real, continuously evolving and interconnected. Thus, when human security is at risk somewhere in the world, all nations may be affected. Famine, epidemics, pollution, drug trafficking, terrorism, ethnic tensions, social disintegration are no longer isolated events, limited national borders since their consequences can spread out at regional or global level. It is easier and less costly to ensure human security through prevention measures rather than through intervention mechanisms subsequent to security disruption. Therefore, human security is about an individual's level of integration into society, about the level of freedom in exercising the right of choosing among alternatives, as well as about the responsibility on behalf of international establishments acting in the field of human rights to ensure all of the above.

The UN Development program provides a long list of threats to human security out of which the following are important to highlight: economic security, food security, health, environment security, personal security, community and political security.

Economic security refers to the entitlement of any individual to

have a minimum regular income that comes from a lucrative activity or, as a last resort, from a social security trust fund. Taking such a view can only mean that only a quarter of the whole world's population benefits from economic security. Even if the problems related to economic insecurity are greater in the developing countries, the developed states also show concern for these. In this respect, unemployment is considered one of the factors that lead to political tensions and interethnic violence.

Food security refers to the economic and physical possibility of all people to meet their basic food needs. According to a UN report, it is not the presence of food that raises problems, but the deficiencies in food distribution and the absence of the financial means to purchase it.

Health security guarantees people's basic protection against diseases and an unhealthy lifestyle. In the developing countries, the main causes of death are infectious diseases that kill approximately 17 million people a year. On the other hand, in industrialized states the highest number of health problems is related to the circulatory system, about 5.5 million people dying every year on account of that.

According to the United Nations, both in industrialized countries and in developing countries the threats to health security are greater in the case of the poor people, mostly children, from rural areas. The most common problems of these are

malnutrition, lack of drinkable water and insufficient medical services.

Environmental security refers to people's protection against natural disasters, as well as against the continuous deterioration of the environment. In developing countries, the main environmental threat is the absence of access to clean water. At the same time, in developed countries, atmospheric pollution is the main cause of concern. Moreover, global warming caused by the greenhouse effect is another major environmental threat to human security.

The goal of ensuring personal security is to protect individuals against physical violence inflicted upon them by another state, by their own state or by violent people.

Community security aims at preventing the decay and loss of traditional human relationships and community values. In this respect, the most endangered communities are those of the minority ethnic groups.

Finally, political security is about the extent to which individuals live in a society in which human rights are observed [6]. Thus, human rights violation is more likely to occur in times of political instability.

The rich and often painful experience in the field of human security has led to the identification of unequivocal instruments that can be grouped into:

- UN instruments, such as the UN Charter, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the Pact On Political and Civil Rights;

- instruments of the Council of Europe, namely the Convention on Human Rights, The (reviewed) European Social Chart;
- EU instruments like the Lisbon Treaty, the Security Strategy;
- NATO instruments: the NATO Treaty and the Strategic Concepts of 1991, 1999, and 2010.

Due to their complexity, the accomplishment of human security objectives has often required resorting to means of high impact in the military field. Thus, the efforts to achieve human security are not only economic or political by nature, but military as well.

In this respect, peacekeeping operations, humanitarian interventions, demining actions, mass destruction weapons removal are some of the military instruments aimed at increasing the human security level.

Some of the main roles [7] played by the military forces in the protection and insurance of human security are as follows: protection of human life during war and observance of the Geneva Conventions and of international norms in order to keep the number of civil casualties to a minimum and to allow the access of humanitarian actors into theatres of operations.

The “occupying” actor is responsible for insuring the fundamental security and welfare prerequisites for the civil population. In this respect, protection is a fundamental role on behalf of the military forces in order to prevent

manslaughter. According to the principles set out by the International Commission for Intervention and State Sovereignty, peacekeeping missions under UN mandate are organized and conducted in order to prevent large scale violence against civilians. Civilian protection is viewed as one of the goals of peacekeeping operations, even though not listed among the major ones. Thus, the protection role actually consists in securing the area for humanitarian intervention on behalf of international players in charge of supporting civilians. Granting protection is an important component of humanitarian and relief programs and, in this respect, suffices to remind that, for example, the refugee camps are situated in areas where the risk of threats is minimum. The potential role of the military in such circumstances is to reduce threats by a dissuading presence. In this respect, some military analysts argue that civilians could benefit more from a combat force that could stop enemies’ actions.

Regardless of the role assumed by the military forces, ensuring human security, even at a basic level, should be part of any military action and not just a minor goal. Thus, observance of international legislation is only one of the ways in which human security can be achieved.

The events occurring for the past decades have made stability operations one of the major means of solving conflicts and of accomplishing human security.

It is common truth that nowadays conflicts are the main menace to human security. As a result, the international community created new instruments to ensure and maintain long lasting peace.

From this point of view there are four aspects of the military intervention that should be reminded and they are as follows:

- The intervention should not be viewed as an opportunity to use force since the vision and the commitment to maintain peace, as well as the humanitarian assistance and reconstruction efforts vary by region.
- The traditional concept of sovereignty is not an obstacle to taking action in humanitarian crises. In this respect, the way states view the concept of national interest is very important since a new definition of it is necessary. Thus, nowadays, the states make joint efforts towards achieving common goals and maintaining common values and therefore, national interest actually becomes collective interest.
- If intervention by force is necessary the UN Security Council must be able to meet the inherent challenges. Moreover, when fighting stops the commitment for peace of the international community should be as strong as during wartime.

The UN Charter acknowledges the legal status of the human rights included in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Achieving

equilibrium between the political and the humanitarian issues difficult, and the relationship between the military and civil actors concerned with accomplishing humanitarian goals is fragile but very important. If such issues are not carefully managed, humanitarian interventions can lead to human casualties, can cause even more problems if not deepen the existing ones that they are supposed to solve.

The subject of human security is a complex one and cannot be fully covered in one journal article. However, it is obvious that if humans and their security are not of primary concern in contemporary society, than all its accomplishments lose their importance and diminish their value. Therefore, in future research endeavors we will focus more on the less analyzed aspects of the concept of human security and we will try to highlight the benefits of placing the individual at the core of the national and international efforts directed towards the protection and insurance of security.

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