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**IMPLEMENTATION OF STABILISATION MEASURES BY THE NATIONAL
POLICE IN THE CONTEXT OF CREATING A SECURE ENVIRONMENT
IN THE DE-OCCUPIED AND FRONTLINE TERRITORIES**

A comprehensive analysis of the bodies and units of the National Police of Ukraine activities in the de-occupied territories and in the territories close to the combat zone is carried out. It is emphasised that the exercise of police powers in such territories is characterised by very rapid dynamics due to the constant change of the operational situation, increased physical and psychological stress.

It is stressed that the concept of forming and further ensuring the stability and sustainability of the country's unified security environment is fully implemented by the police not only in the areas where no hostilities are taking place, but also primarily where the state of ensuring the rights and freedoms of citizens requires special attention, i.e. in the de-occupied territories or in settlements close to the combat zone.

The author analyses the content and procedure for the implementation of the main stabilisation measures: provision of humanitarian services to the population (evacuation, delivery of humanitarian goods, escort of civilian transport, opening and maintenance of the points of invincibility, psychological support); identification of social and security problems in the de-occupied territories, as well as persons in need of assistance; humanitarian demining; exposure of collaborators and accomplices of the occupation regime; investigation of war crimes; searching for persons who went missing as a result of hostilities; identifying places of mass graves and illegal detention of citizens; ensuring the implementation of martial law measures; creating emergency response systems for emergencies and offences; ensuring public order and security, preventive activities, combating crimes and other offences.

The number of conceptual provisions on improving the regulatory and methodological support for the application of stabilisation measures by police personnel in the de-occupied territories of Ukraine has been formulated.

Key words: *security, martial law, stabilisation measures, public security, public order, security environment, National Police, de-occupation.*

Original article

INTRODUCTION. The military aggression of the Russian Federation, which has been ongoing on the territory of our country since 2014, has significantly affected the organisation of work of all security and defence sector components of Ukraine. The hostilities and mass terror of the occupying country, which lead to the destruction of civilian infrastructure, civilian casualties, disruption of public authorities, significant damage to the energy, financial, social and transport sectors, necessitate a systematic search for optimal forms and methods of the state law enforcement system in order to ensure public safety and order, take necessary measures to combat crime, and provide a full range of social and law enforcement services even in difficult conditions.

Undoubtedly, an important role in fulfilling these tasks is played by central executive authori-

ties, whose activities are directed and coordinated through the Minister of Internal Affairs of Ukraine, among which the main role is assigned to the National Police of Ukraine.

According to the police leadership, since 24 February 2022, the entire system has been operating under enhanced service conditions: "About 15,000 interrogators and detectives investigate criminal proceedings every day, including more than a hundred thousand war crimes, and about 20,000 operatives solve serious and especially serious crimes every day. The police system has created an assault brigade called "Liut", which is directly involved in repelling the armed aggression of the Russian Federation. In general, if we talk about the area where hostilities are taking place, there are about 35,000 police officers on

duty there, both those who are fighting on the front line and those who, in addition to the main police function, man checkpoints, carry out stabilisation measures, evacuate citizens, clear rubble together with rescuers, and demine the territory” (Akymova, 2024).

Therefore, the current activities of the bodies and units of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Ukraine in general and the National Police in particular are primarily aimed at creating and further ensuring the stability of the state’s security environment. According to the Minister of Internal Affairs of Ukraine, Ihor Klymenko, today’s measures to shape the security environment of the state are diverse and depend primarily on the location of the relevant territories: “The areas that were not under occupation are the so-called rear areas, where there is a large population that moved from the south and east of our country. There are regions that have been under enemy occupation for a long time and are now undergoing operational and humanitarian demining, stabilisation measures and intensified work of law enforcement agencies of the Ministry of Internal Affairs. And of course, the territories that have been under occupation for 9 years are part of Donetsk and Luhansk regions and the Autonomous Republic of Crimea. That is, we mean that all citizens on all territories of our country should feel peace and security”¹.

In this regard, it should be understood that a significant role in the overall victory of our country is played by the work of police agencies in the territories liberated from the occupiers, as well as in the territories close to the combat zone. This is primarily due to the fact that the prompt and coordinated work of all authorised entities in these territories ensures the personal safety of citizens, restores social, transport and financial infrastructure, ensures proper investigation of criminal offences and war crimes, creates conditions for a successful offensive by the Armed Forces of Ukraine, etc.

In general terms, this list of measures in the de-occupied territories and those close to the combat zones is called “stabilisation measures”, which we propose to define as a set of coordinated and interrelated measures in terms of purpose, tasks, place and time, carried out by authorised security and defence sector actors in cooperation with state authorities and local self-government

bodies in the territories that have come under the general jurisdiction of Ukraine and the control of its state authorities after the temporary occupation (Buhaichuk, 2024, p. 19). Moreover, given their specificity, we believe that the National Police of Ukraine carries out special stabilisation measures, as their purpose can be defined as preventing sabotage and reconnaissance groups and illegal armed groups from entering the de-occupied territory, committing terrorist acts on infrastructure and communications facilities, ensuring public safety and order, preventing and suppressing crimes and other offences, eliminating the consequences of emergencies, and searching for persons who have committed crimes against the foundations of national security (Buhaichuk, 2024, p. 15).

Consequently, determining the specifics of these measures by the bodies and units of the National Police of Ukraine, as well as developing scientifically based proposals for their further improvement, require appropriate scientific study and attention.

PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVES OF THE RESEARCH. Given the above and the lack of comprehensive scientific research on the content and specific features of stabilisation measures taken by the National Police units, the main purpose of the article is to analyse the organisational and legal framework for the National Police activities in the de-occupied territories and territories close to the combat zone. To achieve this goal, the main tasks to be solved are as follows: 1) to analyse scientific literature, regulations and publications on the activities of the bodies and units of the National Police of Ukraine under martial law; 2) to study the peculiarities of police service in areas close to hostilities and in the de-occupied territories; 3) to identify areas for improving the implementation of stabilisation measures and their impact on the overall state of the security environment of the state.

LITERATURE REVIEW. Over the past two years, the scientific literature has produced a number of scientific papers that highlight the theoretical aspects of stabilisation measures as a scientific category (Ivantsov, 2023, p. 145; Skobelska, 2023, pp. 55–56; Yaroshak, 2023, p. 59). We can also distinguish scientific publications devoted to the organisational and legal aspects of the activities of the National Police bodies and units under martial law (Husarov, 2023, p. 26; Bezpalova et al., 2022, p. 25; Turbal, Shpytalenko, 2022, p. 213; Kovbasa, Kusko, Drozd, 2022, pp. 246–247; Merdova, Merdov, 2023, p. 201).

A separate group of the specialists conducts scientific research analysing the procedure of certain law enforcement measures in the de-occupied territories: investigation of war crimes,

¹ Ministry of Internal Affairs of Ukraine. (2023, March 6). *Igor Klymenko: The Ministry of Internal Affairs has developed an effective algorithm for work in the de-occupied territories*. <https://mvs.gov.ua/en/news/igor-klymenko-mvs-napraciuvalo-efektivnii-algoritm-roboti-na-deokupovanix-teritorii>.

organisation of service at checkpoints, ensuring the legal regime of martial law (Chaplynsky, 2022, p. 89; Albul, Kuznichenko, Yuldashev, 2022, pp. 12–14; Kopotun, 2022, pp. 42–46).

If to examine foreign publications on police activities in post-conflict countries or post-conflict territories, many of them are devoted to the issues of interaction between the population and the police in the post-conflict period. In particular, they emphasise the importance of mutual information about the security situation and the provision of information by the public to the police about possible military and tort threats. The police in such areas often act as an official representative of the government, ensuring its legitimacy (Rao, 2013; Schwartz, 2015; Nyborg, 2019).

Another vector of scientific views in the foreign literature is the concept of decentralisation of police functions in post-conflict areas. Its core idea is that police functions in the immediate post-conflict period can be provided not only by institutional police units. Some of these functions, such as road safety, patrolling the territory, etc., can be performed by representatives of local authorities, self-defence forces loyal to local authorities, and volunteers. The main aspect of this activity is that all forces involved in stabilising the situation should be attentive to the needs of local communities and act in accordance with the requests of the population (Baker, 2017; Coyne, Nyborg, 2020; Mayer-Rieckh, 2016).

It is also important to consider the concept of Stability Policing, which means that police functions can be performed by different security forces during the period of reconstruction of territories after hostilities. As noted in relevant studies, this activity, on the one hand, is aimed at preventing the violation of the security of the territory concerned through the use of military and police forces, and on the other hand, it is carried out taking into account the needs of the local population and is aimed at restoring the legitimacy of the government and ensuring the rights and freedoms of citizens (De Magistris, 2020; Bonomi, Bergonzini, 2022).

Overall, it can be noted that the legal literature of Ukraine and abroad currently lacks theoretical and practical studies of the specifics of stabilisation measures taken by bodies and units in the de-occupied territories and territories close to the combat zone. Such conclusions stem from the fact that Ukrainian publications mostly deal with general issues of organising police activities during the legal regime of martial law, while foreign scholars consider such activities of police units through the prism of peacekeeping operations, activities of volunteer units with police functions and the concept of Community Policing.

METHODOLOGY. The use of the systematic method, general scientific methods of synthesis and analysis made it possible to determine the list of stabilisation measures applied by the bodies and units of the National Police. The methods of synthesis and formal logic made it possible to formulate conceptual provisions for improving the legal framework for police activity in the de-occupied territories and territories close to the combat zone.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION. Since the beginning of the military aggression of the Russian Federation, there has been an urgent need to optimise the regulatory and legal support of the police, as it was involved in functions and areas of work that had not been performed by its employees before, in particular, combat operations, humanitarian services, etc.

First of all, Article 8 of the Law of Ukraine “On the National Police” was supplemented with a provision according to which the bodies of the National Police during the legal regime of martial law act as intended and take into account the specifics of police activity and restrictions on the rights and freedoms of citizens as defined by the Basic Law and the Law of Ukraine “On the Legal Regime of Martial Law”¹.

According to the new wording of the Article 19 of the same Law, police officers now have to bear responsibility taking into account the combat immunity defined by the Law of Ukraine “On Defence of Ukraine”. Combat immunity is the exemption of a police officer who participated in hostilities and defence of the state from liability, including criminal liability, for the loss of personnel, equipment, property, consequences of the use of weapons, the occurrence of which could not have been foreseen with reasonable care when planning and performing such actions (tasks)².

The following police powers were added to Article 23 of the Law of Ukraine “On the National Police”: 1) to take measures to identify persons who are unable to provide information about themselves due to their health condition; 2) to establish the identity of an unidentified corpse; 3) to take biological material and collect biometric data; 4) to receive, store and destroy seized or voluntarily surrendered weapons and ammunition; 5) to take measures to inform the Commissioner for Persons Missing in Special Circumstances about the progress of their search

¹ Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine. (2015). *On the National Police* (Law No. 580-VIII). <https://zakon.rada.gov.ua/laws/show/580-19>.

² Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine. (1991). *On Defence of Ukraine* (Law No. 1932-XII). <https://zakon.rada.gov.ua/laws/show/1932-12>.

and investigative actions; 6) to carry out operational demining; 7) to use unmanned aircraft and vessels in the performance of their duties¹.

Article 24 of the Law of Ukraine “On the National Police” provides for additional powers to participate in the defence of the state, territorial defence, and implementation of measures of the martial law regime².

In addition, Articles 32 and 35 of the Law have been amended with an additional ground for checking the person’s documents and stopping the vehicle: if the person has external features similar to those of a person who has left the place of detention of prisoners of war without permission; if there is information indicating that the driver or passenger of the vehicle is a person who has left the place of detention of prisoners of war without permission³.

With regard to the application of coercive measures, it should be noted that since the beginning of martial law, the police have been authorised to use means and devices intended to stop the unlawful use of unmanned aerial vehicles, in particular by destroying or damaging them.

In case of an attack on a police officer that threatens his or her life or health or the life and health of another person, the police officer is entitled to use improvised means. It is worth noting that during the martial law regime, all restrictions and prohibitions on the use of special coercive measures against the personnel of the occupying forces do not apply. In addition, the new Article 46-1 of the Law of Ukraine “On the National Police” gives police officers the right to apply and use weapons and military equipment of the Armed Forces of Ukraine in case of participation in hostilities for the defence and liberation of the territory of the state⁴.

Consequently, in 2022–2023, the country created legal grounds for the police to take martial law measures, as well as to exercise some other law enforcement-related powers under martial law and in areas close to the combat zone.

However, despite the relevant legislative changes, in our opinion, there are certain regulatory gaps in this work. In particular, the defined powers, rights and obligations seem to be somewhat scattered in the content of many legal acts: the Laws of Ukraine “On the Legal Regime of Martial Law”, “On the National Police”, “On Defence of Ukraine”. On this basis, it is advisable to adopt

comprehensive amendments to the Law of Ukraine “On the National Police” in order to enshrine in a separate section the powers of the police to perform duties during the legal regime of martial law, in particular, when carrying out stabilisation measures in the de-occupied territories.

It should be added that in May 2023, the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine adopted a resolution “On Preparations for Actions to Stabilise the Situation in the De-occupied Territories of Donetsk and Luhansk Regions and their Reintegration”⁵. The above-mentioned normative act in the section “Security” defined the following stabilisation measures: 1) demining, elimination of the consequences of hostilities/temporary occupation, including clearing the territory of debris; 2) introduction of a special regime of entry and exit and movement; 3) organisation of patrolling of the settlement; 4) organisation of protection of objects; 5) identification of persons involved in collaboration and aiding the aggressor state; 6) restoration of civil defence structures; 7) organisation of a system of warning the population about the threat or occurrence of emergencies; 8) ensuring the determination of the amount of damage and losses caused to the Ukrainian territory. Therefore, the Donetsk and Luhansk regional state administrations (regional military administrations) were recommended to approve plans of priority actions to stabilise the situation in the de-occupied territories and reintegrate them in agreement with the Coordination Headquarters for the de-occupied territories⁶.

In this regard, we would like to draw attention to the absence in the above document of an indication of the need for the bodies and units of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Ukraine to develop appropriate plans (instructions) for taking measures to stabilise the situation in these territories as provided for by the act.

Following, we consider it expedient to consider the main areas of police work in the de-occupied and close to the combat zone in order to further generalise them scientifically and identify the specifics of implementation.

The first priority in ensuring the stability of these areas is to deliver humanitarian aid and evacuate the population to safer locations. These actions are now being systematically carried out along the entire frontline. Essential warm clothes, food and fuel are being delivered even to the most

¹ Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine. (2015). *On the National Police* (Law No. 580-VIII). <https://zakon.rada.gov.ua/laws/show/580-19..>

² Ibid.

³ Ibid.

⁴ Ibid.

⁵ Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine. (2023). *On preparations for actions to stabilise the situation in the de-occupied territories of Donetsk and Luhansk regions and their reintegration* (Resolution No. 486). <https://zakon.rada.gov.ua/laws/show/486-2023-п.>

⁶ Ibid.

dangerous areas such as Vugledar and Vovchansk¹. In this aspect, the role of the “Bili yanholi” (White Angels) police unit is particularly noteworthy.

“Bili yanholi” is a generic name for the National Police units that evacuate people from frontline settlements and provide humanitarian assistance to residents within the combat zone. The unit delivered and shipped a large amount of humanitarian aid to civilians. In addition to food, the police also delivered generators, sleeping bags, gas burners and cylinders, and building materials for the reconstruction of housing. “Bili yanholi” have many specialised competencies, as they often have to pull people out of the rubble, repair cars, put out fires, and also engage in combat. The evacuation teams also record war crimes committed by the Russian Federation for further use as evidence in cases of the international criminal court. They also have armoured vehicles, which are particularly suited to transporting severely injured and disabled people, medical kits, stretchers, surgical tools, as well as special helmets and bulletproof vests for children. All police officers working in the unit are certified paramedics and undergo regular training and education. Currently, these units employ a total of 81 police officers². In total, according to official data, in 2023, “Bili yanholi” evacuated 8,834 people in Donetsk, Zaporizhzhia, Luhansk, Kharkiv and Kherson regions, including 2,057 children, provided first aid to 293 people, transported 358 people to medical facilities, delivered 649.7 kg of medicines, over 610 tonnes of food, 49.4 thousand litres of drinking water, and over 212.5 tonnes of other humanitarian products³.

Assistance in restoring normal life in the liberated territories remains one of the priorities of

the police. In particular, consolidated police units systematically visit households to establish the whereabouts of residents, obtain information about their living conditions and humanitarian needs. In addition, police officers identify problematic issues in the communal and other services of the liberated and frontline areas, and promptly inform local military administrations.

Due to Russia’s massive shelling of the border and de-occupied territories, a network of indestructible points – buildings (structures) or specially erected tents or vehicles intended for temporary stay of people and where the minimum necessary conditions for preserving the life and health of the population are created and maintained in case of disruption of the sustainable operation of life support systems – has begun to be deployed in Ukraine⁴. The National Police is responsible for protecting and ensuring public safety in the areas where these stations operate. At the same time, in order to strengthen the life support systems of dangerous areas, the invincibility points were also organised on the basis of the relevant territorial police units.

It is also worth mentioning such an important part of police work as the inspection of de-occupied territories and settlements for explosive devices.

In 2022, since the beginning of the military aggression, the explosive ordnance disposal units of the National Police of Ukraine have made 25,500 visits to the de-occupied territories and territories adjacent to the combat zone, inspecting more than 16,600 hectares of land. As a result, more than 185,000 pieces of ammunition (grenades, grenade launchers, artillery ammunition, anti-personnel and anti-tank mines, multiple launch rocket systems, unguided and guided missiles, aerial bombs, etc.) and more than 4.9 tonnes of explosives were found and seized. A similar trend continued in 2023 (see Figure 1). In particular, the total number of visits increased to 30,000, police inspected almost 14.4 thousand hectares of territory, found and seized 85.4 thousand rounds of ammunition and 4.6 tonnes of explosives⁵.

¹ Ukrinform. (2024, March 6). *Police brought humanitarian aid to Vuhledar and evacuated three civilians*. <https://www.ukrinform.ua/rubric-regions/3835962-policejski-zavezli-u-vugledar-gumanitarnu-dopomogu-ta-evakuovali-troh-civilnih.html>; Ministry of Internal Affairs of Ukraine. (2023, December 5). *Police officers together with volunteers delivered humanitarian aid to Kharkiv region*. <https://mvs.gov.ua/en/news/policeiski-razom-z-volonterami-dostavili-gumanitarnu-dopomogu-na-xarkivshhinu>.

² Government portal. (2023, December 1). *“Bili yanholi” (White Angels) have been helping people in the combat zone for a year, – Igor Klymenko*. <https://www.kmu.gov.ua/news/bili-ianholi-uzhe-rik-dopomohaiut-liudiam-u-zoni-boiovykh-dii-ihor-klymenko>.

³ *Report of the National Police of Ukraine on the results of its work in 2023*. National Police of Ukraine. https://media-www.npu.gov.ua/npu-pre-prod/sites/1/Docs/Dialnist/Richni_zvity/zvit_NPU_2023.pdf.

⁴ Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine. (2022). *Issues of organisation and functioning of indestructibility points* (resolution No. 1401). <https://zakon.rada.gov.ua/laws/show/1401-2022-п>.

⁵ *Report of the National Police of Ukraine on the results of its work in 2022*. National Police of Ukraine. https://media-www.npu.gov.ua/npu-pre-prod/sites/1/%20НПІУ%20за%202022%20рік_.pdf; *Report of the National Police of Ukraine on the results of its work in 2023*. National Police of Ukraine. https://media-www.npu.gov.ua/npu-pre-prod/sites/1/Docs/Dialnist/Richni_zvity/zvit_NPU_2023.pdf.

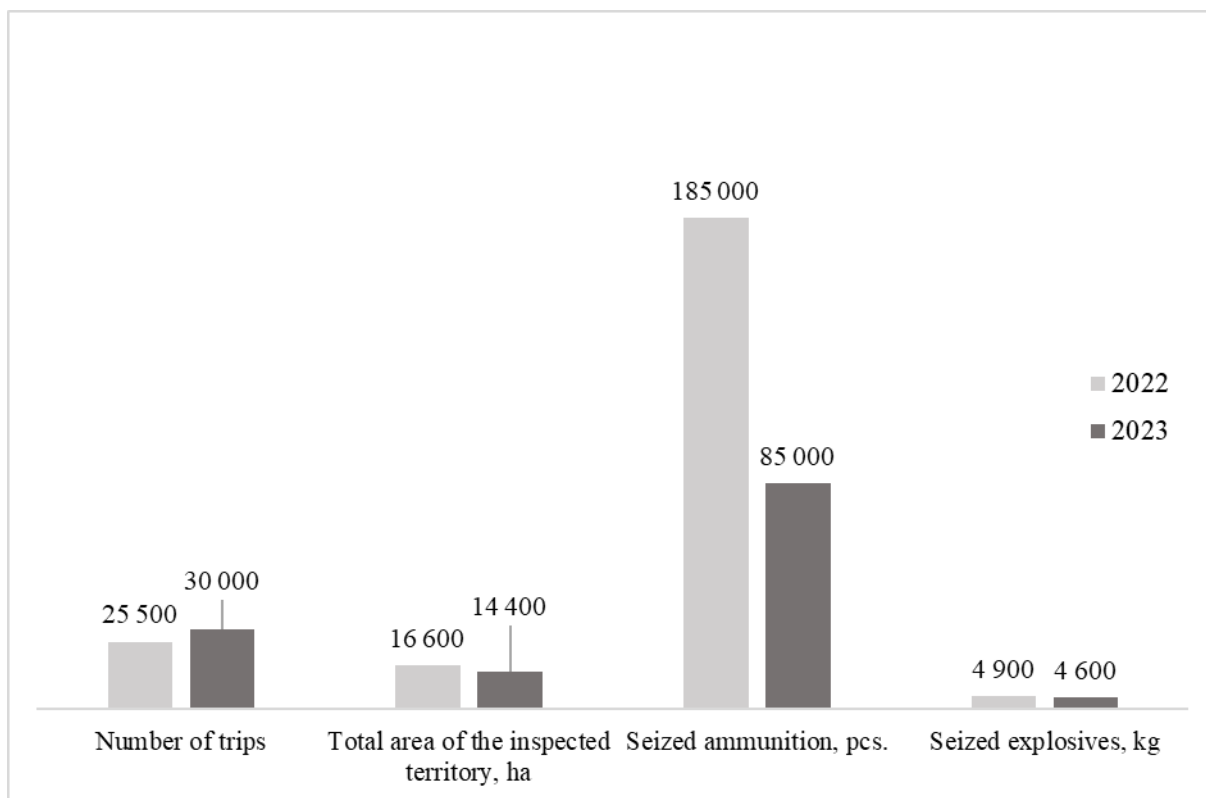


Figure 1. Results of the National Police Explosive Ordnance Disposal Service in 2022–2023

It should be emphasised that the issue of mine safety is particularly relevant for the de-occupied territories and territories adjacent to the combat zone. Thus, the National Police is faced with the task of not only detecting and defusing the relevant items, but also ensuring the personal safety of residents of these territories, especially children. In this regard, it is worth noting that in October 2023, the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) donated 15 specially equipped vehicles to the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Ukraine to conduct mobile safety lessons in areas affected by the hostilities. Since the project was launched, more than 55,000 Ukrainian schoolchildren have received relevant training. Classes are taught by specially trained instructors from the National Police and the State Emergency Service. The main topics covered in the safety classes include mine and explosive safety, first aid, water safety, street safety, traffic rules, cybersecurity, bullying, and combating domestic violence¹.

¹ UNICEF Ukraine. (2024, January 2). *Children learn to stay safe thanks to special mobile classes*. <https://www.unicef.org/ukraine/stories/children-learn-to-stay-safe-thanks-to-mobile-classes>; The new Ukrainian school. (2023, October 10). *Mobile safety classes created in Ukraine*. <https://nus.org.ua/news/v-ukrayini-stvoryly-mobilni-klasy-bezpeky/>.

The specificity of the frontline and de-occupied territories is that they are under constant threat from the aggressor’s armed forces, which are trying to use them to carry out provocations against the civilian population: there are numerous attempts to destabilise public security and order, conduct sabotage and reconnaissance activities to identify the location of the Armed Forces of Ukraine, public authorities, critical infrastructure, etc. In view of this, the National Police officers are taking appropriate measures to detect enemy saboteurs and spies. Since 22 February 2022, the National Police has uncovered 128 sabotage and reconnaissance groups, detained 2,336 people involved in sabotage activities, of whom 1,580 were handed over to the Security Service of Ukraine² (see Figure 2).

² Report of the National Police of Ukraine on the results of its work in 2022. National Police of Ukraine. <https://media-www.npu.gov.ua/npu-pre-prod/sites/1/%20НПУ%20за%202022%20рік.pdf>; Report of the National Police of Ukraine on the results of its work in 2023. National Police of Ukraine. https://media-www.npu.gov.ua/npu-pre-prod/sites/1/Docs/Dialnist/Richni_zvity/zvit_NPU_2023.pdf.

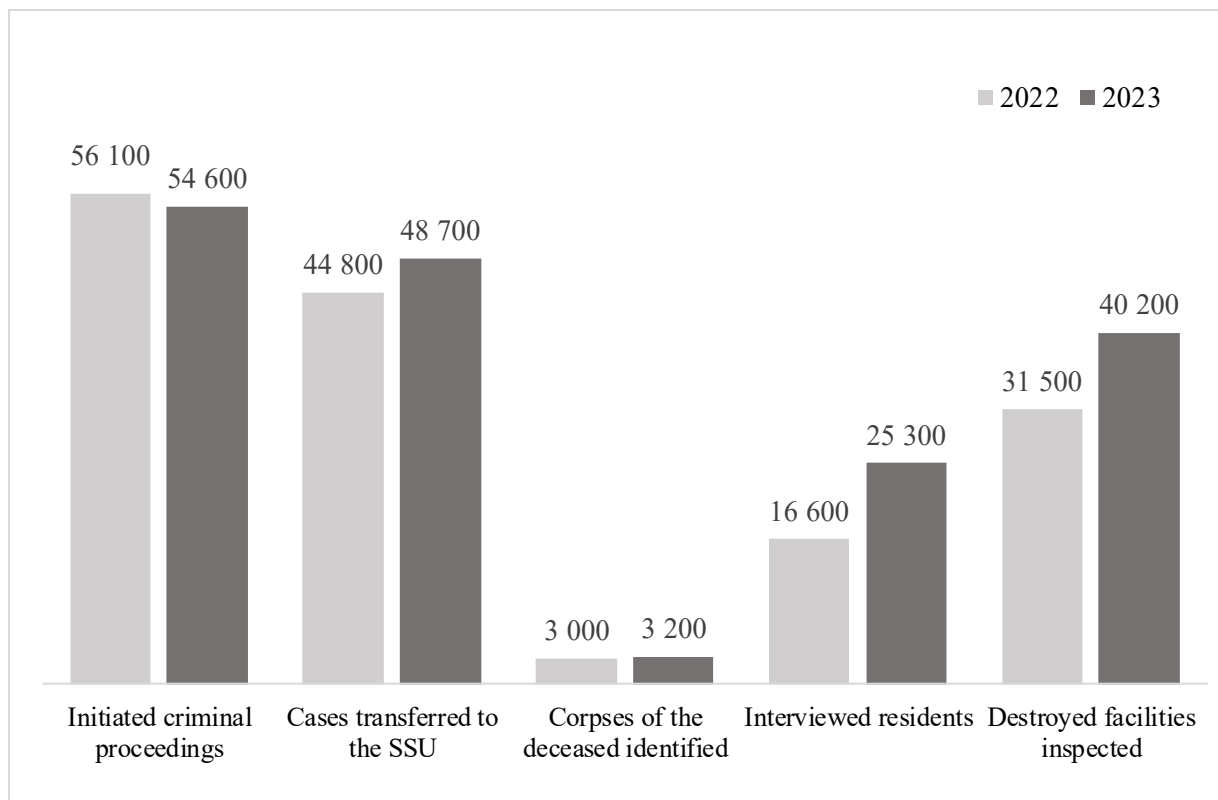


Figure 2. Results of the work of the National Police in the de-occupied territories in 2022–2023

An important part of the National Police's work in the de-occupied territories is combating crime, including the detection and investigation of war crimes committed by the occupying country.

For instance, since the beginning of April 2024, investigators of the National Police of Ukraine have initiated 116,295 criminal proceedings on the facts of crimes committed on the territory of Ukraine by members of the armed forces of the Russian Federation and their accomplices. Among these proceedings, the following should be highlighted: 1) 101,323 – under Article 438 of the Criminal Code of Ukraine “Violation of the Laws and Customs of War”; 2) 9,275 – under Article 110 of the Criminal Code of Ukraine “Trespass against the Territorial Integrity and Inviolability of Ukraine”; 3) 3,812 – under Article 111-1 of the Criminal Code of Ukraine “Collaboration”; 4) 253 – under Article 111 of the Criminal Code of Ukraine “High Treason”¹. In addition, 92 proceedings have been initiated on the facts of sexual violence by the Russian army. In the de-occupied territories,

¹ National Police of Ukraine. (2024, April 4). *Crimes committed by the Russian military during the full-scale invasion of Ukraine*. <https://www.npu.gov.ua/news/zlochyny-vchyneni-viiskovymy-rf-pid-chas-povnomasshtabnoho-vtorhnennia-v-ukrainu-stanom-na-04042024>.

101 places where the Russian military illegally detained and tortured Ukrainian citizens were identified.

It should be noted that the leadership of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Ukraine has constantly taken measures to improve the material and technical support of the work of forensic investigators of the National Police, which has significantly increased the effectiveness of war crimes investigations, contributed to more efficient and high-quality DNA analysis, genomic identification, and the search for DNA profile matches.

At the initiative of the leadership of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Ukraine and the National Police, a number of legal acts were adopted to ensure proper legal support for this work, including the Law of Ukraine “On State Registration of Human Genomic Information” of 9 July 2022, No. 2391-IX², the Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine “On Approval of the Procedure for Selection, Submission for Molecular Genetic Examination (Research) of Biological Material of Prisoners of War for Establishing Genomic Information and its Storage” of 19 May 2023,

² Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine. (2022). *On state registration of human genomic information* (Law No. 2391-IX). <https://zakon.rada.gov.ua/laws/show/2391-20>.

No. 508¹, Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine “Some Issues of Implementation of the Law of Ukraine “On State Registration of Human Genomic Information” of 29 August 2023 No. 978², Order of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Ukraine “On Approval of the Regulation on the Electronic Register of Human Genomic Information” of 4 August 2023 No. 639³.

The adoption of these documents contributed to the creation of the Electronic Register of Genomic Information, which is part of the unified information system of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Ukraine. Such information is collected by police officers to identify persons who have committed criminal offences and crimes, to search for missing persons, in particular in the de-occupied territories and during hostilities, to identify unidentified corpses, human remains and body parts, and to identify persons who are unable to provide information about themselves due to physical or other circumstances. In addition, a mandatory compulsory procedure has been established for the selection of such material from prisoners of war in order to identify their involvement in crimes against the civilian population.

A significant amount of work is also being done in the de-occupied territories to ensure public safety and order, and to prevent criminal and administrative offences.

In particular, the National Police organised a prompt response to citizens’ reports of emergencies. Over the past two years, more than 200 police officers and volunteers have been receiving calls to the 102 number. Almost 400 lines have been set up for operators to receive calls to the 102 number remotely, and 176 workstations have been equipped for operators in shelters. In order to monitor and analyse the operational situation, including in the areas of combat operations, and to ensure the participation of police personnel in the implementation of the martial

law regime, the National Police of Ukraine has organised round-the-clock operations of situational centres⁴.

In addition, the National Police implemented the following measures:

1) patrolling the de-occupied territories to detect and prevent administrative and criminal offences, to ensure control over the sub-accountable element, as well as over the implementation of measures of the legal regime of martial law;

2) ensuring the proper state of the access control regime in order to systematically control access to and from the area of the de-occupied territory (territory close to the combat zone), including both document checks and inspections of vehicles and cargo;

3) providing protection for important critical infrastructure facilities, government agencies, and administrative buildings of the National Police;

4) escorting convoys of vehicles delivering humanitarian goods to the de-occupied territory, as well as evacuation vehicles;

5) conducting inspections of permit system facilities;

6) identification of persons requiring special attention from the National Police and social services: families in difficult circumstances, orphans, children deprived of parental care, disabled persons, persons in need of urgent medical care.

Therefore, based on the above, it can be stated that the bodies and units of the National Police in the territories close to the combat zone and in the de-occupied territories carry out a set of special stabilisation measures of social and law enforcement orientation, aimed at restoring/supporting state sovereignty, territorial integrity of the state, protecting the rights and freedoms of citizens, combating crime, providing police and humanitarian services to the civilian population.

We also emphasise that through the implementation of these measures, the bodies and units of the National Police ensure the proper formation and stability of the security environment of the respective territories, which can be defined as a set of critical conditions of existence that determine the degree of their protection from

¹ Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine. (2023). *On Approval of the Procedure for Selection, Referral for Molecular Genetic Examination (Research) of Biological Material of Prisoners of War for Establishing Genomic Information and its Storage* (Resolution No. 508). <https://zakon.rada.gov.ua/laws/show/508-2023-п>.

² Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine. (2023). *Some issues of implementation of the Law of Ukraine “On State Registration of Human Genomic Information”* (Resolution No. 978). <https://zakon.rada.gov.ua/laws/show/978-2023-п>.

³ Ministry of Internal Affairs of Ukraine. (2023). *On approval of the Regulation on the Electronic Register of Human Genomic Information* (Order No. 639). <https://zakon.rada.gov.ua/laws/show/z1657-23>.

⁴ *Report of the National Police of Ukraine on the results of its work in 2022*. National Police of Ukraine. <https://media-www.npu.gov.ua/npu-pre-prod/sites/1/%20НПУ%20за%202022%20рік.pdf>; *Report of the National Police of Ukraine on the results of its work in 2023*. National Police of Ukraine. https://media-www.npu.gov.ua/npu-pre-prod/sites/1/Docs/Dialnist/Richni_zvity/zvit_NPU_2023.pdf.

external and internal threats (Buhaichuk, 2023, pp. 117–118).

The main indicators of the stability and security of these territories are: the number of police units that have resumed work in the de-occupied territories; the number of restored administrative buildings and official vehicles of the National Police; the state of logistical support for personnel; the number of police personnel involved in stabilisation activities; the overall crime rate; the results of the work of police units in certain areas; the number of humanitarian services provided (evacuation, delivery of aid); results of humanitarian demining.

CONCLUSIONS. The activities of the National Police bodies and units in the de-occupied territories and territories close to the combat zone are characterised by very rapid dynamics due to the constant change in the operational situation and increased physical and psychological stress. During a full-scale aggression, police officers are forced to perform new tasks for themselves, the mechanism for which has not been developed and tested in advance. In his speeches, the Minister of Internal Affairs of Ukraine, Ihor Klymenko, has repeatedly emphasised that during the war, the police's functioning changed by 80 %, and this is natural, as in the context of police activity in high-risk areas, its officers often remain the only representatives of the authorities and are forced to solve many problems, from humanitarian to security.

1. The concept of forming and further ensuring the stability of the country's unified security environment is fully implemented by the police not only in the areas where no hostilities are taking place, but also, above all, where the state of ensuring the rights and freedoms of citizens requires special attention, i.e. in the de-occupied territories or those close to the combat zone. At the same time, unlike other territories of our country, the security environment in the de-occupied territories is ensured taking into account the specifics of their life and operational situation.

The main strategic principles (vision) of police activity in these territories remain security and control, which primarily involves the fulfilment of tasks to ensure the security of the territory, civilians, management processes, as well as control over the preservation of the territorial integrity of the relevant administrative-territorial units.

2. Based on these principles of activity, the bodies and units of the National Police perform specific tasks and take measures in these territories, which are called "stabilisation". Their main goal is to maintain the stability of the security en-

vironment as a set of critical conditions for the existence of these territories that determine the degree of their protection from external and internal threats.

3. The main types of stabilisation measures implemented by the National Police of Ukraine in the de-occupied territories and territories close to the combat zone are as follows:

- provision of humanitarian services to the population (evacuation, delivery of humanitarian goods, escort of civilian transport, opening and maintenance of inflexibility points, psychological support)
- identification of social and security problems in the de-occupied territories, as well as people in need of assistance;
- conducting humanitarian demining;
- exposing collaborators and accomplices of the occupation regime;
- investigation of war crimes, search for persons who went missing as a result of hostilities, identification of mass graves and illegal detention of citizens;
- ensuring the implementation of measures of the martial law regime;
- creation of emergency response systems for emergencies and offences;
- ensuring public order and security, preventive activities, combating crimes and other offences.

4. Despite the practice of police work in the de-occupied territories established in 2022–2024, there is an urgent need to improve the regulatory and methodological support for such activities. The main measures in this direction, in our opinion, should be:

- improvement of the content of the Law of Ukraine "On the National Police" by defining the concept, types and specifics of stabilisation measures applied by police bodies and units, the basis for interaction between the police and other actors in the restoration of life in the de-occupied territories;
- development of departmental instructions, guidelines on tactics and methods of application of certain stabilisation measures by the police;
- development of standard plans of priority actions for the police to stabilise the situation in the de-occupied territories in accordance with the Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine "On Preparation for Actions to Stabilise the Situation in the De-occupied Territories of Donetsk and Luhansk Regions and Their Reintegration";
- development of standard actions for police officers when ensuring the operation of the steadfastness points.

5. An equally important fact of optimising the use of stabilisation measures by the police is the training of personnel in certain aspects of police work in the de-occupied territories: organisation of checkpoints, tactics and methods of inspection of territories and buildings, specifics of identifying and documenting the facts of collaboration and support of the aggressor state, etc.

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**ЗДІЙСНЕННЯ СТАБІЛІЗАЦІЙНИХ ЗАХОДІВ ОРГАНАМИ НАЦІОНАЛЬНОЇ
ПОЛІЦІЇ В КОНТЕКСТІ ФОРМУВАННЯ БЕЗПЕКОВОГО СЕРЕДОВИЩА
НА ДЕОКУПОВАНИХ ТА ПРИФРОНТОВИХ ТЕРИТОРІЯХ**

Проведено комплексний аналіз діяльності органів і підрозділів Національної поліції України на деокупованих територіях та на територіях, наближених до зони бойових дій. Наголошено, що виконання поліцейських повноважень на таких територіях характеризується дуже швидкою динамікою внаслідок постійної зміни оперативної обстановки, підвищеним фізичним і психологічним навантаженням.

Зазначено, що концепція формування та подальшого забезпечення стійкості і стабільності єдиного безпекового середовища країни повноцінно реалізується органами поліції не лише на територіях, де не ведуться бойові дії, а й насамперед там, де стан забезпечення прав і свобод громадян потребує особливої уваги, тобто на деокупованих територіях або в населених пунктах, наближених до зони бойових дій.

Проаналізовано зміст і порядок здійснення основних стабілізаційних заходів: надання гуманітарних послуг населенню (евакуація, доставка гуманітарних вантажів, супровід цивільного транспорту, відкриття та забезпечення роботи пунктів незламності, психологічна підтримка); виявлення соціальних і безпекових проблем на деокупованих територіях, а також осіб, що потребують допомоги; проведення гуманітарного розминування; викриття колаборантів, посібників окупаційного режиму; розслідування воєнних злочинів; розшук осіб, що зникли безвісті внаслідок бойових дій; виявлення місць масових поховань та незаконного утримання громадян; забезпечення виконання заходів правового режиму воєнного стану; створення систем екстреного реагування на надзвичайні події та вчинені правопорушення; забезпечення публічного порядку та безпеки, превентивна діяльність, протидія злочинам та іншим правопорушенням.

Сформульовано низку концептуальних положень щодо вдосконалення нормативно-правового та методичного забезпечення застосування особовим складом поліції стабілізаційних заходів на деокупованих територіях України.

Ключові слова: *безпека, воєнний стан, стабілізаційні заходи, публічна безпека, публічний порядок, безпекове середовище, Національна поліція, деокупація.*

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