

THE IMPACT OF WAR AND POST-WAR ACTIVITIES IN IRAQ ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF PRIVATE SECURITY

Željko Zorić, PhD¹
Duška Zorić, M.Sc²

Abstract: The private security sector, as a profit-oriented security entity, follows contemporary socio-political developments in order to identify opportunities for its business activities. The fact that this sector has been successfully developing for more than 150 years, particularly in the western hemisphere, and that it continues to have strong future prospects, confirms that it is a successful branch of the economy. Contemporary political events, often accompanied by turbulent situations, destructive demonstrations, conflicts of varying intensity among different social groups, natural disasters, accidents, and even war destruction, undoubtedly create opportunities for the private security sector to expand, offer its services, and generate profit. The ability to make rapid decisions and adapt to newly emerging situations enabled this sector to enter Iraq following the military intervention in 2003. The presence of private agencies, as well as their personnel with extensive military and police experience, demonstrated in the case of Iraq that this sector represents a serious unconventional security actor with a significant role both in conducting combat operations and in peace implementation. Using the method of comparative analysis, this paper presents the state of private security in Iraq and its influence on the further development of this sector, with particular reference to certain Balkan countries. Through comparative analysis, the conclusion will address the question of whether, and to what extent, private security in Iraq has influenced or continues to influence the development of this sector.

Keywords: private security, Iraq, comparison.

¹ Faculty of Security and Protection, Banja Luka

² Faculty of Security and Protection, Banja Luka

1. INTRODUCTION

The socio-political, economic, sociological, cultural and other changes brought about by the process of globalization have also significantly influenced the changes in the global private security industry. Private security has adapted and is adapting its activities to the current situation in the country, depending on whether the host country is developed, developing, in transition or has emerged from conflict and is in the phase of post-conflict development. It is common knowledge that newly emerging socio-political systems increasingly rely on the development of private property, the reduction of state ownership of certain activities, which automatically means that the state is not and cannot be the only guarantor of security. The newly created gap is filled by private security companies, most often through the development of the public-private partnership process. In this way, private security has become an unavoidable segment of satisfying basic human needs, corporate interests, and therefore the concept of national security. Every transitional period is burdened with an uncertain, or unclear future in which the fear of individual or collective insecurity-threat usually prevails. It is precisely this fear, primarily the fear of the destruction of private property, that has given the private sector the opportunity to take on the protection of such property by implementing the measures provided for by law. It is worth recalling that one of the characteristics of globalization processes is the liberalization of business, the erasure of borders, the growth of the value of private property, the decentralization of power, the loss of part of the competences in the security sector that were traditionally the responsibility of the state, and a number of others. The aforementioned characteristics, accompanied by threats of unknown origin, as well as processes and actors, have influenced the state to transfer part of its competences in the field of protection to private security companies.

The speed of change, whether democratic or forced by colored revolutions or war devastation, has had a negative impact on previously established protection systems that in most cases did not know private security. Old systems, unprepared for new values and new paradigms of protecting society and business, were not ready to entrust private security with the importance of implementing security systems. This was especially reflected in the states that were created by the collapse of the socialist social order. The similar happened in Iraq, after second Gulf

war³, when he stopped to exist as previously known country. The new security system, which gave the opportunity for the development of the private sector, is characterized by the presence, above all, of Western private military security companies that were the first to introduce and develop private security in Iraq. What the countries of Southeast Europe and Iraq had in common was a transition accompanied by more or less violence, the loss of social and state property, the development of private property, as well as a way of doing business that the existing security forces were unable to protect. Another common reference was the adoption of the experiences of the private security sector from developed countries of the Western Hemisphere.

2. ABOUT THE CONCEPT OF PRIVATE SECURITY

There is no complete agreement on the content of the concept of private security in theory. Thus, private security was defined in a 1976. US Government report as "the activity of privately funded business entities and organizations and self-employed individuals who provide security-related services, on a fee-for-service basis, to specified clientele, persons or entities that hire or employ them, or work for themselves, with the aim of protecting people, private property or interests from various risks."⁴ Private security is also defined as "a security subsystem in the national security system, the basis of which is mainly contracts concluded between entities that perform the aforementioned tasks and the clients of the tasks" (Bajagić, 2007). In this context, the phrase "private security sector" also refers to commercial security services provided by legal entities that are registered for this purpose, as well as private companies that have legal obligations regarding compliance with certain security and protection standards and procedures (Keković, 2004). Basically, two basic approaches can be observed to defining the concept of private security - broader and narrower. According to the broader approach, private security includes a set of organized forms of activity of voluntary

³ The Iraq War, also known as the Iraq War and The Second Gulf War, was an armed conflict that began in 2003. with the invasion of Iraq by a coalition led by the USA with the aim of overthrowing the government of Saddam Hussein.

⁴ *Private Security: Report of the Task Force on Private Security*, US Government Printing Office, Washington,DC,1976.str.4.

and commercially oriented non-state personnel, whose primary activities include combating various forms of criminal behavior. Defined in this way, private security includes: voluntary engagement of citizens, private security services and private detective or investigative activities. A narrower understanding defines private security as a set of legally based professional activities, outside the scope of the jurisdiction of state bodies, organized for the purpose of providing certain services, protecting the personal and property security of citizens and collecting information on order. Defined in this way, private security includes: contractual security (activities of private companies and agencies specializing in providing physical and technical security services on a contractual basis), own internal security and private detective activities (Kesić, 2005). Based on the above, it can be concluded that the concept of private security has a dual meaning. On the one hand, it can refer to the provision of security services performed by privately owned companies or to these services themselves, i.e. security operations performed at the request of private individuals or business entities. It also allows the possibility for a state body to engage a private company to provide certain security services, which inevitably expands the concept of private security itself. Therefore, in the broadest sense, the term private security could encompass all activities in the field of security that are not carried out by the state itself and its bodies, while the private security sector would include private companies that provide security services and/or products intended for security (Mitrović, Pavlović, 2012). The goal of private security is to contribute to the successful detection and elimination of security threats through professionalism and responsibility, thereby contributing to a favorable security environment. Of course, there is also an economic reason for achieving the goals, because it is a for-profit activity. Market demands, supply and demand, the solvency of society, and the security environment certainly influence the design and achievement of the goals of the private security sector. The general importance of the private security sector is reflected in the understanding of private security entities as factors in achieving security and reducing crime, through the legal structuring of their work, increasing citizens' peace of mind in conditions of increased presence and visibility of various forms of protection and control, citizens' frequent contact with private security members when they notice various criminal or other illegal behaviors, and through

educating citizens on how to combat crime and security violations: taking prior preventive measures and preventing the escape of perpetrators of criminal acts, informing the police, securing the scene of crime, and the like, with private security appearing as a partner that professionally performs part of the security tasks and provides highly specialized services (Cools, 2006). The activities of private security entities cover a wide area of security for the protection of persons, property, and business, which in scope and quality exceeds the basic security standards that the state guarantees to every citizen. It should be noted that in the second half of the 20th century, there was a rapid growth and diversification of the work performed by private security actors at the global level. These activities and jobs can be classified into the following basic groups: private companies for physical and technical security and protection; detective agencies (private investigator jobs); security consulting, marketing and engineering agencies; entrepreneurs and individuals who provide certain security services as a registered activity (detectives, advisors, bodyguards), and the like. In this regard, the most common actions and measures that are applied in modern conditions to protect people, objects and businesses are: physical and technical protection measures (exceptionally, anti-eavesdropping measures), and sanitary-technical, biological, chemical and health protection measures (Daničić, Filipović 2015).

3. COMPARISON OF THE PRIVATE SECURITY SECTORS OF SERBIA, CROATIA AND BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

Serbia

The Law on Private Security was adopted by the National Assembly of the Republic of Serbia at the end of 2013. and stipulates that the regulations for the implementation of this Law will be adopted within six months from the date of entry into force of the Law, and that legal entities and entrepreneurs for private security, as well as natural persons performing private security activities, must harmonize their work with the provisions of the Law within 18 months from the date of entry into force of the Law. The secondary legislation was supposed to fully

regulate the system of professional education and training of private security officers, develop training programs based on the conducted educational needs analysis, prescribe all necessary conditions that legal entities and entrepreneurs must meet in order to be granted authorization to perform the aforementioned training, prescribe uniforms for private security officers, the method of using means of coercion, the method of performing technical protection, the appearance and content of private security officers' identification cards, as well as prescribe criteria for determining mandatory secured facilities and minimum technical conditions for the mandatory installation of technical protection systems in banks and other financial institutions. In accordance with all the above, the six-month deadline for the adoption of by-laws provided for in Article 85 of the Law turned out to be too short to fulfill the stated obligation. CoESS data (Private Security Services in Europe, CoESS Facts and Figures 2011, p.103) indicate that the private security sector in Serbia is recording continuous growth. The Law on Private Security ("Official Gazette of the Republic of Serbia", No. 104/13) regulates the activities of mandatory security and protection of certain facilities, the activities and work of legal and natural persons in the field of private security, the conditions for their licensing, the manner of performing activities and exercising supervision over their work. The Law on Private Security aims to: comprehensively regulate the activities of mandatory security and protection of certain facilities, as well as the activities and work of legal and natural persons in the field of private security; to regulate the conditions for licensing legal and natural persons to perform private security activities; to regulate the issues of training, taking a professional exam and licensing of natural persons to perform private security activities; to regulate the manner of performing private security work, the authorization of private security officers, record keeping, and supervision of law enforcement. In the current conditions, the implementation of the law will not yield the expected results. In the best case, a significant part of security personnel will not complete training within the legal deadline and will be subject to the sanction policy of the supervisory authority. In the worst case, the actors in training and testing will lower the criteria in order to achieve the results imposed by the law within the stipulated deadline. There is a fear that the work will be "delayed" in order to achieve the set goals. This would leave Serbian society in uncertainty

because the next license renewal cycle is only in five years. If there is no change from bad practice, the situation with lightly understood deadlines could repeat itself, and the state is most responsible for ensuring the implementation of the law consistently and under equal conditions.⁵

Croatia

In Croatia, private security was originally regulated by the Law on the Protection of Persons and Property from 1996., with amendments and changes from 1996. and amendments from 2001. The security services offered by private security companies in Croatia are: physical security, physical control of entrances and exits, technical surveillance and protection, protection of cash and valuables during transport (using armored vehicles), personal protection, technical surveillance services in which burglar alarms and fire prevention systems are connected to a central control system. The Law on Private Security regulates the manner of performing activities of protecting persons and property that are not provided by the state through its services and bodies. Private security activities can only be performed by registered legal entities, while the founder of a private security company can only be a natural person who has the approval of the police administration. Amendments and changes to the Law on Private Security from 2010. Some new solutions were introduced that express high standards in the field of private security, thus establishing the mutual relations between the police and the private security sector, as well as the responsibility of these entities in controlling and suppressing crime. Also, the same law repealed the previous restrictions on security companies in providing certain services, primarily those related to the possibility of providing private protection to state authorities and representative bodies, i.e. municipalities, cities and counties. The Law on Private Protection requires that members of the private security sector undergo training and pass an exam in an authorized institution. However, persons who were employed in the police, military police, security services, former court and prison guards and bailiffs are exempt from the exam if they have three years of work experience in these institutions. The content of the training and the manner of taking

⁵ <http://www.bezbednost.org/Sve-publikacije/5794/Izmene-Zakona-o-privatnom-obezbedjenju.shtml>

the exam are regulated in more detail by the Regulation on Training and Professional Exam for Security Guards and Guards, Official Gazette of the Republic of Croatia, No. 103/04 and 42/13. Training can be provided by institutions that receive approval from the Ministry of the Interior. A candidate who completes training as a security guard or guard takes a professional exam before an examination board, which is appointed by the Minister of Internal Affairs (Vidović, 2011).

By analyzing private security in Serbia and Croatia, it can be said that Croatia recognized the importance of private security much earlier in its contribution to creating a favorable security environment for all citizens. The animosities that were initially present between the police and the private sector have long been overcome. There are no significant deviations in terms of the legal regulation of this area. They are present in the part related to the scope of work, so in Croatia it is allowed for the private sector to be engaged in certain jobs by state authorities, while in Serbia this is prohibited. Serbia has the opportunity to study the experiences in the surrounding area during the regulation of this subject and thus avoid unnecessary strain and repeating the mistakes of others. In any case, the private security sector in Serbia has a quality basis for the development of the private security sector.

Bosnia and Herzegovina

Bosnia and Herzegovina is a state created by the Dayton Peace Agreement of 1995., a country with international legal personality, incomplete in the sense of state law, and in the sense of constitutional law, a unique state. Modern political systems do not know such a form of political and social organization as the one that exists today in Bosnia and Herzegovina with two entities and three constituent peoples. The peculiarity of the state organization is also that within the state union there is also an unusual territorial structure, the Brčko District. The above-mentioned presents a special problem for the organization and functioning of the security system. The newly emerging circumstances characterized by the complexity of economic and social relations, social turmoil, transition, accumulation of capital, large quantities of unregistered weapons and explosive ordnance led to the commission of numerous criminal offenses such as armed robbery, burglary, kidnapping,

extortion and other criminal offenses directed against persons and property (Daničić, Stajić 2008).

The complexity of economic and social relations, social turmoil, transition, accumulation of capital, large quantities of unregistered weapons and explosive ordnance led, in the late 1990s, to the commission of numerous criminal offenses such as armed robbery, burglary, kidnapping, extortion and other criminal offenses directed against persons and property. In the period 1996-2002. The concept of organized and legal participation of all security entities in the protection of state and social property was abandoned by the transition to a market economy and the legitimate emergence of multiple types of property: state, social, private, etc. With the emergence of private capital, the newly created unprotected space is filled by private security. Driven by business ethics and profit, private security successfully fills the gap that has appeared between the police and the newly created private capital. The emergence of these agencies was not accompanied by legal and by-laws that would determine the conditions for the establishment and operation of companies for the protection of persons and property, regulate detective activities, determine the conditions that must be met by persons who will perform physical and technical protection of persons and property, as well as direct supervision by competent state authorities. The wild labor market, arbitrariness in work, unprincipledness and a number of other shortcomings in the work of the newly created agencies forced government representatives to legally regulate the field of private security. It is worth noting that some agencies in the Republic of Srpska have also recognized the need for legal regulation in order to avoid unfair and unprofessional competition that was "hunting in the dark" (Kržalić 2016).

It was only at the beginning of the 21st century that the protection of persons and property and private detective activities were regulated in more detail in BiH, that is, for the first time, legal and by-law regulations defined in more detail the conditions for the establishment and operation of companies-agencies for the protection of persons and property and private detective activities.⁶ Also, the conditions that must be met by

⁶ Law on Agencies for the Protection of Persons and Property and Private Detective Activities, Official Gazette of the Republic of Srpska, No. 50/20, 04/12, Law on Agencies and Internal Services for the Protection of Persons and Property, Official

persons who will perform physical and technical protection tasks are more precisely elaborated, and in this regard, direct supervision of the competent state authorities, primarily the Ministry of Internal Affairs, over the entire activity of the aforementioned companies is prescribed. The law also establishes standards that must be met by both persons who establish security agencies, as well as persons-members of security, and private detectives (Jovičić 2012). The normatively established standards encourage companies for the protection of persons and property and detective agencies to professionalize and specialize their personnel, standardize and modernize the means and devices used to secure persons and objects. However, over time, certain legal solutions have proven to be impractical and ineffective, especially in the segment of limiting and hindering the work of private agencies when licensing legal entities and individuals to perform private security work, precisely defining the facilities that private security guards are required to cover, preventing members of physical security from working in civilian clothes, requiring them to have a certificate and work order, which would be shown upon request by an authorized person, issuing the necessary, legally prescribed, authorizations for the use of sprays based on approved chemical compounds, as well as electric stun guns in self-defense, using rotating or flashing lights on official agency vehicles during the performance of their duties (securing the transport of money and valuables, performing intervention work, securing VIPs, etc.), more precise justification for the use of specially trained dogs (tracking dogs, attack dogs, dogs trained to detect drugs and explosives) in public spaces, outside the fenced area that is being secured, prescribing appropriate provisions according to which assessments of the vulnerability of facilities could be carried out. and a person with a social and not only technical education, etc. As previously stated, the Law on Agencies for the Protection of Persons and Property and Private Detective Activities regulates the activity of securing persons and property, establishes the conditions for establishing a company, and performing activities for the protection of persons and property. This law also regulates detective activities, the performance of detective work, the rights and obligations of private detectives, as well as supervision over the work of companies that perform activities for the protection of

Gazette of the FB&H, No. 78/08, Law on Agencies for the Protection of Persons and Property and Private Detective Activities, Official Gazette of the BD, No. 20/04

persons and property and detective agencies. Also, over time, the need arose to consider a special legal treatment of the issue of private detective activities in relation to physical and technical protection. Namely, the specificity of the work of private detectives in terms of their powers aimed at collecting data, information and material evidence led some European Union countries to specifically regulate detective activities by law, taking into account, among other things, adequate supervision and protection of citizens' privacy.

When we explore professional and social – economic aspects of private security in B&H, in previously researches⁷, we can see a lot of difference in European models of private security. Namely, as stated by the authors of the aforementioned research (Vejnović et al. 2012), "we believe that it is not enough to invest only in the material and technical potential of private security agencies, but much more needs to be invested in human potential. In this sense, agencies for the protection of persons and property should pay much more attention to issues such as the selection and method of engaging private security personnel, their training, especially specialist ones, improving working conditions, increasing salaries and contributions for them, taking care of the health care of private security personnel, etc. We also consider the union organization of private security personnel to be very important and useful, and it is necessary to view such a form of organization positively and encourage this type of association. We would particularly emphasize the need to develop broader and more useful mutual relations between private security personnel and property agencies and police agencies, as well as other law enforcement agencies. This can be achieved in various ways, and one of them is the establishment of a memorandum of cooperation, but also the development of awareness of partnership and joint action towards the same goal - increasing the security of citizens". In this way, the private security system in Bosnia and Herzegovina would be significantly improved (Đukić, S., Zorić, Ž. 2019).

The Law on Agencies for the Protection of Persons and Property and Private Detective Activities was adopted in 2002., and published in

⁷One of the firsts research on this topic was realized by Duško Vejnović, Velibor Lalić i Mile Šikman. The result of research were presented in 2007. on the international conference which was held by International symposium of managers in police in Dubai, named " *Urbanization, Policing, and Security*".

the Official Gazette of the Republic of Srpska, No. 50/2002). Considering the importance of the law that prevented the abuse of private agencies and directed their activities, it can now be said that the existing law is outdated because it did not keep up with modern trends in the development of services and market demands in the field of private security. According to the analysis of statistical research results, Sector Security is a private security company that has a permit to work in all six public security centers of the RS. This company is also the leader in terms of the number of employees and possession of weapons in the RS entity. In the smaller entity of Bosnia and Herzegovina, there is one security guard for every 1,724 citizens, or slightly less than 0.5 security guards for every 1,000 citizens. When we compare these statistics, based on the number of inhabitants, with the entity of FB&H, it is noticeable that the number of security guards in FB&H is twice as high. Of course, this is also reflected in the ratio of public and private security, so in the entity of RS there are 8 police officers for every security guard (1:8).

Regardless of the fact that these are countries with completely different characteristics of origin, socio-political organization, cultural understandings, traditional values, different integrations and other characteristics, there are common characteristics of the private security sector. These characteristics are not the result of political action but are a direct consequence of the development of the supply and demand market, or economic needs. This is because the common characteristic of all security companies is profit, or the sale of services. In this regard, the common characteristics of private security in the aforementioned countries are:

- operating within a legally regulated framework;
- supervision of work by the police;
- risk assessment in the protection of persons, property and business;
- protection of persons and property by physical and technical means;
- maintaining order at public gatherings, sports events and other places of public gatherings in areas not under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of the Interior;
- planning, design and supervision of the implementation of technical protection systems, installation, commissioning, maintenance of technical protection systems and user training;

- ensuring the transport and transfer of money and valuables in the area not under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of the Interior.

4. PRIVATE SECURITY IN IRAQ

Private security in Iraq, as well as throughout the Middle East, until the 1990s and the end of the Second Gulf War⁸ (2003.) was marginalized and generally did not exist in the form that was characteristic of private security companies at the time. The significant development of the private sector, PSC (private security company), occurred in Iraq with the entry of the US military into the country and the establishment of their first bases. Private security was introduced into the business by the military-political forces of the US and Great Britain. The methodology of work of leading Western countries in the field of defense, which rely on the work of private military companies, helped this sector to become a significant security entity in Iraq. With the division of security tasks in Iraq, the private sector was entrusted with the protection of military bases and facilities important for the functioning of the community (embassies, banks, government institutions, telecommunications service providers, etc.). In addition to the stationary security of critical infrastructure facilities, private security also took on a significant role in the protection of individuals in place and on the move with specific weapons and armored vehicles. The protected persons are of various profiles: bankers, politicians, owners of large companies.... Physical protection services can also be used by less famous names in the community, that is, all those who fear kidnapping for blackmail or liquidation, most often motivated by revenge. That is, all those who can finance private security services.

As for the security of American military bases, the American authorities, for the needs of security work, hire private security companies, which provide complete security of the military base, including the security of the outer ring around the base, as well as the security of important facilities in the base itself, by placing armed guards at the entrances to these facilities. Security workers are most often American citizens, citizens of Uganda and European countries. At the beginning of the work, Ugandans were massively employed by American

⁸ Invasion on Iraq, known as Second Gulf War started 20/3/2003

private companies, which received contracts for the security of American military bases. After the withdrawal of the majority of US forces from Iraq in 2012. and 2013., large static security jobs have declined, but embassies and oil fields across Iraq continue to be secured. Today, there are about 2,500 US troops in Iraq. Their complete withdrawal is planned to be carried out in 2025. and 2026., in agreement with the Iraqi government. The need for democratization of society and unification of the security sector, both conventional and unconventional, has led to the need to manage private security companies from a single center. This is precisely in order to prevent possible abuses by security companies. Today, supervision of private companies in Iraq is carried out by the Iraqi government through the Ministry of Interior (MoI Ministry of Interior). Private security companies must operate under Iraqi law, which clearly defines the conditions that an individual and a company must meet in order to engage in these jobs. The company, with a valid license, applies for the issuance of an MoI card (the MoI card is a security personnel license) which serves as an identification document for the company's members. Each security member must have an MoI card issued to be regular. Also, each weapon, to be regular, must have the same MoI card with the specified type of weapon and its serial number. The MoI card is issued by the Ministry of Interior, or the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Iraqi government. Local police authorities supervise the work of the agencies through regular and extraordinary controls. They control security members by inspecting individual MoI cards, thus checking both weapons and special purpose vehicles. In order to create a safe business environment for domestic and foreign investors, in 2017., the Iraqi President signed the Law on Private Security Services Companies. This Law gives priority to domestic companies and local personnel in performing their duties and sets a higher barrier to entry into the private security market for foreign companies. Foreign and local applicants are generally required to submit the following documents (general):

- the applicant's corporate documents;
- the address of the registered office;
- details of their intended activities;
- details of any weapons in their possession;
- details of any wireless devices in their possession;

- a bank guarantee issued by an Iraqi government bank in the amount of two hundred and fifty thousand Iraqi dinars for domestic companies and one billion for foreign companies.

In addition to the above, it is important to note that foreign companies must obtain approval from the Prime Minister's Office in order to apply for a license. In accordance with the Private Security Law, companies providing security services are subject to strict employment regulations. Generally, all employees must be screened and approved by the Ministry of Interior. Foreign employees are subject to further approval by the Ministry of Defense and the National Security Agency. In addition, the prerequisites for employment include the following:

- his/her age must not be less than (18) years and not more than (55) years;
- he/she must be literate;
- he/she must meet the standards of health and physical fitness certified by the competent medical authority;
- he/she must pass a weapons proficiency test;
- he/she must not have been previously convicted of immoral acts, political crimes or misdemeanors;
- he/she must submit a personal guarantee to the Ministry of Interior in the fixed value of 3,000 Iraq dinars.

In accordance with the Law on Private Security, entities that provide security services without having the necessary license are subject to imprisonment and a fine of at least (one hundred million) 100,000,000 Iraq dinars. The powers of security personnel are based solely on the right to defend life and property using only force that is proportionate to the danger. The rules for the use of force are consolidated in the Rules on the Use of Deadly Force. The rules on the use of deadly force were created at the beginning of the invasion of Iraq, with the arrival of the Western Coalition forces and private security companies, and over time they were harmonized in coordination with the Iraqi Ministry of Interior. At the very beginning of the invasion, PMC members opened fire in many cases, without any real need, so the rules on the use of fire force had to be adjusted over time.

Rules of lethal force:

- deadly force is used only if there is a clear, present and imminent danger, death or a grave threat to the body of the person, the client or another member;
 - if a firearm is used, it must be justified in terms of the existence of a threat to life and the injured person and the object;
 - deadly force is used only in situations where no other means were available to prevent the danger to life and protected property.
- When using deadly force, a security member must be convinced:
- that the level of force is proportional to the threat;
 - that the minimum force was attempted to repel the deadly threat.

Armed personnel, when preparing to open fire, discourage the attacker by verbally declaring their intention: „Stop, I am an armed officer...I will shoot...“ This is also a last resort. The moment the attacker has aimed the weapon and shown the intention to use it or has already opened fire, verbal persuasion becomes useless in a realistic assessment. In this situation too, it must be taken into account that a very precise shot is used, so as not to harm innocent people, if there are any nearby. Strict controls on the private security sector were recorded after 2007. when employees of Blackwater Security (now Constellis), a private military company hired by the United States Government to provide security services in Iraq, shot at Iraqi civilians, killing 17 and wounding 20 in Nisour Square, Baghdad, while escorting a US embassy convoy. This was a case of a wrong security assessment and unnecessary use of firearms. Four members of the agency were sentenced to prison in the United States for the incident.

The most significant international security companies in Iraq are:

- Erinys International, is a British private security company registered in the British Virgin Islands. The Group's operational headquarters are in Dubai, UAE, and other offices are in Andover, Hampshire (Erinys UK Ltd) and Johannesburg (Erinys South Africa Ltd). Erinys International has subsidiaries in the United Kingdom, South Africa, the Democratic Republic of Congo and the Republic of Congo and associated companies in Iraq and Nigeria;
- GARDA WORLD, Canada
- HART INTERNATIONAL - United Kingdom. Hart has carried out thousands of convoy escort missions in Iraq and Afghanistan over the years.

At the very beginning of security operations in Iraq, war veterans were engaged, mainly members of special forces from Western countries (USA and Great Britain), with the presence of former members of South African military and police units. Soon, members of armed formations from the former Yugoslavia entered the security business because they had military experience and enviable qualifications in performing security work. Of course, the condition is knowledge of English and knowledge of military terminology along with excellent physical fitness. Today, members of other European countries can also be found in security work.

Companies most often look for workers with a minimum of five years of experience in the army or police, and an additional benefit is if the person has been in an international peacekeeping mission. It is mandatory to submit a certificate of no criminal record, a medical report, a certificate of qualification for security work (SIA license) - a British provider. The SIA (Security Industry Authority) license is a legal requirement for anyone who wants to work in the private security sector. Finished medical course, level FREC 3⁹ (*FIRST RESPONSE EMERGENCY CARE*) is mandatory for everyone.

Today, domestic companies are increasingly being registered in Iraq, which, in addition to workers from other countries, increasingly accept workers who are Iraqi (JANUS, IRAQ LAND, SECURITY (ILS). AL HUERA, DEFAF AL KALIDŽ...). As in the first years of the development of the private sector in Iraq, almost the same tasks are performed today, PERSONAL SECURITY DETAILS (PSD) or protection of individuals in motion (vehicles), STATIC SECURITY (protection of facilities), embassies, oil fields, convoys and protection of valuable transports. When it comes to the use of weapons, security

⁹ It is a four-day course recognized by the SIA - Security Industry Authority, focusing on the intervention and management of common medical incidents. These include general skills (roles and responsibilities, consent, prehospital care, patient assessment, basic life support), trauma and thermal injury management (external bleeding, catastrophic bleeding, musculoskeletal injury, head injury, traumatic eye injury, spinal injury, burns and frostbite) and management of a range of other medical emergencies (heart attack, angina, stroke, asthma, anaphylaxis, diabetes, epilepsy, poisoning and sepsis).

personnel coming from Western countries preferred Western weapons at the beginning of the invasion, such as M4, AR15, 240B249B, HECKLER&KOCH, GLOCK pistol and SIG SAUER. With the entry of domestic companies into the system, as well as some low-cost ones, AK (Kalashnikov) rifles are increasingly used. The type of weapons used depends on both the client being protected and the complexity of the security, the estimated dangers and the training of the workers. Western embassies still use Western weapons, while in the south of Iraq, where most of the clients in the oil fields are secured, Soviet weapons, the Kalashnikov family, are present.

The agency in the field operates in pre-formed teams. Usually one team consists of 6 members, distributed in 3 cars. In the first vehicle there is a driver (a member of the local community) and an Iraqi commander, who is the person who communicates with the Iraqi police at check points, etc. In the second vehicle there is a team leader (security leader), driver and client, and in the third, last vehicle there is a deputy team leader) – second in charge, who is also a paramedic and driver. The operations room (command room) is a room with video surveillance and communication equipment from which the project manager and operations manager coordinate the work of the teams in the field. Together with them in the OPS ROOM (the office from which operations on the ground are managed) is also the so-called WATCHKEEPER (a person who coordinates the work of the teams in the field via communication pages and telephones). This is how a security project works. All vehicles used by private companies have a GPS system, radio connection and satellite phone. In addition to providing security for individuals in place and on the move, and physical security for facilities, private security companies install video surveillance, anti-burglary and anti-assault systems, where they need them.

5. CONCLUSION

Regardless of the geographical distance between the countries of Southeast Europe and the Middle East, as well as the different conditions that led to the development of the private security sector, common characteristics can be identified, as well as differences that have influenced and continue to influence private security activities. Common

characteristics relate to the nature of the business, which includes the physical and technical protection of critical infrastructure facilities as well as individuals in place and on the move. All private security systems are within the legal framework of the country in which they operate. The main difference is in the type of weapons and vehicles used in the work, as well as the specifics of the training that precedes the certification of the engaged workers. Thus, in the observed countries of Southeast Europe, the use of automatic weapons is prohibited, while in Iraq it is allowed. This is because most companies in Iraq are in the field of military private security companies, and the estimated level of threats, as well as legal regulations, allow the use of automatic weapons. The constant need for security services sought by local communities, private companies, and even state authorities contributes to the development of private companies for physical technical security. Their development must be accompanied by legal regulations in order to avoid the possibility of abuse of the private security sector. It is undeniable that private security companies, as well as private military companies, play an important role in countries undergoing political transition, as well as in countries undergoing post-conflict development. Their role is also expressed in the reintegration of former members of police and military structures through the process of demobilization and disarmament. By constantly improving the quality of service provision, private security companies and private military companies show that they are an indispensable factor in the implementation of the security system.

LITERATURE

1. Bajagić, M. (2007), *Osnovi bezbjednosti*, Beograd.
2. Cools, M. (2006), *Private policing in Belgium: outsourcing and public-private cooperation – research*, u *Private Security*.
3. Daničić, S., Stajić (2008), *Privatna bezbjednost*, Visoka škola unutrašnjih poslova Banja Luka, Banja Luka.
4. Daničić, M., Filipović, V. (2015), *Privatna bezbjednost*, Fakultet za pravne i poslovne studije dr Lazar Vrkatić, Novi Sad.
5. Đukić, S., Zorić, Ž. (2019), *Aktuelno stanje i perspektive budućeg razvoja privatnog sektora bezbjednosti u Bosni i Hercegovini*, Međunarodna naučna konferencija, Banja Luka.

6. Keković, Z. (2004), Nedržavni sektor bezbjednosti: Kako do standarda?, Perjanik, br. 5, Podgorica.
7. Kesić, Z. (2004), Privatni sektor u kontroli kriminaliteta, Dosije studio, Beograd.
8. Litavski, J. (2012), Professional Culture, Ethics, Errors and Police Accountability
9. Mitrović, Lj., Pavlović, G. (2012), Sistem bezbjednosti Bosne i Hercegovine – pravni aspekti i aktuelno stanje, Međunarodno udruženje naučnih radnika – AIS, Banja Luka.
10. Nađ, I. (2016), Zbirka propisa iz djelokruga privatne zaštite, Hrvatska udruga menadžera sigurnosti, Zagreb.
11. Private Security (1976), Report of the Task Force on Private Security, US Government Printing Office, Washington, DC.
12. Schulz, S., Zeung, C. (2008), Privatne vojne i zaštitarske kompanije i rodna pitanja, u Set priručnika o rodnim pitanjima i reformi sektora bezbjednosti, ur. Megan Bastick i Kristin Valasek, DCAF, OEBS/ODIHR, UN-INSTRAW.
13. Vidović, D. I. (2011), Korporativna sigurnost, Udruga hrvatskih menadžera sigurnosti – UHMS, Zagreb.
14. <http://www.bezbednost.org/Sve-publikacije/5794/Izmene-Zakona-o-privatnom-obezbedjenju.shtml>, access date 12/4/2025
15. http://www.parlament.gov.rs/upload/archive/files/lat/pdf/predlozi_zakona/1124-15%20lat.pdf, access date 22/5/2025
16. <https://constellis.com/>, access date 18/4/2025
17. <https://hartinternational.com/physical-security-mobile-static/>, access date 18/4/2025
18. <https://www.garda.com/locations/middle-east/iraq/baghdad>, access date 20/5/2025

Paper received: 08.11.2025.
 Paper approved: 03.03.2026.