

Piotr Hac  
National Security Faculty  
War Studies University

A b s t r a c t

## **Usage of state of emergency in case of hybrid threats**

Threats of national security are still changing. In the time of the last two decades there were a vast increase of threats connected to terrorism, illegal mass emigration and spread of weapon of mass destruction. Annexation of Crimea Peninsula by Russian Federation and conflict in the Eastern Ukraine between the years of 2014 – 2016 caused a reminding of possibilities of occurring hybrid origin threats too. This is understood as a lead under this concept of hostile activities with usage of combined military and asymmetric methods, including information, economic and cybernetic warfare. Those acts are characteristic with secret activities and their management on the edge of possible military clash. One of the characteristics of hybrid activities is to have an initiative by country–aggressor and making decisions about the escalation of the conflict, depending on local or international politics conditions. It causes that, whether these actions will change in full-scale war or they will remain in the sphere of border incidents is not obvious and staying as a mystery for the country-victim.

Hybrid activities are not a new invention of the warfare, but have their own tradition including in Europe. For example – this type of activity Soviet Union and Nazi Germany led to Poland before 2nd World War broke out. Even German actions against Czechoslovakia in the year of 1938 are model examples of growing of hybrid conflict. They were used with existence a national minority on the territory of country-victim (or border disputes) and invoked or supported protests of the part of population, strikes, riots, guerilla activities and

sabotage. Additionally those disturbances were propaganda presented as a reaction with alleged violation of the rights of this minority.

Due to various types of threats in Polish system of law functioning the institution of state of emergency. Despite the fact that it is focused on facilitating the reactions of the authorities on internal security threats, the reasons for its introduction may be external. The state of emergency in Poland can be entered due to a special threat to constitutional system of the state, security of citizens or public order, in this caused by terrorist activities or in cyberspace. The idea of a state of emergency is temporary reduction of civil rights which may hinder the work of the Police, while increasing the powers of state bodies. The main goal of the state of emergency is to eliminate the threat as quick as possible and restore the normal state of functioning the authorities. In certain situations within the state of emergency Polish Armed Forces can be used.

It can not be ruled out that Poland can be subject of hybrid actions in the coming decades. They can be reduced to making by the country-aggressor hostile and camouflaged activities in the information, cybernetic or border areas. According to the historical experiences further activity will be manifested by sabotage or diversion acts, causing social unrests or immigration problems, attacks on population supply systems, violations of air or sea space. Defense against this type of actions will be difficult because of possible international and economic repercussions.

My possible presentation shown at the conference will be dedicated legal possibilities and advantages or disadvantages of usage the state of emergency in a case of hybrid activity against Poland. Rules and basics of state of emergency will be outlined and possible scenarios of escalation hybrid conflict. The conditions of increasing the powers of policemen and soldiers will be presented and practise ways to use it. General message of the speech will be the need of anticipate various threats and adapting reactions of the state to possible scenarios. The institution of the state of emergency can be the right way to proceed towards hybrid actions, without the need for military solutions. Thanks to this the state can flexible approach to hostile activities, keeping military and political ability to resolve the conflict peacefully.

The presentation I anticipate for 20 slides and speech for 15-20 minutes.

I'm a Ph.D. candidate of National Security Faculty War Studies University. The topic of my dissertation is *Usage of Polish Armed Forces in state of emergency*.

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