

# **A Descriptive-Analytical Inquiry into the Role of Police Performance on Social Security Strategy in Society**

Kazem Reza Anvar Elahi<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>. Postdoctoral Researcher in Law and Social Sciences, Eastern Mediterranean University (EMU), Cyprus

## **Background and Necessity of the Research**

In the contemporary era, social security as one of the fundamental pillars of sustainable development is recognized not only as a prerequisite for the realization of order and stability in societies but also as an essential foundation for the flourishing of individual and collective talents and the achievement of social justice. This concept, which has deep roots in its scholarly tradition, has undergone a significant transformation in its transition from traditional to modern approaches. It has moved beyond its merely negative definition—i.e., the absence of fear, violence, and threat—to encompass positive components such as peace of mind, and the fulfillment of occupational, familial, political, cultural, and judicial needs of members of society. The growing importance of this category in today's societies is attributable to the ever-increasing complexity of social structures, the rise of organized crime, identity transformations resulting from increased migration, and the emergence of new communication technologies—all of which have created new arenas of vulnerability and insecurity. In such a context, the police institution, as the primary body responsible for maintaining order and ensuring public security, through its performance, affects the quality and quantity of social security strategies more than any other institution. Although existing research literature includes numerous studies addressing limited aspects of police functions, there remains a research gap regarding a comprehensive and systematic analysis of the multifaceted role of this institution in macro-social security strategies. Hence, the central problem of the present study is the scientific and scholarly explanation of the mechanisms through which various dimensions of police performance influence social security, as well as the identification of the requirements and necessities for enhancing this performance within the framework of modern and participatory strategies.

## **Research Objective**

The main objective of this inquiry is to conduct a descriptive-analytical examination of the role of police performance on social security strategy in society. Alongside this overarching goal, the present research pursues more specific objectives, namely:

first, to identify and closely examine the four dimensions of police performance, including crime prevention, coercive confrontation with crime, citizen education and awareness-raising, and cooperation and interaction with civil and social institutions; second, to explain the primarily structural and procedural challenges facing the police in achieving social security, such as limitations in human and financial resources, the unprecedented expansion of organized and transnational crime, and the trust gap between the police institution and society; third, to offer practical and policy-oriented solutions based on research evidence for improving police performance, including the targeted application of modern technologies, the expansion of public participation, the empowerment and continuous training of personnel, and the institutionalization of a community-oriented policing approach. Finally, the research seeks to outline a strategic vision of the police's role in confronting emerging security challenges and to propose a balanced model for establishing sustainable social security in society.

### **Research Questions and Hypotheses**

The main questions that this article seeks to answer are: First, in what domains and through what causal mechanisms does police performance affect social security strategies? Second, what are the most significant obstacles and constraints facing the police in effectively fulfilling their role in the domain of social security? Third, what set of strategies and measures can improve police performance and consequently strengthen social security? And fourth, to what extent are approaches such as community policing and the utilization of smart technologies effective in achieving this goal?

In response to the above questions and based on the theoretical and empirical background of the subject, three main hypotheses have been formulated: First, it appears that there is a direct, positive, and significant relationship between preventive and interactive police performance and increased feelings of social security and public trust—a relationship that, compared to purely punitive and reactive functions, enjoys greater effectiveness and durability. Second, the threefold obstacles of resource scarcity, the complexity of modern crime, and the lack of social capital serve as the most significant challenges and provide a suitable framework for analyzing police performance in this area. Third, the adoption of strategies for human resource empowerment, the utilization of civil participatory capacities, the implementation of artificial intelligence-based systems, and the further development of the neighborhood-oriented policing philosophy can play a decisive role in quantitatively and qualitatively improving police performance and, consequently, enhancing social security.

## **Research Method**

The present research has been conducted using a descriptive-analytical approach and employing library and documentary methods. In this process, the required data and information were gathered through systematic searches in reputable written and digital sources, including scholarly research articles, legal and criminological texts, positive laws, domestic and foreign research reports, and scientific databases such as SID and others. In the analysis phase, a qualitative content analysis technique with an inductive approach was utilized to not only precisely describe the current situation but also to discover causal relationships among the main research variables (police performance and social security strategies). Furthermore, for analytical richness, the theoretical foundations of scholars such as Barry Buzan within the framework of the Copenhagen School, as well as theorists in the fields of public order and crime prevention, have been cited as the conceptual framework of the research. In addition, a comparative analysis has been conducted between concepts such as "public order," "criminal and non-criminal prevention," and "social security" within the legal systems of Iran and certain Western countries, in order to refine their conceptual and practical scope. Relying on the documentary method has enabled the researcher, through examining a wide range of primary and authoritative sources, to obtain a comprehensive, documented, and evidence-based picture of the subject, while avoiding reliance on mere subjective interpretations.

## **Research Findings**

The investigations carried out in this article demonstrate that police performance influences social security strategies across four main strategic dimensions:

- First, crime prevention, which itself encompasses both non-spatial (social) and spatial approaches, proves significantly more efficient and effective compared to coercive and reactive measures. This approach, which has deep roots in ethical and religious teachings (sharing a common foundation with the concept of "Taqwa" or God-consciousness), reduces criminogenic contexts through ethical education, improvement of socio-economic conditions, formulation of preventive laws, and enhancement of public culture, thereby playing a crucial role in safeguarding social security.
- Second, up-to-date training and empowerment of police personnel, which is considered a key factor in institutional effectiveness. Findings indicate that offering specialized courses in areas such as crisis management, cybersecurity, social communication, and organizational behavior has a direct impact on enhancing police operational skills as well as improving methods

of interaction with citizens. In a documented case study cited in the article, the component of "police officers' manner of interaction" was identified as the most influential factor on the sense of security among female tourists in an Iranian city—underscoring the growing importance of social capital and communication skills alongside technical competencies.

- Third, cooperation and social participation, manifested in the philosophy of community policing. This approach, which goes beyond conventional patrols and the physical deployment of forces, is regarded as a management strategy and a school of thought based on active public participation in identifying problems, tracing their roots, and finding sustainable solutions. Social participation, by increasing citizens' commitment, trust, and satisfaction with the police institution, provides the grounds for public oversight and contributes to the enhancement of the sense of security within neighborhoods and local communities.
- Fourth, the utilization of modern technologies, which—particularly in the areas of information systems, artificial intelligence, surveillance cameras, and mobile communication networks—has unprecedentedly increased police efficiency and transformed it from a purely executive body into a scientific and knowledge-based organization. Nevertheless, the article also points to emerging harms resulting from the rapid expansion of cyberspace and warns that users' lack of awareness, fluid and anonymous identities, and fraudulent abuses in this space can constitute serious threats to social security, the management of which requires the formulation of complementary regulatory and educational strategies.
- Furthermore, the most significant challenges facing the police in the path toward ensuring social security have been identified as the scarcity of material and human resources, the complexity and expansion of transnational and organized crime, and the necessity of rebuilding and strengthening social capital and public trust—each of which, in turn, demands long-term planning and innovative approaches.

## **Conclusion and Recommendations**

The totality of findings from this inquiry clearly indicates that a multifaceted and balanced police performance—an integration of intelligent prevention, continuous and empowering training, civic participation, and technological utilization—is far more effective than one-dimensional and purely punitive approaches, and can steer society toward a safe, vibrant, and conducive environment for economic and social development. To achieve such a state, the article emphasizes the adoption of four fundamental strategies: First, a fundamental paradigm shift of the institution from a

coercive-reactive model to a preventive-interactive one, along with the recognition of the central role of public participation; Second, targeted and continuous investment in specialized training of personnel alongside the enhancement of organizational transparency, accountability, and monitorability; Third, the development of information technology infrastructure with an emphasis on the application of artificial intelligence and smart systems, conditional upon full compliance with ethical standards, human rights principles, and the protection of citizens' privacy; and Fourth, the formulation of a participatory criminal policy in which the role of judicial officers, through synergy with other judicial and executive institutions, is redefined with a focus on problem-solving, reducing social harms, and establishing restorative justice. Finally, the article emphasizes that social security is a dynamic, multi-layered phenomenon requiring national resolve and coordination, and that the police—as the first line of defense in this domain—will only be able to fulfill their historical role in confronting the complex and multifaceted security challenges of the future by relying on up-to-date knowledge, public trust, and smart technologies.

**Keywords:**

Social Security, Police Performance, Crime Prevention, Security Strategies, Public Participation