

STATE NATIONAL SECURITY: ASPECT OF RECORDED CRIME

Jānis Teivāns-Treinovskis¹, Nikolajs Jefimovs²

^{1,2}*Daugavpils University, LV-10225 Daugavpils, Latvia*

E-mails: ¹janisteivans@du.lv, ²geliogabal@inbox.lv

Received 10 March 2012; accepted 30 September 2012

Abstract: The concept of national security is defined as purposeful action, which is subordinated to the interests of state wellbeing and inner order. State agencies and organizations are granted the rights to fulfill such kind of activities. At the same time the definition of national safety does not involve quality of life of state's inhabitants, environment protection interests and stability of political processes in the state. The idea of national security is overlooked only from the military force alert's view not taking into account such social phenomena as crime level in the country. The concept of national safety of Latvia is researched through the economic and demographic processes making final conclusions based on statistics.

Keywords: National safety, crime rate, resident population, Latvia.

Reference to this paper should be made as follows: Teivāns-Treinovskis, J.; Jefimovs, N. 2012. State national security: aspect of recorded crime, *Journal of Security and Sustainability Issues* 2(2): 41–48.
[http://dx.doi.org/10.9770/jssi.2012.2.2\(4\)](http://dx.doi.org/10.9770/jssi.2012.2.2(4))

JEL Classifications: K1, K14

1. Introduction

The idea of national security is as old as the state. People, who created the first community and state formation, from the very beginning possessed the idea for their livelihood security and protection from external and internal threats. Historically the idea of national security has been primarily understood as a threat to be suppressed violently from the effects of external enemies. That is why the security aspect, regardless of its extension to the public relations field, was mostly attributed to military force. The development of mankind caused the necessity to explore further the idea of national security by taking into account not only visible but internal and invisible threats as well. At the same time it increased the dimension of understanding the security aspect, extending it on economic, political, crime rate, cooperation with neighboring states, electronic field, natural resources, state borders, demographics, natural hazards, energy, media, food, ethnic composition, etc. areas. The pro-

tection of national security is primal and, in essence, the fundamental task of every state. The authors of publication research the concept of national security only in the aspect of law enforcement agencies (State Police) and common statistics of crime rate.

2. National security concept

It should be mentioned that security and its analysis is applicable to any level, e.g. individual, family, society, state, international system, or humanity (Baldwin 1997). Because of its unspecific understanding, the field had 'paid quite inadequate attention to the range of meanings of "security" (Strachan-Morris 2012). It is worth to mention that different recent surveys of security studies did not bother to define security (Bénil-Gbaffou *et al.* 2012). At the same time the idea about security of state is usually defined in legal acts because of its ambiguity (Cho 2012). First substantial attempts to define the concept of national security emerged in the middle of the twentieth cen-

tury in the USA and it is known as a neglected concept (Amara 2012). The idea was that security issues have no substantial meaning, therefore, it is not necessary to establish independent concept and research it in the scientific area. During the Cold War it was understood that security had such value-laden meaning that no amount of argument or evidence could ever lead to agreement on a single version as the “correct or standard use” (Hayes 2012). According to this approach, there are no substantial arguments why we have to choose one concept of security over the other (Cavelty 2012). Today the common understanding of national security has extended in all directions, i.e. from nations to groups, individuals, international systems and local governments (Rothschild 1995).

National security can be a dangerously ambiguous concept if used without specification (Cho 2012). That is why it is necessary to specify the meaning. The concept of “national security” in the Latvian legal system is defined in Section 1, Part 1 of National Security Law. According to this legal act, national security is “State and society targeted actions, which are diverted to the position, which guarantees the independence of state, its constitutional order and territorial integrity, public prospect of free development, prosperity and stability”. According to the definition, the term “national security” can be distinguished in the following features:

1. Purposeful action;
2. From the state and/or community;
3. Action results in a special position;
4. Achieved by providing state sovereignty, constitutional order, territorial integrity, freedom of public development, prosperity and stability.

According to the national security features, it is possible to treat any life situation and actions of competent institutions as appropriate ones to the national security nature and it should be considered as an adequate step. It is interesting to mention, that there are attempts to attribute nature disasters (i.e. earthquakes, which should be considered “threats” to security) to the definition of national security (Kovel 2012). In essence it does not indicate a high level of democratization of the state and indirectly points to the possibilities of law violations from law enforcement agencies. This perspective is likely to appeal to those who conceive national security in terms of “interests that are pursued notwithstanding the costs incurred” (Holmes 2009). However, rational policy does not sustain such interests at all (Hurlburt 2012).

At the same time it should be noted, that the concept of “security” exists in two forms of understanding: the narrow one and the wide one. The wide meaning of security is understood as a common interest aspect of a state and its population stressing the idea about mutual connections between different countries’ national security interests. In the narrow meaning, the term “security” is mainly attributed to the specific national interests, existing in isolation from other subjects of international law.

Without explaining the nuances of research object, it is clear that formal definition of national security in Latvia stresses the notion given in the narrow meaning of this word, i.e. greater focus is put on the internal aspects of security.

In this regard, it is necessary to mention, that the Latvian national security explanation is very similar to other new democratic countries’ explanations focusing mainly on common features of national security aspect. The situation is changing exploring the concept of national security in old democracies. The U.S. government had never offered the legal explanation and strengthened the formal definition of national security. The National Security Act of 1947 together with the 1949 amendments, (National security act of 1947) U.S. Patriot Act, (USA Patriot Act U.S.) Constitution and other legal acts, relating to national security, contain a wide range of legal structures and definitions of legal presumptions, without answering the central question - what is national security? In that connection the authors want to say, that these circumstances allow the responsible authorities and officials use the definition of national security and its discrepancies by extending important information or facts to the national security interests. At the same time, it is clear that in the U.S. the term “national security” has found its most logical explanation. It is obvious to join the famous defender of nature and researcher, PhD Joseph Romm (1993) comment on “national security.” “The term “national security” includes events, that “(1) threaten drastically over a relatively brief span of the time to degrade the quality of life for the inhabitants of a state, or (2) threaten significantly to narrow the range of policy choices available to the government of a state” (Romm 1993). According to Smith (2005) “this definition is helpful because it encompasses not only traditional threats, such as organized crime and terrorism, but also threats to economic stability, public health, and the American way of life”.

PhD Joseph Romm’s definition also helps to establish

a link between certain events and national trends: “indeed, the crime of murder could hardly be seen as a national security crime, yet genocide - the systematic killing of whole groups of people - certainly would be. The same is true with a single case of involuntary servitude or forced prostitution. Standing alone, these crimes do not constitute a breakdown of national security, but taken as a whole, these crimes indeed represent a breach of national security” (Smith 2005).

Returning to the national security definitions in the Latvian legal system, authors propose to extend the meaning of concept, focusing not so much on the state’s individual interests, but on the population’s common quality of life, interests of nature and interdependent aspects of political processes in the world.

Defined the proposed amendments, the definition of national security might look like as follows:

1. Purposeful action;
2. From the state and/or community;
3. Action results in a special position;
4. Achieved by providing state sovereignty, constitutional order, territorial integrity, freedom of public development, prosperity and stability;
5. Inhabitants’ high quality of life;
6. Environmental protection;
7. Stable and constant political life.

3. National security features

The aspects of national security are parameters through which it is possible to conclude that the security situation is in the country. Most often the first and mandatory element of national security is named as a military security or the ability of the state to use the available military means to protect their right to existence. At the same time it is emphasized that the military is not the only element with which it is possible to characterize the level of national security. Nowadays, when mankind has invented weapons that can destroy our planet relying solely on military force may indicate the low level of development of society and short-term awareness of existence in the future. That is why today, in addition to military national security aspect, other elements are defined - diplomacy and policy criteria; society in common; environmental interests; energy and natural resources; economic interests. The American researcher and former government official PhD Joseph Romm (1993) attributes security of drug cartels, economic security, environmental and energy security to the non-

military national security aspects. The Indian academician Paleri (2008) lists a larger number of elements - military security, economic security, resource security, border security, demographic security, disaster security, energy security, geostrategic security, informational security, food security, health security, ethnic security, environmental security, cyber security, genomic security.

The authors want to stress that the choice of national security aspects is more likely connected with current political or public life processes that occur during the preparation of relevant concepts. It indirectly implies Romm (1993), adding to one of the national security aspects the safety of drug cartels, which were particularly strong in the early nineties (when his book was prepared). Currently the activity of drug cartels is paralyzed and there is no point to talk about threats to the national interests of a given aspect. The authors wish to turn attention to the national security aspect, which is related to the common crime rate in the country. The given criterion has increased its influence on the Latvian national security immediately after the economic crisis, in the end of 2007. The negative impact of this criterion has been felt for the second time: the first wave of recorded crime improvement was observed in the first years after the restoration of the Latvian independence.

4. Latvian national security level determinants in crime aspect

Crime as one of the factors, which influences the country’s common national security, is a common human problem. This problem does not exist because of stratification onto human classes, specific ideology and politics (Lunejev 2005). The term “crime” has no self-evident and universal concepts. As a result, in response to the question “what is a crime?” it is necessary to achieve mutually unrelated conclusions depending on the items listed above. Key elements that describe the social phenomenon of crime are: (1) damage, (2) social contract, and (3) official public response (McLaughlin, Muncie 2006). The element of damage involves the gravity of negative effects, which are inflicted to the victim and to the public interest. Social agreement element is connected with damage and its gravity, inflicted and recognized by the society. The official public response indicates the existence of specific laws and regulations, which give a criminal offense status to the particular action and the consequences of this action legally justifying negative state

actions against individuals who violated the law.

In Roman-German legal system crime is generally considered as “a socially harmful phenomenon of criminal nature” (Bronson 2012). Describing the crime as a common thing, it usually has the following features: prevalence in a certain area, historical development, criminal characteristics, social origin, and formation of a separate offense (Bronson 2012). By studying the phenomenon of crime, it is necessary to focus on the Anglo-Saxon legal system scientists’ thoughts. Hale *et al.* (2005) explains crime by the following doctrines:

- Crime as a social construction;
- Crime as a product of religious authority/doctrine;
- Crime as a reflection of state’s legal mandate;

Crime as a social and political outcome of the national state.

Authors of the publication want to stress that crime as a social phenomenon in all cases present threat not only to an individual - the victim’s interests but to the whole country in common. That is why it is necessary to emphasize the risk of total national security interests when researching crime.

The impact of crime on the national security interests can be revealed by quantitative methods of investigation that enable us to understand the structure of crime (different crime types and forms in the total crime) as well as the dynamics of crime or the total number of changes over a given period (Bronson 2012).

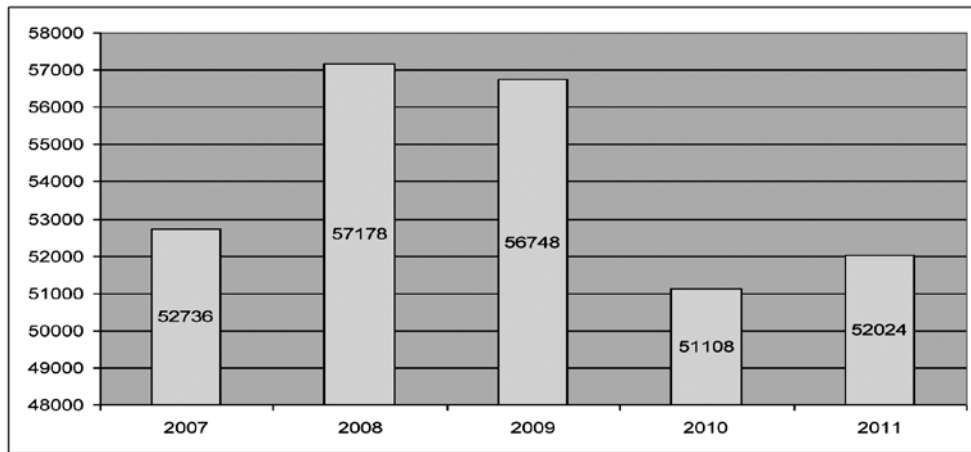


Fig.1. Number of registered criminal offenses in Latvia in the period of 2007-2011

Source: Public Report of the State Police in 2011

According to the published information about the number of offenses recorded in Latvia, it is seen that in 2011 the total number of crimes in comparison to the year 2009 has decreased by 4724 cases. A small increase is detected in the past year when the total number of crimes increased by 1.8% or 916 cases compared with the year 2010. That fact, studying the national security aspect, may mistakenly indicate the risk reduction of security level. However, the recorded offenses indicate only the official actions of security institutions without taking into account the hidden crime (Figure 1). In this regard the LLC “Business Security” owner Mikhail Hesins (2011) makes a conclusion: “country has a high level of hidden crime, which does not appear in the official State Police reports”. At the same time the reduction of listed crime could be explained by the reduction in population due to emigration and mortality. Table 1 shows that changes in population have reached a negative indicator -18733 due to natural increase and of-

ficially registered emigration in 2010.

Table 1. Changes in population in Latvia and the factors influencing it

	Total		
	Changes in population – total	Natural increase	Net migration
2007	-10411	-9769	-642
2008	-9600	-7058	-2542
2009	-12920	-8220	-4700
2010	-18733	-10821	-7912
2011	*	*	*

Source: Central Bureau of Statistics of the Republic of Latvia 2012

Data for the year 2011 is currently in gathering stage but the Central Bureau of Statistics predicts that the population this year will drop by about 23000 people.

It is planned that the population decrease due to natural movement (the number of deaths exceeding the births) will fall by almost 10000 and due to international registered long-term migration - by 13000 (Central bureau of statistics of the Republic of Latvia 2012).

Studying the total population change in the national security aspect it is necessary to answer the question: “Whether it is possible to think about the reduction of the national security threats if a number of recorded offenses have shown a reduction tendency?”

To answer the question it is necessary to accurately determine the total number of registered offences in the country dividing by the number of total population and multiplying to 100 percent. By doing so, it is possible to determine how many crimes are committed on every Latvian population member. According to the data of the Central Bureau of Statistics, the total number of Latvian population in 2011 totaled 2.07 million people (Figure 2).

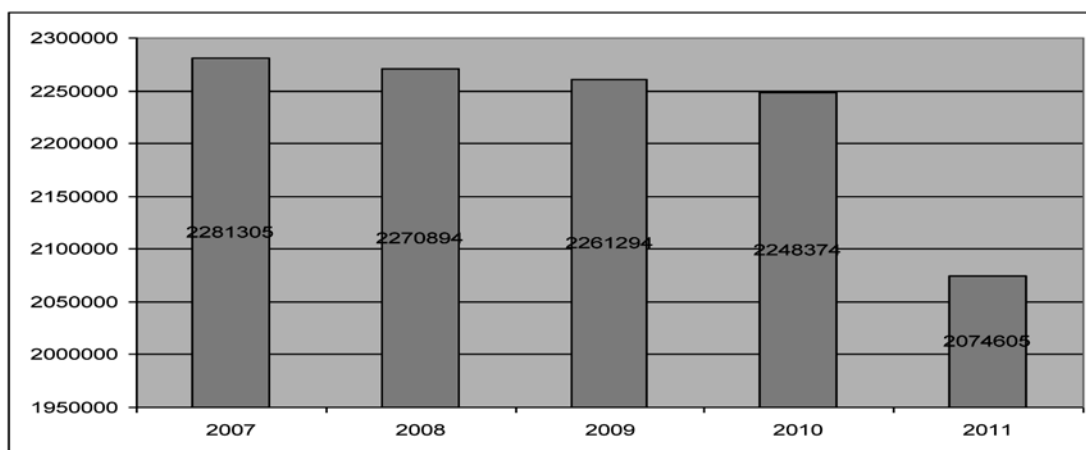


Fig.2. Resident population in Latvia in the period of 2007–2011

Source: Central Bureau of Statistics of the Republic of Latvia 2012

Total population decrease over the last four years has reached 206700. It is interesting to notice that because of official population counting in 2011, the total number of inhabitants in Latvia decreased by 173769 people (in comparison with the year 2010). Such huge discrepancies between officially registered

population changes and results of people’s counting may be understood only by taking into account so called “grey emigration”. Studying the crime rate and its overall impact on the country’s national security, the authors propose to explore their own calculations about the real crime rate per capita in Latvia.

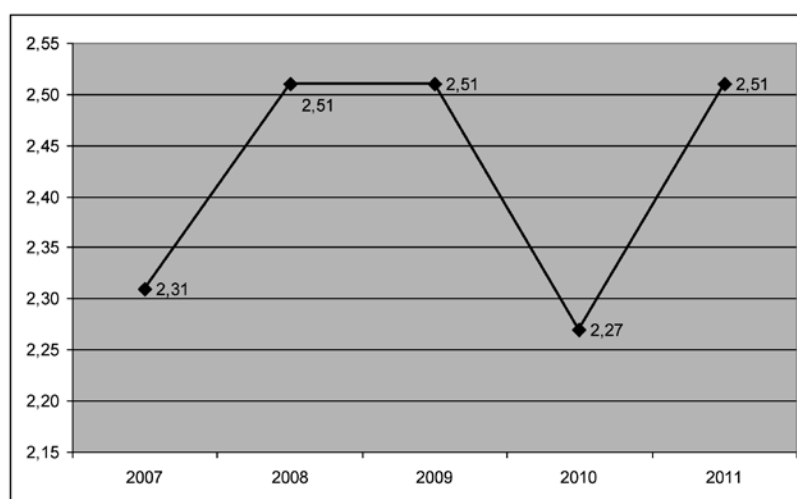


Fig.3. Recorded crime rate per capita in Latvia in the period of 2007–2011, %

Source: Public Report of the State Police in 2011 and author’s own evaluation

According to the published data, Figure 3 shows that the real level of crime in the country is approximately equal to the level of the last four years. A small reduction dynamics were observed only in 2010 when the figure reached 2.27% limit. In 2011 recorded crime rate per capita has increased by 0.24% and has reached the level of 2009. As an addition to previous calculation and be-

cause of the law enforcement personnel and budget cuts trend, the authors conclude that threats to national security remain at a sufficiently high level. For example, as in 2011 the service dismissed 660 employees hiring only 230 new employees (Public Report of the State Police in 2011). Figure 4 shows retired officials of the Latvian Republic State Police.

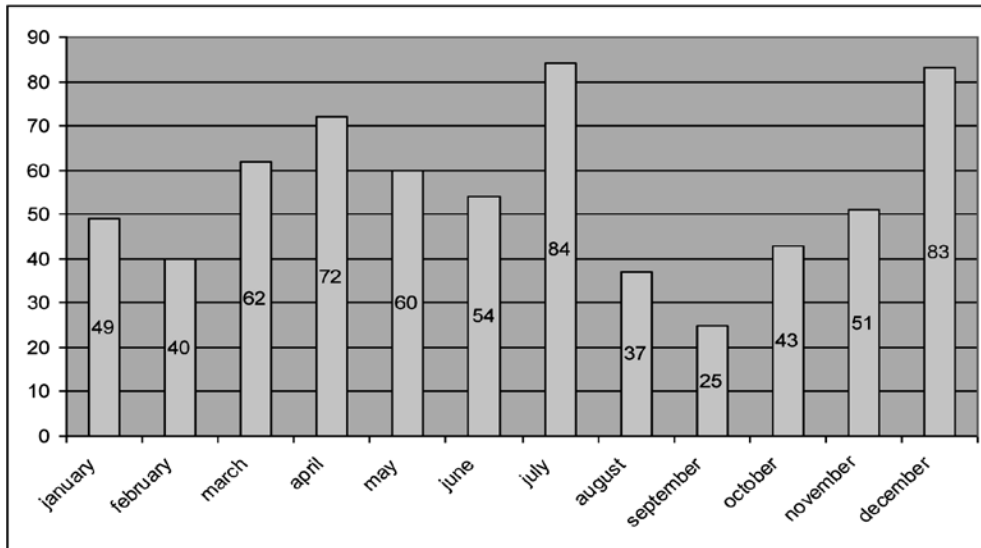


Fig. 4. Retired officials of the Latvian Republic State Police (view by month)

Source: Public Report of the State Police in 2011

The budget of the State Police was reduced by almost 44 million Lats in 2011 in comparison to 2008. At the same time the police powers and responsibilities did not change substantially. It is planned to continue the resource-saving policy in 2012 reducing the total expenditure of approximately 850000 Lats (sched-

uled State Police budget for 2012 is 63.4 million Lats) (State budget revenue and expenditure positions by programs and subprograms in 2007, 2008, 2009–2012). Figure 5 display the total budget of the Latvian Republic State Police in the period of 2007-2011.

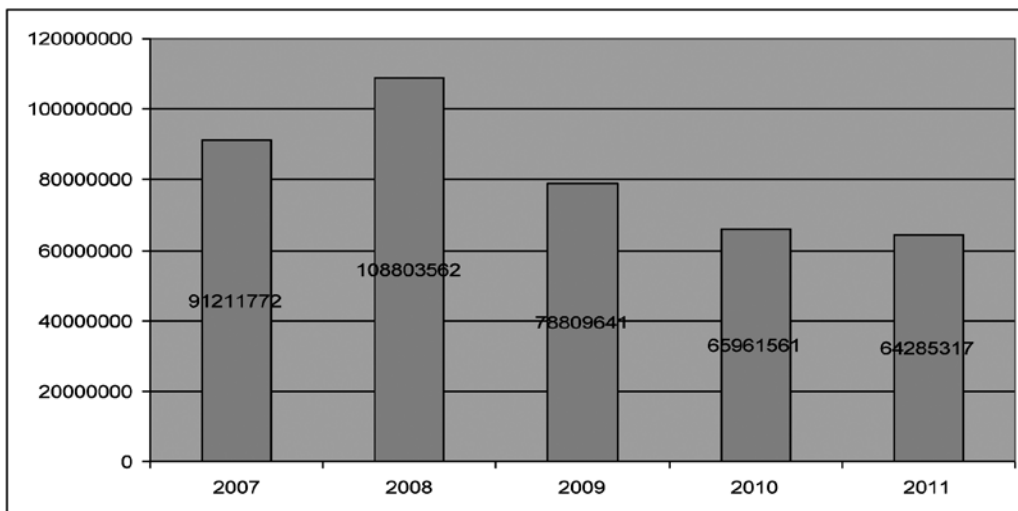


Fig. 5. Total budget of the Latvian Republic State Police in the period of 2007-2011, million Lats

Source: State budget revenue and expenditure positions by programs and subprograms in 2007, 2008, 2009-2012

Constant reduction of the budget and staff of the State Police could be reflected in the overall national security of the country. Partly supposed announcement can be justified by the statistics given above. At the same time Latvian residents are quite critical about the common security situation in the country 73% of all cases are described as causing permanent sense of insecurity by people even within a well-known block area.

Conclusions

1. It is necessary to amend Section 1 Paragraph 1 of National Security Law expanding formal definition of the national security concept with new elements i.e., indication of the overall quality of life of the population, environmental interest and public interest aspects in the interdependence of political processes in the world. Including proposed amendments, the definition of national security might look like as follows:

- a) Purposeful action;
- b) From the state and/or community;
- c) Action results in a special position;
- d) Achieved by providing state sovereignty, constitutional order, territorial integrity, freedom of public development, prosperity and stability;
- e) Inhabitants' high quality of life;
- f) Environmental protection;
- g) Stable and constant political life.

2. In addition to traditional elements of national security, which are related to military security, economic security, environmental security, border security, demographic security, natural disasters and disaster safety, energy security, geo-strategic security, information security, food security, health security, ethnic security, environmental security, cyber security, safety of the gene, it is necessary to distribute the recorded crime position. The given criteria allow determining the level of national security through quantitative indicators commonly describing the crime level as well as work of crime prevention agencies.

3. Latvian resident population officially recorded decrease by about 23000 people in 2011, at the same time recorded crime level rise by 1.8% and crime rate per capita increase from 2.27% in 2010 to 2.51% in 2011 indicate inefficient State Police preventive work and low level of national security with a tendency to worsen.

References

- Amara, J. 2012. Implications of military stabilization efforts on economic development and security: The case of Iraq, *Journal of Development Economics* 99(2): 244–254. doi: 10.1016/j.jdeveco.2012.02.001
- Baldwin, D. A. 1997. The concept of security, *Review of International Studies* 23(1): 5–26.
- Bénit-Gbaffou, C.; Didier, S.; Peyroux, E. 2012. Circulation of Security Models in Southern African Cities: Between Neo-liberal Encroachment and Local Power Dynamics, *International Journal of Urban and Regional Research* 36(5): 877–889. doi: 10.1111/j.1468-2427.2012.01134.x
- Bronson, S. B. 2012. Campus Security and Crime Prevention, in Fennelly, L. (Ed.). *Handbook of Loss Prevention and Crime Prevention*. Fifth Edition. Butterworth-Heinemann, Boston, 406–411. ISBN 9780123852465
- Cavelty, M.D. 2012. The militarization of cyberspace: Why less may be better. *4th International Conference on Cyber Conflict*. Tallinn 5-8 June 2012. Conference proceedings, 1–13. ISBN: 978-1-4673-1270-7
- Central bureau of statistics of the Republic of Latvia. 2012. Available on the Internet: <<http://data.csb.gov.lv/Dialog/Save-show.asp>>.
- Cho, Y.C. 2012. State identity formation in constructivist security studies: A suggestive essay, *Japanese Journal of Political Science* 13(3): 299–316. doi: 10.1017/S1468109912000114
- Hale, C.; Hayward, K.; Wahidin, A.; Wincup, E. 2005. *Criminology*. Oxford University press.
- Hayes, J. 2012. Securitization, social identity, and democratic security: Nixon, India, and the ties that bind, *International Organization* 66(1): 63–93. doi: 10.1017/S0020818311000324
- Hesins, M. 2011. Noziedzības līmenis - papīri un realitāte [Crime level – papers and reality]. Available on the Internet: <<http://www.delfi.lv/news/comment/comment/mihails-hesins-noziedzibas-limenis-papiri-un-realitate.d?id=38354873>>.
- Holmes, L. 2009. Crime, organized crime and corruption in post-communist Europe and the CIS, *Communist and Post-Communist Studies* 42(2): 265–287. doi: 10.1016/j.postcomstud.2009.04.002
- Hurlburt, H. 2012. Leadership, Belonging, and National Security in the 2012 Presidential Race, *Society* 49(5): 430–432.
- Kovel, J. 2012. The national security state has its way, *Capitalism, Nature, Socialism* 23(3): 1–5. doi: 10.1080/10455752.2012.701856
- Lunejev, V. 2005. *Crime of the XX century: world, regional and Russian tendencies*. Wolters Kluwer, Moscow.
- Mclaughlin, E.; Muncie, J. 2006. *The sage dictionary of Criminology*. Second Edition. SAGE Publications. 485 p.
- National security act of 1947. Available on the Internet: <<http://intelligence.senate.gov/nsaact1947.pdf>>.
- Paleri, P. 2008. *National Security: Imperatives And Challenges*. Tata McGraw-Hill Education. 521 p.

Public report of the State police in 2011. Available on the Internet: <http://www.vp.gov.lv/faili/sadalas/vp_gada_parskaite_at-skaite_2011_prezentacija.ppt>.

Romm, Joseph J. 1993. *Defining National Security: The Nonmilitary Aspects*. Council of Foreign Relations Press, New York. 122 p.

Rothschild, E. 1995. What is Security, *Daedalus* 124: 53–98.

Smith, Taylor V. 2005. Transnational Crime and U.S. National Security. Chapter 1: Human Trafficking. Available on the Internet: <<http://carpediem.im/community/threads/transnational-crime-and-u-s-national-security-chapter-1-human-trafficking.11265/>>.

State budget revenue and expenditure positions by programs and subprograms in 2009-2012. Ministry of the Interior. Available on the Internet: <[http://www.iem.gov.lv/lat/ministrija/budzeta_izdevumi_un_darbinieku_skaits/2011/files/text/IeM%20budzets%20info%202011\(1\).pdf](http://www.iem.gov.lv/lat/ministrija/budzeta_izdevumi_un_darbinieku_skaits/2011/files/text/IeM%20budzets%20info%202011(1).pdf)>.

State budget revenue and expenditure positions by programs and subprograms in 2008. Available on the Internet: <http://www.likumi.lv/wwwraksti/2008/116/BUDZETS/4_PIELIKUMS.DOC>.

State budget revenue and expenditure positions by programs and subprograms in 2007. Available on the Internet: <http://www.likumi.lv/wwwraksti/2007/164/B164/PIEL/P_04.DOC>.

Strachan-Morris, D. 2012. Threat and risk: What is the difference and why does it matter, *Intelligence and National Security* 27 (2): 172–186.

USA Patriot Act. 2001. Available on the Internet: <<http://www.aclu.org/national-security/text-usa-patriot-act>>.