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Redefining Human Security The Case of Albania

Abstract

This paper offers a critical study of the concept and issues of human security. Its usage, definition and applicability may differ since different authors explain issues related to security differently. Although there is still no common definition on what human security is, most authors agree that human security is related to individuals in terms of their wellbeing. For too long, human security has been focused on the protection of state territory, regarded as the traditional perception of security. This kind of interpretation refers to a narrow security concept, not well constructed and incapable of addressing most of the important issues related to the security of the individual. The issue of security for a nation is quite different to the issue of security for individuals, because the first tends to protect the boundaries of the state where people live while the second aims to protect all human being from insecurities. Human security is a new challenge in today's world; it presents new threats which are far away from the threats generated by the traditional concept of human security. The new concept of human security should be analysed in people's daily lives, not in a country's guns and weapons. To protect people's lives means respecting all human rights prescribed in domestic law and international conventions; violating them means causing human insecurities and the failure of the state to fulfil its own responsibilities towards the law. Therefore, the protection and the welfare of the people should become first goal of the government. In cooperation with international organizations and NGOs, governments should find and promote appropriate policies to establish a political, economic and social security environment for all the people as citizens of that country.

Keywords: security, individuals, threats, state, policy

JEL Classification: F52, I14, I31

1. Introduction

The main focus of this study will be on human security analysed in light of the individual security. The paper analyses the concept of human security through policy debates and the academic literature abroad and in Albania. It presents the relationship between the state security and the individual security. Human security attempts to challenge military and traditional state-centred perception of security and strengthen the focus to human beings as the main concern of the security. According to the contemporary interpretations of security the main object to be secured is the human being while the other traditional interpretations support the idea that security means the security of the state which refers to national security. Hence it is necessary to redefine the concept of human security related to the meaning and the definition of security. As being mostly criticized, challenged, or defended as a concept, the research tries to highlight the main function human security is playing in international area and particularly in Albania.

Further to the structure of the paper, it is divided in four sections. The first section reflects on the meaning of 'security,' 'human' and some key aspects related to human security. The section underlines the deep contrast of the relationship between state security and the individual security. The second section will analyse the 'human security' as a concept related to a new approach from a critical perspective of view. New promotion of this concept leads to different challenges which are explained in the section. The third section observes the critical debates and practices in Albania. The section provides detailed information how this concept is understood in Albania. The final section concludes the main points of the study.

This study includes qualitative research methodology, by emphasizing words and uses some data that were collected from different sources where we can find information about human security. This study uses Albania Legislation, Codes, and Reports. Then books, articles and other information are treated as secondary sources.

2. State security vs. individual security

Security is one of the important issues related to individual's life and wellbeing everywhere in the world. But traditionally, security is concentrated on more state security as 'how states manage threats to their territorial integrity, their autonomy, and their domestic political order, from other states.'¹ Others see this security 'as protection of national interests in foreign policy or as global security from the threat of a nuclear holocaust;² and 'exclusive territorial control, diplomatic autonomy, and

¹ *International Relations in India: Bringing Theory Back Home*, eds. K.P. Bajpai, S. Mallavarapu, Orient Longman, New Delhi 2005, p. 276.

² S.A. Johnson, *Challenges in Health and Development. From Global to Community Perspectives*, Springer, London, New York, p. 61.

political independence.³ It is clear that this concept of security does not include an individual security on which this study is trying to shed light on. However, in the recent years the close relationship between human security and the state has been changed. With the end of the Cold War, a new thinking in security issues grew continuously. It created a new environment for a change in the focus of security from the state to the individual because it was recognized that 'national security is insufficient to guarantee people's security.'⁴ The idea that the state is the only guarantor of security has nearly disappeared and further a human security concept has developed. New institutions and organizations were established and started to promote the principles and practices of humanitarianism. The new discourse involved different actors such as international organizations, specialized agencies, NGOs and independent commissions. The security approach changed from the traditional notion of national security to human security protection. The central objective of security is the individual. Under this new conception, security will be compared with the security of individuals, not only with the security of their nations. As MahbuulHaq stated that:

*The world is entering a new era in which the very concept of security will change and change dramatically. Security will be interpreted as: security of people, not just territory.*⁵

The main provider of people's necessities is the state. Individuals choose the government through their votes and it is the responsibility of the state to secure protection and empowerment of the people. The relation between state and individual is very important. Since ancient times state was recognized as the sole responsible for the wellbeing of the individual. For Hobbes, it meant little whether a man's insecurity was at the hands of a local thief or an invading army. Protection from either, he believed, 'was the absolute responsibility of the state.'⁶ However, many states today are partly or completely failing to fulfill their social contract to protect and provide economic and social necessities for the citizens. This happens in some cases. First when the state is not able to manage situations that put in risk and threaten individuals. For example, there is the case that occurred in Somalia where war lords and clans fought over the control of the country and '25 Pakistani UN soldiers were killed and 35 Somalis including women and children died.'⁷ Also '18 Americans troops'⁸ got killed in a gunfight in Mogadishu and President Clinton then decided and ordered U.S troops to get out from Somalia. Rwanda is also another

³ *Trafficking in Persons Report 2005*, US Department of State, <http://www.state.gov/documents/organization/47255.pdf>.

⁴ *International Relations in India: Bringing Theory Back Home*, op. cit., p. 288.

⁵ K. Bajpai, *Human Security: Concept and Measurement*, Kroc Institute Occasional Paper, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi 2000, p. 10.

⁶ T. Owen, *Challenges and opportunities for defining and measuring human security*, "Disarmament Forum" 2004, No. 2, p. 16.

⁷ J.T. O'Neil, N. Rees, *UN Peacekeeping in the Post-Cold War Era*, Routledge, New York 2005, p. 117.

⁸ NPR, *What A Downed Black Hawk in Somalia Taught America*, October 5, 2013, <http://www.npr.org/2013/10/05/229561805/what-a-downed-black-hawk-in-somalia-taught-america> (accessed: July, 2015).

failed state in providing security for its citizens with a civil war where ‘800,000 men, women, and children’⁹ were killed. The UN Security council refused to reinforce its forces in Rwanda and USA and Britain refused to use the word genocide to describe what was going on, and explained it as an internal war in which the international community had no business. Secondly, a state may lose its legitimacy to rule its country; it turns against its own citizens and threatens the security of people. The best example of this case are the states that formed part of the Arabic Spring as Libya, Egypt, Syria, Iraq, where the states collapsed and were unable to protect their people. In these examples the protection of the individuals remains no longer important for the state. Some states even threaten their own people through repression, genocide or massacre as Thakur further claims, ‘over the last century thirty million people were killed in international wars, seven million in civil wars and 170 million people were killed by their own governments.’¹⁰ These evidence shows that human security is being threatened not only by other individuals and states, but by their own state too.

State should actually do well to its own population rather than causing harm to it. The welfare and the dignity of the individual should become first goal of the government. The government and its institutions must assure security to its people, even though they will not be able to promote every aspect of the well-being. To protect people’s life means to respect human security. Respect for human security means that all actors, whether institutional or corporate or individual, must ensure that their actions do not threaten human security. Moreover, it is important to find out how human security relates to existing institutions and organizations, and how to identify what institutional structures must be created and which institution is responsible for human security and has the authority to provide it. Institutions are responsible for delivering services, which make it possible for individuals to achieve human security as well as developing the national economy and national social wellbeing. Government should promote the new ideas in regard of policy and then legitimize them through open political debate and public acceptance.

Also, Government must promote norms in order to achieve the objectives of human security and develop precise strategies to observe these norms. As Krause states that ‘the use of the concept of human security leads states and policy-makers to focus on different issues, to ask different questions, and even to promote different policies.’¹¹ In cooperation with international organizations, and NGOs government should enforce norms related to different issues of human security. Instead of using force, sanctions must be very helpful to manage human security threats. On the other side, if the use of force is allowed for some reasons, it should be used under the observation of international institutions and its rules. Along these lines, it is clear

⁹ *Genocide in Rwanda*, http://www.unitedhumanrights.org/genocide/genocide_in_rwanda.htm (accessed: November 2015).

¹⁰ E.J. Trent, *Modernizing the United Nations System: Civil Society’s Role in Moving from International Relations to Global Governance*, Barbara Budrich Publishers, Opladen 2007, p. 44.

¹¹ K. Krause, *Towards a Practical Human Security Agenda*, Geneva Centre for the Democratic Control of Armed Forces, “DCAF Policy Papers” 2007, No. 26, p. 2.

that human security and state security have a strong and mutual relationship between each other. Human security aims to promote its own policy and to have positive effect on changing security policy but it can't stand alone without the state. People live within the borders of their state, and are citizens of that state. Without the role of the state they cannot find security environment for themselves in that particular country.

3. New approach to human security

The new concept of human security is generally developed from the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) report of 1994. It defined human security as 'safety from such chronic threats as hunger, disease and repression and protection from sudden and hurtful disruption in the patterns of daily life.'¹² The UNDP's conception of human security is based on two basic components, 'freedom from want (economic and societal security dimensions) and freedom from fear (political security dimensions).'¹³ According to UNDP 'human security is not a concern with weapons-it is a concern with human life and dignity.'¹⁴ Further the Commission on Human Security adopted the definition of human security:

Human security means protecting fundamental freedoms – freedoms that are the essence of life. It means protecting people from critical (severe) and pervasive (widespread) threats and situations. It means using processes that build on people's strengths and aspirations. It means creating political, social, environmental, economic, military and cultural systems that together give people the building blocks of survival, livelihood and dignity.¹⁵

As mentioned above the UNDP emphasizes values such as the safety, welfare and dignity of the individual and also makes present the risks faced by ordinary people in their daily lives. Following the 1994 Report, the Japanese and Canadian governments both supported human security initiatives but with some differences. The Japanese government focused on freedom from want while Canada chose to focus human security more on freedom from fear related to conflict resolution and intervention. Moreover, Canadian government has given an important contribution related to human security issues emphasizing the important role of individuals; their safety and wellbeing in physical terms; and individual freedom. According to it 'human security is an alternative way of seeing the world, taking people as its point of

¹² UNDP, *Human Development Report*, Oxford University Press, New York, Oxford 1994, p. 3.

¹³ H.G. Brauch, U. Oswald, J. Grin, C. Mesjasz, P. Kameri-Mbote, N. Chadha Behera, B. Chourou, H. Krummenacher, *Facing Global Environmental Change*, Springer, Berlin 2009, p. 284.

¹⁴ UNDP, *Human Development Report* 1994, op. cit., p. 22.

¹⁵ UN-Habitat, *Enhancing Urban Safety and Security. Global Report on Human Settlements*, Earthscan, London 2007, p. 8.

reference, rather than focusing exclusively on the security of territory or government.¹⁶ These approaches prove the contrast perceptions they have with the traditional notion of human security which is state-centered. Canadian Foreign Minister, Lloyd Axworthy, defined that ‘human security includes security against economic privation, an acceptable quality of life, and a guarantee of fundamental human rights.’¹⁷ While Japan has suggested that:

*Human security – comprehensively covers all the measures that threaten human survival, daily life, and dignity – for example, environmental degradation, violations of human rights, transnational organized crime, illicit drugs, refugees, poverty, anti-personnel landmines and... Infectious diseases such as AIDS – and strengthens efforts to confront these threats.*¹⁸

Many other countries like Norway Romania, Republic of Moldova, Ukraine, Australia, Finland, the UK, and the Netherlands have also included human security issues in their national security policies.

Further, in order to understand what human security is, several questions have been raised which include issues related to ‘security for whom,’ ‘of what values,’ ‘from what threats’ and ‘by what means.’ Answers to these questions rely on the different conceptions.

‘Human security is a critical component of the global political and development agenda.’¹⁹ But there is still no consensual definition. Different scholars have come up with different definitions for the term. The ambiguity about the concept of security has long been felt by academicians as well as practitioners. Its concept is widely debated and well known around the world but its usage, definition and applicability may differ since different authors explain issues related to security differently. Although there is still no consensus on any definition on what human security is, most of the authors agree that human security is related to the individuals. Before human security was the central objective of national and international security policy related to the state-centered approaches, to understand human vulnerabilities in military interventions and civil wars aspect. Nowadays, human security is defined as a people-centric approach to security, concentrated on the safety of people and communities in terms of their political, social, environmental, economic and cultural rights and choices rather than political integrity of states. As Tadjbakhsh states ‘human security is not a concern with weapons, it is a concern with human life and dignity.’²⁰ Moreover, the concept of human security should be analyzed in the daily life of people, not in the guns and weapons of a country. Human security is not a narrow concept and it cannot be bound to traditional of national

¹⁶ A. Raven-Roberts, *Human Security: A Gender Perspective*, Hamshire College, Massachusetts 2001, p. 2.

¹⁷ *Global Governance. Critical Perspectives*, eds. R. Wilkinson, S. Hughes, C.N. Murphy, Routledge, New York 2002, p. 110.

¹⁸ *New Global Dangers. Changing Dimensions of International Security*, eds. M.E. Brown, O.R. Cote Jr., S.M. Lynn-Jones, S.E. Miller, The MIT Press, Cambridge 2004, p. 252.

¹⁹ E. Njambi, *Women Level of Participation in Peace and Security in Northern Kenya*, International Peace Support Training Centre Nairobi, Kenya 2014, p. 6.

²⁰ UNDP, *Human Development Report 1994*, op. cit., p. 22.

defense of the state. It must be broadened to include the protection and welfare of the individuals. However, this does not mean that human security conflicts with state security because the state remains the main provider of security. The case is that traditional conceptions of state security does not include all issues of human well-being. Traditionally, the citizens have to respect the system of its state such as state sovereignty, state independence and recognition by other states while according to the human security conception 'the state must serve and support the people from which it draws its legitimacy.'²¹

Human security is a new challenge in today's world. The safety, wellbeing and dignity of human beings are the major concern of human security. In order to define the concept of human security it is necessary to find out threats that are actually affecting people. 'For most people, a feeling of insecurity arises more from worries about daily life than from job security, income security, health security, environmental security, and security from crime.'²² 'The individual remains no longer only frightened by the battles and weapons, but also when he is hungry, when his home is threatened, and when his day-to-day life is unsafe.'²³ Today, individual's requirement is not only protection from harm and injury but also access to water, food, shelter, health, employment and other basic requisites to have a safety and quality of life. Moreover, it is important to find out the domains which are essential in people's life. This can be subjective, because people know better which are the main needs of their well-being and lack of them can put their life at serious risk. Most of them need to have regular monthly income. In this way employment is very important. Lack of it cause poverty which historically has been defined in terms of income. As Murray and King define poverty as 'the deprivation of any basic capabilities.'²⁴ Economic problems cause also psychological effects to the individuals by forcing them to do things that maybe they could not have done in other circumstances, such as different types of crimes (murder, robbery etc.). Hence, economic wellbeing is an important aspect for the security of the individuals. Through development people can have the possibilities and capabilities to enjoy the basic needs that are essential in their lives.

Human security aims to mitigate threats and cases to the insecurity of individuals including socio-economic and political conditions building on their strengths and aspirations, developing norms, processes and institutions that address insecurities. During the last decade, human security has become the main concern to many actors and institutions searching for new ways of identifying non-military threats to peace and security. 'Since the mid-1990s, the UN Commission for Human Security, the UNDP, the World Bank, the OECD Development Assistance Committee and the national

²¹ *Handbook of Human Security*, eds. M. Martin, T. Owen, Routledge, New York, London 2014, p. 226.

²² G. Frerks, B.K. Goldewijk, Human Security: Mapping the Challenges [in:] *Human Security and International Insecurity*, eds. G. Frerks, B.K. Goldewijk, Wageningen Academic Publishers, Wageningen 2007, p. 26.

²³ M.J. Rather, K. Jose, *Human Security: Evolution and Conceptualization*, "European Academic Research" 2014, Vol. 2, No. 5, pp. 6767–6768.

²⁴ *Human Security and Philanthropy. Islamic Perspectives and Muslim Majority Country Practices*, ed. S. Hasan, Springer, New York 2015, p. 8.

governments of Japan, United Kingdom, Canada, and others²⁵ have worked to identify different types of threats in people's daily life. Both UNDP and Canadian government categorized threats in two types; 'indirect and direct threats.'²⁶ Amongst the direct threats, they both listed everyday violent crime, repression, terrorism, and genocide while as indirect threats they listed threats related to safety and well-being (lack of food, water). As follows the effects of these threats are far away from the threats generated by traditional concept of human security. Human security aims to make the state to draw attention and address the non-traditional security threats. Today threats happen fatally beyond people's control and will. Some of them are caused 'by one group or another, whether these are terrorists, states, rebel factions, or paramilitary groups, even by organs of the state, police torturing prisoners,' 'or forms resulting from migratory movement, environmental degradation, ethnic, racial or religious conflicts, abject poverty and inequality.'²⁷ Favoritism by political leaders also influence negatively in the life of the society because they create inequality in people's life. Rules and policies approved by the government that discriminate different groups of individuals is a threat for the society.

According to the Commission on Human Security Report 2003 'more than 800,000 people a year lose their lives to violence and about 2.8 billion suffer from poverty, ill health, illiteracy and other maladies.'²⁸ Moreover, there are other cases where 'humans are not the only threat to human security.'²⁹ These cases are natural disasters that can kill millions of people. It is very difficult to predict when it can happen in order to take appropriate measures for the community. 'The 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami, Hurricane Katrina in 2005, the Australian bushfires in 2009, the 2010 Haiti earthquake and the 2010 Pakistan floods.'³⁰ are examples of natural disaster. The consequences of such catastrophes are terrible. 'People feel for many years being displaced within their own place, their livelihoods destroyed, and facing long-term health issues.'³¹

Human security needs special attention in two aspects: physical security which includes non-material aspect of security and the protection of basic liberties in relation with different needs. In such a way, human life will be developed better as an adequate standard of living and protection of their rights and fundamental freedoms. Individuals must have 'a bundle of basic resources, both material and psychosocial that constitute an indivisible set of necessary inputs and conditions for stability and

²⁵ K. Hussein, D. Gnisci, J. Wanjiru, *Security and Human Security: An Overview of Concepts and Initiatives. What Implications for West Africa?*, Sahel and West Africa Club, Paris 2014, p. 11.

²⁶ *International Relations in India: Bringing Theory Back Home*, op. cit., p. 296.

²⁷ Ibrahim J., *The Immunity of Human life in International Documents*, "Advances in Environmental Biology" 2014, Vol. 16, No. 8, pp. 339–344; *Human Security in Nepal: Concepts, Issues and Challenges*, eds. B.R. Upreti, R. Bhattarai, G.Sh. Wagle, NIPS and NCCR North-South, Kathmandu, p. 14.

²⁸ *Encounters with World Affairs. An Introduction to International Relations*, ed. E. Kavalski, Ashgate, Farnham, p. 214.

²⁹ M. Futamura, Ch. Hobson, N. Turner, *Natural Disasters and Human Security*, United Nations University, April 29, 2011, <http://unu.edu/publications/articles/natural-disasters-and-human-security.html> (accessed: October, 2015).

³⁰ *Challenges for Human Security Engineering*, eds. Y. Yoshida, M. Matsuoka, Kyoto 2014, p. 146.

³¹ M. Futamura, Ch. Hobson, N. Turner, op. cit.

well-being.³² In this case, human security is compound of two aspects; quantitative which include basic needs (food, shelter, education and health care) and qualitative aspects referring to dignity, 'personal autonomy, and control over one's life, participation in the community, chance and opportunity.'³³

4. Case study of Albania

Till the 1990s, the concept of national security in Albania was state-centered. Security was a very important issue to the communist party. The policies of the communist regime were focused on people and their security was part of the party policies to protect their people from inside enemies and outside. After the 1990s until the adoption of the new Albanian Constitution in 1998 the new democratic regime paid more attention to the security concept in general and human security in particular which found necessary to redefine the concept of domestic security, finding new directions and recognize national and international threats.

The collapse of the pyramid schemes where the majority of the people lost the money in 1997 led to the collapse of the state and anarchy was over the country putting people's life in danger. After the election in 1998 when Socialist Party came in power the first strategic document began to be drafted. In cooperation with international actors and NGO's Albania started to improve the framework of the security and defense policy in order to be able to respond to the security and defense challenges. Below in the table are given the strategic documents showing the adoption date and when these documents are reviewed.

Table 1. Strategic Documents of Albania

Title of The Strategy	Year of Adoption	Amendment Review
Security Strategy Document of the Republic of Albania	2000	Yes, 2004
Defense Policy Document of the Republic of Albania	2000	Yes, 2007
Military Strategy of the Republic of Albania	2002	Yes, 2005
Strategy of the Ministry of Defense Sector 2007-2013	2007	No
National Strategy on Integrated Border Management Action Plan	2007	No
National Strategy on Public Order Sector and State Police and Its National Action Plan	2007	No
National Action Plan for the Fight against Trafficking in Vehicles Motor	2007	No
Strategy to Fight Organized Crime, Trafficking and Terrorism	2007	No

Source: E. Hide, G. Kamberi, *Security Policies in the Western Balkans: Albania*, Belgrade Centre for Security Policy, Belgrade 2010, p. 10.

The table shows the first documents regarding national security and defense strategies designed in 2000 and revised versions in 2002, 2004, 2005 and 2007. The drafting period coincides with a relative stability in the economic and political

³² J. Leaning, S. Arie, *Human Security: A Framework for Assessment In Conflict and Transition*, Linking Complex Emergency Response and Transition Initiative, USAID 2000, p. 12.

³³ S. Tadjbakhsh, A.M. Chenoy, *Human Security, Concepts and Implications*, Routledge, New York 2007, p. 46.

spheres, as Albania had overcome the difficult year of 1997, the political unrest of 1998, and the Kosovo crisis of 1999 including all issues to be addressed during this year.

‘Security strategies and security doctrine framework at local level identify four categories as threats and risks for Albania: organized crime, terrorism, disasters and problems of transition.’³⁴ The process of approving and updating the strategic documents is based on important factors such as: ‘1) the change in the Albanian security environment, as well as the regional security environment; 2) the pressure of international community for developing comprehensive strategic security framework; 3) membership in NATO and the EU perspective, or the so-called “Euro-Atlantic integration agenda” (particularly NATO membership through stages imposed by Membership Action Plan (MPA); and 4) the legislation.’³⁵

The strategic framework on security and defense constitutes the appropriate step towards ensuring a safe environment in the country and beyond. On the other hand, there is a lack of a model for evaluating the risks, threats, and challenges coming either from local sources or from the international environment. Therefore, Albania’s Strategic Framework is mostly concentrated on the traditional view of security to ensure the territorial integrity of the state, rather than to emphasize the human security of citizen and focused on the people-centered aspect. From this perspective, the classic formulation of security is the protection and welfare of the state, whereas what should be important is the protection and welfare of the individual. The Albanian Constitution of 1998 guarantees fundamental rights but implementation of these rights has done significant progress over the past years. There is still need for improvement, in order to achieve higher standards regarding the fundamental freedoms, the rule of law and reform on the legal system to protect and to insure a social equity on Albania’s overall human rights record. The reforms in this regard are a condition to be fulfilled for Albania aspiring to become an EU Member State.

Developing a national security concept in Albania, there are some questions to be raised: What does it mean to feel secure? How much security? Security for who?

Human security in Albania has been seriously threatened ‘from political instability, macroeconomic fragility and lack of government capacity or willingness to provide basic services and to protect people’s safety and security.’³⁶ Poverty and unemployment are the primary concerns for human security in Albania. Poverty levels have dropped from 18 to 12 per cent in the past 4 years.³⁷ Albanians face a lot of problems. From one side, there are people fighting to have a minimum standard of living and others finding ways how to develop better standards of living. Further, when circumstances differ this makes the standard to be different, and the

³⁴ E. Hroni, G. Kamberi, B. Baka, *Security Management Network. Policy, Democracy and Mediation*, Centre For European and Security Affairs, Tirana 2011, p. 10.

³⁵ E. Hide, G. Kamberi, op. cit., p. 12.

³⁶ IFIC/JICA, *Poverty Reduction and Human Security*, Institute for International Cooperation & Japan International Cooperation Agency, Tokyo 2006, p. xv.

³⁷ E. Abazi, A. Rakipi, *Human Security in Albania with a Case Study on the Energy Crisis. Problems and Implications upon Human Security*, Prepared for United Nation Development Programme in Albania, Albanian Institute for International Studies, Tirana 2004, p. 9.

individual can be deprived from different opportunities and development processes. Sometimes these situations cause the loss of human's lives too. Starting here from the escape of the Albanians in the early '90s to enter in the embassies or to cross the sea with ships or other means which caused the loss of many innocent lives in the desperate trips as the Otranto tragedy on 28 March 1997. 'The Italian Marine vessel named "Sibila" hit the body of the small 23 meters long vessel, "Kateri I Rades" ship causing the death of 84 people, with only 34 survivors. 24 of the bodies have never been found.'³⁸ 'On 9 January 2004, people traveling by motorboat to Italy died in the Otranto Channel.'³⁹ 'On 15 March 2008, 15 km away from Tirana, after an explosion in a factory for disassembling weapons, 26 persons lost their lives, including women and children. Over 300 persons were injured from the explosion, whereas businesses and private residences in that area were damaged.'⁴⁰ Many Albanians were hired for such a dangerous job without insurance paid and training for that particular job. It is important to mention that everyone was putting his life on danger for 0.1€ which was the price to dismantling one projectile (approx.: 10 to 13.3 cent). The biggest problem was the employment of the children at the age 12–16, reported to have been seen working in the factory. Most of the workers also were not officially registered as employed by the company. The tragedy of Gerdec, more than any other event faced the real situation of the political, economic and social system in Albania. Furthermore, to get more information in details about human security in Albania, 7 components of security listed by 1994 Human Development Report, will be analyzed in regard of it.

4.1. Food Security

Food Security means 'when all people at all times have access to sufficient, safe, nutritious food to maintain a healthy and active life.'⁴¹ People living in the rural areas grow all components of food which is for their need or they sell it for others in the market as a regulator of providing goods for some and incomes for others. In Albania, the period following the fall of communist regime resulted in a total dependence on imported food products.⁴² The abandoning of the lands, lack of financing in the rural areas, an unfavorable legal framework to compete with imported goods, destruction of the previous food industry, raised the concern on food security which has a direct impact on human security. The lack of the food is no less important than malnutrition as a serious problem of food security for the families with low incomes linked with the high infant mortality in some particular parts of the country. Mismanagement and political crisis have lead sometimes to food

³⁸ *Otranto tragedy commemorated in Vlore*, March 28, 2012, <http://top-channel.tv/english/artikull.php?id=5254> (accessed: October 2015).

³⁹ *January 9th tragedy boat driver arrested*, November 11, 2011, <http://www.top-channel.tv/english/artikull.php?id=3573> (accessed: October 2015).

⁴⁰ *Today is 4th anniversary of tragedy of Gerdec*, March 15, 2012, <http://www.kosovapress.com/archive/?cid=2,83,144425> (accessed: October, 2015).

⁴¹ WHO, *Trade, foreign policy, diplomacy and health*, <http://www.who.int/trade/en/> (accessed: October 2015).

⁴² S. Hroni, *Human Security in Albania*, Security and Management Sector, IDM, Tirana 2009, p. 2.

emergencies for example the ‘mission Pelikani’ in 1991 and ‘Operation Alba’ in 1997 which are the best examples of the failure of the state even in providing the basic needs for people.

4.2. Economic Security

According to the International Labour Organisation (ILO) economic security includes ‘basic social security, defined by access to basic needs infrastructure pertaining to health, education, dwelling, information, and social protection, as well as work-related security.’⁴³ It refers also ‘to the condition of having a stable source of financial income that allows for the on-going maintenance of one’s standard of living currently and in the near future.’⁴⁴ ILO also defines the basic security concept as:

*Limiting the impact of uncertainties and risks people face daily while providing a social environment in which people can belong to a range of communities, have a fair opportunity to pursue a chosen occupation and develop their capacities.*⁴⁵

Albania has faced many economic problems. In 1997 when pyramid system collapsed by causing the loss of the incomes and savings, most of the Albanians thought that government failed to take precautions to control and manage the situation and everything turned into chaos.

The state has a great responsibility to secure people from different economic crises by increasing the social assistance, supporting business by reducing the taxes and providing fiscal assistance and laws to protect them. Government on the other hand should strengthen the attempts to ensure sustainable work for all. It should find platforms for individuals to have access to land, job, education, and housing. Especially for poor people, this is critical. Government should also avoid the difference between the social classes and make life easier for people in need. A balanced distribution of resources is the main key to protect lower social classes and to enhance people’s own capacity and ingenuity. From this perspective in Albania, state, supported by the international system, needs to establish early warning systems and prevention measures for natural disasters and economic or financial crises in order to prevent the economic collapse with the direct impact on peoples lives.

Economic security requires a stable basic income from productive and remunerative work.⁴⁶ However, ‘over the last ten years the unemployment rate in Albania has decreased from 18.4 % in 1999 to 12.7 % in 2008 and this can be attributed to economic growth which has been stable at around 6%–7%.’⁴⁷

⁴³ International Labour Organization, *Definitions: What we mean when we say “economic security”*, <http://www.ilo.org/public/english/protection/ses/download/docs/definition.pdf>.

⁴⁴ C.C. Uchendu, R.O. Osim, F.N. Odigwe, *Managing Entrepreneurship Education for Economic Security at University Level in Cross River State*, “Journal of Educational and Social Research” 2012, Vol. 5, No. 2, p. 261.

⁴⁵ J. Barry, *The Politics of Actually Existing Unsustainability*, Oxford University Press, New York 2012, p. 166.

⁴⁶ *Globalisation and Environmental Challenges. Reconceptualizing Security in 21st Century*, eds. H.G. Brauch, Ü. Oswald Spring, C. Mesjasz, J. Grin, P. Dunay, N.C. Behera, B. Chourou, P. Kameri-Mbote, P.H. Liotta, Vol. 5, Springer, Berlin, Heidelberg, New York 2008, p. 577.

⁴⁷ S. Hroni, op. cit., p. 2.

4.3. Environmental Security

The environmental security is an important aspect of national security. 'It refers to the integrity of land, air, and water, which make human habitation possible.'⁴⁸

Environmental security is a state obligation to minimize the risk of natural disasters with severe humanitarian consequences. Disasters threaten the environment and affect the basic needs for food, water, shelter and make the habitant feel unsecured in the place where they live in. The disasters cause also waste of resources and funds that can be used for improving the standards of living and the environment in general.

Albania's National Security Strategy, approved by the National Assembly in 2004 does not pay any attention to environmental security issues. The floods in the North-West part of Albania call attention to the need for a secured environment. In these situations, state has failed to take the necessary precautions to organize the habitant areas of living and to control the establishment of the people. Moreover, the pollution caused by vehicle fleet and from industry is another problem of the environment. The government does not have any policy on how to abate the air pollution and reduce emissions from these two sources. Furthermore, lack of strategy and modern system of waste collection, disposal and recycling, cause serious problems to the Albanian citizens' life.

4.4. Personal Security

Personal security is defined as 'security from physical violence.'⁴⁹ Personal security means also 'the legal and uninterrupted enjoyment by a man of his life, his body, his health and his reputation.'⁵⁰

Personal security in Albania is very sensitive; there are few studies and there are many things to be improved and to be added to the strategic documents of the state policies. Referring to the data, at least '14% of the Albanian population feels unsafe in their homes while not less than 20% of the Albanians feel personally unsafe in the streets.'⁵¹ This shows the difference that exists between personal security threats on reality and the absence of the measures to handle the situation and establishing a long-term strategy to manage this particular crisis.

There are many threats to personal security among which the following needs special mentioning:⁵²

- (1) threats from the state (physical torture),
- (2) threats from other states (war),
- (3) threats from other groups of people (ethnic tension),

⁴⁸ P. Walpole, *In Search of Integrity: Looking after Basic Needs in the Forests, Forest Center Contribution to Millenium Development Goals*, The Asia Forest Network Tagbilaran, n.d, p. 19.

⁴⁹ T. Metan, *Facing Human Security Challenges in the 21st Century*, Langaa Research & Publishing Common Initiative Group, Bamenda 2014, p. 323.

⁵⁰ E. Chitty, *The Commercial and General Lawyer; A Plain and Practical Ecpotion of the Law of England*, London 1839, p. 14.

⁵¹ S. Hroni, op. cit., p. 3.

⁵² A. Zwitter, *Human Security, Law and Prevention of Terrorism*, Routledge, New York 2011, p. 105.

- (4) threats from individuals or gangs against other individuals or gangs (crime, street violence),
- (5) threats directed against women (rape, domestic violence),
- (6) threats directed at children based on their vulnerability and dependence (child abuse),
- (7) and treats to self (suicide, drug use).

4.5. Health Security

Health security is recognized as a serious threat to people especially in developing countries; millions die every year of infectious and parasitic diseases, such as HIV/AIDS and malaria. 'A majority of these deaths are related with poor nutrition and an unsafe environment, particularly polluted water.'⁵³ Maternal mortality is also a serious problem where thousands of women die every year on this regard leaving many children orphans from birth. Maternal mortality could be a symptom of a failing health care system.

In Albania, many improvements have been made on the education for young mothers, improvement of the hospitals and health care centers; but the quality of services and accommodations shows the difference compared with many other countries. Regarding safe water and sanitation there are still many steps to be taken. The reforms on the medical system taken by government still show the need for more action. Hygiene in hospitals, the care of patients, the quality of the medication and the treatment is a point for improvement being in the focus of the many NGO's and different institutions.

4.6. Community Security

'Community security is a powerful approach that builds human security and contributes to wider peace and development goals.'⁵⁴ It helps to strengthen relations between states and societies and improve people's experiences of security. 'Community security affirms the need for institutional and technical reforms, investments in transitional interventions that build upon existing capacities and sources of legitimacy.'⁵⁵ The idea that security is the sole preserve of the state should be abandoned because people should always be at the center of this issue such as peace, security and development interventions. People need to protect and develop their own identity in which they believe. People through their membership 'of a social group which can be a family, a community, an organization, a racial or ethnic group possess a personal security, also providing this individual with an identity and reassuring set of values.'⁵⁶

⁵³ U.B. Panisset, *International Health Statecraft. Foreign Policy and Public Health in Peru's Cholera Epidemic*, Unniversity Press of America, New York/Oxford 2000, p. 105.

⁵⁴ *Improving community security*, <http://www.saferworld.org.uk/what/community-security> (accessed: October, 2015).

⁵⁵ W. Bennett, *Community Security Handbook*, Saferworld, London 2004, p. i.

⁵⁶ I.U. Gadzama, *Effects of president Umaru Musa.Yar'Adua's 7-Point Agenda On Agriculture Development and Food Security in Nigeria*, "European Scientific Journal" 2013, Vol. 9, No. 32, p. 455.

The member of the minority sometime feel self-suppressed and not really involved in the general life but in Albania the rights given to such groups are much higher than any other country in the region. The Greek minority enjoys good position; they have access in political decision-making representation; they gain a good education by using their native language. The Macedonian Minority positioned in Prespa area, near Korça, raise many problems related to:⁵⁷

- (1) lack of education opportunities,
- (2) lack of population registration,
- (3) difficulties in preserving their own culture and national identity,
- (4) lack of political representation and furthermore lack of investments,
- (5) developing policies in this region.

4.7. Political Security

The concept of political security is based on the democratic principles of the government and protection and respect of human rights. The interpretation of political security in Albania includes 5 major aspects which are analyzed as follows:⁵⁸

- (1) level of democratization. The Albanian Parliament has further consolidated its role as a focus for the political debate while the main political forces have started to cooperate in major issues. This consensus between the ruling party and the opposition party has resulted in a progress achieved in regards to court's and elections reforms. Nevertheless, few weeks before June 28th 2009 which coincides with the start of parliamentary elections, the process of delivering identity documents has not yet been finished jeopardizing the whole election process and the right to vote for each citizen;
- (2) protections against state repression are freedom of speech/press. The Constitution for the Republic of Albania, literally guarantees the freedom of speech and freedom of press (media). What is needed is the adequate implementation of the legislation and resolving sensitive issues such as decriminalization of defamation in the penal code and the adoption of a new legislation regarding the transparency of media ownership;
- (3) respect for human rights. Regardless the fact that the legislative framework seems complete enriched with additional national strategies, the biggest challenge is the efficient implementation of the existing legislation;
- (4) democratic expectations. According to the prestigious newspaper "The Economist" Albania is ranked in the 81st place out of 167 countries, regarding the level of democracy development, leading the list of 'hybrid democracy' countries. In this context, various reforms and changes in Electoral Code and justice have taken place. Nevertheless, the legal procedures have remained slow and substantially lack transparency.
- (5) prevention of torture, abolishment of political sentences. The Republic of Albania has signed the conventions that prevent imprisonment for political

⁵⁷ Institute for Democracy and Mediation, *Security Reforms Issues in Albania*, Besnik Baka Tirana 2009, p. 23.

⁵⁸ Ibidem.

motives, torture, or people extinction. In the past, there has been cases related to maltreatment of inductees during the arrest and interrogation process. The 1999 Canadian paper amplifies the 1997 approach by listing six broader principles that might guide actions. Combined, these boil down to three major principles.

5. Conclusion

The concept of human security and state security constitute an important debate to the interested actors involved. Both concepts help us to understand different situations related to security. However, human security truly reminds us that the state should concern to provide security for the individual rather than being only concerned about its borders. The state itself should consider that recent threats affect seriously the wellbeing of humans.

Regarding Albania, the main challenge remains to the implementation of policies that make human security work properly. It is important to underline that there is a lack of framework and analysis that makes this concept weak. Unfortunately, Albania government has failed to protect people and society from serious threats affecting human life and no preventive measures has been taken in regard. The wellbeing of the citizens must be the main concern of the state. Government should take precautions and take real steps to change the situations by finding useful and practical strategies.

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