

Security policy in France

Today, France is in a worrying situation with regard to delinquency. It can no longer be denied that there has been a significant increase in violence against people and the security forces.

Several factors explain this.

The fight against organized crime in our country resulted in the slow disappearance of large criminal organizations in the late 90s / early 2000s.

The disappearance of these large organizations that held the drug market has led to the appearance of what is called in police jargon the 'small city boss'.

At the same time, communitarianism also developed, as did the practice of radical Islam.

These neighborhood delinquents have the peculiarity of having a feeling of rejection towards the Republic and its representatives, which regularly leads to clashes with the forces of law and order. Their activity is generally carried out from their place of residence or nearby.

At the same time, the forces of law and order have been subjected to important structural changes that have weakened them in the use of public force. The 'fear of the Gendarme' is no longer a deterrent for many criminals, as well as the legal proceedings, as evidenced by the attacks against the forces of law and order that have been legion in recent years and are increasing in power.

This type of delinquency harms all the inhabitants of the neighborhoods from which they operate, their isolation makes interventions difficult.

The cumbersome nature of the criminal procedure has been steadily increasing since several successive reforms, complicating the work of investigators and requiring significant human resources to absorb the flow of procedures and complaints.

Several levers exist in order to free up human resources to put them back on the public highway, thus making it possible to no longer leave certain territories of the Republic abandoned.

Repositioning prevention at the heart of the police profession also seems necessary, as its abandonment has made itself felt.

The presence of police officers in the heart of neighborhoods is a guarantee of security and public peace, it is a necessity and a right for all.

As a reminder, the Proximity Police set up by the Socialist Government relied heavily on prevention, which was undermined by Nicolas Sarkozy, who in 2003 buried the only police force that had had positive results in difficult sectors. Why abolish this police force? The reason was essentially budgetary, as the right-wing government decided to drastically reduce the number of personnel. In addition, the RGPP (Révision Générale des Politiques Publiques) also had a disastrous impact that led the authorities of the time to put in place a management system based on numerical results that made it possible to establish statistics artificially illustrating the fight against delinquency, all of which was coupled with performance bonuses for department heads (certain annual amounts exceeding 90,000 euros). This system, which is still in place today, contributes to turning police officers into machines for apprehending and fining people for whatever reason, which leads to an almost continuous increase in the number of police custody and the costs associated with it. Thus, for certain cases with a minimal prejudice of a few tens of euros, the total cost to the taxpayer can amount to tens of thousands of euros (time of civil servants, lawyers, doctor, translator, etc.) for a penal response that will end with a classification code with no follow-up.

In the media, the end of community policing was illustrated in 2003 on the day Nicolas Sarkozy

basically said that the police were not social workers, that they didn't have to play soccer, we now know that he was wrong.

Police officers are part of the daily landscape, the term peacekeeper is very well chosen, they should not only represent the public force that intervenes in case of problems.

Previously in the days of community policing, the police officer had to be known and recognized, and had much smaller areas. His activity was not judged by numbers, which did not lead to the current excesses. Working in small areas meant that the civil servants knew their area and its inhabitants better, and the reciprocal was also true since the police officers were no longer just uniforms but people with names, which had the effect of calming relations with offenders over time.

Report

- In the last 2 years, there has been a significant increase in attacks on individuals (lynchings, theft violence, gratuitous violence),

If we look at the indicator of the crime rate in France, 970 murders were committed in 2019 in France against 894 in 2018, an increase of 8.5%.

Added to the attempts, this is the highest number since 1972.

Daily violence is also reflected in the statistics recorded by police and gendarmes, with an 8% increase in intentional assault and battery in 2019.

- law enforcement is becoming increasingly difficult, as demonstrations are infiltrated by extremist groups whose aim is to create degradation and conflict with law enforcement.
- increase in police suicides
- zones of no right (under the influence of the small caïdat of the cities)
- Non-respect for the security forces (violence, rebellion, refusal to comply, attacks on premises, distrust of demonstrators).
- Obsolete and overburdened criminal procedure (80% of the work concerns the form and justification of judicial acts, 80% of the procedures end up in dismissal).
- Altered brand image of the national police force.
- A police force whose effectiveness is measured through statistics, omitting the prevention aspect, which is at the heart of the police profession.
- In some isolated neighbourhoods, the only contact between the police and the population is during the response to crime, which often requires the use of law enforcement. The police officer is therefore systematically associated with the use of violence, which hinders the establishment of any other link.

Solutions

Refocus the action on the reconquest of the cities. Put an end to drug trafficking.

The goal is to put the police officer back at the heart of neighbourhoods as a full member of community life. When community policing was in operation, weekly meetings were held between all those involved in community life: education services, landlords, social workers, security agents, etc. These meetings made it possible to highlight problems encountered (presence of traffickers in a building lobby or garage, delinquency in or near schools, etc.) and to find solutions quickly and effectively, for example by giving access passes to the common areas of certain buildings to the residents.

- relocation of police offices in the heart of neighbourhoods
- constant deployment of anti-riot units on the outskirts of the cities.
- Redeployment of staff in the field.
- Prioritize the fight against the small caïdat of the cities
- facilitate the seizure of vehicles used by offenders.
- Expulsion of the families of multi-recidivist offenders involved in drug trafficking in cases where the entire family benefits from the fruits of trafficking.
- Put in place mediation officers in the neighbourhoods.

Make the fight against violence a national priority.

In the early 2010's, violence returned in the parades of demonstrators with the arrival of groups (such as black blocs) that broke with a habit that had existed since the 1980's and 1990's. The violence was not a problem for the protesters, but rather for the people. The summer of 2020 has been marked by ultra-violent events that have left their mark on people's minds and will undoubtedly have the effect of inciting some to vote for extremist candidates who could play on the fear and emotion caused by these events which tend to become commonplace.

Some of these facts look like scenes from horror movies and are just inconceivable in a country like ours, they testify to the dangerousness of some offenders who have no barriers, no empathy, no fear of the consequences, of the laws and of those who are supposed to enforce them.

None of the sanctions administered to perpetrators of similar acts have had enough impact to discourage potential future perpetrators, due to the slowness of justice, which is often overwhelmed and unable to deliver justice within timeframes that are understandable to both victims and perpetrators.

Unfortunately, this violence is also more and more present during demonstrations, their infiltration by black blocks being a major factor.

In the words of a police trade unionist, a grenelle of violence would undoubtedly be a good idea and could allow us to find solutions to stop the spiral in which our country finds itself, which needs a strong signal for France to regain serenity.

Strengthening the status of police officers, restoring a foundation to a profession in need.

The news unfortunately reminds us almost every week that the police profession is a risky one, as the increase in the number of injured and dead on duty testifies, as well as the increase in the number of suicides. More than ever, police officers need more than ever to be able to carry out their job serenely in order to be effective. In cases of self-defense, many police officers did not use their weapon, as it is now conditioned by the fear of legal consequences, the administration must be a bulwark.

We cannot tolerate the treatment that is made by certain media and on social networks towards a profession whose agents sometimes pay a high price in the exercise of their duties: the price of their lives.

Part of the job of a police officer is carried out on the public highway, to the eyes and ears of all, at a time when anyone can record any intervention. This induces a stress that can contribute to incidents, who could work serenely in these conditions?

- salary increase
- creation of two bodies: application and framing. This model already exists in some directorates (PAF in some regions; small Public Security offices) and allows greater proximity between all civil servants.
- Recruitment of officers through internal channels only, pyramidal career progression. The hierarchical relationship between the different bodies that make up the police (peacekeepers, officers, commissioners) is sometimes difficult, the base does not feel understood by the highest body, and for good reason, most commissioners enter the administration through external channels.
- **Creation of a shield for all officers**, i.e. to restore the confidence of police officers in their administration, many feel caught in an unbearable vice between offenders and an administration that in case of problems uses them as fuses to individualize the fault instead of protecting the public servant.
- Reform disciplinary procedures in parallel with criminal procedures to preserve the presumption of innocence of civil servants.
- Creation of an offence prohibiting the filming/recording/broadcasting of police interventions. The consequences of such videos and the editing they are subject to sometimes lead to dramatic and costly consequences, such as riots, degradation. At the same time, on-board cameras are becoming more and more common during police operations.
- To create a more effective communication service for the police in order to respond quickly to the population's expectations on current events, to explain the motus operandi of certain police operations/interventions.
- strengthening the functional protection of civil servants.
- Right to an attorney at the very beginning of a procedure initiated against an agent.
- A firm prison sentence is imposed for any physical harm to security forces officers.
- Reinforcement and extension of self-defense, especially on road controls.
- Update the IWGPs by making them more operational and in tune with our times (Judo, MMA). In many cases where force is used on the public highway, for example, to arrest a recalcitrant individual, the protagonists end up falling to the ground voluntarily or not. A sport such as judo allows you to take the upper hand in this type of situation, while causing as little damage as possible to the

involved, or even none at all.

- Make sport an integral part of the job (access to sports halls, weekly/daily sessions). In addition to the beneficial effects on the health and morale of civil servants, a more regular practice of certain disciplines would quite simply provide officers with the know-how to enable them to be better able to accomplish the tasks assigned to them while giving them greater security thanks to techniques that are better adapted to the reality of the field.
- Continuing education in English.
- Use of non-lethal weapons for training and shooting sessions in order to increase the annual cadence, increase in the number of training sessions for professional intervention techniques.

Lightening and reform of criminal procedure.

- oralisation of the procedure, pre-filled pv's
- simplified procedures
- use of handrails and conciliation for small disputes
- Strengthening of procedures for prior recognition of guilt.
- local jurisdiction
- autonomy of police offices in the management of the most common cases and arrests.
- Recasting of the judicial police into a single entity.
- Standardization of procedural formalism for all police and gendarmerie services dealing with legal proceedings.

These combined effects would reduce the cost of a procedure by freeing up staff time, for example by increasing the number of staff in the field.

Strengthening police/justice collaboration

- removal of the telephone barrier. At present, several hours of waiting are sometimes necessary to reach a magistrate of the Public Prosecutor's Office in order to have a decision regarding a police custody (lifting of police custody, prescription of additional acts necessary for the investigation, deferment, etc.).
- Permanence of the mobile prosecutor's office/prosecutor's office in the most important police stations (also allowing the so-called 'on-site' processing of procedures).