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HISTORICAL OVERVIEW OF THE APPLICATION OF CIVIL PROTECTION ORGANISATIONS IN DISASTER MANAGEMENT

POLGÁRI VÉDELMI SZERVEZETEK KATASZTRÓFAVÉDELMI ALKALMAZÁSÁNAK TÖRTÉNETI ÁTTEKINTÉSE

Absztrakt:

Magyarországon a polgári védelem történetében a Genfi Egyezményt követően teremtődtek meg annak a lehetőségei, hogy az önkéntesek, azok szervezetei békeidőszakban, háborús helyzetben, valamint különleges jogrendi időszakban is képesek a differenciált felkészítésnek köszönhetően részt venni a polgári lakosság védelemében. Felkészítésükben a korosztályhoz, nemhez, végzettséghez igazított lehetőségek álltak és állnak rendelkezésre. Az elmúlt évtizedekben a geopolitikai, gazdasági és környezeti változások jelentős hatással voltak a lakosságvédelmi feladatokra azok megújítására, melynek eredményeként jött létre a polgári védelem jelenlegi rendszere

Kulcsszavak: lakosságvédelem, légoltalom, katasztrófavédelem, polgári védelem, biztonság

In the history of the Hungarian civil protection, the Geneva Conventions created the possibility for volunteers and their organisations to take part in the protection of civilians in times of peace and war and in special legal orders due to differentiated trainings. Possibilities were and still are tailor made for specific age groups, sex and qualifications. In recent decades, geo-political, economic, and environmental changes have had a significant impact on population protection tasks and their renewal which developed the current system of civil protection.

Keywords: population protection, air defence, disaster management, civil protection, security

INTRODUCTION - DEFENCE AND SECURITY

Protection against disasters and the desire for security is as old as mankind. Cavemen resided in caves for safety and protection against the extremes of weather and wild animals and in the absence of a permanent home, they primarily settled down on areas rich in water and food, enough for their subsistence. The tribes and families lived in small communities and groups, a long distance away from each other, so natural disasters – earthquakes, fires caused by lightning, floods – did not affect a large number of people. After a natural disaster, the tribes and families migrated to safer areas. In already established and larger communities, villages and towns, residents had to live with increased risk. [1]

As early as the Roman times, stone houses were built to avoid lightning fires and canals were constructed against flooding. However, roofs were made of wood and straw and the densely

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built houses were quickly destroyed by fire. On the model of the legions, Emperor Augustus set up an independent firefighting organisation in Rome in 21 BC. [2]

Besides natural disasters and epidemics, the most destructive human activity is warfare, leading to significant social and economic catastrophes. At first, the civilian population kept watch and fled to defend themselves. In World War I, civil defence rose to a new level with the deployment of aircraft. In order to protect the hinterland, the civilians were prepared and trained for rescue from under debris, first aid basics, watch and warning units were organised and blackouts were imposed. [1] Aircraft became one of the most important tools of war and determined civil protection duties for long decades. [3]

To avoid the effects on the lives and property of citizens, organised administrative and preventive actions are essential, along with relying on international relations and volunteering.

For the individual, safety denotes a state in which social relations, economic characteristics are undisturbed to exert their effects on the individual, and he is not exposed to direct criminological risk. The safety of the individual cannot be separated from the social, political, economic, military and public safety. Through the safety of one individual, we can get to the safety of communities and eventually to the safety of mankind and the Earth's ecosystem. [4]

The core areas of safety are economic, political, social, military, environmental and public safety. Areas of environmental safety are the following: environmental and nature protection, health protection, industrial safety, transport safety, and disaster management, which includes protecting our natural resources, natural areas and natural values, conserving environmental balance, and protecting against natural and man-made disasters and health hazards.

FROM AIR DEFENCE TO CIVIL PROTECTION

After World War I, the Hungarian Air Raid Defence – the predecessor of civil protection – was created by Act XII of 1935 on air raid defence (hereinafter referred to as the Air Defence Act). [5] In accordance with the implementing regulation of the Air Defence Act issued by the Hungarian Royal Minister of Defence (Decree No. 17.176. 15-1936), the Minister of Defence was in charge of organising and managing the civilian aspect of air raid defence, through the National Air Raid Defence Commander. [6] The Air Raid Defence League (hereinafter referred to as the League) was organised along these lines, in order to organise self-protection activities of the population. Based on it, in addition to the compulsory air raid defence duties imposed on the Hungarian citizens between the age of 14 and 60, volunteers were welcome in defence activities. [7] Based on Act II of 1939 on national defence, air defence duties were also imposed on individuals with national defence duties, including women under the age of 16 and individuals and volunteers under the age of 42 in time of peace. [8]

The League was founded as a social organization on 5 December 1937 in Budapest under ceremonial circumstances, whose president was Field Marshal Archduke Joseph August of the Habsburg-Lorraine House from 1937 to 1944, president of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences [9], whose Lord Protector was Governor Miklós Horthy.

Citizen preparation and training began, as a part of which primary and secondary school textbooks were published on air raid defence in 1937, which prepared students for how to manage alerts, and then in 1938 the previously optional training was added to the mandatory school curriculum. In 1939, within the national framework of the League, preparations were managed by the National Police Commissioner in the capital, by the county police commissioners and the mayors in the towns with county's rights, and by police stations and public notaries in other settlements. Their task was to organize and manage the local groups of the League, to develop the local air raid defence plan, to train and equip those serving on duty, to enforce compliance with the rules on air raid defence, fire and gas defence. They were in charge of air defence auxiliary squadrons, which were trained to support official bodies, the police, fire service and ambulance services in their tasks related to air raid defence.

The squadrons consisted of police assistants, assistant firefighters, men and women with qualifications in gas protection, medicine, air raid defence and technical repair. Those doing their air raid service were preferably employed in positions in line with their civil qualifications, thus reducing the duration of their retraining. The purpose of air raid defence was to prepare the civilian population for the steps to be taken in case of airstrikes, how to protect human lives, industrial, infrastructural and cultural values during the bombings and how to perform the following clean-up operations. In Hungary, these tasks were carried out by the League under the direction of the Ministry of Defence, supervised by the Ministry of Interior. The civilians' preparation for self-protection started in 1939 on exercises organized by the League, where those doing their air defence service could also practice their duties.

The smallest unit of organization in air raid defence was the house community, that is, the residents in a block of flats, thus solidarity and cooperation was encouraged among families living in the same building. In the block of flats, voluntary air raid teams were formed and their work was coordinated with other teams. It resulted in an effective, self-organised air raid defence movement, whose members were well-trained and dedicated volunteers and professionals.

Separate air defence groups were formed in factories, industrial plants and by the railways, consisting of their own employees to protect the strategically vital production lines, transport capacity and the skilled workforce by working together with the air defence units allocated in that area. These employees were entitled to additional benefits, while those participating in the official air raid defence and in self-protection were required to fulfil their tasks at their own cost.

After the German occupation, Hungary became a theatre of war and the importance of the official Hungarian air defence and air defence units increased due to the large-scale Anglo-Saxon and Soviet bombings.

After the Arrow Cross Party² takeover, the official air raid defence was terminated, the League was sidelined and gradually weakened, so it could only rely on its own resources. Without a central management, its bodies had to perform their duties in their own

² The Hungarian Nazi party

responsibility, while in the meantime air raids were becoming more intense in Hungary. Moreover, the Hungarian air force and indirectly the bodies involved in the national air defence were placed under the German air force stationing in Hungary

After the front line passed through Budapest, the Hungarian air defence lost its mission once the war came to an end. The remaining population of Budapest moved down to the air raid cellars of buildings, so after a while air raid warnings only affected the major remaining establishments. [10]

The Hungarian air defence was high-quality even compared with European standards (almost up to the level of its British and German counterparts). It is due to its public awareness activities, its active work as well as the sensible behaviour of the population that the toll was around 15,500 in Hungary, out of which 6,500 in Budapest as a result of the bombings between April 1944 and April 1945. [11] In comparison with neighbouring countries, it is a substantially lower figure. [10]

In 1945 the League was terminated and when it was re-established, it was not a voluntary, non-governmental organisation. In October 1948 the Political Committee of the Hungarian Socialist Workers' Party decided that air raid defence is to be transformed into civil protection, and bomb disposal is to be added to its activities.

After World War II, protection against air raids carried out by the so-called conventional weapons and nuclear threats came to the foreground. From the 1950s onwards, defence against air attacks was complemented with protection against natural events but the main emphasis was put on the protection against nuclear, biological and chemical attacks. [12]

The Geneva Convention on the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War signed on 12 August 1949 was ratified in Edict 32 of 1954 in Hungary. [13] Additional Protocols I and II to the Geneva Conventions were ratified in Edict 20 of 1989 (hereinafter referred to as Edict), which describes civil protection as philanthropic tasks that aims to protect the civilian population from the impacts of conflicts and disasters and also to provide the conditions for survival. Restoration of disaster-affected areas was also added to the tasks of civil protection. [14]

Reestablishing air raid defence primarily meant that the training of personnel of air defence units and employees of production plants was launched. Training of the broader population only took place in the 1960s, based on the Soviet method, thus ignoring the proven experience of the League. [3]

As a result of the cold war situation following the 1961 Berlin and the 1962 Cuban crises, air raid defence was transferred to the Ministry of Defence together with military development. Based on the 29 January 1964 Amendment to Act IV of 1960 on national defence (hereinafter referred to as National Defence Act), civil protection duties replaced civilians' air defence duties. The armed forces took over the tasks of cooperation in civil protection duties as well as assistance in case of natural disasters or other public emergencies. [15]

According to the National Defence Act, the purpose of civil protection in case of air raids in Hungary is to organise the public administration and societal dimensions of defence, to prepare the population for air raids and to reduce the effects of air raids. The Act provides for

who is bound for civil protection service and the cases of exemptions. Civil protection was managed and directed by the minister of defence through the National Directorate of Civil Protection, which relied on its state administrative bodies. [15] Civil protection preparedness focused on the principles and methods of protection against nuclear weapons and on planning and performing post-nuclear disaster rescue, relief and recovery works. [16]

The 1970 Tisza flood drew attention to the importance of protection against natural and man-made disasters and it showed that the not only war threats endanger the civilian population.

Civil protection preparedness can only be effective if the government, state and national leadership involves voluntary and non-governmental organizations as well, similarly to the Air Defence League between 1937 and 1945. [17]

In January 1972, the Hinterland Protection Headquarters (hereinafter referred to as HQ) was formed, which took over all the military organizations of civil protection, with the exception of bodies in the capital, counties, capital districts, cities, regions and the warehouses. The involvement of the HQ obviously necessitated reviewing the authorities and responsibilities. Civil protection, its purpose, place, role and duties had to be redefined within the national defence system, together with its development areas and financial matters. The legal framework was provided by Resolution 2041/1974. (XII.11.) of the Cabinet on civil protection. [18] The military engineering corps became subordinated to the HQ, so in line with the international standards, civil protection consisted of the population, self-protection and specialist organizations in addition to the low number of professional personnel – of about a few hundreds. [19]

The 1976 Amendment to the National Defence Act introduced the capital, district and county national defence committees and the county, regional and local defence committees. [20]

According to Act I of 1976 on National Defence (hereinafter referred to as ND Act) armed forces had to cooperate in civil protection duties as well as give assistance in cases of natural disasters or other public emergencies. Law enforcement bodies (police, workers' militia, penitentiary police) participate in civil protection tasks. [20] The tasks of civil protection organizations (state administrative and plant organizations) is to prepare the citizens and the area to counter the effects of offensive weapons and to participate in certain special measures. National defence service obligations of the civilians also include civil protection obligations, whose aim is to prepare the civilian population to prevent, eliminate and mitigate the effects of offensive weapons, natural disasters and other extraordinary events as well as to perform related rescue and clean-up tasks. [20]

CIVIL PROTECTION'S ROLE AND RESPONSIBILITY NOWDAYS

After the 1980s, protection against natural and industrial disasters received more emphasis, to which the 1986 Chernobyl nuclear accident drew more attention. Civil protection should provide protection to the population not only in times of armed conflicts, but it also has to meet the challenges in times of peace.

Based on the definitions given in the Additional Protocol to Geneva Conventions I and II, civil protection organisations are organisations that were created exclusively for civil

protection purposes. [14] Accordingly, in 1990 civil protection was moved from the Ministry of Defence to the Ministry of Interior, keeping its duties, with the main emphasis on preparing for and protecting against disasters.

The amendment of Act CX of 1993 on national defence (hereinafter referred to as Defence Act) transferred the civil protection tasks to the Ministry of Interior, and the National Headquarters of Civil Protection was integrated into the National Headquarters of Fire and Civil Protection, Ministry of Interior.

Act XXXVII of 1996 on civil protection entered into force in June 1996 (hereinafter referred to as CP Act), which contained the operational bylaws of the National Headquarters of Civil Protection and its regional and local organs. [21] According to the unofficial justification of the law, the legislative background for civil protection, that is, Additional Protocols I and II to the 1949 Geneva Conventions that were ratified in Edict 20 of 1989, the new concept of safety introduced in Parliament Resolution 27/1993. (IV. 23.) on the basic principles of national defence in Hungary and the changes in public administration and economy all required the renewal of the legislative background of civil protection. However, there had been a shift of emphasis in the tasks of civil protection. Given the decreased risk of war in our area, peacetime tasks of civil protection came to the fore, especially those related to disaster management and humanitarian aid. The draft bill was based on the constitutional principles that on the one hand, each and every citizen has the right for safety, while on the other, they are obliged to actively participate in creating it. The draft wishes to strengthen the protection of basic human rights, to provide legislative guarantee for the protection of the population and legal entities and also to ensure the right balance of volunteering and obligations while doing so. [22]

Civil protection is responsible for protecting the population, providing the conditions for survival and preparing the citizens for overcoming their effects and creating the conditions for staying alive in the event of an armed conflict, a disaster and other emergencies. The definition of disaster was first laid out in the CP Act as a situation that threatens or damages human life, health, property, the basic supplies of the population or the environment to an extent that it requires cooperation of authorities, institutions and organisations to prevent or eliminate it. [21]

Act LXXIV of 1999 on the management and organization for the prevention of disasters and the prevention of major accidents involving dangerous substances entered into force on 1 January 2000. By creating a more efficient emergency response system, the goal was to regulate how public authorities at all levels operate to manage response to industrial or natural disasters. Moreover, it sought to create the legal basis for a disaster relief agency operating in a new organizational structure. To increase effectiveness, the law authorized the Government to mobilise civil protection organizations under the conditions of the CP Act in disaster-affected areas and to prescribe civil protection service as provided by the Defence Act.

It is an essential element that without changing the legal status of professional municipal fire departments, it provides the legal basis for creating a unified law enforcement body at the national and county level at the base of the civil protection and the professional fire service to

coordinate and perform disaster management-related tasks – under the supervision of the Minister of Interior. This body would be free of duplicates and still operate as an effective, task-oriented organisation. Accordingly, on 1 January 2000 the National Directorate General for Disaster Management, Ministry of Interior was established, as the legal successor of the National Fire Brigade Headquarters and the National Civil Defence Headquarters. [23]

The basic tasks of the newly formed professional disaster management organization were population protection, protection of human life and material goods, which meant the vulnerability assessment of settlements, keeping record of shelters, tasks related to evacuation and reception, public preparedness and information. [23]

The decade-long experience with the organisation, the increasing number of natural and industrial disasters and extreme emergencies all called for the renewal of the organization and its adaptation to new situations.

In accordance with the Fundamental Law of Hungary, Act CXXVIII of 2011 concerning disaster management and amending certain related acts (hereinafter referred to as Disaster Management Law) ensured the safety of the citizens of Hungary and their property as well as the country's continuous viability by clarifying the system of qualified periods and the special measures to be taken upon a disaster. Once the concept of the state of emergency appeared in the Fundamental Law, the disaster management act needed a revision to allow mobilisation of the disaster management system and introduction of the necessary measures when a disaster strikes or in the preceding period of disaster risk.

The Disaster Management Act created an integrated disaster management system, comprising of industrial safety, fire protection and civil protection. They do not work separately, but their activities intertwine with each other. Authority activities are also centrally coordinated. Local and regional authority activities are supervised by a separate unit at the National Directorate General for Disaster Management, Ministry of Interior. All this contributes to a transparent, accountable, unitary and effective authority. The objectives of the complex system of disaster management are the protection of human life and material goods, prevention and fast, professional handling of disasters as well as prompt and professional restoration. [25]

Civil protection is system of public tasks, instruments and measures, whose aim is to safeguard the population, to ensure the conditions for survival and to prepare the population to overcome the effects in the event of a disaster or armed conflict. By the Disaster Management Act, individuals over the age of 18 have civil protection duties, unless they are exempted. [25]

Civil protection duties are supplemented with volunteering. Volunteering is an activity that is performed individually or in groups, regularly or occasionally, inland or abroad for the common good without any financial reward. Voluntary activity does not involve any direct financial benefit for the volunteers but it contributes to making our environment and community a better place. [26]

The Government Decree on the introduction of the National Curriculum signals the growing importance of taking responsibility for others, volunteering and voluntary activities for the

wider environment. Community service and the basics of disaster management and national defence are included in the curriculum of secondary education. [27]

The law on national public education promotes youth involvement in volunteering by setting 50 hours of community service as a prerequisite for school-leaving exams. Community service is an organised individual or group activity without any financial reward for the benefit of the society, environment or the local community as well as its educational processing. [28]

Civil protection obligations are individual or social responsibilities that support the protection of human life and material resources for subsistence. In times of special legal orders (for instance a national crisis, state of emergency, state of danger), civil protection service may be continuously employed without a time restriction. Temporary civil protection services can be ordered for example in operations to prevent a potential disaster. This often leads to difficulties, since those involved must be exempted from work, which is not economical for the employer. To overcome this drawback, the Disaster Management Act created the possibility to organise volunteer civil protection organisations. Volunteer civil protection organizations are made up of rescue organizations, whose members possess special expertise, are highly qualified, experienced in rescue and the organisations' facilities and special equipment enable them to perform effective interventions. This is the great advantage of the voluntary rescue organizations over obligatory civil protection organisations. Obviously, the number of obligated members far exceeds that of the volunteers, so civilian organisations with special qualifications and advanced technical equipment must be encouraged to grow in number. In this sense, the potential of higher education students is still untapped. [29] This recognition led to the establishment of the Volunteer Disaster Management Service of the National University of Public Service in 2013, who participated very successfully in the protection against the June 2013 Danube flood.

CIVIL PROTECTION IN THE EUROPEAN UNION

In recent times, natural and man-made disasters are affecting an increasing area and an increasing number of people. Organizations established to respond to disasters are not sufficient either in their number or in their equipment. This is the point when volunteer organizations and individuals can be involved, who equipped with expertise and technical equipment can give support and complement professional disaster management and public administration organisations. Of course, we should not forget that people affected by disasters also need humanitarian aid and solidarity. Volunteer support can take various forms, ranging from emotional support, food distribution to health care and education.

It is important that the role of volunteers offering their time, money and efforts is regulated in all respects.

The autonomy of the voluntary rescue organizations involved in the response is preserved, but the state has the responsibility and is in charge of management in a disaster. [30]

The organisation of disaster management varies in EU states. In Germany, some of the civilian and community organisations involved in the protection and preparation of the

population are specified in the Civil Protection Act, while the others are recorded in the disaster management acts of the member states. These are for instance the National Rescue Organisation, the German Red Cross, the Samaritan Federation, the Mountain and Water Rescue Team, the German Life Saving Association, the St. John Accident Assistance, the Maltese Aid Service, the Medical Relief Organization. The population is constantly informed about their activities and duties. Citizens are motivated to participate in voluntary organizations.

Volunteering does not mean that they do their job free of charge. Organizations involved in civil protection and disaster management tasks receive substantial amounts of money, for example, for preparation, functioning, uniform equipment, uniforms and the organization of the supplies. [31]

The Austrian protection system is based on the activities of national professional bodies and NGOs. National professional bodies include the Austrian Armed Forces, the Police, the Fire Service, the Ambulance Service, the Disaster Management. Volunteering, similarly to Germany, is very important among the Austrian population. Many non-governmental organizations, in a state-guaranteed manner defined by the law, are involved in disaster management to protect the population. [32]

Domestic legislation supports the work of civilians and organizations involved in disaster management from the central budget and through tenders, and reimburses the costs incurred, within the limits of the law, in the same way as to those who are summoned for training or exercises related to civil protection obligations or perform civil protection service. For that period, they are relieved of work and receive absence fee. [30]

Preparation, training of the population and planning for possible disasters and dangers is essential. Preliminary planning can prevent or reduce adverse consequences, rules are set out for the population and for those involved in the rescue. If necessary, in the event of failure of a critical infrastructure, the supplies, information and even self-rescue capabilities of the population are indispensable. [33]

Disasters do not know state borders. The EU Stockholm Programme stated that comprehensive and effective disaster management of the EU can be achieved by reinforcing prevention, preparedness and responses to disasters. [34]

An integrated approach to disaster management is important, covering all phases of disasters, including prevention, preparedness, response and recovery within and outside the EU. It is a basic principle that disaster management is the responsibility of the member states, to provide the citizens with the necessary protection against existing dangers and threats and to assist each other before, during and after disasters in the framework of solidarity between member states if the disaster exceeds the affected nation's capacity or if it affects several member states. [34]

The Stockholm Programme [34] highlights that vulnerability to disasters can be reduced with risk analysis, assessment, better preparedness and strategies. The strengthening of the EU Civil Protection Mechanism, the development of disaster protection tools, their availability

and the ability of various IT systems to cooperate with each other, the coordination and support of assistance requires a continuous effort to protect the member states.

In order to support disaster management, analysing the results of EU 2007-2013 Research and Technological Development Framework Programme and further research framework programmes, identifying opportunities and making appropriate recommendations will become increasingly important in the future.

The EU's cooperation with the United Nations and other international organizations is a major part of international humanitarian action. It is in constant contact with the International Red Cross, the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs and the United Nations Committee on Migration.

The European Union must promote solidarity. It supports and supplements the member states' civil protection actions, thereby facilitating coordination, disaster prevention, preparedness and efficient functioning of the systems.

The components of disaster management is clarified in the Disaster Management Act and its implementing Government Decree [35]. The task of the disaster management organization consists of three interrelated tasks: prevention, threat management and recovery. [2] As a member of the European Union, cooperation plays an important role in all stages, in prevention, threat management and recovery. [36] In the framework of the EU Civil Protection Action Programme [37], a disaster prevention project has been specified, which is responsible for defining principles, guidelines to be considered in prevention, and can be applied at regional level by the member states. As part of the cooperation of the EU Commission and the civil protection bodies of the member states, instruments were created to allow them to provide assistance in interventions, defined in the 1991 EU regulation on providing assistance in natural and industrial disasters [38]. Experiences in disasters affecting EU member states made it necessary to reconsider the tools for disaster management specified in 1991. As a result of the review, on 23 October 2001, the European Union set up the Union's Civil Protection Mechanism [39], thus expressing European solidarity. The Civil Protection Mechanism allows a rapid contribution to disaster prevention, preparedness and timely disaster management. It complements bilateral or multilateral treaties of member states.

The Civil Protection Mechanism consists of four main elements. Preliminary specification of intervention resources, training program to improve response capacity, estimation and coordination teams and establishment of a common emergency communication system. [36]

By creating a Union protection mechanism, it facilitates the coordination of assistance and the mobility of intervention. The Civil Protection Mechanism consists of the voluntary European emergency response capabilities provided by the Member States, the Emergency Response Coordination Centre, trained experts, the emergency communication and information system and the contact points of the member states. The system provides a framework for collecting verified information, transmitting it to the member states and drawing the consequences from interventions.

The Union's Civil Protection Mechanism aims to help prevent disasters, prepare for disaster situations and collect resources to help the countries concerned. [39]

Voluntary civil protection organizations in European states have set up the European Voluntary Civil Protection Forum for the purpose of exchanging experiences and international cooperation in 2010, which has decided on regional partnership cooperation with the Western Balkans states. This has also created the foundations for signing other regional agreements. Regional partnerships make it possible to promote creating voluntary civil protection organizations in countries without such organisations, thus facilitating the implementation of the EU's strategic decisions related to disasters. [40]

The risk of a global armed conflict has decreased significantly in recent years, the emphasis of civil protection activities — protection of the population and material resources for subsistence — shifted to the management of disasters in times of peace. Therefore, strengthening the role of civil protection and the use of civil protection organizations has become a major task.

CONCLUSIONS

During the past decades, the protection of citizens has undergone great changes, from the people migrating to escape natural disasters and wars through the population protection measures and the related organisations such as the Air Defence League to counter air raids in wars to the integration of civil protection into the system of disaster management. The public's perception of security is constantly changing, which is greatly influenced by the natural and man-made disasters, wars, economic and political changes and crises. The task of civil protection has become the protection of life and property as well as preparation and preparedness for armed conflicts, disasters and other emergencies.

In order to meet today's challenges, disaster management has become a national matter with central control. Civil protection has become part of a unified disaster management system, strengthened its role and functions within the National Directorate General for Disaster Management, Ministry of Interior.

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