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AN EVALUATION OF TURKISH POLICE OFFICER'S VIEW ON VIOLENCE IN FOOTBALL AND HOOLIGANISM

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ABSTRACT

The purpose of this study is to reveal the view of Turkish police officer on violence in football and hooliganism with the case of Mugla province. A universe of the study consists of police officers working in the Riot Police Unit who are tasked with providing the security for football events and other sport events. 70 police officers working for Mugla Provincial Riot Police Branch Office constitute of a sample of the study.

In this research, "The Questionnaire of A View on Hooliganism" comprising 35 questions and developed by Celik in 2007 with the purpose of finding out the riot police officers' demographic information, participants' opinion concerning current laws and regulations, a prevention of spectator's aggression, a coordination with other security units and institutions, practices in the stadium, educational subjects and solution recommendations is conducted as a data collection tool. A validity of the questionnaire has been tested and Cronbach's alpha coefficient has been calculated as 0,83.

The collected data has been analyzed using SPSS 14 package program. Frequency, percentage

and avarage is used for analyzing socio-demographic profile of subjects.

According to the analysis, the violence in the stadium originating from irresponsible spectators is accounted for 84%, and the role of media has 48%. From the views concerning current law and regulations, 55% of the subjects reply "partially sufficient". 68% of them states that a security of the event should be transferred into private security services. 84% of the subjects indicates that it should be extra payment as long as police officers are tasked.

To conclusion, participants indicate that the current "A Violence in Sports Law" is not literally address the needs, it should be pursued different policies concerning the prevention of spectators' aggressions, a coordination with other institutions and especially with judicial authorities is not ensured, a security in the stadium should be provided by private security services, police officers are indifferent towards improvements and alterations in the safety of sports, and they are not educated enough in this field.

Key Words: Sports, Football, Violence, Hooliganism, Police officer.

INTRODUCTION

Football is the most popular sport and has the greatest amount of fans in the World(Üstünel ve Alkurt, 2015). On the other hand, football, as a sports branch, is regarded as a phenomenon displayed elements of violence. Violence situations are so severe that it has caused nations to fight against each other. Besides, it has led many people into death and serious personal injury.

The word “aggression” is derived from a Latin word meaning “moving to a direction”. It also consists of adopting a particular attitude, reacting, and causing destruction (Koknel, 2000; Oda, 2014, p. 28). In addition, aggression can be defined as disturbing attitudes that an individual reveals to himself or to others; it can also be defined as an alternative way of behaving in order to protect oneself from dangers (Nair, 2014, p. 3). Again, aggression can be identified as physical, verbal, and any other kind of behavior caused by hostile attitudes like anger, fear, frustration, and targeting to protect oneself from harm(Koc, 2011).

Football hooliganism, once known as the ‘British Disease’, has been for many years a major cause for concern throughout Europe – particularly in Germany, Holland, Italy and Belgium, as well as in the UK. Substantial disturbances at football matches have also been witnessed in Greece, the Czech Republic, Denmark and Austria. Recent debates in the European Parliament and at national government level in many EC countries have highlighted a growing sense of frustration about our apparent inability to curb or redirect the anti-social behaviour of a minority of football supporters which constitutes the problem. And the spectre of 38 dead Juventus fans in the Heysel Stadium continues to haunt any debate about the causes and the cure of football violence(Carnibella et. al., 1996).

As a form of behaviour, the disorderliness of football fans that has come to attract the label, “football haliganism”, is complex and many-sided. In popular usage, for example, the label embraces swearing and behaviour which, in other contexts, would be excused as simple “high spirits” or “horseplay”. In fact, many of the fans who are arrested in a football context have only engaged in such relatively minor misdemeanours. Football hooligan confrontations take a number of different forms and they can take place in a variety of contexts besides the football ground itself. They can, for example, take the form of hand-to-hand fighting between just two rival supporters or between two small groups of them. Alternatively, they can involve

up to several hundred fans on either side. In the most serious incidents, weapons-lightweight and easily concealed workman's "Stanley knives" are favoured at the moment – are sometimes used. Football hooligan confrontations can also take the form of aerial bombardments using as ammunition missiles that range from innocuous items such as peanuts, bits of orange peel, apple cores and paper cups, to more dangerous, even potentially lethal ones, such as darts metal discs, coins, broken seats, bricks, slabs of concrete, ball bearings, fireworks, smoke bombs and, as has happened on one or two occasions, crude petrol bombs(Dunning et. al, 1986).

According to Benyon (1992) there are many problems facing police forces of the European Union in establishing effective procedures for cooperation because of the large numbers of different law enforcement agencies, the rivalries and jealousies between and within agencies and the different approaches and perceptions of what policing is and how a policing agency should function. In addition, the existence of diverse cultures and traditions in each country and incompatible police communications and procedures added to quite different legal systems and organisational structures further complicate cooperation. Benyon et al. (1994: 61) name cooperation in the field of football hooliganism as an example of micro level cooperation. However, this micro level cooperation takes place within procedures, measures and resolutions agreed upon at the macro (European Convention on Spectator Violence and Misbehaviour at Sports Events and in particular at Football Matches, Council of Europe: 1985) and meso levels (EU Handbook for international police co-operation and measures to prevent and control violence and disorder around football matches, first version 1999)(Adang, 2012).

In this context, the issue of violence in sports and hooliganism, as social problems requiring to be studied, has been keeping up to date in Turkey and many countries. While a hooliganism case appears as an alcohol-induced and bullying-related phenomenon in Britain and many of European countries, it shows up in Turkey as an aggression associated with unemployment and lower education level. Many researchs base the cases not only on just a single reason but also on multiple reasons comprising mass media, referees, club managers, cheerleaders, fans' leaders, irresponsible spectators, trainers and football players. Within all of this reasons, lack of education is incontrovertible. Unfortunately, in Turkey, a matter of

violence in sports and hooliganism falls behind matters such as match fixing, illegal betting, football pools.

Police is a public officer who provides services of safety, who protects the lives and properties of citizens as well as their basic rights and freedom and public order and who enforces the law Police has an active duty in the prevention of violence in sport as well as a great number of events. As a matter of fact, it is natural for the police to commune with a sport club, to love that club and therefore to support that club. Within this framework, the attitudes of the police on being supporters of football clubs are very important since they are responsible for maintaining safety and order in the society and for preventing behaviors not suitable for legislation(Taner et al., 2016). The police are primarily responsible for maintaining sport activities in peace and ensuring the safety of spectators. It is very important not to provoke the citizens or not to be provoked by them while carrying out their duties(Cerrah et. al. 1998).

METHODS

This research was conducted on a screening model. The purpose of this study is to reveal the view of Turkish police officer on violence in football and hooliganism with the case of Mugla province.

A universe of the study consists of police officers working in the Riot Police Unit who are tasked with providing the security for football events and other sport events. 70 police officers working for Mugla Provincial Riot Police Branch Office constitute of a sample of the study.

In this research, “The Questionnaire of A View on Hooliganism” comprising 35 questions and developed by Celik in 2007 with the purpose of finding out the riot police officers’ demographic information, participants’ opinion concerning current laws and regulations, a prevention of spectator’s aggression, a coordination with other security units and institutions, practices in the stadium, educational subjects and solution recommendations is conducted as a data collection tool. A validity of the questionnaire has been tested and Cronbach’s alpha coefficient has been calculated as 0,83.

The collected data has been analyzed using SPSS 22 package program. Frequency, percentage and average is used for analyzing socio-demographic profile of subjects.

FINDINGS

1. Socio-Economic Data

It has been determined that the police officers participating in the research are in the age range between 20 and 30 years old, they are all male and graduate from Police Academy, and their vocational experiences are less than two years.

2. Participants' Views Concerning Violence Committed In Football Stadiums

The Responsible For The Violence In Football Stadiums	f	%
1. Irresponsible Spectators	59	84,3
2. Mass Media	34	48,6
3. Club Managers	15	21,4
4. Fan Associations	15	21,4
5. Politicians	2	2,9

The participants marked more than one option for the question: “Who is the responsible for the violence in football stadiums?” According to this, participants think that irresponsible spectators are in the first place (59) (%84,3), mass media is in the second place (34) (48,6), club managers are in the third place (15) (21,4), fan associations are in the fourth place (15) (21,4) and politicians are in the fifth place (2) (2,9).

3. The Views On Current Law and Regulations

The following questions, according to the respondents' opinions relevant to “The Current Law and Regulations”, “The Prevention of Spectators' Aggressions”, “The Coordination with Other Security Units and Institutions”, “Practices In The Stadium” and “Education” has been assessed under the five titles.

The Views On Current Law and Regulations

Question	Agree		Rather Agree		Disagree	
	f	%	f	%	f	%
Current “violence in sports law” is capable of meeting needs.	19	27,1	37	52,9	14	20,0
The new regulation, settlements such as setting up an office on the security of sports made police officers’ works towards the aggressions of spectators and hooliganism more sufficient and effective.	27	38,6	39	55,7	4	5,7
Police practices related to current regulation are parallel to each other.	28	40,0	38	54,3	4	5,7

According to the data, 52,9% of the participants has “rather agreed” with the statement: “Current ‘violence in sports law’ is capable of meeting needs.”, 55,7% of the participants has “rather agreed” with the statement: “The new regulation, settlements such as setting up an office on the security of sports made police officers’ works towards the aggressions of spectators and hooliganism more sufficient and effective.”, and 54,3% of them has “rather agreed” with the statement: “Police practices related to current regulation are parallel to each other.”.

4. Studies On A Prevention Of Spectator's Aggression And Related Views

Question	Agree		Rather Agree		Disagree	
	f	%	f	%	f	%
Police officers should carry out an intelligence work.	63	%90,0	7	%10,0	0	0
Police officers should be able to decide whether the game is played or not when required and be competent with in this respect.	39	%55,7	22	%31,4	9	%12,9
The more police officers are in police tasking, the less case will happen.	26	%37,1	25	%35,7	19	%27,1
The more women are in stadiums, the less case will hapen.	28	%40,0	28	%40,0	14	%20,0
The spectator provoke police officers to be in harsh intervention.	62	%88,6	8	%11,4	0	0

The findings show that almost all the participants support both of these statements: “Police officers should carry out an intelligence work.” and “The spectator provoke police officers to be in harsh intervention.”

5. Opinions on Practices in the Stat Mission

There are seven articles related to the applications for which the participatory practice survey task is mandated. Application of the status task of participant in the table.

Question	Agree		Rather Agree		Disagree	
	f	%	f	%	f	%
The safety of sports events should be transferred to private security.	48	68,6	16	22,9	6	8,6
If the police officer are involved in sports events, they should be paid additional fee.	59	84,3	8	11,4	3	4,3

According to the obtained data, approximately 70% of the participants has agreed with the statement: “The safety of sports events should be transferred to private security.” and nearly 85% of them has agreed with the statement: “If the police officer are involved in sports events, they should pay additional duty.”

6. Spectators' Solution Offers

<i>In your opinion, what should be done to prevent the violence in the stadiums?</i>	f	%
Penalty fine should be applied and those who commit floods should not be taken on the stadium.	19	27,1
Training should be provided for creating conscious supporters.	31	44,3
The media should not interfere with the cases.	20	28,6

According to the spectators' solution offers, “penalty fine should be applied and those who commit floods should not be taken on the stadium” is 27,1%, “training should be provided for creating conscious supporters” is 44,3%, and “the media should not interfere with the cases” is 28,6%.

DISCUSSION

In our study, security forces regard the irresponsible spectators with 84%, mass media with 48,6%, club managers with 21,4%, fans associations with 21,4% and politicians with 2,9% as “the responsible for the violence in football stadiums”(Chart 11). When the literature linked to these results was examined, irresponsible spectators, mass media, club managers, fans associations and politicians were shown as responsible for violence in sports fields. In the study of Gultekin and his colleagues (2000), the security forces said that the causes of cases in and out of the field are the home team and secondly the attitude of the referee. According to the Kaynak’s (2002) research, 65,5% of the police officers point to all kinds of factors such as mass media, club managers, referees, opposing team supporters, player mistakes, technical men and fans’ leaders as a result of leading spectators to aggressive behaviour.

The contribution of the police officers to reduce the aggressive behaviours in the football stadiums in Turkey is extremely important in many respects such as gaining public confidence and loss the damage they give during the competition. That the police officer should be impartial, should not be caught up in incitement, be respectful and tolerant are their duty and profession.

In a study conducted with supporters of Gaziantepspor football team, 53,6% of supporters were found police officers not to be trained adequately in terms of security of the stadium. In the research of Kaynak (2002), 65,8% of the security forces participating in the investigation responded that the education they had received at the police academy could not be used effectively in the match duties. As revealed in Sahin and Kaynak’s Works the police officers are not adequately trained for security of stadium, hooliganism and violence in sports.

According to the study of Celik (2005; 74), “Audience Aggression and Police Attitude” titled, 83,7% of the security forces think that the audiences’ incitements drive the police to act hard, while they don’t provoke the audiences. These results suggest that the police and the spectator think differently.

According to Tunç et. al. (2016) the criteria of fanaticism scale, 1,6% of the male students were found to be “supporter” and 87,4% were found to be “spectator” while 0,4% of the female students were found to be “fanatic”, 7,7% were found to be “supporter” and 91,9% were found to be “spectator”(Tunç et. al. 2016).

RESULTS AND SUGGESTIONS

As a result; they think that the current “sports violence law” does not exactly respond to the needs. They pointed out that different policies should be followed regarding the prevention of spectator aggression. They stated that there wasn’t coordination with other institutions and especially judicial authorities. In the stadiums, they said that your security must be provided by private security organizations. Police see themselves as far away from developments and changes related to Sports safety. In general, they pointed out that is inadequate of education in these subjects.

Sports Security Bureau Offices located within the branches of Agile Force Branch Offices should be made more effective and their functions should be increased.

The General Directorate of Security and the Sports Security Authority operating within the Security Department should be brought to the status of "Branch Directorate".

The Police Department should set new strategies on "media", one of the biggest elements of audience aggression. The criticism made by the police should be examined by following the sports media.

Violence and hooliganism issues should be limited only by the stadium and its surroundings. Attention should be given to intelligence studies related to the subject. The powers and functions of the police officers in charge should be expanded.

Such links must be revealed by the police, considering the events that occurred due to the relations between club administrators and fan clubs, hooligan groups.

In the stadiums, the police need to use the technology more effectively. The number and quality of private security guards serving in the stadiums should be increased.

Private security officers working in the stadium should be trained on the issues of audience aggression and hooliganism as well as on existing private security training programs.

Policemen working in the Agile Force unit must pass the in-service trainings such as, police officers assigned to statues and supporter profiles, hooliganism, spectator aggression.

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