



Captain Ravee, CEO OSSIM
E-mail: ravee@ossim.in

DELHI POLICE – PRIVATE SECURITY INDUSTRY PARTNERSHIP: A ROLE MODEL

Although the Security Industry has been recently regulated by the Government of India vide the Private Security Agencies (Regulation) Act of 2005, this is yet to be enforced by the Delhi Government, enforcement being a state subject. As per police records, there are more than 3,000 security companies functioning in the capital, a majority of which form part of the unorganized sector. The total strength of the private guard force deployed in Delhi is approximately between 3 to 3.5 Lacs.

The number of private security staff deployed in Delhi is approximately more than six times the size of the police force available. Private security has become as important a part of today's society as the police, but these two segments of security do not have any kind of cooperation or cohesion within their functioning. This is depriving them of great benefit, not only individually but collectively as well, fallout of which is felt on the people of the state.

Delhi Police – Private Security Marriage

Of the private security companies that are deployed in marketplaces and Resident Welfare Associations (RWAs), which have an interface with police stations, a majority form part of the unorganized sector. Neither do they

follow statutory compliances, nor do they invest in the requisite training that is necessary. Since there is no check on their functioning, the services and manpower provided by them is sub-standard. Thus the Delhi Police at the SHO level carries the impression that private security across the board is shoddy and untrustworthy, to say the least.

Well-run security outfits do not provide security to RWAs and marketplaces since these clients do not pay well and the services of the requisite standard cannot be provided at low cost. Thus, you will find that the good companies are providing security only to MNCs, banks, BPOs, embassies, 5 Star properties etc., where the interface with the police is on the lower side.

It is important that the perception of SHOs changes with respect to the well-run security outfits so that private security and police can work hand in hand. This would ensure a win-win situation for both the sectors. This can be done through regular meetings between the police and members of industry and will improve the service quality of all service providers as well, over a period of time. As of now, all the players are judged by a common yardstick and whenever a meeting is called, all the fly by night operators as well as the good

companies are given the same treatment by the SHOs, causing a very negative impression.

Possible areas of co-operation

Beat Patrolling

Each average sized security outfit has around 15 field officers on an average, carrying out beat patrolling for their respective clients covering around 80-100 Kms daily. Many of these beat points of the clients also have beat points covered by the Police. A modus operandi can be worked out wherein without any extra cost, some of the beat points of the police could also be covered by the field officers and vice-versa. The reports thus generated must be shared for them to be effective.

Information gathering

The guards of the private security companies are deployed in every nook and corner of Delhi outside various complexes/sites and are performing 8/12 hours of duty daily. In conjunction with the Police, some training needs to be imparted to the guards wherein they can keep track of any kind of suspicious behaviour in their vicinity and report it to the designated authority. This would gainfully employ them, make their job more interesting and give them a sense of responsibility which, at the moment,

is on the lower side.

Sharing work-load of Verifications

The staff posted in the police stations is overloaded with various tasks other than maintenance of law and order, which is their primary function. One of these tasks is carrying out verifications for passports, government employees, private servants etc. and various other kinds of verifications. These are all time consuming tasks which keep them away from their primary jobs.

Delhi Police may work out a methodology wherein selected well run private security outfits, duly recommended by the industry, are given some verification load relieving the Police personnel for Law & Order duties. Over a period of time, once the confidence develops and the system works well, more load may be shed off to the private security companies and required laws could be dwelled upon.

Provision of guards for short duration

The police face a lot of stress during key events like Independence Day, Republic Day, heads of state visits, and important festivals etc., not to mention once in a while events like elections, wherein the major problem is a shortfall in the availability of personnel. Private security companies can help the police in provision of guards for short durations, especially in traffic management, manning of vantage points and miscellaneous duties to reduce the workload on the police.

Awareness generation – RWAs

The high crime rate in Delhi, particularly for citizens staying in RWAs, is due to deployment of poorly managed security companies. Also,

RWAs deploy skeleton security (which is not surveyed properly) and most of these security personnel are merely doing gate management and not looking into security at all.

The security industry, along-with the Police, must conduct awareness generation sessions with the management committees of RWAs, who must be introduced to the best security practices, including installation of electronic equipment. This would give a more holistic and realistic coverage, thereby saving cost and better securing lives in the long run. They must also be made aware of their responsibilities as end users and of the statutory compliances they are required to fulfill as principal employers. This would help Police curb the crime rate in residential complexes.

Disaster Management

The Government has made Civil Defense mainly responsible for managing disasters, whether natural or manmade. These forces are often located outside the vicinity of the city and in case of disasters like earthquake, bridge collapse, building collapse, bomb explosion, etc., the reaction time required to reach the point of incidence is very high due to various reasons. Private security guards are deployed outside each building/complex and these men can be trained to contain disaster till such time as experts reach the site.

Re-settlement of Police Officers in Private Security Industry

Private security industry is facing a crunch of trained managers/officers since there is no school, college/university training such managers in this sector. Majority of security outfits hire ex-army officers who have no clue about private/corporate/industrial security. Po-

lice officers at all levels are best suited for private security since the job content is almost identical. Re-settlement of good and efficient police officers at all levels can be organized by industry in good companies which shall work as a catalyst to make the Private security and Police marriage a success.

Management of correction centres and control rooms by Private Security

In Europe, Australia and the US, a majority of correction centers are managed by private security outfits. In a few countries, duties like PCR management, Control room management etc., are also carried out by private security companies. It is recommended that Police can develop a partnership model with Private Security industry wherein it can rely on the efficient run outfits to perform such tasks in the times to come.

Modus Operandi

A modus operandi needs to be developed between the Police and Private Security industry for working out the modalities of this proposed partnership. This would take some time and also several meetings to decide how best we can move forward. The following frame work is suggested:

- a. Police to detail one officer of suitable rank at Police HQs to act as an interface with industry.
- b. Delhi to be divided into 4 or 5 zones. Each zone to appoint a suitable officer who would interact with the security outfits of that zone.
- c. Industry to appoint nodal officers in each police district which can have an interface with the appointed Police officer of that zone/district.
- d. Industry shall form a committee in conjunction with the Police which would comprise members from the

- industry as well as from the Police and may also have members from eminent chambers of commerce.
- e. A regular MIS be generated to keep a record of the progress made.
 - f. These nodal officers from industry shall be coordinating with the appointed officer of the district / zone and the officer located at Police HQs shall be coordinating with the head / heads of the committee for the smooth functioning of this project.
 - g. This committee shall prepare yearly objectives divided into four quarters and the progress can be gauged every quarter wherein the Police Commissioner may also like to monitor the progress.

Conclusion

The private security force available within the country must be utilized by the Police as a force multiplier. While complete powers as per the law would remain with the Police, private security could become an arm of the Police for betterment of the crime preventing and crime fighting system.

Private security can play an active role in supporting the police in various tasks and while such interface is developed, this would also give credibility to private security in the eyes of the citizens of Delhi. It is important for the Police to recognize the efforts of the private security outfits and industry supporting them and give them some sort of identity which would help them in carrying out the tasks expected by Police.

Industry can also assist Police in carrying out educational seminars on policing and public security from time to time.

This association between the Police and Industry in Delhi, if planned and monitored properly in a consistent manner, can become a term of reference in whole of India and can do wonders in making the country a safe and secure place to live in. ■

Bush to visit Middle East / World Donors pledge \$7.4 billion to Palestine

As a follow-up to a Middle East peace conference which was held at the Annapolis naval base last month, U.S. President George Bush is to embark on a week-long tour of the Middle East in January to assist the Israelis and Palestinians closer towards an agreement. The two sides had agreed in Annapolis to work out a solution by the end of 2008.

It will be the first time in his seven years as president that Bush will visit Israel, the West Bank, Saudi Arabia and the Gulf states.

Equations in the Middle East are complex and there is no simple solution to the age old problems in the region.

\$7.4 billion aid package for Palestine

A month after Annapolis, delegations from the world's powers met in Paris to agree on an aid package worth billions of dollars to stabilize the Palestinian economy and give political impetus to the newly re-launched peace process with Israel. Notable amongst those present were U.N. Secretary General Ban Ki-moon, Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov, the European Union High Representative for the Common Foreign and Security Policy Javier Solana and his European Commission colleague Ferrero-Waldner, U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice and Tony Blair, former British Prime Minister and envoy for the so-called Middle East Quartet. India attended both the conferences.

The Palestinian leadership had expected to receive 5.6 billion at the

conference but finally received \$7.4 billion.

India's support to Palestine cause unwavering: Kapil Sibal

Union Minister of Science and Technology and Earth Sciences Kapil Sibal, representing India at the Annapolis Conference to promote Arab-Israeli peace on November 27, 2007 said, "India applauds the Joint Understanding reached by the President of Palestine Mr. Mahmoud Abbas and Prime Minister of Israel Mr. Ehud Olmert. India's support to the Palestinian cause can be traced to the days of our freedom struggle. This support has not wavered. We recognized the PLO as the representative of the Palestinian people in 1975 and were one of the first countries to recognize the State of Palestine in 1988. India recognized the State of Israel soon after its creation. With the establishment of full diplomatic relations in 1992, we have developed close and friendly relations with Israel."

Minister of State for External Affairs Shri E. Ahamed attended the Donors' Conference on Palestine and said, "In tune with our principled support to the Palestinian cause and the Palestinian people, India has so far extended assistance in the form of grants to the tune of US\$ 22 million to the Palestinian National Authority towards development of Palestinian institutions, besides humanitarian aid in times of crises." The Government of India made a pledge of USD 5 million at the Paris meet. ■