

ORGANIZATIONAL AND LEGAL MEASURES TO COUNTER THE SPREAD OF TERRORISM

based on the experience of the Republic of Uzbekistan

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Abstract: In the article the author reveals the positive experience of Uzbekistan in the field of counteracting the spread of terrorism, considers organizational and legal and systemic measures that contribute to the elimination of conditions for the spread of this negative phenomenon.

Keywords: organizational and legal measures, counteraction to terrorism, experience of Uzbekistan, fight against terrorism.

Аннотация: В статье автором раскрывается положительный опыт Узбекистана в сфере противодействия распространению терроризма, рассматриваются организационно-правовые и системные меры, способствующие устранению условий распространения данного негативного явления.

Ключевые слова: организационно-правовые меры, противодействие терроризму, опыт Узбекистана, борьба с терроризмом.

An analysis of the situation in the world shows that modern terrorism is one of the most dangerous threats to the security and integrity of any state. The problem of combating terrorism remains relevant throughout the world. In 2023, deaths from terrorism increased by 22 per cent to 8,352 deaths and are now at their highest level since 2017 [1].

It should be noted that the measures taken by the international community to counter the spread of terrorism do not fully reduce the level of both global and regional terrorist threats, and do not keep pace with the evolving terrorist threats.

In addition, recently, international terrorist organizations have sought to actively participate in internal conflicts of independent states, which leads to the blurring of boundaries between international and domestic terrorism and increases their influence on the socio-political situation within some countries.

Terrorism is trying to demonstrate to society the impotence of governments of the world in countering terrorism and is pushing government structures to change their policies [2].

In most cases, terrorist organizations focus their attention on young people, which poses threats to public and state security. The active

force of international terrorist organizations and their personnel reserve are young people who, due to the circumstances (social, psychological, demographic, cultural, etc.), are most susceptible to ideological influence [3].

It should be noted that in conditions of religious disorientation, social insecurity, criminalization, corruption, declining incomes, low literacy, destructive ideas that come from outside, offering at first glance a simple solution to existing problems (financial, political, ideological, religious, etc.), sometimes find a response and support among some sections of the youth of different countries.

In this regard, I would like to note the positive experience of Uzbekistan.

Thus, the current legislation of the Republic of Uzbekistan in the field of combating terrorism is based on international legal experience and defines the basic principles, powers and measures to prevent the emergence of terrorism.

In particular, these are: the Constitution of the Republic of Uzbekistan, the Criminal Code (1994), the Laws "On Combating Terrorism" of December 15, 2000, "On Combating the Legalization of Proceeds from Crime, the Financing of Terrorism and the Financing of the Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction"

of August 26, 2004, "On Extremism" of July 30, 2018, "The National Strategy of the Republic of Uzbekistan to Counter Extremism and Terrorism for 2021-2026" (DP-6255 of July 1, 2021), the Concept of Public Security of the Republic of Uzbekistan (DP-27 of November 29, 2021), "The Development Strategy of the New Uzbekistan for 2022-2026" (DP-60 of January 28, 2022), "The Strategy "Uzbekistan - 2030" (DP-158 of September 11, 2023) and a number of other regulatory legal acts adopted in this direction.

In our republic, the prevention of terrorist activity is carried out by implementing a set of political, socio-economic, legal and other preventive measures by state bodies, citizens' self-government bodies and public associations, as well as enterprises, institutions and organizations. Its ultimate goal is to ensure the safety of the individual, society and the state from terrorism.

It must be emphasized that among the CIS countries, the Criminal Code was the first to be adopted in the Republic of Uzbekistan, and even then, it included Article 155 "Terrorism". Over the years of independence, the regulatory framework in this area has been constantly improved in Uzbekistan.

In particular, Article 155 (terrorism), Article 155-1 (Failure to report information and facts about terrorist acts being prepared or committed), Article 155-2 (Undergoing training, travel or movement for the purpose of carrying out terrorist activities) and Article 155-3 (Financing of terrorism) and other changes and additions were revised and introduced into the Criminal Code of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

It should be noted that the Criminal Code of the Republic of Uzbekistan provides that a person involved in the preparation or financing of terrorism is obliged to actively inform the authorities or otherwise prevent the occurrence of serious consequences and the implementation of terrorist goals, otherwise criminal liability is provided.

In order to successfully organize a system to counter the terrorist threat and develop effective measures, it is necessary to identify the factors that influence modern terrorist threats.

In this regard, it is possible to conditionally identify the main factors that can contribute to emergence of terrorism in different countries.

Thus, the activities of parties, movements, fronts and organizations that resort to violence; criminal activity of criminal communities that has become widespread and is aimed at destabilizing society; loss of state control over the country's economic and financial resources and arms trafficking; weakening of the security system for military facilities that are sources of weapons; worsening crime and the spread of legal nihilism; the emergence and development of mercenary institutions; the transition of many professionals from law enforcement and security agencies to criminal structures, the infiltration of foreign extremist terrorist organizations and religious sects into the country and their activities on its territory; the flow of refugees from countries with a low level of education and economic situation; the negative influence of the media that cultivate violence and create advertising for terrorists; lack of control over the dissemination of methods and means of terrorist activity through information networks, an unstable situation in border countries, and migration.

In addition, in recent years, a significant increase in poverty and unemployment due to the turbulent situation in some regions of the world has led to an intensification of the process of population migration and an increase in the number of labor migrants.

The President of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev emphasized: "At the same time, the unstable situation in some regions of the world leads to an increase in migration processes, and this, in turn, contributes to the spread of terrorism and extremism and their transformation into a global problem" [4].

It should be noted that these factors can contribute to the emergence of terrorism only when combined with numerous ethno-political, interfaith and other conflicts.

In some CIS countries and in particular in the Central Asian region, a significant increase in Islamization and radicalization of the population is being recorded. This is facilitated by the active recruitment of citizens into the ranks of terrorist organizations, primarily for participation in military operations in Syria, Afghanistan, for conducting sabotage and terrorist activities and organizing sleeper cells directly in the countries of residence. To achieve these goals, recruiters use such forms and

methods as inciting religious and national intolerance; ideological processing of citizens, including recently the active use of social networks and messengers; creation of a positive image of a terrorist; material interest.

It is possible to highlight the main measures that have proven their effectiveness in combating and preventing terrorism.

In some CIS countries and in particular in the Central Asian region, a certain increase in Islamization and radicalization of the population is being recorded. This is facilitated by the active recruitment of citizens into the ranks of terrorist organizations, primarily for participation in military operations in Syria, Afghanistan, for conducting sabotage and terrorist activities and organizing sleeper cells directly in the countries of residence. To achieve these goals, recruiters use such forms and methods as inciting religious and national intolerance; ideological processing of citizens, including recently the active use of social networks and instant messengers; creation of a positive image of a terrorist; material interest, etc.

It is necessary to emphasize that since 2017, under the leadership of The President Shavkat Mirziyoyev, there has been a sharp change in approaches to the fight against terrorism in Uzbekistan.

The reason is that the complex socio-political situation in the world has necessitated the development of regular effective measures against such a phenomenon as terrorism.

At that time, international standards in the field of human rights began to be widely implemented in our country, while measures were actively taken to increase the legal awareness of citizens and civil servants.

In continuation of this work, an important condition for the formation of intolerance of the population, especially young people, to the destructive ideas of extremism and terrorism is social security, a high level of education, national self-awareness and the idea of peaceful coexistence of religions.

At the initiative of the President of our country, the Center for Islamic Civilization in Uzbekistan, the International Islamic Academy of Uzbekistan, the International Research Centers of Imam al-Bukhari, Imam at-Termizi, Imam al-Maturidi were created.

Also, at the initiative of The Leader of Uzbekistan, a comprehensive system for combating corruption was defined. In particular, the Law "On Combating Corruption" was adopted, which for the first time defined clear legal foundations for activities in this area. An anti-corruption body responsible for developing a unified state policy in this area was created. In order to more effectively combat corruption and ensure transparency of the work of state bodies, the practice of publishing information on the income and expenditure of off-budget funds of state bodies, purchases of organizations with state participation, as well as data on state subsidies and grants was introduced. Thus, the President confirmed his firm commitment to ensuring maximum transparency of the activities of state institutions, which allows their activities to be under close public control.

Transformation is also seen in the field of education. In this area, President Shavkat Mirziyoyev noted: "Where there is no knowledge, there will be backwardness, ignorance and, of course, deviations from the right path."

In this regard, in a short period of time, the number of universities in Uzbekistan increased from almost 77 (2016) to 213 (2023), including more than 30 foreign and non-governmental institutes and universities. Leading universities from the United States, South Korea, Turkey, Italy, Russia and other countries opened their branches in Uzbekistan. Thus, these measures made it possible to increase the level of higher education coverage from 9 (2016) to 42 (2023) percent. Before this, the country occupied the lowest lines in the international ranking for this indicator. Thousands of young people got a chance to study at home and climb the social ladder. Thus, it became more difficult for external destructive elements to influence the minds of educated youth.

It is especially necessary to note the set of measures for the radical improvement of the health care system. In this series, reforms covered almost all areas: improvement of legislation, quality and accessibility of medical care, formation of an effective system of training, advanced training of medical workers, as well as development of medical science.

The situation with freedom of speech has changed radically. Thus, until 2017, the media

were characterized by detachment from reality, a minimum of live broadcasts; online media reprinted meager press releases of government agencies and almost did not deal with their own content. At present, the situation has changed: journalists have begun to cover current and problematic issues from the real socio-political life of the country, materials include content about corruption, abuse of officials, critical materials are published. To protect the interests of journalists, the following were created: the Agency for the Development of Public Service under the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan and the Public Foundation for Support and Development of National Mass Media.

Particularly noteworthy is the progress of Uzbekistan in the area of ensuring religious freedom. At the initiative of the President of Uzbekistan, over 20 thousand citizens suspected of having ties to religious extremist groups have been removed from the special register" of law enforcement agencies. The practice of further maintaining such "lists" has been discontinued [5].

In addition, the Republic of Uzbekistan has accepted the obligations of the relevant UN Security Council resolution on the repatriation of its citizens from combat zones. More than 500 citizens of Uzbekistan (mostly children and women) located at the points of military conflicts returned home from Syria and Iraq as part of Operation "Mekhr". With this humane act, Uzbekistan has set an example of mercy for the world community.

On September 19, 2017, at the 72nd session of the UN General Assembly, the President of Uzbekistan initiated the adoption of a special resolution "Enlightenment and Religious Tolerance", and in December 2018, UN member states supported the initiative and adopted this document. Thus, the President of Uzbekistan, based on an active position and leadership qualities, took important measures in the field of prevention and counteraction to the spread of extremism and terrorism.

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