



Processes of the Development of Terrorism and the Main Trends in the Fight Against it in Uzbekistan

Kamilov Davron Zafarovich

*Doctor of Philosophy (PhD), Acting Associate Professor of Tashkent State University of Law
Specialized*

Abstract: *the article is devoted to the analysis of the emergence and development dynamics of terrorism based on religious rhetoric formed in the last quarter of the XX century and the beginning of the XXI century, in which the events are researched in chronological order based on the information of the global terrorism index and other organizations. Also, the information on the internal political and social reforms of New Uzbekistan in the fight against terrorism and the framework of international organizations and inter-period cooperation was systematically analyzed.*

Keywords: *international terrorism, religious rhetoric, separatism, foreign immigrants, extremist virtual groups, radicalism, terrorist financing, political terrorism, national strategy, global problem, revolutionary movements.*

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INTRODUCTION

In the 20th century, humanity experienced unprecedented complex realities as it achieved great achievements in the field of science and technology. This century, as a period of two world wars, about 150 civil wars and other conflicts, had a great impact on future social and political processes. The conflicts of this period created the basis for the emergence of the phenomenon of terrorism, which is old in content, in a new and more dangerous form.

Terrorism was reflected in national, collective and individual forms with political, economic, religious ideas and slogans in the process of deeply conflicted development of the world community. In most of the 20th century, terrorism was mainly manifested in a political or nationalist spirit, but since the 80s of this century, the number of terrorist acts based on religious rhetoric has increased. The emergence of terrorism based on religious beliefs made this problem even more complicated.

LITERATURE ANALYSIS:

Terrorism is a phenomenon related to long historical events and processes, and is studied as a subject of many studies in the fields of philosophy, political science, sociology, and psychology. The article mainly analyzes the data of the Global Terrorism Index (The Global Terrorism Index) published in different years and the opinions of Western and Uzbek terrorism experts. In particular, Sh. Goyibnazarov's monograph "Islam Against Terrorism" (2021) uses the Uzbek model of fighting terrorism. Also, B. Hoffmann's article "Terrorism based on religious motives" and J. Gavin's

analytical materials about the trends of terrorism in 2022 describe the development trends of modern terrorism.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY.

In this article, the concept of terrorism, formed on the basis of religious rhetoric, is philosophically researched, and data on the dynamics of its development in terms of space and time are comparatively analyzed. Also, issues of internal socio-legal reforms against terrorism and foreign political cooperation in the international arena of New Uzbekistan were studied using the principles of mutuality and historicity.

ANALYSIS AND RESULTS

In the development of terrorism based on religious beliefs in the 20th century, the conflict between Afghanistan and the USSR in 1979 had a wide-scale and lasting impact. As a result of the widespread use of religious ideas for the defense of this war, a group of mercenary mujahideen was formed from the Eastern Muslim world. Such actions later led to the emergence of terrorist groups in many Eastern countries. Also, the revolutionary movement that took place in Iran on this date not only caused the revival of various religious movements in the Eastern Muslim world, but also accelerated the processes of a new form of religious awakening throughout the world. B. Hoffman, one of the world's leading experts, said that "Religious revival has affected not only major religions but also the activities of small sects and groups since the eighties of the last century"[1]. New movements based on religious motives have further developed against the background of the Arab-Israeli conflicts in the Middle East, creating a deeply conflicted situation in the region.

The negative consequences of the attack carried out by Al-Qaeda in the USA at the beginning of the 21st century prompted the start of a new phase of the fight against terrorism. After this terrorist attack, terrorism based on religious motives surpassed nationalistic separatism and became the driver of terrorist activities in the world. According to the information provided by "The Guardian" newspaper in 2014, \$4.4 trillion for operations in Iraq, Afghanistan and other areas as a result of the "War on Terror" launched by the Bush administration after the attacks on New York and Washington on September 11, 2001. despite spending, the threat of terrorism did not disappear[2,1]. It should be noted that, despite the global fight against terrorism not only by the USA, but also by the countries of the world, its danger has not decreased, on the contrary, it has been observed to grow at a steady pace. According to the Global Terrorism Index, 3,361 people were killed by terrorist acts in 2000, and 17,958 people were killed by 2013[3].

The establishment of a caliphate in Iraq and Syria by Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi in 2014 signaled the beginning of a new wave of terrorist activities. The ideas of the members of this movement and their destructive actions have seriously affected the security of many countries.

It should be noted that, in the last decade, the mass media began to provide analytical information about the fact that the world community's fight against terrorism based on religious beliefs began to bear fruit in some regions. In particular, in the West, it was reported that in 2021, terrorist acts based on religious motives decreased by 82%, and the indicators of political terrorism increased by 73% in this region, surpassing religious terrorism[2,2]. In addition, according to the analysis of 2021, it was reported that the number of terrorist acts decreased dramatically in the countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS). It was also reported that in the last four years, the number of people killed in terrorist attacks has decreased to 99 people every year, and in 9 out of 12 countries in the region (D.K.: including Uzbekistan) no terrorist attacks have been recorded in the last five years [4].

According to the results of international analysis, Uzbekistan has recorded positive indicators in the last five years and is recognized as one of the safest countries. V. Mikhaylov, director of the Center

for the Study of Regional Threats in Tashkent, assessed the indicators in this regard as the result of serious and well-thought-out work in the field of combating the spread of terrorism and extremism[5]. Sh. Goyibnazarov analyzes the socio-political and legal aspects of the fight against terrorism in Uzbekistan in recent years and emphasizes that a unique "Uzbek model" of fighting such threats has been formed in the country and it is aimed at increasing the legal, political, cultural, spiritual and religious enlightenment of the population [6].

We highly appreciate the services of a number of ministries, agencies, institutions of civil society, especially the power systems, in the fight against terrorism and its prevention in the Republic of Uzbekistan. Nevertheless, there are insufficient grounds to say that the problem of terrorism's threat to the internal and external security of the country has been completely eliminated.

The fact that Uzbekistan borders Afghanistan, which has the highest risk of terrorism among the countries of the world, the presence of a small number of its citizens in the ranks of militant groups in the territories of Syria, Iraq, and Pakistan, and the increasing number of groups and individuals promoting extremism in the virtual space require further awareness. According to a study commissioned by the United States Agency for International Development, Uzbek immigrants are more likely to be radicalized abroad and are being recruited into various extremist groups under the influence of online or face-to-face propaganda. Despite the government's efforts to curb extremism, Uzbek citizens made up the majority of foreign migrants in the Syrian civil war. In 2016, the number of Uzbek and Tajik fighters who fought in Syria was about 1,000[7]. Also, one of the suicide bombers who attacked the Istanbul airport in 2016 was found to be an ethnic Uzbek, while the terrorist who killed 39 people in a night club of this city in 2017 was reported to be a citizen of Uzbekistan [8]. In addition, it was confirmed that the people who carried out terrorist attacks in St. Petersburg, Stockholm, and New York in 2017 were citizens of Uzbekistan or ethnically Uzbek.

The government of Uzbekistan regularly pays attention to the problem of terrorism and extremism, not only to the internal security of the country, but also to the prevention of various forms of threats, taking into account the processes of globalization. In particular, the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Sh. Mirziyoyev said, "Currently, new hotbeds of tension are emerging in different regions of the world, contradictions between nations and confessions are intensifying, and the danger of radicalism and extremism is increasing. In such a dangerous situation, we must strongly oppose any threats and dangers that harm our stability and security" [9]. Indeed, in recent years, there have been dramatic changes in the dynamics of the development of terrorism. From this point of view, international terrorism remains a problem affecting the security of the state and society on a global scale.

CONCLUSIONS

The information on the dynamics of the development of terrorism and the position of the new Uzbekistan in these processes and the mechanisms of combating it allow us to draw the following general conclusions in this regard.

First, terrorism was formed in the eighties of the 20th century on the world geopolitical scene, with the strong influence of religion on people's minds, aiming for political goals. Extremist ideas and terrorist practices based on religious slogans have been more pronounced in regions with a high level of religiosity in the population, especially in the Muslim societies of the East.

Secondly, at the beginning of the 21st century, the actions carried out by Al-Qaeda, later ISIS and a number of other militant groups showed that terrorism based on religious rhetoric is not a temporary tool of ideological struggle, but a global problem that calls for the united struggle of the world community.

Thirdly, Uzbekistan established cooperation with neighboring countries in the fight against terrorism. Also, as a member of international organizations, Uzbekistan has signed agreements with major countries such as the USA, Russia, China, India, and Pakistan on the fight against terrorism. At the moment, the country is trying to build a strong civil society free from the danger of extremism and terrorism by further developing the legal, political-social, cultural-educational spheres.

Fourthly, due to the socio-political and legal reforms implemented in the country, which prevented the development of terrorist activities in the following years, Uzbekistan became one of the safest countries free from the threat of terrorism. However, the high risk of religious radicalization inside and outside the country calls for a regular analysis of the causes of the problem and the organization of complex measures.

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