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Current Problems of Strengthening Ideological Immunity Against Religious Extremism

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Abstract

The article reveals the essence of the concept of “extremism”, the main factors in the origin of religious extremism, and the reasons for the growth of extremist behavior among young people. Proposals were also made for the formation of effective mechanisms to fight extremism and terrorism.

Key words: extremism, terrorist organization, religious doctrine, ISIS, Al-Qaeda, Religious studies.

Introduction

Currently, under the guise of Islam, members of religious and political movements are committing various crimes that pose a serious threat to the security of society. The most dangerous aspect of this process is manifested in the pursuit of power through the politicisation of religion, in attempts to use religion to incite enmity between people, to carry out subversive activities and to pursue selfish interests.

The first and main reason for the origin of religious extremism is the emergence of fanatical ideas and views. So, bigotry prepares the ground for religious extremism and terrorism.

Many years of experience show that the environment of youth, including minors, due to its lack of social protection and extreme impressionability, remains the most vulnerable group in front of the aggressive ideology of extremism and terrorism, which leads to an increase in the number of those in a mood of protest [6, 7, 9, 11, 12, 13].

Recently, there have been more and more reports of arrests of new supporters of extremist or terrorist organizations by the security and law enforcement agencies of Uzbekistan. We are not talking about one or two members, but about full-fledged organizations that include dozens of people.

The Main Findings and Results

The concept of "extremism" is consistent with the words such as "enormous", "exaggeration", "excessiveness", which are the main sources of Islam, the verses of the Holy Qur'an and the hadiths of our Prophet Muhammad (pbuh), all of which are condemned in the teachings of our religion, and Muslims returned from actions. For example, in the Holy Qur'an, the word *guluw*-exaggeration appears in several verses, and in all of them Allah the Exalted has warned His servants from *guluw*("exaggeration"). Including: "O People of the Book! Do not go to extremes regarding your faith; say nothing about Allah except the truth...." (Sura An-Nisa 171). In another verse: "Say, "O People of the Book! Do not go to extremes in your

faith beyond the truth, nor follow the vain desires of those who went astray before 'you'. They misled many and strayed from the Right Way". (Sura Moida 77) [1]

The word "extremist" means "unbelievable", "excessive". The main characteristic of extremism is the promotion of views that are contrary to the values and norms accepted in society, extreme views and tendencies to measures.

Religious extremism is the ideology and activities of some religious organizations or some believers that do not correspond to the rules of society.

In Article 3 of the Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan "On Combating Extremism" dated July 30, 2018 ORQ-489, this concept is defined as follows:

Extremism is an expression of extreme forms of actions aimed at destabilizing the socio-political situation, changing the constitutional system of the Republic of Uzbekistan by force, seizing power and usurping its powers, inciting national, racial, ethnic or religious enmity [2].

Giving a religious tone to such actions leads to religious extremism. Religious extremism means a theory and practice based on the rejection of traditional religious values and beliefs for the society, the propaganda of contrary ideas by deception and force.

The "subtle" aspect of Islamic extremism is that it is based on "religion" (not true religion). Extremist organizations that selectively use Islamic slogans and distort the true essence of religion, pretend to show the existence of organic unity with the masses of the people, but in fact, they have the needs of gathering funds to create disorder and disorganization in the society, occupying the mind as the main source of threat, and achieving power by causing instability in the society. they aim to satisfy.

Extremist views can be found within all religious teachings. For example, experts consider the activities of the Inquisition, which was organized in the 13th century to persecute the enemies of the papal power, and which resulted in thousands of victims, as a specific form of extremism.

There are also many religious extremist movements based on some sects of Christianity. In particular, "Yahwists", "Pentecostals", and "Enterprising Baptists" do not recognise legitimate authority and secular law at all. In their opinion, the church is above the state. Some groups of Pyatidesyatniks force their subjects to perform prayers with extreme cruelty, and encourage them to renounce worldly blessings and live in a worldly way.

Religious extremism or fanaticism can take many forms. For example, the "ultra" Protestants in Ulster, the "Muslim brothers" in the Near and Middle East, the Wahhabis (Wahhabism) that appeared in Central Asia and the Caucasus, etc. They fight against society and the Laws in almost the same way.

In the speech of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan, Shavkat Mirziyoyev, at the 72nd session of the United Nations on September 12, 2017, the causes of extremism and terrorism were indicated: will give. In this regard, in many cases, the fight against the main causes of threats is limited to their consequences, and I believe that the roots of international terrorism and extremism, along with other factors, are ignorance and intolerance. In this regard, it is the most important task to form and educate the consciousness of people, first of all, young people on the basis of enlightenment. Most of the crimes related to extremist activity and violence are committed by young people under the age of 30" [3].

The reasons why young people join extremist and terrorist organizations are as follows:

According to statistics, 10 percent of militants are potential killers, for whom holding a gun is a way to satisfy their passions. 15 percent are religious fanatics who believe that armed jihad is the only way to fight against infidels [5].

Some experts say that most of the terrorists come from poor countries. This is not true. In 2001, the attacks on the World Trade Center were carried out by educated youth. Some of them even had two higher educations from European and American universities. All terrorists were children of wealthy families. Europeans with educations such as doctors, managers and economists have come to Syria and Iraq to areas controlled by ISIS. Not only ISIS, but also al-Qaeda has been joined by well-off and educated youth.

Thus, members of youth and adolescent groups of extremist orientation are, as a rule, individuals who grew up and were brought up in a socially unfavorable environment, and whose families often live on the poverty line. But we must not forget that there is an opinion among scientists that "crimes are often committed by the privileged strata of society, young people and minors from wealthy families" [4].

So, the reason for recruitment to religious-extremist organizations is not only economic, but also ideological.

Conclusion

In order to prevent the spread of harmful ideas among young people, including minors, and to form effective mechanisms for combating extremism and terrorism, it is necessary to implement the following measures in the field of education and youth policy:

- a) Organization of "Religious Studies" circles under the relevant departments of HEIs;
- b) regularly and consistently holding roundtable discussions, contests and quizzes with students and young people that help them to form knowledge about the true nature of religions [8, 14, 15, 17, 18, 19];
- c) to study the activities of religious organizations in the territory of the republic on a regular basis, from the point of view of established norms, and to publicly announce the results of the studies. This imposes a sobering responsibility on the religious organizations operating in the territory of our republic;
- d) Monitoring of religious organizations registered by the Ministry of Justice and announcing its results through the Ministry's official website and telegram channels [10, 16, 20, 21, 22, 23];
- e) Acquaint the general public with the concepts of "religious extremism", "terrorism", religious-extremist organizations, their methods and means of activity in the territory of Uzbekistan. Using SMS services that help strengthen ideological immunity through mobile communication.

In order to increase the effectiveness of the fight against extremism and terrorism, it is important to establish international organizations, multi-state and bilateral cooperation, create a strong legal basis in national legislation, as well as expose the criminal activities of terrorist groups.

In Chapter VI of the "Development Strategy of New Uzbekistan for 2022-2026" of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan dated January 28, 2022, entitled "Approaching universal problems based on national interests", the 82nd goal is: "Formation of effective mechanisms for combating extremism and terrorism" ", and specific directions were defined.

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