Terrorist and extremist crimes among young people and regionally sensitive prevention

Dureja Zijadinovna Zijadova*, Minara Rachidhanovna Magomedova, and Neftulla Kamalutdinovich Magomedov

Law Institute, Daghestan State University, 8, Korkmasova Str., Makhachkala, 367012, Russian Federation

Abstract. Preventing extremism and terrorism crimes in the republics of the North Caucasus in the near future is relevant, since today’s volatile situation in society calls for constant reference to the problem in order to comprehend the development of these crimes in the face of the liberalization of public life. Evaluating regional and territorial characteristics of crime suggests that its content depends not only on the state of society at large, but also on the way social processes are organized in the regions. Therefore, there are some significant differences in the level of terrorism and extremism crime among young people in different regions of the Russian Federation. In this sense, the nature and rate of crime in the border regions are relatively localized within regional-territorial frameworks. This is due to the fact that some regions of the Russian Federation have developed peculiar demographic, cultural, socio-economic, geopolitical conditions that affect the qualitative and quantitative indicators of youth crime, causing peculiar criminological situations to develop in certain regions. Regional analysis of crime is a mandatory attribute of criminological research. Within its framework, terrorism and extremism crime among young people is considered as an integrative output of complex social territory-specific interactions. Attempts to feature terrorism and extremism crime among young people in the republics of the North Caucasus, the way it differs from this kind of crime in other regions of the Russian Federation are of great preventive importance.

Keywords: youth extremism, terrorism among young people, prevention, regional specific features

1 Introduction

The geopolitical position of the Russian Federation fundamentally changed the status of the Republic of Dagestan, transforming it into a dangerous border area. Due to its geopolitical position, it became a hotbed of inter-confessional conflicts and a favorable region for a wide dissemination of radical ideas to wider public. At present, the level of instability, explosiveness, unresolved socio-political, socio-political, ethnic, confessional, national and other problems in the Republic of Dagestan has no equals in the Russian Federation. Therefore, the problem of extremism and terrorism crime, which is of paramount global significance, is especially relevant for the Republic of Dagestan, as the current socio-political situation actively produces both the factors that give rise to extremism and the circumstances conducive to extremist intentions. Therefore, negative modifications of youth consciousness with the prevalence of extremist orientation took place there have been negative modifications of youth consciousness with a prevailing extremist strand. In turn, it is the ideological mood among the youth that determines the future of the state.

A feature of this Russian region was that local people were massively involved in extremist and terrorist structures. A series of studies confirm that the Republic of Dagestan is ranked first among the subjects of the Russian Federation in terms of involving the population in terrorist activities. The authors believe that this position is due to the fact that, back in the 90s of the twentieth century, this subject of the Russian Federation attracted many special services of various states pursuing their own interests. Most of them considered it as a possible bridgehead for asserting their spiritual and political influences in the North Caucasus as well as other Muslim regions of the Russian Federation. To involve the population in the republics of the North Caucasus in criminal activities in the 90s of the twentieth century, foreign separatists lured them with extremist symbols, bribed the leaders of criminal groups, so that later their members would recruit new members. Recruited local newly minted extremists “carried out and still carry out activities to select young people with a view to sending them to study in foreign Islamic extremist centers”. In this regard, the prevention of extremist and terrorist crime among young people in the border region of the Russian Federation is becoming an urgent issue of modern criminology.

The region features ethno-religious extremism. In the Republic of Dagestan, political and religious organizations, movements and individuals use youth extremism as a tool to achieve political and ideological goals. In this regard, “in the compound crises facing the
Russian society, the lack of effective legal ways to overcome “social hopelessness” leads to accumulated aggressiveness, frustration that are affirmed in regenerated ethno-religious forms of violence as a compensatory factor” [1].

The rate of regional crime correlates with the processes behind social marginalization, moral decay, and the uncertainty of the ideological atmosphere of developing societies.

The findings into the status and rate of crime in the North Caucasian region of the Russian Federation show some of its trends. These involve negative changes in the structure of extremist and terrorist crime among young people, increased cruelty in extremism and terrorism crimes, rejuvenation of extremism, family-related troubles, effects of socio-economic crises, family finances, lower humanization in society, rising proportion of women in the total mass of young people who will commit extremism and terrorism crimes, low moral level of the family, homelessness, alcoholism, substance abuse, drug addiction, youth prostitution, growing number of young people who use alcohol, narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, involvement of young people in various non-traditional types of religion, involvement of young people in committing terrorism and extremism crimes, young people’s parents and relatives being involved in terrorism and extremism crimes.

In the future, we can predict more crimes related to the illegal manufacture of weapons. Many terrorism crimes are committed using homemade weapons, explosives and explosive devices. The number of criminal cases initiated under Article 223 of the Criminal Code of the Russian Federation is growing every year. Earlier, some ethnic groups in the Republic of Dagestan used to be skilled in making artisan weapons, which has revived due to an increased demand and become commercially profitable. Some settlements in the republic produce weapons, explosives and explosive devices. During search operations in the republic, entire arms production centers were found in some settlements. Therefore, the researchers are right in their reasoning that the regional signs of terrorist acts involve professionally made explosive devices equipped with a high-powered striking element and perpetrators well trained to lay explosive devices.

Regional crime tends to feature female extremism. Extremism among women is an extreme product of the activities performed by extremist criminal communities. Over the last few years, separatists and extremists have been focusing on women, especially young girls and young women. State authorities, in turn, are tasked to fight against women. Female extremism in the regions of the Russian Federation undermines the people’s faith in the ability of the state to ensure their security.

Summarized investigative and judicial materials showed that behind “the facts of involving women in extremism and terrorism crimes is a well-tuned criminal system. Female extremism was created by well-prepared, organized and numerous criminal organizations. Extremist structures have a high natural capacity to involve women in their networks, they have special opportunities, methods and means to develop female extremism” [2].

A growing trend of female religious terrorism is of particular concern. Young girls are sacrificing themselves rather than building future families, strengthening family foundations, becoming mothers, and taking on the child-rearing duties [3, 4].

Given the inconsistency of the processes taking place in the Russian Federation, one should not expect a substantial decrease in extremism and terrorism crime in the border region of the Russian Federation in the near future, despite a declining crime rate in the country. In the short term, one can expect a further rise in extremism and terrorism crime in the border region of the Russian Federation with its subsequent outbreaks due to a close dependence of the crime rate on the socio-economic and political situation in the country [5].

The conclusions suggest that forecasts for a further rise of regional crime cause concern for the future of the state. Unfavorable trends in extremism and terrorism crime in the border region of the Russian Federation naturally entail further growth in extremism and terrorism crime, which signifies the need to improve the state social policy towards youth. Otherwise, current signs of youth religious extremism in the Republic of Dagestan pose a threat to the peaceful coexistence of nationalities in the republic, to the security of the Russian state and the security of the world and humanity [6].

2 Problem Statement

A large number of studies have been concerned with the prevention of extremism and terrorism crime, being a vital criminological problem. Despite a certain status, the topic of prevention of terrorism crimes among young people remains relevant. It is most relevant for the republics of the North Caucasus, where terrorist crime, including the involvement of young people in this activity, remains a common phenomenon. Therefore, extremism and terrorism crime among young people, improving the prevention framework, are currently the principal regional criminological problem [7].

3 Research Questions

The research questions are as follows:

- regional features of extremism and terrorism crime among youth;
- regionally sensitive ways for improving the system for preventing extremism and terrorism crime among young people.

4 Purpose of the Study

The paper aims to identify regional features of extremism and terrorism crime among young people and, based on the findings, to determine regionally sensitive ways for improving the system for preventing extremism and terrorism crime among young people.
5 Research Methods

The research methods involve comparison, generalization of criminal materials, analysis of investigative and judicial statistics, generalization of statistical data on extremism and terrorism crimes among young people, sociological methods (questionnaires, surveys, conversations, interviews and observations). Sociological methods were used to identify the factors determining young people to become extremists and terrorists. Historical and comparative methods were used in determining regionally sensitive directions for improving the framework for preventing extremism and terrorism crime among young people.

6 Findings

Preventing extremism and terrorism crime among young people requires a specifically tailored state policy for its implementation, with a focus on:

1. socio-economic measures. They involve improvement and alignment of the economic system, reduction of youth unemployment, development of production based on modern technologies, departure of the export market from resource and raw material to production and industrial, revival of state-owned industrial enterprises in the region, keeping the inflation process within a stable exchange rate, limiting the negative implications of economic crises;

2. social measures. They involve social aid to low-income and large families, improving psychological support for the population, improving youth leisure, enhancing the role of educational institutions, improving the living conditions of education and training staff, preventing drug addiction, substance abuse and alcoholism among young people, reducing the number of disadvantaged families, the number of parents who have lost their jobs, cannot afford to have normal conditions to ensure development and education of their children, re-socializing families with extremist lifestyles, improving the system of leisure activities for young people, supplementary education institutions, local financing for activities to combat involvement in terrorist crimes, developing a network of institutions for organizing leisure activities for young people, providing social assistance to young people in troubles;

3. organizational and managerial measures. They involve coordinating the activities of various institutions and organizations in the field of social control over youth extremism, creating and implementing staged regional systems of social control and countering youth extremism, reviving the institution of public trusteeship, including guardianship societies, charitable foundations, providing financial and organizational support for the activities of teenage and youth centers in the neighbourhood, defense and sports and recreation camps for young people, minimizing corruption in all echelons of state power, cracking down on social injustice by government officials, improving the work of law enforcement agencies to ensure law and order, improving the selection procedure for law enforcement agencies and other authorities, improving the professional training of law enforcement officers and other government officials, monitoring the professional activities of deputies, heads of municipalities, heads of state organizations, conducting large-scale special operational preventive measures aimed at detecting, documenting and suppressing corrupt and illegal activities from government officialsheads of state structures, establishing specialized units directly aimed at preventing abuse of power by government officials in the Federal Security Service of the Russian Federation. They also imply organizing the Commission on Counteracting Crime in the highest echelons of power at the regional level, suppressing corrupt activities of government officials being guarantors of legality, minimizing corruption among law enforcement officers, organizing the Anti-Corruption Commission among government officials at the regional level, strengthening state borders, covering up all external and internal sources of terrorist financing, introducing effective methods to identify supporters of extremism, terrorism, organizers and participants in illegal armed groups, terminating mass media that advertise racism, extremism and terrorism, stepping up operational and investigative action to identify law enforcement officials and entrepreneurs providing assistance to illegal armed groups and individuals involved in religious extremist movements, performing measures to counter the involvement of law enforcement officials in extremist communities, strengthening operational positions in criminal structures to obtain data on members of internal affairs bodies and other authorities who abuse their official position and assist organized crime, creating a data bank on persons capable of assisting extremism activities, establishing a federal center for linguistic, religious and other assessments of printed, video and audio materials for extremist and terrorist content, taking effective measures to strengthen state control over the financial and other activities of public and religious associations, strengthening control over minors and young people leaving the country for studying in religious extremist centers, creating an Anti-Terrorist Center in one of the republics of the North Caucasus to unite specialized and non-specialized efforts to counter the involvement of young people in terrorism crimes, re-enforcing the material and technical database for the prevention of terrorism crimes [8];

4. moral and educational measures. They involve promoting tolerance among young people, i.e., being tolerant to representatives of another race, nationality, religion, promoting patriotic education, improving and strengthening the activities of after-school institutions, recovering the activities of youth organizations, institutions, centers for organizing free time for young people, taking measures aimed at maintaining and encouraging active citizens, developing and implementing a regional program on Combating the Involvement of Minors in Committing Terrorism and
Extremism Crimes for 2015–2020, integrating academic disciplines in educational programs that focus on a socially valuable role of traditional religions at the present stage of societal development, organizing events by different religious bodies to promote the meaning and tolerance of the dogma, true values for moral socialization of youth, improving the educational process in religious educational institutions, ensuring its strict compliance with state educational standards and avoiding to engage extremist-minded people in the educational process, training highly qualified Muslim religious personnel who combine knowledge of Islamic dogma and secular disciplines, reviving the best diplomatic traditions, customs and traditions of good neighborliness and mutual understanding of nations, socializing the younger generation in the spirit of national and religious tolerance, rejection of extremism and terrorism ideology, organizing trainings with law enforcement officers through the preventive possibilities of social control and public opinion, improving preventive work in law enforcement agencies, taking moral and ethical measures aimed at improving the legal and moral culture of the population, including government officials, increasing the ethical culture and moral stability of law enforcement officers, improving the system of professional training of government officials, increasing professional self-awareness and self-control of government officials [9, 10];


7 Conclusion
The North Caucasus as such is a criminally individualized and original region. The phenomenon of terrorism and extremism crime among young people in the North Caucasus should be considered both as a kind of reflection and a component of federal crime, subject to all-Russian laws, and as a consequence of a set of factors (spiritual, cultural-historical, ethnic, geopolitical) specific for this region that determine the criminal situation here.

The framework for preventing extremism and terrorism crime among young people in the Republic of Dagestan includes, primarily, socio-economic, cultural and historical features of a particular region. Thanks to regional historical and preventive experience, we can identify and consider the characteristic features of the system to be designed for preventing terrorism and extremism crime among young people in clearly defined geographical and historical frameworks, to reveal the strengths and weaknesses of the educational and preventive process at the regional level. The characteristics of crime explored for different regions of the Russian Federation enrich criminological science.

Crime in different regions of the Russian Federation, its status and trends, is one of the important integral indicators characterizing the effectiveness of social processes and transformations taking place at the regional level. The studies of the level, structure and changes (rate) of terrorism and extremism crime among young people in the border region of the Russian Federation is important for analyzing, comparing and predicting its state in the country, region, republic, district, which gives reason to identify factors, determine the most effective means of prevention.

References
5. P. Agapov, S. Sotchenko, Countering the spread of extremist ideology in institutions of the penal system. Legality 8, 22–24 (2016)
6. Yu.M. Antonyan, A particularly dangerous criminal (Moscow, 2013)
10. A. Seifi, M. Nourmoahammadi, The transformation of women’s role in terrorism: from victims to active players. Bull. of the North