

# RELIGIOUS EXTREMISM AND TERRORISM: AS A THREAT TO THE DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE OF SOCIETY

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**Abstract:** This article is dedicated to exposing the threat of religious extremism and terrorism, which is one of the most pressing issues today. It contains a number of suggestions and initiatives by the author. It also outlines the approaches of the world's leading powers to religious extremism and terrorism, as well as measures, are taken to prevent them. Given that religious extremism and terrorism are tools that threaten the stability of society, its global nature has been analyzed. The importance of the "Uzbek model" in combating this violence and its specific features are also highlighted. Global threats have become more widespread, and are no longer confined to one country or region, but to the whole world.

**Keywords:** Religious extremism, terrorism, the Uzbek model, popular culture, socio-psychological factors, , the media, social groups, public associations, delinquency, coalition.

In the 21st century, religious extremism and terrorism, as an integral part of politics, are becoming the means of pursuing foreign policy to achieve the geopolitical goals of individual forces and illegal movements on the world stage, creating the most complex social problems. Therefore, it is the duty of every citizen to understand and combat the consequences of terrorism and religious extremism. In this regard, Islam Karimov, the First President of the Republic of Uzbekistan, said: "It is necessary to inculcate in the minds of the people who the infiltration and spread of political, religious extremism, fanaticism, and other evil currents in our region, which is completely contrary to the nature of our people, poses a great threat to peace and tranquility. It is important to mobilize the people to fight against evil forces by establishing and strengthening moral and spiritual values in the minds of our people".

"Religious extremism is a form of extremism manifested in the guise of religion. Extremism is a theory and practice that advocates extreme measures and ideas in solving problems. Religious extremism is based on these principles. Terrorism is a complex socio-political and criminal phenomenon arising from the internal and external contradictions of social development". Terrorism is one of

the most dangerous forms of political extremism on a global and regional scale and is a multifaceted threat to the vital interests of the individual, society, and the state. Terrorism, by its very nature, has a systemic, social, or political basis and is an ideologically rational use of violence or the threat of its use. Terrorism includes interrelated elements: the ideology of terrorism (theories, concepts, ideological and political platforms); terrorist structures (international and national terrorist organizations, extremist - right and left, nationalist, religious and other public organizations, organized crime structures, etc.), as well as the terrorist practice itself (terrorist activity).

Today, religious extremism and terrorism, under the guise of Islam, are considered a serious threat to the security of the international community, as well as a means of disrupting the peaceful life of our people. They are doing everything in their power to lead our future, our youth, on the right path. In particular, today's threats include, in addition to religious extremism and terrorism, ethnic conflicts, corruption, as well as crime and environmental issues, and life itself demonstrates the need for vigilance and vigilance in the face of modern threats to humanity and its development. Indeed, we are witnessing the suffering of humanity as a result of religious extremism, terrorism, drug trafficking, or "popular culture". In order to achieve our good intentions and goals, we must, first of all, realize the essence of the propaganda carried out by such evil forces and build strong immunity against them. An analysis of the activities of religious extremist movements shows that all of these movements have their own wide network for the realization of their bloody goals, with special emphasis on socio-psychological factors and their use. In turn, these religious organizations are already provoking bloody interstate, ethnic and religious conflicts under the slogan of the Islamic State.

Extremism and terrorism are a major threat to any, even the most stable and prosperous society. One of the most important aspects of the fight against terrorism and extremism in the public sphere is its prevention. It is important to carry out such preventive work among young people, as this environment is the most vulnerable to

exposure to various antisocial and criminal groups. Leaders of various extremist groups recruit young people into their associations and often promise them easy solutions to all problems, including financial ones. Sensitive young minds do not think that by participating in the work of such structures, they not only solve their existing problems but also create many new things for themselves, in fact, ruin their future.

Prevention of terrorism and extremism among young people involves the implementation of a set of measures to create a legal culture in the youth environment, which will significantly expand the legal component of upbringing and education. Knowing one's rights and freedoms help the younger generation develop a sense of respect for the rights and freedoms of others, including their lives, health, and dignity. It is also necessary to develop a tolerant attitude among young people, a tolerant attitude towards all people, regardless of nationality, religion, social, property status, and other circumstances.

Religious extremist movements promote Islam for their own ambitions. In order to achieve their goals, they begin to drag our youth into the abyss through the Internet, mobile communications, television, and video games. Therefore, the President calls on the entire public to fight this scourge by all available means. Advocacy through community leaders, educators, teachers, community committee activists, and elders has become a major issue.

These acts of violence threaten the peaceful coexistence not only of Uzbekistan but of all countries of the world. In fact, religious values are, by their very nature, an invaluable force that always leads people to goodness. Only those who target destructive ideas try to use religion as a mask: "... the world community is disturbed, and sometimes even feared, by extreme events such as religious extremism and fundamentalism". As the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev noted, "Today, the escalating bloody conflicts and contradictions in some regions of the world, the threat of terrorism and extremism require us to be constantly vigilant". He also said that "the protection of the constitutional order, sovereignty, territorial integrity of our country from various threats, further strengthening of peace and stability is the main guarantee of all our achievements". Prevention of extremism and terrorism is the task not only of the state but also of civil society. It depends on the position of political parties, public and religious associations, and citizens. In our country, it should be considered as a means of combating efforts to prevent extremism and strengthen the economic and political potential of citizens.

It is necessary to know and understand the criminal nature of these events in order to combat extremism and terrorism and prevent them in society. The motivation of offenders differs significantly from the motivation of law-abiding citizens. In extremist organizations, criminal

behavior motivates individuals and groups. The political practice of extremism is evolving in all forms of extremist activity, from those that do not go beyond the constitutional framework to those that are acute and socially dangerous, such as rebellion and terrorism.

The modernization of the problem of terrorism is the result of human civilization, which has experienced riots, brutal wars, inquisitions, revolutions, and murders. The essence of terrorism is the active use of intimidation to force people to act in a way that is beneficial to terrorists. The essential feature of terrorism and its meaning is violence and intimidation.

Today, terrorism has become one of the most effective means of governing society objectively, despite the fact that humanity has ceased to fear the existing authorities and laws of society because of civilization in general. The most important modern stage in the development of terrorism was its unprecedented globalization. Globalization has had a serious impact on the security of the world community. Some nationalist and separatist leaders are trying to establish an Islamic factor for their own ends, which is destabilizing the socio-political situation in a number of regions.

Most of the terrorists operating under religious slogans belong to the group of pro-government leaders of various terrorist groups (Osama bin Laden, al-Zawahiri, Abu Hamza al-Masri, Abu Abbas, Sheikh Omar Abdul-Rahman, Muhammad Omar, Tahir Yuldash, etc.). An analysis of the current state of terrorist threats in the United States, Europe, the Russian Federation, and Central Asia shows that they are complex in nature and affect the vital interests of the individual, society, and the state. In this regard, the issue of religious extremism must be based on the fact that it is a long-term factor in world politics, and overcoming it, as well as the threat posed by terrorism, requires great strength from the international community.

The analysis of the materials shows that in some cases, the subjects resort to terrorism because they have not found another way to solve the problems that have arisen. Officials, for their part, do not see the need to engage in dialogue with terrorists but choose to use force to resolve the issue, which could lead to armed conflict. Counterterrorism campaigns in Afghanistan and Iraq are not much different from terrorist attacks, because in both cases innocent people are killed.

For example, the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) has its insidious financial resources: looting, robbery, theft, aggression, black oil trading, human trafficking, and so on. In 2014, according to the United Nations, in October 2014 alone, terrorists killed 1,273 people. Of these, 856 were civilians and 417 were military personnel. It goes without saying that for this category of "businessmen" money mixed with blood and dirty politics is the most convenient means of inciting international

murderers in different parts of the world and inciting conflicts that can be tried.

The World Jihad Foundation, led by Osama bin Laden, has consistently supported terrorist activities. The terrorist organization has set up special training camps (Afghanistan and other countries) to train militants in various countries. "On December 14, 2000, he announced that he had allocated \$20 million to train the militants". In 1996, Juma Namangani was given \$250,000 in charity by these international extremist organizations. Osama bin Laden met Tahir Yuldash in June 1999 in Jerusalem and presented him with \$500,000. He was backed by the Taliban in Umarshaikh, the opposition in Afghanistan.

It should be noted that one of the main driving forces of globalization is ideology. Today, our main task is to preserve peace, to increase the spiritual achievements of man, as well as to fight terrorism, to expose its anti-religious nature.

Thanks to the success of the "Uzbek model" in combating the threat of extremism and terrorism, the number of terrorism-related crimes in our country decreased by 1.7 times last year. In the first six months of 2018, the number of reported terrorist crimes among persons under the age of 30 in Uzbekistan decreased by more than 65.7% compared to the same period in 2017. Thanks to the "Uzbek model" of development, consistently implemented by the First President of the Republic of Uzbekistan I.A. Karimov, interethnic harmony and solidarity have been established in our country. Commenting on this issue, I. Karimov said: "Uzbekistan has many riches, but our greatest wealth, our the highest value is peace, interethnic friendship, and solidarity that prevails in our society".

In conclusion, in recent decades, the phenomenon of religious extremism and terrorism, its diversity in scale, form, and scope, has been growing around the world. To combat religious extremism and terrorism, it is first necessary to clearly define its essence. Based on the above, the following can be proposed to combat terrorism and religious extremism at the national, regional, and global levels:

**First**, the sustainable development of the modern world, the need to protect and preserve the planet and life on it, low and high, and the development of a mechanism to combat terrorism and religious extremism are crucial in this context.

**Second**, the reform of the education system in the Muslim world and the development of laws regulating the use of military force in the fight against terrorism are among the important conditions for the coalition.

**Third**, the country's leaders and law enforcement agencies are urged to refrain from such actions, which could intensify terrorism, such as when the government uses quasi-terrorist methods (Russia in Chechnya, Lebanon in Israel, the United States in Iraq, Turkey in Iraq, and Kurds in

other countries). There are no cases of political, non-existent, religious, cultural, or moral hatred of the population of all countries.

**Fourth**, the most important condition for preventing the fight against terrorism is to consider cases related to demonstrations of political terrorism and to refer the relevant task to the International Criminal Court, taking into account the jurisdiction of national legislation. To some extent, this measure reduces the likelihood of using "double standards" in the fight against terrorism and reduces the use of terrorist violence for political purposes.

**Fifth**, the major powers must abandon the policy of "double standards", only then can the successful fight against terrorism. Under no circumstances should terrorists be divided into "friends" and "strangers", "good" and "bad". The terrorist must be punished in accordance with the laws of the country where the attack took place.

**Sixth**, in the context of globalization, it is recommended that Western countries, especially the United States, stop interfering in the internal affairs of The Islamic world, impose models of globalization, respect their cultural, spiritual, historical values and mentality, and allow them to live freely.

**Seventh**, to complete the Comprehensive UN Convention against Religious Extremism and Terrorism, as well as to develop a common concept of "terrorism", to resolutely fulfill its obligations to prevent and neutralize terrorist acts by member states at the national, regional, and global levels, important measures need to be taken.

**Eighth**, the whole nation, the whole world must fight against religious extremism and terrorism, no state should be left out. Otherwise, terrorists may seek refuge in so-called "neutral" areas.

**Ninth**, inspections have a special place among administrative and coercive measures (airports, railways, bus stations); it is necessary to create security zones for the most vulnerable facilities (education, medical facilities, markets, etc.) and to keep a security passport against terrorism.

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