

Principles of Coverage of Terrorist Acts and Other Socially Dangerous Situations In the Press

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Abstract:

The article deals with the causes of terrorist acts and mass riots, which have become one of today's global problems, endangering human life in various parts of the world, their negative effects on the life of the state and society, the devastating consequences of terrorism, and the coverage processes of these topics in the mass media, in particular, in press materials are revealed. Emergency situations related to terrorist acts in the world, their media coverage and the role of mass media in the fight against terrorism are analyzed in this material.

Key words: terrorism, emergency situation, mass media, media phenomenon, globalization, security.

Introduction

Terrorism is one of the most dangerous and complex events of our time, and it is becoming more and more acute. As a dangerous form of organized crime, it has become one of the international and global problems. In this regard, our honorable President Sh. Mirziyoev's opinion that "today, in some regions of the world, the ever-increasing bloody conflicts and contradictions, the threat of terrorism and extremism require us to be constantly aware and vigilant"[1] are of great importance.

Today, the word terrorism has become one of the most widely used concepts in the world media. Because there is no continent or country where the threat of terrorism has not penetrated. It is

possible to distinguish two dangerous signs of terrorism: firstly, it is more and more merciless and inhumane, and secondly, it is gaining geographical dimensions that are difficult to comprehend. The dangerous aspect is that its number is constantly increasing. For example, according to the data of the US State Department, in 1992, the total number of terrorist acts was 362, and today it has exceeded 900.

The peculiarity of terrorism is that it is aimed at achieving political goals. Violence against this or that person, and the use of force, is manifested as a means of maintaining or changing the policy in this country. This method of political struggle is based on spreading fear and terror among citizens living in a certain society and country. Since terrorist organizations cannot be mass, they often use religious slogans as a mask in order to act on behalf of the broad sections of the population.

EXPERIMENT (RESEARCH) METHODOLOGY

The number of terrorist acts around the world is increasing year by year. This is also confirmed by the analysis of statistical data. For example, currently there are more than 500 terrorist organizations and extremist groups in the world, and according to the "Global Terrorism Index" of the World and Economic Institute, 66,000 terrorist attacks were carried out worldwide in the period from 2007 to 2022 [2]. If we dwell on some of the large-scale terrorist acts committed in the world, hundreds of people died in terrorist attacks mentioned below: September 11, 2001 in the United States; October 23-26, 2002 in Moscow; September 1, 2004 (Beslan) in North Ossetia; April 2, 2015 in Somalia; May 31, 2017 in Afghanistan; on March 15, 2019 in New Zealand; November 16, 2021 in Uganda, November 13, 2022 in Turkey, and January 11, 2023 in Pakistan.

Today, the mass media has become a source with the power to control and change the human mind. New communication technologies are easily expanding their audience in different formats and forms. There are many cases of skillfully using it by various terrorist organizations. Therefore, it is necessary to be very careful when covering the ideological and philosophical views and activities of terrorist organizations in the mass media. Because by organizing bloody scenes, terrorists hope that the situation will be widely covered in the media. Washington University professor J. Post calls terrorism a "media phenomenon" and describes it as a special form of spiritual warfare through mass media [3]. For example, during the terrorist attack in Beslan (Ossetia) in 2004, from September 1 to 20, people with chronic cardiovascular disease had more attacks and deaths. Russian researcher V. Tsyganov distinguishes the following functional features of mass media during terrorist attacks:

- antenna function - information transmission;
- the strengthening function - further deepening the tragedy of the terrorist act;
- focus function - direct the attention of the audience to the terrorist movement;
- filtering function - sorting through all the information, bringing the information about the terrorist act to the fore;
- echo function - preservation of the message about the terrorist act committed in the public memory and its repeated recall in similar events.

If we observe the social and political events taking place in the world, we can see that various opposites and contradictions are increasing in the countries near and far. It is becoming common for such negative political and social processes to be carried out under the influence of external and internal forces. An example of this is the mass riots that took place in January 2022 in the neighboring Republic of Kazakhstan. If we analyze the origin of the complicated situation in Kazakhstan, the next economic crisis expected on a global scale by 2020, adding to the pandemic, has complicated the economic and

social situation in all countries. According to the World Bank, the poverty rate in the country increased to 14% in 2020 due to the negative impact of pandemic restrictions on employment and income levels [4]. At this point, it is necessary to note that geopolitical processes are the basis of socio-economic decline in Kazakhstan. That is, conflicts between Western countries and Russia due to Ukraine have a negative impact on the economy of Kazakhstan, which has a high level of integration with its northern neighbor. So, the objective difficulties and problems accumulated over the years came to the hands of some destructive forces in the country and tried to derail the peaceful life in the country. The reason for this was the increase in gas prices at the beginning of 2022. On January 2, 2022, residents of Janauzen and Oktov cities of the oil-producing Mangistov region in the west of neighboring Kazakhstan went to rallies against the increase in gas prices. On January 4, despite the government's promise to lower gas prices in Mangistov region, protests spread throughout Kazakhstan - the actions spread to the capital Nur-Sultan, the largest city of the country, Almaty, and other cities like Karaganda, Uralsk, Toldikurgan, Kyzylorda, Shymkent. The socio-economic demands of the protesters took a political tone and demanded the resignation of the government. On January 5, a state of emergency was declared throughout Kazakhstan. Protests that began for democracy, justice, and a better life eventually turned into riots and chaos across the country. Aggressive mobs opened fire on law enforcement officials, organized looting, set fire to cars, shops, banks, airports, many medical facilities, government buildings, as well as private property. Disturbances that began with simple demonstrations turned into looting and banditry. As a result, first of all, ordinary people suffered.

According to official data, during the riots in total 225 people were killed, 19 of them were members of the law enforcement system, 4,578 people were injured, 4,353 people received various degrees of injuries, including 3,392 members of the law enforcement system [5]. Local and foreign experts and mass media are trying to evaluate the disastrous processes that happened, the disaster that befell the brotherly nation, based on their point of view and in different relations. In this regard, the State Secretary of Kazakhstan, political expert E. Karin expresses the following opinions: Due to the ineffective use of "Rangli" and "Baxmal" revolutions in Kazakhstan, another scenario of destabilizing the situation in our country, the model of creating disorder using radical and terrorist groups, was tested. In this, the movement in all regions is the strike with same algorithm aimed at occupying state institutions and law enforcement buildings; actions to seize weapons; communication, road closures; blocking infrastructure facilities and others. These are clearly planned, coordinated actions of subversive groups to destabilize the situation in the country, expert in the field of terrorism N. Al-Jariri participated in the demonstrations and expressed the following opinions about it: "The events of January in Kazakhstan may be an attempt by the terrorist group of "jihadists" from Syria and other regions to create chaos in the country and seize power" [6].

In our national press, materials on "Kazakhstan events" were published in "Yangi O'zbekiston", "Правда Востока", "Xalq so'zi", "Jamiyat", "Zarafshon", "Hurriyat" and other newspapers. For example, journalist S. Salim's article in Hurriyat newspaper (issue of January 11, 2022) on the topic "Troublesome Kazakhstan: causes, questions, lessons" describes the transformation of peaceful protests in Kazakhstan into mass riots and armed conflicts, the reasons for its occurrence, government forces and protestor clashes, in which the laxity of law enforcement agencies and the fact that the President of Kazakhstan K. Tokaev was forced to enter the peacekeeping forces of the "Collective Security Treaty Organization" (CSTO) into the country and the measures

taken to eliminate mass disturbances were analyzed. From the information given above, it can be said that there are no ordinary people among the "Disorderly Crowd", which has been repeatedly repeated in some foreign print media, and it is no longer a secret that those who are destroying government offices, shopping centers, burning cars, beating law enforcement officers and taking away their weapons are extremists and terrorists with a radical attitude that have received special training.

RESEARCH RESULTS AND THEIR DISCUSSION

The current situation in the global media world makes the role of mass media, especially the press, important in ensuring the information security of each country, preventing potential threats to the stability of society, terrorism and mass disorder. In this case, the main task of mass media is to arouse, shape and target public opinion based on certain interests. According to scientist M. Bekmurodov, the impact of print media on subjects of social opinion is usually visible in two directions, that is, in the process of initiation, formation and direct action of public opinion. At the formation stage, attention is paid to wide and active involvement of public opinion in important issues of social life, while in the process of implementation, serious attention is paid to maintaining public opinion and increasing its effectiveness [7].

Second, people's need for information is getting stronger and stronger. Today, it is difficult to imagine our life without information. Every person tries to get information from any source about the events happening around, in the country, in the world. In this, press releases have been playing the role of the main written source.

Thirdly, as a result of the creation of modern fast and accurate information technologies, electronic formats of press publications on the Internet and its pages on social networks made it possible to post many materials, which made it possible to increase the number of subscribers of newspapers on the Internet.

Today, information systems and tools are the most effective means of spreading one's interests around the world. The frequent organization of information attacks actually indicates a change in the attitude to "war" and the discovery of a new type of weapon. In order to expand the scope of their interests, various forces and centers are paying special attention to organizing attacks armed with information, not military equipment. After all, the real purpose of propaganda and agitations carried out in various ways and forms today is aimed at the struggle for people's minds. Based on the information given above, it can be said that extremist and international terrorist organizations continue to spread violence and radical views in society by inciting youth to violence, to lose their national identity, cultural-educational and family values under the guise of religious beliefs. In this regard, on July 1, 2021, the President of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev issued the Decree No. PF-6255 on "Approval of the National Strategy of the Republic to combat extremism and terrorism for 2021-2026" to determine more effective measures aimed at preventing and ending extremism and terrorism, as well as eliminating the sources and channels of their financing. The purpose of this strategy is to ensure the implementation of an effective and simultaneously coordinated state policy on combating extremism and terrorism, which allows protecting the constitutional system of the Republic of Uzbekistan, national security, as well as ensuring the rights and freedoms of citizens in this area. Currently, the existing experience in the fight against extremism and terrorism, as well as the retrospective and comparative analyzes of the situation in the countries of the region in the fight against these threats show that extremist and terrorist

activities in Central Asia are mainly based on nationalist (national), social, religious and other radical political ideas.

Based on the national strategy, it is necessary for our national press to fulfill the following tasks in the fight against extremism and terrorism, its prevention in our country:

- to prevent the spread of the ideology of extremism and terrorism, to consistently and continuously publish materials on the topic of patriotism, traditional values and tolerance;
- to prevent the spread of extremist ideas among minors and young people, publish materials in a compact, understandable language and, most importantly, with content that can meet the daily needs of young people;
- publishing analytical materials on why the black hijab, which is not characteristic of our culture, is becoming fashionable, protecting women's rights, strengthening their role in the fight against extremism and terrorism;
- providing materials dedicated to the life of citizens living abroad for a long time;
- development of counter-narrative strategic communications to combat the use of the Internet global information network for extremist and terrorist purposes [8];
- raising extremist and terrorist movements, as well as their financing in the media;
- establish and maintain permanent cooperation with journalists and mass media of other countries.

CONCLUSION

We need to strengthen our activities in television, radio, press, internet and other mass media in order to educate the young generation in our country based on national values and protect them from terrorism and other foreign ideas. In particular, the training of qualified personnel in the field of combating the ideas of extremism and terrorism through information on the Internet world information network; mass media, in particular, press publications, in carrying out propaganda measures that expose the destructive goals of the propagandists of extremist and terrorist organizations among the population, by objectively covering their results, organizing training in this direction is necessary to improve the qualifications of practitioners in the field of media, as well as to develop a practical guide on responsible coverage of extremism and terrorism, and to further improve cooperation with the public and mass media in the field.

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