TOPICAL ISSUES OF COUNTERING TERRORISM IN THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION

Melnikov Victor Yuryevich

Doctor of Laws. Professor of the Department of Criminal Procedure and Criminalistics Rostov Institute (branch) VGUYUA (RPA of the Ministry of Justice of Russia) Russian Federation

*Corresponding author: Melnikov Victor Yuryevich

Doctor of Laws. Professor of the Department of Criminal Procedure and Criminalistics Rostov Institute (branch) VGUYUA (RPA of the Ministry of Justice of Russia) Russian Federation

Abstract

Russia first encountered such a phenomenon as terrorism in the second quarter of the XIX century. Terrorism was an instrument of opposing forces that acted under social and national banners and pursued such goals as seizing power by overthrowing the monarchy. The development of terror in the Russian Empire prompted the government to tighten measures to combat this phenomenon and create new institutions to counter this phenomenon.

Research, creation and implementation of scientific and technical developments is the most important direction and can be expressed: in the use of achievements of scientific and technological progress to create means of protection of employees of anti-terrorist centers and facilities usually subject to terrorist attacks; in the creation of the latest weapons for employees engaged in anti-terrorist activities; in the creation of means of communication that work more effectively; in creation of devices that detect explosives and disguised terrorists.

Keywords: rule of law, terrorism, human rights and freedoms

1. Introduction

At the beginning of the XX century, terrorism acquired a massive character, the number of terrorist acts against government officials increased, and a large number of civilians were injured. Researchers have calculated that in the period from 1901 to 1917, the number of victims of terrorism amounted to more than 17 thousand people. The main danger of this phenomenon is the increase in the number of victims of terrorist actions.

Currently, terrorism has also become a significant threat to the national security of the country. The Russian Federation, like the entire world community, has suffered major attacks from both international and domestic terrorism. Terrorism is aimed at destabilizing the unity of Russia and sovereignty, changing the constitutional system of Russia and the political system of society. Terrorism has had a significant impact on both the domestic and foreign policy of the Russian Federation. Most of the terrorist attacks in Russia occurred in the 90s and the first half of the 2000s. So in September 1999 there was a series of explosions of residential buildings in Moscow, Buinaksk and Volgodonsk. From

September 4 to September 16, terrorists blew up four apartment buildings. The first explosion occurred in the Dagestan city of Buinaksk on September 4: 64 people became victims. The second explosion occurred on September 8 in Moscow on Guryanov Street, as a result of which two entrances of the house were destroyed, killing 100 people. At the site of the explosion, experts found traces of hexogen.

One of the most terrible pages is the hostage–taking on September 1, 2004 at a school in Beslan. As a result of the terrorist act, 333 people were killed, 186 of them children. The storming of the school took place on September 3, this date was chosen for the Day of Solidarity in the Fight against Terrorism. Since 2005, Russia has been remembering the victims of terrorist attacks ever committed outside the country. The Nevsky Express was blown up several times. The first terrorist attack occurred in 2007, as a result of which the train derailed. 60 people were injured. The next terrorist attack with the Nevsky Express occurred two years later on November 27, 2009. The explosion in the waiting room of the

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capital's airport occurred on January 24, 2011. The hall was immediately filled with smoke, people were evacuated, and most of the flights were sent to Sheremetyevo airport.

To date, on the night of September 13, 2023, the Armed Forces of Ukraine have struck with ten cruise missiles at the ship repair plant. Ordzhonikidze in Sevastopol and attacked a detachment of ships of the Black Sea Fleet with three unmanned boats, the Russian Defense Ministry reported. Two ships that were under repair received damage from missiles. Eight houses were damaged in the city: seven multi-apartment and one private. On September 11, 2023, the authorities of the Kursk region twice reported drone attacks in Rylsk. The roof of the administrative building was damaged, windows were broken in several houses. The agency also reported on drones shot down over the Bryansk and Belgorod regions. On September 8, 2023, the authorities reported several times about new drone attacks on Bryansk. As a result of the fall of one of them, the glazing of the Bryansk-1 railway station was partially damaged.

On the evening of September 7, 2023, the governor of the Bryansk region, Alexander Bogomaz, reported an attack by a UAV on an industrial facility in Bryansk, an administrative building caught fire.

These phenomena undermine state security, which in turn is a guarantor of the stability of the state, creates a proper environment for life and the formation of personality, carries out economic, social and military-strategic stability. Terrorism is used as a method of influence, combined with violent actions, intimidation and intimidation of society, to achieve certain goals. Terrorism has an international character and refers to the reasons for the threat to the national security of the country.

2. Method

Methodological basis of this study is the dialectical method of cognition of social and legal phenomena and concepts in their development and interdependence. In the process, general-purpose and scientific methods of scientific knowledge are used as well, historical and legal, systemic, structural-functional, comparative legal, statistical, sociological, specifically the formal-logical, logical-legal and others. The legal framework and information base includes the research of international legal instruments, scientific sources, investigative and judicial practices to ensure the rights and lawful interests of individuals in the pre-trial proceedings.

Terrorist groups known around the world are also: "ISIL or the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant", the Taliban, Al-Qaeda and others (banned in the Russian Federation). These organizations carry out terrorist attacks not only in the Middle East, but also in other countries, including Russia.

There are three groups of reasons that contribute to the spread of terrorism. First of all, these are political factors, they include: political instability; the arousal of ethnic and religious fragmentation in the state, and others. The second group includes the social factor: the unemployment of the population in the problems of employment, the low standard of living in a particular country. Thirdly, ideological reasons such as the deformation of society's ideas about moral values, the presence in society of social organizations that promote violence. The internal cause of terrorism can be calculation, the prevailing certain views on life, the desire to rule and dominate people, the expansion of one's own power in the world.

Terrorism is an illegal activity carried out by individuals and special organizations, associated with mass intimidation, violence and destruction of people, which is aimed at the realization of certain goals, built in accordance with a certain ideology. In modern times, terrorism has gone beyond the borders of many States and resistance to it is possible only with the help of international anti-terrorist cooperation.

The National Security Strategy is a central document that ensures the national security of the state and society as a whole. The threat to State security is considered in the form of illegal actions of persons united in groups and individual entities engaged in terrorist activities. By carrying out such activities, terrorists pursue such goals as changing the foundations of the constitutional order through violence, disturbing the order in the activities of State power, using violence against political and public figures, destroying industrial facilities and military installations, instilling fear in people's lives through threats of the use of nuclear and chemical weapons.

In this regard, state policy should first of all develop such areas in the field of ensuring the security of the state and society as: increasing the authority of the state as the highest guarantor ensuring the security of society; improving the regulatory framework for the suppression and prevention of extremism and terrorism; developing and improving the effectiveness of international joint activities in the law enforcement and supervisory field; development and organization of a unified crime prevention structure by monitoring practices; the use of high-tech industries for the development and creation of effective border complexes.

The Federal Law "On Countering Terrorism", adopted in March 2006, defines countering terrorism as the activities of state authorities and local self-government bodies to prevent, detect, suppress, disclose and investigate a terrorist act, reduce and eliminate the results of terrorist actions [1]. Later, the law was supplemented with the Concept of Countering Terrorism, which was created by scientists, practitioners of the Federal Security Service of the Russian Federation, employees and experts of the National Anti-Terrorism Committee. The concept was supposed to combine views that would ensure the security of the individual, society and the state from terror. This document clearly sets out the goals, objectives and development of the counter-terrorism plan.

The State counteraction is carried out in such areas as the prevention of terrorism, the fight against terrorism, the reduction and elimination of consequences.

1) Actions for the prevention or prevention of terrorism consists in the implementation of measures aimed at protecting objects most often subjected to terrorist activity and the organization of increased monitoring of the implementation of the law. The legislative consolidation and impetus for the development of such concepts as prevention and prevention was the Concept, before that they could be said not to have been developed.

2) Countering terrorism is carried out through the analysis of factors that contribute to the increase in the precedents of terrorist acts, the identification of persons involved in carrying out a terrorist attack, the mutual activities of state bodies for conducting counter-terrorism operations, providing persons participating in these operations with timely reliable information and modern hardware.

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3) Activities aimed at reducing and eliminating the consequences of a terrorist attack prioritize: the inadmissibility of human casualties or the minimum number of victims; emergency rescue operations; provision of medical care to the wounded; provision of psychological assistance; reconstruction of destroyed infrastructure facilities; compensation payments to individuals and legal entities in case of harm caused by a terrorist act.

There are certain ways to counter international terrorism provided by the Counter-Terrorism Committee of the UN Security Council. One of the documents on the topic under consideration is the UN Counter-Terrorism Strategy, which was approved by consensus in 2006 and was the most important international act in the field of combating terrorism. The priority direction of anti-terrorist activities in accordance with the UN strategy is the development of normative legal acts aimed at countering terrorism, open to all participating states. The main task of the strategy is to ensure peace, global and regional stability. Actions to counter terrorism are carried out by a specially created UN Commission established as part of the implementation of crime prevention and criminal prosecution of perpetrators [2].

Normative legal acts aimed at countering terrorism laid the foundation for the creation of bodies and organizations engaged in anti-terrorist activities such as the Counter-Terrorism Committee of the UN Security Council, the FSB and others.

Along with these, there are regional conventions and legal acts of an international nature, such as the Council of Europe Convention on the Prevention of Terrorism. They regulate the actions that need to be taken to counter terrorism and in which areas it should be carried out. But what is not always fixed on paper is reflected in reality. The basis of the legal framework for combating terrorism consists of 13 main anti-terrorist conventions to which Russia is a party. Terrorists change the ways and methods of achieving their goals with a certain periodicity, changes are made to the regulatory framework. To do this, States need to provide information and exchange ideas and methods in the fight against terrorism, share experience and provide procedural assistance.

3. Results

The practice of applying the current legislation analyzed by the author, the study and evaluation of normative legal acts and the analysis of the experience of foreign acts makes it possible to compile a set of aspects in the field of which it is worth implementing and improving anti-terrorist activities.

1) It is proposed to consider the legal aspect first. In the process of implementing this aspect, it can be proposed to bring legislation affecting the fight against terrorism into a certain more unified system, including the creation of a set of all concepts and categories included in the topic under consideration in the key of creating a conceptual apparatus, as well as a clear definition of the functions and tasks for each subject of anti-terrorist activities that they should carry out during the prevention of terrorism. It is necessary to identify and classify the conditions and objects that pose a terrorist threat, to carry out actions to protect access for terrorists to the global telecommunications space, cyberspace and the Internet. It is possible to implement legal restrictions on the placement of information that has instructions for carrying out terrorist actions, has propaganda judgments and judgments justifying terrorism, as well as other information that contributes to the development of terrorism located on the Internet. To this end, it is possible to tighten migration legislation, since migration is a flow that transfers terrorists from their places of residence to the final point of carrying out a terrorist attack.

2) The organizational aspect of countering terrorism will include such features as the organization of a certain structure of powers and responsibilities that must be performed by bodies engaged in countering terrorism in such areas as planning, interaction for subsequent joint actions, coordination of the activities of subjects, efficiency of decision-making and implementation.

At present, with the constantly conferring terrorist acts and their scale, the State and society have come to realize that it is time to take measures to counter terrorism that meet the realities. The creation of such measures is possible only if the basis of terrorism, the causes of its occurrence and development are fully studied, as well as correctly formulated tasks are set to the bodies carrying out counteraction.

Actions to counter terrorism should be assigned to law enforcement units. But the law enforcement forces alone will not be able to ensure proper opposition to such a socially dangerous phenomenon as terrorism. In order to counter terrorism, it is advisable to coordinate the joint forces of all state bodies and change people's attitudes towards the subjects of counteraction.

According to the Federal Law "On Countering Terrorism" and the Decree of the President of the Russian Federation "On Measures to Counter Terrorism", the subjects engaged in countering terrorism include the President of the Russian Federation, the Government of the Russian Federation, the Armed Forces, internal affairs bodies, the Federal Security Service, the Prosecutor's Office, other federal state authorities, state authorities of the subjects of the Russian Federation, The National Antiterrorist Committee, the Antiterrorist Commission and the operational headquarters for conducting a counterterrorist operation in the subject of the Russian Federation, as well as local self-government bodies. Referring to the powers of local self-government bodies and other entities, it can be concluded that their powers do not always correspond to the possibilities in reality to carry out actions to counter terrorism. To a greater extent, this problem affects the competence of local self-government bodies.

In accordance with the Federal Law "On the General Principles of the Organization of Local Self-Government in the Russian Federation" and the Federal Law "On Countering Terrorism", the competence of local self-government bodies in the field of countering terrorism is as follows: 1) prevention of terrorism; 2) identification and subsequent elimination of the causes and conditions that contribute to the commission of terrorist acts; 3) identification, prevention, suppression, disclosure and investigation of terrorist acts; 4) minimization and (or) elimination of the consequences of terrorism.

When exercising powers in the field of countering terrorism, local self-government bodies face significant difficulties. These may include:

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1) The concept of "preventive measures" is vaguely formulated, there is no specific list of measures that should be taken by local self-government bodies when carrying out anti-terrorist measures. The procedure for financing these measures has not been defined. There is no item in the Budget Code of the Russian Federation devoted to the protection of the individual, society and the state from terrorist attacks and threats of a terrorist attack, which means that it is not possible to carry out actions to prevent and combat terrorism in the proper volume. The powers to prevent terrorist acts are not divided between different authorities at either the state or municipal levels;

2) There is no legislative consolidation of the competence of the municipality in providing assistance in cases of the introduction of a counter-terrorism operation regime;

3) The minimization and elimination of the consequences of terrorist actions are carried out in accordance with Articles 19, 20, 21 of the Federal Law "On Countering Terrorism" [3], which state that the State carries out compensation payments to individuals and legal entities who have suffered damage as a result of a terrorist act in accordance with the procedure established by the Government of the Russian Federation. act. Compensation for damage caused during the commission of a terrorist act is carried out at the expense of funds from the federal budget in accordance with the legislation of the Russian Federation. The monetary contribution made by the local government is not defined and its size is small. In order to achieve the goals of anti-terrorist activities, it is possible to participate in such structures as the Collective Security Treaty Organization and the Shanghai Cooperation Organization. An important element is interaction with society and gaining trust among the population in relation to law enforcement agencies;

4) The material and technical aspect of countering terrorism is the timely and complete provision of resources for bodies and special services that carry out actions to counter terrorism. The amount of funding does not always meet the needs, and this is a factor that has a negative impact on the quality of the fight against terrorism, as well as on the implementation of measures to eliminate the conditions and causes of crime. It is possible to carry out actions to attract material resources from state and public funds. These resources should be directed to compensation payments to victims of terrorist attacks. It is also possible to ensure the payment of remuneration for the provision of actions to identify and detain persons preparing, committing and committing a terrorist act. This aspect also concerns actions to identify and eliminate channels that provide terrorists with weapons and money. This is done by freezing the accounts of terrorist groups, controlling financial transactions, and using the confiscation of property.

5) The technical and tactical aspect consists in the use of specialized methods and means that are used in countering terrorism. Thanks to modern science, law enforcement agencies can use such methods for the prevention and suppression of terrorism as: fingerprint fingerprinting; biological DNA examination; identification of persons using programs; use of service dogs, gas analyzers, metal detectors, specialized clothing, specialized weapons, robotics, armored vehicles; creation of information databases; the construction of structures in time to neutralize terrorists; the use of technology that reads and determines the registration plates of vehicles; as well as other technical means to prevent the commission of a terrorist attack in a timely manner.

It is advisable to use the system of identification of a person on the basis of appearance everywhere – this will help prevent both the crime we are considering and other socially dangerous acts. There are hardware and software complexes that use biometric identification to register digital images of persons who are wanted or of interest to law enforcement agencies.

6) The analytical and propaganda aspect includes actions to obtain and study information about the types and prevalence of terrorism, compiling an exhaustive list of recommendations on countering terrorism, forming views on the inadmissibility of committing terrorist acts as a way to resolve the conflict and obtain what is desired from the state authorities. First of all, operational search and intelligence operations should be carried out. Also, the scope of the aspect under consideration includes scientific and scientific and technical support for countering terrorism.

On the part of the scientific support of counteraction , it is important: 1) creation of both theoretical and methodological principles of countering terrorism; 2) drawing up prescriptions for obtaining results in a certain area of anti-terrorist activity; 3) conducting research to make an appropriate decision on countering terrorism in the political field, legal, organizational, managerial at different state and municipal levels of government; 4) studying foreign experience in areas of counter-terrorism; 5) timely improvement of the strategy and measures to combat terrorism.

4. Discussion

When considering the composition of this issue of countering terrorism, it is advisable to consider the actions included in it:

1) The constant international and domestic exchange of relevant information consists in providing information on: o the identity of terrorists and their movement; o modern methods of countering terrorism used by other countries; o the latest means of protection and the use of specific tactics; o methods of obtaining funds for terrorists from credit, commercial and other state organizations for terrorist purposes; o the possibility of joint anti-terrorist operations by one or more States; o the need to conduct an investigation of a crime and conduct judicial proceedings on terrorist crimes.

2) Detection, study and evaluation of contradictions, grounds and conditions conducive to the commission of a terrorist act.

3) Analysis of the regulatory framework and the practice of applying national legislation.

4) Detection and monitoring of the latest forms and methods of committing a terrorist attack.

5) The establishment of objects particularly susceptible to terrorist attacks.

6) Carrying out activities to predict the use of new technologies by terrorists in criminal activities.

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One of the main acts containing the basics of countering terrorism is the Concept of Countering Terrorism in the Russian Federation. The concept, after its approval, became the first open national document assessing the modern terrorist act, trends in its development, identified the main directions and the possibility of improving the system of countering terrorism in the Russian Federation and created the basis for improving the anti-terrorist activities of authorities at all levels.

The concept reflects some provisions of the National Security Strategy of the Russian Federation, which was approved by the Decree of the President of the Russian Federation. At the moment, the Concept of Countering Terrorism in the Russian Federation, the National Security Strategy, the Military Doctrine of the Russian Federation and other key documents are the basis of the basic guidelines of the Russian state in the field of protecting sovereignty, territorial integrity and the security of the country and its citizens.

The concept of countering terrorism regulates the most important relations that develop in the process of carrying out activities to counter terrorism. It is advisable to include in the Concept a chapter that will regulate the foundations of a humane attitude to spiritual, cultural ideals and the protection of socially significant values of the country's cultural heritage through the conduct of propaganda lectures in educational institutions and at youth forums. Such lectures and forums can influence the education of the individual, the formation of values and understanding of the negative factors of terrorism in the eyes of the younger generation of the Russian Federation.

In the course of the conducted research, there is reason to note that today new technologies are emerging and with this such a social phenomenon as information terrorism is developing. Many states consider the information war as one of the effective tools of foreign policy. Many scientists attribute information wars to cyber wars. So the American magazine "The Economist" calls cyberwar the fifth area of war after space, air, sea and earth. Information terrorism is a political phenomenon that in modern times poses a serious threat to human life, its values and the state as a whole.

Information terrorism is understood as one of the types of terrorist activity focused on the use of various forms and methods of temporary or irrevocable disabling of the information infrastructure of the state or its elements, as well as the purposeful use of this infrastructure to create conditions that entail catastrophic consequences for various aspects of the life of society and the state. The development of the Internet network, the transition of banks and companies to computer operations using electronic networks contributed to the development of information terrorism. In some cases, secret information about space strategies, programs controlling spacecraft, nuclear power plants, military-industrial and military complex becomes available to computer hackers. The implementation of a cyber attack can be the beginning of a "cyber war". The data obtained can be used by cyber-terrorists. The cheapness and complexity of detecting information terrorism is a sign that distinguishes this type of terrorism from others. The difficulty of detection is due to the fact that a terrorist can go unnoticed on the Internet and carry out his criminal actions anonymously.

There is reason to note that information terrorism is terrorism based on the results of scientific and technological progress, carried out in the field of computer and information technology. There are two types of information terrorism.

The first type of information terrorism is cyberterrorism. This type of information terrorism is aimed at damaging and destroying the most important objects of the electric power, transport, and government infrastructure with the help of a computer network. When carrying out these terrorist actions, the tactics of intimidation of the Government and the civilian population are used. They often try to compare cyberterrorists with hackers, but there is one significant difference between them – this is the purpose for which they carry out their actions. A cyberterrorist can use hacking abilities, and he will remain a terrorist, but if a hacker pursues terrorist goals, he will become a terrorist.

Sometimes the definition of cyberterrorism is considered on the basis of two concepts "cyberspace" and "terrorism". At the same time, cyberterrorism is understood as a deliberate attack on personal computers, computer software, computer networks and the information processed by them. Cyberterrorism in this case can cause the threat of death of people, causing significant damage to the property of citizens and the state and other socially dangerous consequences.

The second type of information terrorism is considered in the context of the use of the Internet to achieve certain goals by terrorists. Such goals include the supply of terrorists with money, certain property, and information not for the direct commission of a terrorist attack.

5. Conclusion

As the author's study of law enforcement practice on the investigation of terrorism facts has shown, terrorists use the Internet to: carry out psychological warfare; search for necessary information; training and education of terrorists; finding financing; propaganda; indoctrination of certain information and disinformation to people; recruitment of accomplices; planning and coordination of terrorist-oriented actions. Despite the fact that the State has adopted various laws aimed at combating terrorism, they do not cover all areas of activity [4].

The use of the Internet by terrorists is due to its inherent characteristics. These are free access to information resources; insignificant state control and censorship; audience coverage around the world; the ability to anonymously be present on websites and post information; the speed of information dissemination; the ability to combine text, graphic images, photo and video materials; it is possible to influence the media, which often rely in articles and stories on information from the Internet [5, pp. 287-292].

Currently, the entities engaged in information terrorism can be: 1) special services and organizations of foreign states; 2) mass media; 3) religious and sectarian organizations; 4) all kinds of missionary religious organizations; 5) both groups engaged in extremist activities and individual citizens.

Information terrorists carry out their activities in such sectors of society as: 1) the everyday life of the population, when harm is caused to everyone individually; 2) scientific awareness of the population, through distortion of scientific data; 3) the socio-political sphere, in this case, a large part of citizens are misled.

The actions of such terrorists are aimed at disorienting society and may consist in the form of psychological influence; dissemination

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of incorrect and degrading information in the form of rumors; creation of immoral literary works; propaganda of violence; insults to national dignity; implementation of crafts, distortion of documents and information available to the entire population of the country [6, p. 156].

Terrorists use information and psychological attacks in order to destabilize the political system of the state, the socio-psychological situation in the region or in the country as a whole. Informational and psychological terrorism is an impact on the psyche and consciousness of people to discredit political institutions of power, undermine public confidence in them, and create uncertainty and uncertainty in the future in the creation of people. Such an impact on the human psyche does not give him the opportunity to think rationally and perceive information. The scale of such psychological attacks can be both regional and directed at the entire state. Most often, disinformation is used for this type of terrorism in the form of rumors that are spread on the Internet and the media [7, p. 8.].

Information terrorism, being an antisocial phenomenon, with the help of newspaper publications, television and radio broadcasting and the Internet has a negative impact on society's perception of reality.

The places where disinformation can be spread include: 1) religious, scientific, educational literature; 2) political, economic and ideological treatises; 3) normative legal acts, legal documents; 4) charters of sectarian organizations; 5) mass media; 6) technology that allows extracting information, and in our case disinformation (computers, phones, tablets).

For this purpose, they attract professional journalists. Journalists were provided with the necessary equipment, various means of communication, transport and paid for the printed publications and video publications they created. Terrorists and their leaders effectively use all possible means of communication to coordinate the activities of their supporters located in other countries: both satellite communication systems and the global Internet. The creation of the Internet, social networks and messengers allowed terrorists to promote their ideas more effectively, attract new adherents and direct the actions of members of terrorist groups.

There is information that terrorist groups create applications aimed at students and schoolchildren in the form of games, encyclopedias, which are available in virtual applications. These so-called games contain guidelines and calls for terrorist actions [8, p. 201].

Messenger is a system that allows instant data exchange over the Internet. According to the FSB of the Russian Federation, the Telegram messenger is advantageous for terrorists to use as there is a possibility of creating a coded "secret chat", it is also possible to use the self-destruct function of messages after a certain period of time. The FSB of the Russian Federation has encryption keys for most messengers that allow decoding messages. Unfortunately, blocking the Telegram will not give a significant result in the fight against terrorism. There are opportunities to download the messenger even after it is blocked.

The achievements of the information age have presented new opportunities for mass media and communication and have become a way and instrument of influencing society and mass consciousness. In the information flow that we observe, there is reliable information and misinformation. Not every person, by virtue of their abilities, can separate truthful information from an unreliable information bomb.

An information terrorist can infiltrate all spheres of our life and the life of the state. The problems of information and cyber security cannot be completely solved by traditional methods and means. Therefore, it is possible to create a comprehensive organization that protects the information space and suppresses cyber threats. It is possible to carry out joint activities of state bodies and society as a whole. At the same time, full-fledged cyber security is possible only if Russian telecommunications equipment, software and information security tools are used.

The modernization of society and the development of information technologies have led to the mass use of the Internet all over the world. With the advent and popularization of the Internet on a global scale, one of the most acute and dangerous types of terrorist activity has emerged – terrorism on the Internet. Unlike traditional forms of terrorism, terrorist activities on the Internet resort to the use of innovative achievements of science and technology.

The spread of the ideology and practice of terrorism on the Internet poses an increasing threat to modern society. This phenomenon cannot remain without due attention and requires coordinated measures aimed at preventing, detecting, suppressing and investigating crimes of this category. To date, there is no universal tool for countering the spread of terrorist activities on the Internet, as well as the use of the Internet for terrorist purposes.

In modern society, information technologies are one of the strategic factors that contribute to the increasing use of the Internet by "terrorist organizations and their supporters to solve a wide range of tasks, including recruitment, financing, propaganda, training of perpetrators, incitement to commit acts of terrorism, as well the collection and dissemination of information for terrorist purposes" [9, P. 5]. Despite the obvious advantages that the Internet has, it can also be used both for internal communications of terrorist organizations, and for the purpose of exchanging and transmitting information about planned and upcoming terrorist acts, and, accordingly, providing them with material support.

Most often, the Internet is used for public coverage, public justification, encouragement and support of terrorist acts. It is on this basis that we should talk about the methods by which these actions are carried out. The leading place is not accidentally given to the propaganda of the ideology of terrorism, which is carried out through the Internet. As a rule, propaganda materials take the form of multimedia communication, incorporating various kinds of ideological and practical guidelines and instructions, explanations of certain ways and steps of carrying out terrorist activities, as well as its justification and advertising. All this can take the form of virtual messages, multimedia presentations, electronic journals, theoretical manuals, audio and video files, up to electronic games developed by terrorist organizations and their accomplices [10, pp. 71-76].

At the same time, it should be borne in mind that terrorist propaganda is often specifically designed to be attractive to vulnerable and marginalized groups of society. In the process of recruitment and radicalization, terrorists, as a rule, play on the feelings of injustice, isolation or humiliation present in a person. Propaganda can also be adapted to take into account demographic factors, such as age or gender, as well as social or economic circumstances.

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As the conducted research has shown, in almost every case of criminal prosecution in cases related to terrorist activities, Internet technologies are involved. This is planning and exchanging information between the parties about upcoming terrorist acts, and determining the most effective steps to achieve the goal, as well as analyzing the most vulnerable places of the intended targets [11. pp. 110-117].

Modern terrorist organizations actively and quite skillfully use the capabilities of the Internet – this includes remote access to various servers and remote control of various systems, almost complete absence of censorship, a large audience scale, and of course wide opportunities for anonymous use of the Internet. To date, terrorist organizations consider the Internet mainly as a means of propaganda and transmission of information. For example, an online publication called Inspire encourages and encourages like-minded people to contribute to the common cause of educating all interested parties by sending an article, leaving a comment or recommendation [12, p. 21].

The activities of terrorists on the Internet can be divided into three main groups: illegal activity, hacking and cyber attack. Activity can be understood as the simple use of the Internet in order to promote ideas, attract money and new followers. In this case, the Internet acts as a means of facilitating the unification of terrorist organizations, recruiting new members into terrorist formations. The possibilities of collecting donations on the Internet are also wide – these are the usual transfers of funds by the methods indicated on the website, and the functioning of full-fledged online stores (in particular, Hezbollah sells books, posters and T-shirts with its own symbols through its website).

Hacking involves illegal attacks on computer networks, secret databases and websites to obtain any information or embezzlement of funds. Terrorist activity on the Internet, although similar in ways of carrying out illegal actions with hacking, still represents, according to some scientists (the same Denning), a completely different type of computer attacks, which in turn pursue other goals (causing major damage to vital infrastructure through the use of the Internet and computer technology).

It should be recognized that all three types of these activities are currently relevant for our country. The most common of them is simple terrorist activity on the Internet. Nevertheless, there is no definition of terrorist activity on the Internet and methods of carrying out terrorist acts via the Internet in the current Russian legal acts. This circumstance is recognized by modern scientists as one of the main problematic factors in identifying and countering terrorist activities on the Internet [13, p.166].

To date, the Russian legal science has not developed a single point of view regarding the definition of the concept of "terrorist activity on the Internet". The opinion of the authors linking terrorist activity on the Internet with illegal influence on information systems in order to create a danger of harming the life, health, property of an indefinite circle of persons by creating conditions for accidents and catastrophes of a technogenic nature or a real threat of such danger is also interesting (Yu.V. Gavrilov, L.V. Smirnov) [14, p.54].

It is possible to define terrorism on the Internet as a deliberate criminal encroachment on an information resource or the use of this resource, intimidating the population and creating a danger of human death, causing significant property damage or other serious consequences, in order to influence decision-making by authorities or international organizations, as well as the threat of committing these actions for the same purposes.

With such a formulation of the concept, the methods of terrorist activity on the Internet should be divided into two groups independent of each other. The first group should include criminal attacks on computer infrastructure and information networks. Experts refer to such, for example, the disabling of information systems, which will lead to the uncontrolled functioning of the affected object (which is especially dangerous at nuclear and chemical production enterprises, as well as in the military sphere for defense and attack systems) or the organization of destructive attacks (destruction of information resources and communication lines or physical destruction of structures in which information systems are included) [15, p.43]. The second group of methods of committing a terrorist act on the Internet should include the legitimate use of this network for the purpose of posting information that can have a frightening effect on people and has signs of a committed terrorist act (as was the case with the publication of a video prank by journalists).

At the same time, the possibility of intimidating the population and State authorities through the Internet should not be interpreted too broadly. When qualifying terrorism on the Internet, it is necessary to remember about its other feature – the creation of a real danger of human death, causing significant property damage or the occurrence of other grave consequences. Forgetting about this, some lawyers reach very paradoxical conclusions: in particular, citing as an example of terrorist activity on the Internet the scandal associated with the WikiLeaks website (publication of publicly available materials about Iraq, Afghanistan, as well as diplomatic correspondence of the US State Department) [16, p. 62].

Thus, due to the fact that two independent groups of acts have been identified in the concept of terrorism on the Internet, countering this phenomenon should also be conditionally divided into two directions. With regard to terrorist attacks committed via the Internet, the most effective methods of combating are organizational and legal measures aimed at suppressing any attempts of unauthorized access to information resources (including software and hardware methods of information protection). As for the use of the Internet for the purpose of information support of terrorist activities, special attention should be paid to the blocking of extremist sites and resources.

6. Conflict of interest

The author confirmsthat the datado not contain anyconflict of interest.

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*Corresponding author: Melnikov Victor Yuryevich

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*Corresponding author: Melnikov Victor Yuryevich