

Youth extremism as a threat to the social security of cross-border territories

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Abstract. The article considers youth extremism as one of the factors contributing to the violation of state security in cross-border regions. Relying on extensive data on criminal cases in the Altai region, the authors reveal certain peculiarities of youth extremism in the region bordering with Kazakhstan and Mongolia. A number of recommendations to address the threat of youth extremism in the cross-border territories is provided.

Keywords: youth extremism, security, threat, law, prevention

1. Introduction

The ongoing and even increasing globalization and integration processes sets in motion various social processes, both positive and negative [9, 10]. With the proliferation of the Internet and further computerization of the public life, the methods of committing certain types of crimes, for example, crimes of an extremist nature, are simplified. The specificity of these crimes lies in the fact that these criminal acts very often are not limited to the territory of one state. As a result, cross-border regions are subject to the greatest influence [7, 8].

There is no doubt that young people are the main driving force of any state. In view of the age characteristics (active use of social networks, the level of formation of the psyche, the need for self-realization of the individual, the desire for easy money, etc.), this category of citizens is more involved in extremist activities. In our opinion, for a detailed study and analysis of this problem, the territorial framework of the study should be limited to one cross-border subject of the Russian Federation. Consequently, we focus on the Altai region, a region of the Russian Federation bordering with Kazakhstan and Mongolia.

2. Materials and Methods

The following data were used in our study: statistics on the state of crime, investigative work and prosecutor's supervision in the Altai region for the 12 months of 2018; periodicals of the Altai Region, including publications of the districts of the Altai Region bordering the Republic of Kazakhstan; studies of foreign authors, as well as regulatory acts aimed at regulating issues in this area.

Various methods of scientific knowledge were used in our research. The method of analyzing criminal statistics was used to form an idea of youth extremism, as one of the factors of security breaches in cross-border regions. In particular, the following statistical data were used in the paper: the socio-demographic characteristics of criminals; the structure and nature of the crimes they commit extremist; ways to prepare, commit and conceal traces of these crimes; the characteristic of group

crime (degree of organization, the impact of adult accomplices on the involvement of minors in the commission of crimes of an extremist nature); the emergence of new methods of crime and the relationship of domestic crime with foreign, as well as other parameters. In addition, this method allows one to analyze the work of officials and government agencies responsible for overseeing compliance with laws on countering extremism and terrorism, laws on interethnic relations.

The method of psychological analysis of criminal cases was used to study the psychological characteristics of the identity of criminals who commit crimes of an extremist nature. The analysis of the periodical press allowed to review those publications, which covered the issues of committing crimes of an extremist nature in cross-border regions. According to a previously developed framework, the following parameters were investigated: gender, age, level of education, marital status, a nature of the crime committed, its mode, motives, goals, ways of countering law enforcement agencies.

The method of comparative law was used to generalize and use the experience aimed at developing recommendations on the tactics of conducting operational-search and investigative actions in the investigation of crimes with an extremist orientation, as well as to prevent this type of crime in cross-border regions of foreign countries.

3. Results

The study allowed us to formulate the following intermediate results:

1. In international practice, there is no consensus regarding the minimum age of criminal responsibility and, as a consequence, the lower age threshold for the category “youth”. There are countries in which the minimum age of criminal responsibility is higher than in Russia. In Belgium, for example, the age limit for liability is 18 years. At the same time, there are examples of countries where the minimum limit of responsibility is 12 years (Portugal, the Netherlands) [1].

In our opinion, it is necessary to agree with the authors, who note that in Russia, in accordance with the current legislation, the age limits of young people are determined by age from 14 to 30 years, with the division into minors from 14 to 18 years and adults from 18 to 30 years [2].

Extremist crimes are often committed by the minors. This is explained by the fact that the age from 14 to 18 years old is optimal for the perception of radical nationalist, xenophobic. and extremist ideas. Therefore, it is easiest to ideologically prepare these individuals to commit extremist actions.

2. According to the official data, in the Altai region in 2018, as a result of prosecutorial oversight over compliance with laws on countering extremism, the following response measures were taken: 89 protests brought, 279 submissions made, 5 claims submitted to the court, 834 reports on restricting access to extremist materials sent to the territorial office of Roskomnadzor [3].

For example, prosecutors brought to local authorities 138 submissions on the elimination of violations of the law in connection with the inadequate performance of duties on the prevention of extremism, provided for by article 5 of the Federal Law on Countering Extremist Activities [4], including among young people. For example, prosecutors brought 90 submissions to heads of educational institutions and municipal libraries in connection with access to extremist materials, as well as inadequate organization of preventive educational work.

Also, the prosecution authorities found that the typical violations are:

- 1) Inadequate enforcement by the bodies-subjects of prevention and countering extremism of the duties stipulated by law (local governments, internal affairs bodies);
- 2) The spread of extremist ideology among young people on the Internet.

3. This study, in addition to the problems mentioned earlier, also made it possible to add to the number of major problems the ineffective work of law enforcement agencies in the system of counteraction against youth extremism.

In our opinion, it is advisable to start the solution of this problem with the elimination of the abovementioned reason, since the prevention and prevention activities should be phased and clearly planned. The first step is to develop recommendations for local governments.

In this regard, it should be noted that in the Altai region, as a cross-border region, work on countering and preventing youth extremism is carried out at an insufficient level. And as a result, this problem was and remains relevant.

In the Altai region, the regional law "The System of Prevention of Neglect and Juvenile Delinquency in the Altai Region" defines the main tasks and principles of the activities of bodies and institutions involved in the prevention of neglect and juvenile delinquency, lays the foundation for the legal regulation of the system for the prevention of neglect and juvenile delinquency in the Altai Region [5]. On the territory of the Altai region there are: (1) the Commission on the Affairs of Minors and Protection of their Rights of the Altai Region; 2) Commissions of the Affairs of Minors and the Protection of Their Rights, created by the local government bodies of municipalities with the status of a city district or a municipal district.

The Commissions for the Affairs of Minors and the Protection of Their Rights are created in order to coordinate the activities of the bodies and institutions of the system for the prevention of neglect and juvenile delinquency in the Altai territory among the minors. Also, these commissions identify and eliminate the causes and conditions conducive to this, ensure the protection of the rights and legitimate interests of minors, and social and educational rehabilitation of minors who are in a socially dangerous position, identify and prevent the involvement of minors in the commission of crimes, other unlawful and (or) antisocial acts, as well as cases of their inclination to suicidal acts.

4. Discussion

The problems of youth extremism are an important topic of discussion among the Russian public, scientists and practitioners. In the course of these discussions, first of all, the causes of the spread of youth extremism are discussed, as well as ways to prevent and eliminate them.

The first group of causes of youth extremism is the objective factors of the genesis of youth extremism, which include the systemic problems of Russian society: corruption, the crisis of the law enforcement system, the absence of a middle class, etc. The second group of reasons for youth extremism is subjective factors that are caused by an imbalance in the educational system and, as a result, a low level of social development of the young generation. The third reason is the emergence of a global information society and an increase in Internet users [6].

It is advisable to conclude that the following points deserve further attention: a study of the psychological prerequisites of the commission of juvenile crimes of an extremist nature, in particular, complacency, imitation, lack of balance and impulsivity, which are used by adult accomplices. Establishing the true motives for the commission of this type of crime in cross-border regions can be one of the most important elements of the methodology for investigating crimes of this type.

We believe that the prevention of crimes of an extremist nature committed by or with minors, as well as persons under 30 years old in cross-border regions should become one of the priorities in the work of law enforcement officers.

5. Conclusion

The problem of youth extremism is a significant threat to the security of the state and society. One of the features of this criminal activity is its cross-border nature. In this regard, in order to organize successful international cooperation in the field of prevention and prevention of extremism, the state should initially develop internal institutions. Our research clearly indicates that for such a cross-border region as the Altai region, one of the problems is the insufficient performance by the local governments.

Among the reasons causing the spread of youth extremism, we would like to mention caused by objective factors. For example, the state cannot affect the increase in Internet users, the impact can be made only on the information spread in it. We believe that the improvement of the work of local

governments in the prevention of juvenile delinquency should be a priority. This is due to building a system of preventive measures from the particular to the general.

Thus, the moral education of young people is one of the fundamental and multifunctional tasks of any state that wants to maintain law and order on its territory. Without international cooperation in the fight against extremism, the elimination of criminal foci within the state does not guarantee that new criminal threats of an extremist nature will not appear from outside.

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