Terrorism in the Information Sphere and Measures on Counteraction

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Аннотация: *The article discusses the current problems of countering information terrorism in modern conditions, which affect a wide range of not only private and corporate interests, but also threaten the national security of the country. The main trends in the development of information threats in the modern global information space and the measures necessary to neutralize them are outlined.*

Keywords: *information terrorism, information threats, national security, information security, global information space, terrorism.*

At the present stage, information terrorism poses a serious threat to the security and vital interests of both the individual and society and the State as a whole. The degree of danger of information terrorism is rapidly increasing in the modern conditions of globalization, in which telecommunications are becoming extremely important. Today we are witnessing the active penetration and increasing influence of new information and communication technologies in all spheres of human activity. The World Wide Web and mobile phones have become an integral and obligatory part of our existence. According to analysts, today the global information space, representing a set of information resources and infrastructures that make up both state and interstate computer networks, telecommunications systems and public networks, and other cross-border channels of information transmission, already has about 3.2 billion users. Therefore, in the conditions of globalization and informatization of society, in which there are practically no barriers to control and control information flows, and the national borders of states are leveled, in particular, in the communicative aspect, additional factors have appeared for the development of information terrorism that increase the impact on people's consciousness and behavior.

Considering the concept of information terrorism, they assume, first of all, a form of negative impact on the individual, society and the state as a whole, using all types of information. At the same time, a direct impact on the psyche and consciousness of people is carried out to form the required opinions and judgments, which subsequently guide people's behavior in a certain way. In practice, information terrorism, as a rule, means a certain violent propaganda effect on the human psyche, which does not give him the opportunity to critically evaluate the information received. At the same time, in an effort to achieve their goals, attackers use not the quality of manipulative influence, but the volume of openly tendentious information. In its dissemination, information terrorism, as a rule, relies on the dissemination of a certain type of rumors, the purpose of which is to multiply the atmosphere of fear and horror, which the efforts of terrorists are aimed at creating.

Modern terrorism is characterized by sharply increased technical equipment, a high level of organization, the availability of sufficient financial resources According to the research of a number of foreign scientists and data from foreign research centers, the total budget in the field of terrorism is from 5 to 20 billion US dollars annually.

One of the main distinguishing features of modern terrorism is the blurring of the boundaries between international and domestic terrorism. The links of terrorist organizations with drug trafficking and illegal arms trade are expanding. There are attempts to get chemical, biological (Al Qaeda terrorists) and other types of weapons of mass destruction. Against the background of the merger and cooperation of legal and illegal extremist structures with nationalist, religious sectarian, fundamentalist and other communities on the basis of mutually beneficial interests, political and criminal terrorism is merging. We can agree with the definition put forward by some foreign politicians about the entry of the world into the era of international terrorism.

The concept of "international terrorism" has now become quite well-established and increasingly used. At the same time, it should be pointed out that there is currently no agreed definition of international terrorism in the UN.

UN Security Council Resolution No. 1373 focuses on the conditionality of the line that divides terrorism and aggression in the vision of the international community now, as well as on the continuing system of double standards in the response of States to terrorist manifestations.

Despite the scale and severity of this issue, the problem of terrorism has not yet allowed us to finally coordinate the efforts of the world community in the fight against this social evil. The analysis of the issues under consideration indicates the intensification of the study of the problem of terrorism by researchers from different countries in recent years. Preparation and signing of mostly declarative agreements within the framework of international organizations and individual States defining the "need for active counteraction to terror" is being systematically carried out. Situational anti-terrorist commissions are being created. At the same time, it is not yet possible to achieve a common understanding in the formulation and assessment of terrorist manifestations in the world. This circumstance in the context of globalization plays, perhaps, one of the decisive roles that predetermine victory in this confrontation.

The problem of combating terrorism from the standpoint of information warfare does not fully meet the severity of the current situation. In well-known works on terrorism, the main attention is focused on the consideration of this phenomenon as a whole, the study of its social and legal nature, the analysis of various terrorist manifestations.

When studying the impact of the information component on terrorism, both opposite sides of such information impact should be considered:

— negative (used by terrorists and their accomplices to popularize their crimes, justify them in the eyes of the public and achieve the main goals pursued by the terrorist act);

-positive (the use of information capacities and technologies for the successful prevention, detection and suppression of terrorist manifestations).

Thus, the relevance of the problem is determined by:

1. The increase in the processes of globalization in the world and the formation of an "information society", where terrorism began to act as an independent factor capable of threatening the state integrity of countries and destabilizing the international situation.

2. The dependence of the effectiveness of terrorist activity on the degree of its coverage in the media:

3. The lack of a common understanding of terrorism and the fight against it in the "information field" at the national and international levels.

4. The need to identify effective directions in the information support of countering modern terrorism.

It is revealed that the same achievements of science in the field of development of information systems and information technologies used in manipulating public consciousness have become a tool in the hands of terrorists in the process of spreading their ideology and recruiting adherents. Based on this, it is concluded that the improvement of the ideological aspect of the fight against terrorism in accordance with the conceptually approved national interests has objectively become one of the prerogatives in the activities of state, public structures and the media in this area.

The conducted studies have shown the presence of the following set of consequences of the use of mass media opportunities by terrorists:

➢ undermining the international authority of the state;

➢ a decrease in confidence in the authorities within the country and, as a consequence, a slowdown in the pace of its economic and social development;

➢ threat to territorial integrity;

➢ fostering a subculture of terrorism in the environment of a socially active, but not having well-established life orientations (based on universal values) of the population;

➢ the actual deterioration of the mental health of the population;

➢ an increase in the total number of terrorist manifestations (both well-organized and spontaneous calls from students about the mining of schools, messages about the laying of explosive devices on railway transport, etc.).

The information component of the fight against terrorism in modern conditions, the twofold essence of modern mass media in the aspect of combating terrorism in the "information field" is analyzed. They can be both a means for terrorists to achieve their goals, and a tool in the hands of society and the state in the fight against this social evil.

On the basis of existing information technologies based on knowledge of social psychology, methodological approaches are proposed aimed at mobilizing public opinion, combating terrorism, promoting education in people's minds of rejection of methods of violence and blackmail and support for the actions of the authorities, teaching methods of personal and collective security in situations related to terrorist threats. At the same time, the main emphasis in information counteraction should be focused on preventive and propaganda measures.

Organizing the fight against terrorism by information means, we should proceed from the fact that terrorism itself is a derivative of a number of subjective and objective circumstances of the surrounding reality that have been forming for a long time.

The objective circumstances provoking terrorism are crisis phenomena in the social, economic, political and legal spheres of public life, unresolved interethnic and interfaith problems, the lack of a strategically oriented and understandable foreign and domestic policy, violations of the principles of democracy and others. At the same time, the emphasis on the pro-state informational impact aimed at preventing and combating terrorism should also be aimed at each of the designated circumstances that give rise to it.

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