

Internal Affairs Bodies as a Subject to Maintain Public Safety

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ABSTRACT: This article comprises scientific-theoretical description of the terms of “maintaining public order”, “public safety” and “ensuring public safety”, national interests in the field of public safety, the role of internal affairs bodies in ensuring public safety, specific features of their activities, and the analysis of fundamental reforms carried out in this field, henceforce, the author develops valuable proposals and recommendations for further improvement of this activity.

KEYWORDS: internal affairs bodies, public order, public safety, the concept of public safety, the principle of public security, maintaining public order, ensuring public safety.

It is acknowledged that the entirely new system is being formed in the country, in all its administrative-territorial units of the law and judicial system to ensure public safety by virtue of the reforms implemented in the system. Moreover, crime prevention, public order and security are becoming the priority of the state policy of all developed countries of the world in the current conditions.

It is noticeable that the number of crimes has decreased by 12,000 compared to 2017, and not any crimes have been registered by the end of six months of this year, in almost 50 percent of the existing 9,251 makhallas (*Uzbek word, used to mean people`s residential area, community, or neighborhoods*). This certainly indicates the positive effect of our reforms and requires consistent continuation of our work [1].

Considerably, maintenance of public order and provision of public safety is considered one of the main areas of activity of internal affairs bodies [2]. Therefore, the system faces the issue of maintaining public order on the one hand, and ensuring public safety on the other. Thus, it is necessary to correctly understand the meaning of the terms of “maintaining public order” and “ensuring public safety”.

Recently, three important decrees have been adopted in the direction of activities of internal affairs bodies to maintain public order and ensure public safety: *the first* is to increase the effectiveness of activities of the internal affairs bodies, as well as to increase their responsibility in ensuring public order and reliable protection of the rights, freedoms and legal interests of citizens [3], *the second* is to implement complex measures aimed at raising public safety and the activity of internal affairs bodies to a qualitatively new level in the field of fighting against crime and criminality [4], *and the third one* implies for the concept and its implementation measures of the Public safety of the Republic of Uzbekistan [5].

These decrees are the sectoral services directly responsible for the prevention of offenses and public safety of the internal affairs bodies, especially the measures defined in the normative legal documents adopted to improve their activities by introducing new procedures and mechanisms into the system, the prevention of offenses of the internal affairs bodies, especially it is a clear indication that the priority of activities in the field of public order and security is increasing day by day [6].

The notions of “maintaining public order” and “ensuring public safety” are used together in most cases in legal literature and law documents, however, these terms acquire various different meanings. According to the content of the “maintaining public order” activity, it is manifested in the control of people’s compliance with the requirements of laws and moral standards in the streets and public places, while the activity of “ensuring public safety” covers activities such as system provision, including road safety, fire safety, safety of objects and properties taken under protection, passport system, control-license and so forth.

Scholar M.Z.Ziyodullayev, regarding the concept of “public order” explains it as follows: “Public order is public safety, creation of conditions for physical and legal entities to function normally, work and rest, respect for honor, dignity and universal human values emerging and developing system of social relations in public places on the basis of legal and socio-ethical norms” [7].

It can be concluded on the basis of above analysis in regards of the content of large-scale reforms implemented in the judicial system of our republic: *Public order* is to ensure the personal safety of citizens and the safety of the majority (public) by observing the current law and social (moral) norms, creating comfortable conditions for the normal activity of physical and legal entities in the region, for people to work and relax. It is also a system of social and legal relations that is created and developed mainly in public places in order to respect their honor, universal human dignity and norms of social ethics.

Obviously, maintaining public order includes the concepts of ensuring personal safety of citizens and maintaining public safety simultaneously. However, although the notions of “personal security of citizens” and “public safety” are related to the concept of “public order”, but they differ from each other [8].

Relatively distinct and precise definition of the term of “public safety” was revealed by scientist A.Jaglin: “Public safety is a system of social relations related to the protection of individuals, society and the state from threats arising from illegal attacks on public order, as well as from disasters of a social, natural and man-made nature” [9]. Consequently, Public safety is a state of protection of society from illegal aggressions, social and ethnic conflicts, emergency situations and other threats, which serves the stable development of society and the realization of human rights, freedoms and legitimate interests in accordance with the definition given in the Public safety concept of the Republic of Uzbekistan [5].

Ensuring public safety in our country primarily serves early prevention of violations, including crimes in advance. In addition, accountability for committed offenses is ensured or information is collected that allows the detection of crimes, individuals are identified, even certain criminal acts are exposed by or with the participation of the forces carrying out this activity, which implies ensuring the inevitability of responsibility for the persons who committed it.

Furthermore, the significant feature of ensuring public safety is that it is a component of management, and in this process internal affairs bodies system is provided to link organizational and legal relations with state bodies and institutions, public structures and citizens.

Based on the above, it can be stated that management relations in the provision of public safety can be divided into two interrelated groups [7]:

- 1) *internal organizational relations* that arise in the process of organizing the actual performance of the assigned tasks in this area among the staff of internal affairs bodies that ensure public safety;
- 2) *external organizational relations* that arise directly in the processes of daily public safety provision by employees of internal affairs bodies that ensure public safety, as well as with other state bodies and public organizations.

In the first case, it is about determining the staff of services that ensure public safety, selecting and deploying personnel, organizing service, combat and physical training, developing management decisions related to maintaining public order and ensuring public safety, implementing control functions, namely, it is about structural relationships within a structure.

In the second case, relations arising in connection with the provision of public safety, for example, relations resulting from the violation of public safety by citizens, are meant. In this case, citizens, enterprises, institutions, organizations and their officials who are not subordinate to the bodies directly responsible for public safety may serve as subjects of relations arising from the implementation of their powers by these bodies according to the current legislation.

These relations are characteristic of external management activities of individuals responsible for public safety. This activity is manifested in directly ensuring that citizens, authorized bodies and their officials comply with the requirements of legal documents, in the prevention of violations, their elimination, and the prosecution of offenders.

Internal and external activities to ensure public safety are interrelated, and they provide for the creation of favorable conditions for citizens and officials to work, relax, satisfy their various needs, and exercise their rights and legal interests.

Therefore, according to the concept of Public safety of the Republic of Uzbekistan, approved by the Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan No. PF-27 of November 29, 2021, ensuring public safety is defined by the state to protect society from threats and is constantly improved by political, socio-economic, legal and other is an integrated system that includes complex organizational measures.

Internal affairs bodies carry out their activities on the basis of legality of public security activities; protecting and respecting the rights, freedoms and legal interests of citizens; openness and transparency; priority of measures to prevent and eliminate threats to public safety; actions of all authorized structures are based on the basic principles such as consistency and unity in the provision of public safety.

The implementation of the following measures was determined for the internal affairs bodies as one of the entities that directly ensure public safety in this concept:

1. develops, approves and implements targeted departmental programs aimed at ensuring public safety;
2. implements measures to maintain public order, ensure road safety, fight against crime, terrorism and extremism;
3. coordinates the activities of all forces and means involved in ensuring public safety in public places, including roads, transport and tourism infrastructure facilities, and provides organizational and methodological support;
4. ensures compliance with rules and regulations in the sphere of circulation of civil and service weapon and their ammunition, requirements and conditions for licensing and permission in this field;
5. carries out crime prevention, identifies persons prone to commit crimes;
6. conducts a comprehensive, systematic analysis of offenses and crimes committed in public places, makes proposals for eliminating the factors that cause them, effective use of existing forces and means, submissions and recommendations that must be considered;
7. provides a general management system for measures to put an end to public disturbances that threaten public safety;
8. regularly informs the general public about the state of public safety, analyzes the public opinion in this regard;
9. carries out scientific-research and organizational-methodical work in the field of public safety.

Internal affairs bodies are required to coordinate the following main functions in the organization of public safety:

- a) determination of objectively necessary and scientifically based goals and tasks for ensuring public safety;
- b) further improvement of the system of basic sectorial services ensuring public safety, in particular, their structural structures;

- c) clear distribution of the functional tasks of public security services, their structural structures and employees, in particular, their leaders;
- d) scientifically organize the work of the employees of structural units and services that ensure public safety, in particular, their leaders, introduce advanced practices and experiences, increase their efficiency based on strict discipline, critical analysis, legality and cooperation with the general public;
- e) legal and organizational-methodological provision of personnel, material-technical and their activity is taken into account.

The methods and forms of organization of public safety activities of internal affairs bodies are also improving. Qualitative changes in the essence of this activity require the development of new and more efficient methods and forms of public safety.

To choose effective tactical actions to ensure public safety, the organization and initiative of the heads of bodies, advanced experiences and practices, techniques, and the implementation of new technologies, new methods and forms have a positive effect. As a matter of fact, in the development of plans for ensuring public safety and organizing public events or conducting special operations in the event of emergency situations, and conducting instructions for personnel participating in such events; the leader's knowledge, practical experience, drills, and organizational skills play an important role in the development of several options for tactical actions in connection with the implementation of all tasks assigned to employees.

The distribution and placement of available forces and means involved in public security shall take into account the tactical capabilities of the units, the specific features of their actions in specific situations, as the tactical achievements in public safety and the results of the ongoing activities determine the effectiveness of the organization of these activities.

A simple form of ensuring public safety is daily (routine) organizational measures and tactical actions carried out by the internal affairs bodies in the normal conditions of the operational situation. In this case, no changes are observed and the daily work routine is not disturbed in the work activities of the personnel of internal affairs bodies.

An intensive form of ensuring public safety is an rigorous (accelerated) form of organizational measures and tactical actions of internal affairs bodies in the conditions of time shortage, for example, this action is the holding of public events, elimination of natural disasters, escalation of the operational situation, the commission of extremely dangerous crimes or in the conditions of other emergency situations, it consists of maintaining public order and ensuring the personal safety and public safety of citizens in an enhanced manner.

Шунингдек, жамоат хавфсизлигини таъминлашнинг етарлича ривожланган назарияси ва методологияси мавжуд бўлмаганда унинг мақбул ва самарали моделини шакллантириш мумкин эмас.

The intensive form of public safety is tactically represented by the significant strengthening of the patrolling line units of the internal affairs bodies and the involvement of additional forces and means for this circumstance.

In conclusion, it can be noticed that the effective provision of public safety depends on having a scientific-theoretical and methodological basis. Moreover, it is impossible to form an acceptable and effective model of public safety in the absence of the sufficiently developed theory and methodology.

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