

Unique Experience in Social and Religious Rehabilitation of Persons under the Influence of Destructive Ideas

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ABSTRACT: Based on the experience of the Republic of Uzbekistan in combating extremism and terrorism, the article describes a new approach to the social and religious rehabilitation of citizens who have fallen under the influence of destructive ideologies due to religious grounds.

KEYWORD: destructive ideas, repatriate, social adaptation, religious rehabilitation, reintegration.

In the early years of independence, Uzbekistan experienced extremist and terrorist threats. Demands such as changing the political system in the country, establishing an Islamic caliphate, governing the state based on Sharia norms were made by the destructive forces. The main part of these views and aspirations is aimed at undermining the foundation of inter-religious tolerance and inter-ethnic harmony and threatening the stable and peaceful development of our multi-ethnic society, and there have been cases of usurpation of power by destructive forces.[1]

For example, extremist and terrorist threats committed in Tashkent city and region in 1999, in Tashkent and Surkhandarya regions in 2000, in Tashkent and Bukhara in 2004, and in Andijan in 2005 brought grief to tens, hundreds, and sometimes thousands of families.

Despite the fact that terrorist acts have not been carried out in our country in recent years, as a result of the shallowness of secular and religious knowledge, lack of understanding of the true meaning of pure religious concepts, as well as socio-material difficulties and a decrease in the standard of living, religious-extremist and terrorist currents have called it "the land of disbelief", "emigration", "jihad". , ideas such as "martyrdom", "restoration of the caliphate" were inculcated, our citizens, especially young people, who were promised fictitious material benefits for joining their ranks, participating in battles, went to Syria, Iraq and Afghanistan, where there are various conflicts and conflicts, and engaged in combat operations among the fighters of international terrorist organizations. participation, terrorist acts committed by people of Uzbek origin in the USA, Sweden and Turkey show that it is not enough to end the activities of international terrorist and extremist groups or bring their "leaders" to justice. According to the latest approach, to eliminate extremism, it is necessary to fight its ideology first.

The special attention of the head of our country, Sh. Mirziyoyev, to the protection of human rights and freedoms, security, interreligious harmony and tolerance was clearly reflected in the Action Strategy for the five priority directions of the development of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

In particular, approaches to combating destructive forces have changed, and the main focus has been on eliminating the causes and factors of extremism, rather than its consequences. In particular, in order to prevent the spread of the ideology of violence based on the idea of "enlightenment against ignorance", the formation of the religious and moral consciousness of young people and their ideological education based on enlightenment has become the main link of this task.[2]

In recent years, a number of initiatives have been put forward to expand the scope of work aimed at directing the policy of humanity and forgiveness characteristic of our people against extremist ideas. [3]

In particular, in 2016-2021, 17 presidential decrees on amnesty were adopted, and based on these decrees, 396 women and 159 men over 60 years of age who were accused of participating in the activities of 1791 prohibited organizations and brought to criminal responsibility were pardoned [4].

In the early days of our country, an amnesty act was issued only on the occasion of Independence or Constitution Day, but according to the policy of a new approach, now the tradition of amnesty has been introduced on other important dates (Ramadan Hayit from 2018, Navroz holiday from 2019).

It is known that people who joined the ranks of the militants of international terrorist and extremist organizations, participated in terrorist activities and fled from criminal liability to other troubled countries, called their loved ones to the hotbed areas through various illegal means under deception or duress. As a result, many families could not return to their homeland for many years and were living apart from their relatives. Based on the principle of humanitarianism, on September 19, 2018, the Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan No. PF-5542 "On improving the procedure for the release from criminal liability of citizens of the Republic of Uzbekistan who have mistakenly joined terrorist, extremist or other prohibited organizations and groups" including citizens who were outside the territory of the Republic of Uzbekistan, realized the illegality of their actions and went on the path to recovery, allowed to return to their homeland, to their families, to a peaceful life.

The commission created in accordance with the decree considered the appeals submitted for the release from criminal responsibility of 40 citizens who mistakenly joined the prohibited organizations during the past years [1].

The great commander, Sahibqiran Amir Temur, was forgiving in the management of the kingdom. He was equally generous to the good and the bad, and saw the evil they had done as if they had not done it, and forgave them for their evil deeds [5].

It is worth noting that the country pays great attention to the work directed against the factors and conditions that cause extremism, and comprehensive measures, including ideological and practical efforts, are being implemented in this regard.

In particular, in addition to the state and law enforcement agencies, civil society institutions are involved in ideological work. In particular, the Committee on Religious Affairs, the Ministry of Internal Affairs and the Ministry of Neighborhood and Family Support, together with the Youth Union of Uzbekistan, are organizing relevant work on the basis of a new mechanism that envisages permanent cooperation in ensuring the guarantees of freedom of conscience and the stability of the religious and educational environment in society.

State and law enforcement bodies and civil society institutions are cooperating in the ideological direction as follows,

- explaining the main goals, tasks and principles of state policy in the field of religion to the general public, leaders and employees of state and public organizations, increasing their activity and initiative;
- development of religious and secular views of the population, especially the young generation;

- to ensure the widespread promotion of our national traditions and values against the radical ideas spread in mass media, Internet sites and social networks [2].

In addition, as part of preventive measures, a lot of attention is paid to the group of people who are most likely to fall into the hands of extremists, including labor migrants. Groups consisting of representatives of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, the Committee on Religious Affairs, the Office of Muslims of Uzbekistan, the Youth Union and other public organizations regularly conduct preventive measures among Uzbek labor migrants and students in Russia and Kazakhstan. It is noteworthy that there is a special emphasis on the issues of providing legal and social assistance to citizens in difficult social situations.

Preventive measures against extremist ideas are actively implemented not only inside the country, but also abroad. In particular, 531 women and children who were in dire situations in Syria, Iraq and Afghanistan and were left helpless in Syria, Iraq and Afghanistan were brought to Uzbekistan within the framework of "Mehr" operations of our citizens who were lost to "hotbed areas" under the influence of destructive forces or under the pressure of their relatives. In particular, 156 women and children from Syria in 2019, 64 children from Iraq in October 2019, 25 women and 73 children from Syria in December 2020 ("Mehr-3"), 25 women and 73 children from Syria in 2021 "Mehr-4" as part of the "Mehr" humanitarian operation. 24 citizens were returned to Uzbekistan in operation "Mehr-5" in April 2021, 24 women and 69 children from Syria's "Al-Hol" camp, a total of 93 citizens.

When bringing our compatriots from the place where the war is going on in the Middle East, agreements with many countries, landing a single plane, and taking them out of the hands of terrorists caused difficulties, the fact that our women are sold as slaves, one woman has five children from five fathers, and a 14-year-old girl is still a mother, is the most It is sad and shameful that they left because of their poor material and social conditions, and he ordered the state bodies and civil society institutions to implement measures in cooperation with a new mechanism and a new approach in the future [6].

Accordingly, a wide range of measures are being implemented in cooperation with representatives of the corps of senators and deputies, citizens' assemblies, mass media and other institutions of civil society to protect their rights and freedoms, to create a decent social and material standard of living.

Including

- the work of state and public institutions aimed at the social and religious rehabilitation of citizens who have fallen under the influence of destructive ideologies due to religious grounds continues actively.
- for the last 4 years, more than 2,000 people who have been serving prison sentences for their involvement in extremism and terrorism, sincerely repented of their actions and went on the path to recovery, were pardoned, and more than 1,500 people were released from prisons.
- During 2017-2018, more than 20,000 persons who were considered supporters of radical religious movements or were under their influence were released from the account of law enforcement agencies.
- In 2019-2021, within the framework of the "Mehr" program, 400 women and children from Afghanistan, Syria, and Iraq who had mistakenly joined the ranks of international terrorist organizations were returned to Uzbekistan, and comprehensive support was provided for their social adaptation and reintegration.

A number of foreign countries and international organizations, including the International Committee of the Red Cross and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), provided significant support. According to UN Security Council Resolution No. 2396, special attention was paid to helping women and children who are related to foreign terrorist fighters and may be victims of terrorism [7].

Uzbekistan has experience in providing socio-legal and material assistance to persons who have suffered from the influence of destructive ideologies for religious reasons, including those accused of participation in the activities of prohibited organizations released by the presidential decree on amnesty and brought to criminal liability, as part of the "Mehr" operations, Syria, Iraq and repatriates (women and children) brought to Uzbekistan from Afghanistan, those released from criminal responsibility by the conclusion of the inter-departmental commission of the Republic of Uzbekistan according to the Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan dated September 19, 2018 No. works occupy a special place among the world community, in particular, among the countries of Central Asia (Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan).

In particular, on March 3-5, 2020, with the participation of the authorities of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan, a conference aimed at developing effective and practical proposals that can be used in other countries of Central Asia, "Uzbekistan's experience" on the religious rehabilitation and reintegration of those brought back from Syria and Iraq, was held in Tashkent and It was held in the cities of Termiz.

So what exactly is social adaptation? There are many conflicting opinions about the concept of social adaptation. A general sociological theory of social adaptation has not been developed, there is no universally accepted definition, although adaptation is divided into types, its single criteria, indicators and procedure are not indicated. According to the history of sociological teachings, the theory of social adaptation is a social process that ensures the existence and development of society and the entire animal world [8].

Thus, social adaptation is the active adaptation of a person to the conditions of the current social environment [9].

In the hotbeds of troubled countries, children suffer from mental depression as a result of being separated from their parents, from shooting, burying landmines, imitating the screams of militants with wooden toy weapons, from pretending to fight games, from the lack of secular education, from unconsciousness, from the absence of medical services and hospitals. and suffered from disability and hunger due to lack of food [10].

Taking into account the above, the religious rehabilitation of victims of extremist deception in our country has been identified as a priority issue. In this field, not only law enforcement officers and state bodies, but also religious experts with the necessary knowledge, orientalists, family psychologists and sociologists, and non-governmental organizations were involved.

They are provided with housing, pre-school education, studies, employment, social support, and practical assistance in establishing business activities.

In particular, compulsory medical check-up and health prevention, labor activity by employment departments, civil cases by state bodies were recorded and rehabilitation was carried out.

If we look at the history, in his reign, Sakhibgiron Amir Temur gave money from his treasury to a merchant who lost his investment, to restore his investment, to prepare the necessary seeds and tools if the farmers could not afford to farm, and to give the necessary equipment to repair damaged houses to the citizens. assistance is provided through [5].

In conclusion, in order to ensure the rights of citizens and to ensure the continuity of the ongoing positive work, and to systematically carry out work in this direction, we believe that it would be appropriate if a government decision was issued on "Social and religious rehabilitation of persons affected by destructive ideas". A new model of relations between the state and the population is being established based on the changes in the views of citizens in the field of combating extremism, i.e. increasing their trust in the government and creating conditions for the guarantees of religious freedom of the population. The basis of this model is the strengthening of the traditions of Islamic enlightenment and religious tolerance. Such an approach will undoubtedly bear fruit in the near future.

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