

APPROACHES TO THE STUDY OF SUICIDAL TERRORISM

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ABSTRACT

Suicidal terrorism became the subject of scientific research after the 1990s, and after the 2000s, the study of this negative phenomenon reached a new stage.

The study of this phenomenon began with the scientific research of Israeli researchers. The reason is that since 1993, suicide attacks against Israel have been carried out by Islamic groups in Palestine.

There are different approaches to this phenomenon among researchers, scholars, experts who have studied and are studying the phenomenon of suicide terrorism today. There are different approaches to this phenomenon among researchers, scholars, experts who have studied and are studying the phenomenon of suicide terrorism today.

Keywords: suicidal terrorism; suicide bomber; martyr; integrated approach; criminological approach; psychological approach; aggression; necrophilia; biophilia; victimology;

INTRODUCTION

In our opinion, a comprehensive approach is needed in the study of suicidal terrorism and the actions of its perpetrators.

A comprehensive approach to the phenomenon of suicidal terrorism (historical, political-economic, socio-psychological, sociological, psychiatric and informational aspects) is still being formed. The specific relevance of this phenomenon and the need for practical research show that this phenomenon has not yet been fully studied¹.

The study of suicidal terrorism through criminological, psychological, sociological and economic approaches will be more accurate in assessing all its symptoms and the actions of its perpetrators.

In particular, according to the criminological approach, most experts believe that individuals who commit suicidal acts have specific characteristics that characterize their behavior. Some scientists believe that suicide bombers are no different from other people.

In the scientific context, the study of people with congenital pathological features has its own history.

In particular, such research is based on the research of Cesare Lombroso, who in the XIX century worked as a psychiatrist in prison and developed the idea of "innate criminal". As a result of his research, the study of crime in the scientific field has found a new object and opened a new page in science.

¹ Belasheva I., Ershova D., Esayan M. Psychology of terrorism. Manual. - Stavropol .: SKFU Publishing House, 2016. – P.10.

While the crime itself has been studied in the past, Ch. Lambroso has emphasized in his research that the main focus should be on the study of the identity of the subject of the crime². Researchers conducting their research based on this approach believe that the source of terrorism in a person may be innate aggression. Scientists with different specialties also consider aggression as a human attribute.

Well-known ethologist K. Lawrence argues that the essence of social relations in society in the future will depend on the instincts that govern human activity. According to him, human instinct is based on aggression like that of animals³.

E. Fromm divides aggression into two types: "Good quality" aggression is associated with the adaptation of the person to the surrounding environment, that is, the defensive reaction to danger in front of a person, his will in sports, and so on. These qualities help a person to positively solve complex and difficult tasks; "Poor quality" aggression is directed against this life, against peace⁴. In this case, the state of aggression in a person is based on the killing of people with the purpose of terrorism and their cruel, merciless treatment.

At the same time, ethologists believe that social evil has a biological basis, the phenomenon of terrorism is associated with a lack of control over the feeling of aggression⁵. It should be noted that human behavior is also influenced by biological factors, but cruelty, evil and terrorism also occur under the influence of social factors, because man is a socio-biological being by nature.

Some experts believe that the results of empirical materials should be used in the study of the specific characteristics of necrophilic offenders and violent offenders in the explanation of suicidal terrorism.

The term "necrophilia" was introduced to science by R. Kraft-Ebbing, a phenomenon that was applied to corpses in pathological sexual interest. However, the term has not gone beyond the scope of sexopathology for many years.

Then, Fromm began to use the term in a very broad sense. He explains that the term itself implies an interest in death, seeing death as a universal way to solve life's problems. In some cases, however, he sees it as an interest in death, a constant burning sensation. In his research, the scientist put "biophilia" as the opposite of necrophilia. Biophilia is the love of life, the love of animals, the feeling of life, and these actions are aimed at the collection and integration of organic matter. The instinct of death, on the other hand, is aimed at the disintegration of living associations, structures⁶.

The results of an empirical study of serial (necrophilia) killers show that they are distinguished from others by the fact that they commit murder without difficulty, with no feelings of regret, remorse, or guilt after committing this act. Furthermore, the fact that they are dying does not cause them negative emotions such as fear or anger. They have no compassion for the victims at all. The reason is that when committing his crime, the necrophiles can hardly remember

² Lambroso Ch. The criminal man. - M.: 2005. - P. 120.

³ Lorenz K. Aggression (the so-called "evil"). -M.: 1996. - P.72.

⁴ Fromm E. Anatomy of human destructiveness. -M.: 2007. - P.241.

⁵ Ubaydullaev U. International terrorism: history and current issues. - T.: "University", 2009. - P.82.

⁶ Antonyan Yu., Davitadze M. Ethnoreligious Conflicts: Problems, Solutions. Manual. - M.: "Shield-M", 2004. - S. 99.

what the victim said or asked. This is especially true in cases of homicides with vulnerable victims.

There are many similar features associated with necrophiles in individuals who commit suicide terrorist attacks. Because, they also do not have feelings of pity for the victims before committing their actions, remorse for their actions, compassion for those around them.

Scientists Yu. Antonyan and M. Davitadze write that suicidal terrorists have the following analogous qualities found in serial killers:

- there is no psychological identity at all with the victims; the subjects of the crime do not think about the victims at all, do not feel sorry for them and do not feel sorry for them;
- feel special in the performance of important and honorable work;
- involuntary, unconscious desire to die. They see behind it a phase of transition to a new sense of happiness and joy, not a fanciful world;
- to see the death of oneself and others as a way to move on to a new life, to solve one's own complex and urgent problem, without accepting it as a catastrophe.

In addition, D. Olshansky, trying to prove the existence of a state of victimology in terrorism, states that science has not yet fully studied the cases of "victims".

He illustrates his point with the following example: on September 11, 2001, when a suicide bomber crashed into a World Trade Center in New York City, a man named M. Sokolov, who was on the 38th floor of the building, was able to escape. However, he was severely wounded by fragments of a building that is about to collapse. He was then brought to the hospital, and after he recovered, he came to Jerusalem to see his relatives and visit the holy places. Before returning to New York City on January 20, 2002, a friend tried to give him a parcel, and while he was waiting for his friend on the street and drinking coffee in a cafe until he arrived, an Arab suicide bomber entered that place and blew himself up. Sokolov was taken to an Israeli hospital with serious injuries⁷. The scientist said that this was not an accident, and that two suicides against a person were not spontaneous.

In criminology, approaches to suicidal terrorism focus mainly on the identity of the perpetrators, while the socio-psychological approach to this phenomenon differs from the criminological approach.

At the time of the emergence of suicidal terrorism, its tactics and its gradual spread in Asia in the 1980s, psychologists' approaches to the phenomenon were relevant, but later faced contradictions that psychologists found difficult to explain. The reason was that psychologists focused mainly on the personality of the terrorist and his motives for committing a suicide terrorist attack, and they did not pay enough attention to social situations. In addition to theoretically substantiating this phenomenon, psychologists would link it to narcissistic aggression, osteopathy, power seeking, loss of purpose in life, frustration, and other psychological states.

In addition, psychologists believed that a person who commits a suicide terrorist act is a pathological person and the signs that characterize him are fear, excitement, depression, guilt, authoritarianism, egocentrism, severe extraversion.

⁷ Olshansky D. Psychology of terrorism. - St. Petersburg. : "Peter", 2002. - P.103-104

In the American scientific community, this phenomenon began to be studied in the first five years of the XXI century, after the events of September 11, 2001, and in turn, this research was aimed at solving complex tasks. One of these tasks was to study the motivation of the terrorists who carried out the September 11, 2001, suicide bombings.

At the same time, at the beginning of the study of the phenomenon of suicidal terrorism in the West, there was an approach of scholars to it about the state of mental pathology or the state of psychological influence on individuals through religion. Psychological approaches to the understanding of suicidal terrorism were aimed at understanding the psychopathological conditions in the behavior of the perpetrators.

However, a study of the psyche of suicidal terrorists (both those who committed a terrorist act and those who were arrested at the time of the act) revealed that not all of them had pathological disorders. A study of the phenomenon of suicidal terrorism in the nineteenth century proved that not all of its perpetrators were mentally ill or religious fanatics, and that most of them were healthy individuals. For this reason, the socio-psychological approach has recently become important among those conducting research on the prevention of this phenomenon. Because, we believe that the coverage of suicidal terrorism, combined with the use of a social and psychological approach, will help to study the phenomenon perfectly.

Moreover, A. Merari, a professor at Tel Aviv University who has been studying suicide terrorism for a long time, said that the perpetrators of suicide acts cannot be considered to have a single demographic or psychological appearance. According to him, terrorist organizations can train suicide bombers from anyone. At the same time, the main task of the processing personnel is to identify individuals prone to suicidal behavior, and then to increase the tendency of these individuals to commit suicide. Religious and patriotic motives of the candidates are used in the process⁸.

Admittedly, in the long chain of suicidal terrorism, often the last link in the chain is suicide. Therefore, several actions are taken when a decision is made to commit a suicide terrorist attack. These include identifying the target, gathering information, finding a candidate to carry out a terrorist act, training him physically and "ideologically", and preparing an explosive device. Thus, the perpetrators of suicidal terrorist acts are not fanatics, but a tool in the hands of the leaders of terrorist organizations who seek to achieve a single goal.

According to the Israeli researcher A. Mogadam, according to the socio-cultural approach, there are several levels of identification of people with terrorists:

The basic level is the search for new equality due to the lack of perspective and social mobility in life, the emergence of dissatisfaction with the existing socio-economic and political conditions.

The first level is to find the culprit and fight him.

The second level is to find an external enemy, led by the government, religious extremists or fanatics, who can take the place of the aggressor.

The third level is the terrorist group and its ideological formation, and the emergence of motivation in the terrorist.

The fourth level is the formation and use of specific functions in suicide terrorists.

⁸ Nechitaylo D. Suicide bombers in the jihad movement // Russia and the Muslim world, 2010, no. 9 (219). - P. 121

The fifth level is the means to achieve the set goal, the implementation of terrorist acts that justify suicidal terrorism.

Based on the above, A. Mogadam sees that the fight against suicidal terrorism takes a long time, the struggle is not in the military form, but in changing the socio-cultural foundations of life⁹.

Another researcher, V. Lakor, expressed a similar opinion, saying that it does not have a single mosaic (team) that collects suicide bombers. Their actions and psychological state depend on socio-cultural conditions.

According to J. Ross, a professor at the University of Baltimore in the United States, suicide is the result of a group of social and psychological factors. Social factors include the political and economic development of society, historical and cultural conditions, the level of protest and resentment of citizens, the effectiveness of counter-terrorism measures. Modernization, democracy, and social problems create the structural conditions that support terrorism. This is because usually a large part of the society does not always accept updates positively.

According to the scientist, crises in society lead to an increase in population through structural conditions. Suicidal terrorism, on the other hand, is more common in a society where people tend to unite in groups. This is because, these groups can actively influence people and put pressure on them to commit suicide terroristic acts.

According to B. Horowitz and L. Wells, professors at the University of Virginia in the United States, the social base for employers to find individuals who commit suicide acts is a circle of friends and family. The reason is that it is precisely from among such strata that those who have been treated, are trying to take revenge on the government workers they are dissatisfied with. The perpetrator of a suicidal act knows that a planned attack will not take place unless he or she sacrifices himself or herself. That is why modern terrorism today is primarily a psychological struggle. Executors, on the other hand, increase the psychological effectiveness of a suicidal terrorist attack.

In the social approach to suicidal terrorism, initially the perpetrators of this phenomenon were considered only the poor, uneducated and unemployed. However, an analysis of the document "Sacred Suffering of Two Rivers" («Святые мученики двуречья») posted on an Islamic forum on the Internet and the biographies of 430 suicide bombers of the Al-Qaeda terrorist organization revealed that they had a well-paid job and a higher education, and a large number of individuals¹⁰. In addition, a survey of 32 suicide bombers in Israel revealed that the overall difference between them was in their exposure to external influences. Our view is also confirmed by the suicide bombing that took place on 7 July 2005 in London. Its performer was Muhammad Siddiq Khan of Pakistani origin. He was not a member of a poor family, he was born and raised in the UK¹¹.

⁹ Belasheva I., Ershova D., Yesayan M. Psychology of terrorism. Manual. - Stavropol: NCFU Publishing House, 2016.P.60.

¹⁰ Sosnin V., Nestik T. The phenomenon of terrorism with the use of suicide bombers: socio-psychological interpretation. <http://psyfactor.org/lib/terror20.htm>

¹¹ MoxammedSidikXan. <http://ru.wikipedia.org/wiki/Категория:Террористы-смертники>

In addition, several experts have refuted the notion that suicidal terrorism is entirely linked to economic backwardness and poverty through sociological research¹².

In our view, psychological approaches to suicidal terrorism should reflect an analysis of not only individual but also group, intergroup relations in relation to this phenomenon. The full result can be achieved only if the socio-psychological approach to this phenomenon.

In the first five years of our century, in political approaches to suicidal terrorism, especially in Western political science, the idea that this phenomenon reflected individual behavioral irrationality (wanting one's own death) was important. Nowadays, American and Israeli researchers studying the phenomenon believe that the phenomenon of suicide terrorism should be approached as an "organizational" concept¹³ or at a more institutional¹⁴ level. In particular, according to S. Atran, the reason for the suicide of an individual is the social relations within extremist groups. The scientist tries to explain his opinion with the situation in the Middle East. This is due to the collective sense of historical injustice, political dependence and social humiliation by global powers¹⁵.

Israeli scholar R. Paz continuing Atran's point of view¹⁶, acknowledging that organizations that control those who commit suicide, that they lose their individuality after joining terrorist organizations, and that they develop a collective spirit of self-sacrifice.

We believe that attempts by many experts to disclose this phenomenon from an economic point of view should be considered, as it is linked to the material gain of an individual to commit a terrorist act.

Some economists believe that a person who voluntarily joins a terrorist organization enters into an informal "agreement" with the organization, because through this agreement the suicide bomber intends to gain material benefits in exchange for personal "services."

In particular, economist R. Wintroub states that the need for an individual to be recognized as part of a group, a sense of social solidarity and identity, is seen as "social (social, collective) capital". Attempts by people to acquire just such capital lead to membership in extremist groups. Members of such groups have strong ties to each other¹⁷.

A high degree of cohesion in these groups leads to a gradual acceptance of the group's interests and values by individuals, and the abandonment of individual interests for the benefit of the community. The decision of an individual to sacrifice himself depends directly on the interests of the organization or the will of its leader.

According to another economist, M. Harrison, the subject of social relations between an extremist group and a person who voluntarily joins it is determined by the "trade" of life between them. The perpetrator of the suicidal terrorist act sacrifices his life for the group to

¹² Krueger A. Education, poverty, political violence, and terrorism: is there a causal connection? // Krueger A., Maleckova J. NBER Working Paper 9074. – Cambridge.: 2002. Abadie A. Poverty, Political Freedom and the Roots of Terrorism. (Harvard University and NBER, 2004). <http://www.hks.harvard.edu/fs/aabadie/povterr.pdf>.

¹³ Merari A. Suicide Terrorism in Assessment, Treatment, and Prevention of Suicidal Behavior. – New York, 2004. – P. 244.

¹⁴ Atran S. Genesis of Suicide Terrorism // Science, 7 March, 2003. – P.1536.

¹⁵ Atran S. See there.

¹⁶ Paz R. The Islamic Legitimacy of Palestinian Suicide Terrorism // Countering Suicide Terrorism. – Herzliya.: 2001. – P.80.

¹⁷ Wintrobe R. Can Suicide Bombers be Rational? (Unpublished paper, 2003). <http://cas.uchicago.edu/workshops/cpolit/papers/suicide.pdf>

achieve its goal. In return, the group concludes that the executor died in martyrdom (martyrdom)¹⁸. In some cases, such as in countries such as Afghanistan, Pakistan and Palestine, after a person commits a suicide terrorist attack, relatives of the executor are paid by members of a terrorist organization for the event.

In addition, Israeli expert R. Paz is skeptical about the role of religion in the case of suicide terrorism. According to him, the main goal of suicidal terrorist acts is economic interests¹⁹.

The reason is that in countries where suicide terrorism occurs, its appearance, cause, motives and the organizations that organize it are also different. That is why it is necessary to take a comprehensive approach to the study of this phenomenon.

¹⁸ Harrison M. An Economist Looks at Suicide Terrorism // World Economics, July-September 2006, № 3. – P. 10.

¹⁹ Paz R. The Islamic Legitimacy of Palestinian Suicide Terrorism // Countering Suicide Terrorism. – Herzliya.: 2001. – P.85.