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The purpose of the journal is to promote scientific exchange and cooperation between Russian and foreign political scientists.

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INFORMATION ASPECT OF THE FORMATION OF THE ANTI-TERRORIST EURASIAN SPACE

The article deals with the problem of completeness of information on measures to counter terrorism and extremism taken by the labor-surplus states of Central Asia. With the help of some former labor migrants, a new model of terrorism ("IS 2.0") is being developed based on the use of "pendulum" migration of radical Islamists to the countries of Central Asia and Russia, such Islamists serve as the core of various extremist organizations.

A serious problem for the Russian experts is that none of the countries (Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan or Uzbekistan) sending labor migrants to Russia publishes complex information; each country publishes mainly statistical or regulatory information or news. For example, not all official documents are available in Tajikistan or Uzbekistan and it is difficult to obtain official statistics in Uzbekistan or Kyrgyzstan. Nevertheless, the analysis of the disparate experience of the three countries, among which we can highlight the purposeful work with labor migrants carried out by the representative offices of the Republic of Tajikistan abroad; the courses for imams of mosques and clerics on the prevention of radicalization of the population organized by the State Commission for religious affairs of the Kyrgyz Republic and the system of social rehabilitation of repentant extremists in Uzbekistan prove the need for relevant information in a certain standardized form.

The main sources of information used in the article are documents of the UN, the CIS Anti-Terrorist Center, speeches of the President of the Republic of Tajikistan containing statistical information, news information from the websites of the special services of the Kyrgyz Republic and legal documents of Uzbekistan.

The article substantiates the conclusion about the need to highlight the information aspect in the formation of the anti-terrorist Eurasian space, the relevance of which was discussed at the Council of the CSTO Parliamentary Assembly in May 2019.

Key words: *Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, Islamic State (I), counteraction to terrorism and extremism, information, anti-terrorist space.*

We should agree with the conclusion of the Russian special services that “international terrorism is becoming a force trying to seize power in a number of countries” [6] and number one in that list of post-Soviet states are Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan. Since Russia receives millions of migrant workers from these countries, it cannot help but monitor the main trends in the spread of terrorism and extremism, as well as forms of counteraction to them.

The trend of creating new “sleeping” terrorist cells in different regions of the world, but, above all, in the Central Asia countries became actively manifested in 2014-2017 and continued in 2018-2019 [8. Pp. 620-634]. In order to carry out thorough research of this problem a reliable empirical and constantly updated base is needed, and here it is worth noting problems faced by the Russian experts. First, different states provide different types of information (mainly statistical, legal, news, etc.); second, many sources are closed for obvious reasons; and third, it is difficult to compare the results. For example, not all official documents are available in Tajikistan or Uzbekistan, and it is difficult to obtain official statistical information in Uzbekistan or Kyrgyzstan.

Nevertheless, the study of forms of counteraction to terrorism and extremism in individual states on the basis of available sources is an urgent task. The article deals with the forms of counteraction to terrorism and extremism in Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan.

The main sources of information subject to further generalization are documents of the UN, the CIS Anti-Terrorist Center, speeches of the President of the Republic of Tajikistan containing statistical information, news information from the websites of the special services of the Kyrgyz Republic and legal documents of Uzbekistan.

The UN Report in the section Central and South Asia named leaders of the main groups formed after the split of the Khatiba Imam al-Bukhari group. Mostly they are former migrant workers in Russia from Central Asia: a citizen of Tajikistan Ubaydullo Muradoluogly, a citizen of Kyrgyzstan Alisher Tazhibaeov, a native of Uzbekistan Sulaymanov. There are also terrorist groups in the region under the auspices of Taliban and ISIL-Khorasan under the leadership of Tajiks Gulmurod Halimov, Asliddin Davlatov and Saivali Shafiev [14].

As early as December 2014, President of Tajikistan E. Rahmon called ISIS “the plague of the century and a serious threat to Tajikistan.” At the beginning of April 2015, a Joint Headquarters was created from among the staff of the Prosecutor General’s office, the Ministry of Internal Affairs and the State Security Service of Tajikistan to provide unified management in the inquiry and investigation of all existing cases of participation of RT citizens in armed conflicts on the territory of other states.

In 2015, Tajikistan adopted amendments to the Criminal Code giving the authorities an opportunity to exempt from criminal liability persons who voluntarily refused “illegal participation in an armed formation, armed conflict or military

actions on the territory of other states before the termination of the armed formation, the end of the armed conflict or military actions,” if their actions do not contain signs of another crime (article 401 of the Criminal Code of Tajikistan).

In 2018, President of Tajikistan E. Rahmon said that over the years, the Internal Affairs Bodies of the Republic of Tajikistan have identified and detained 95 organized criminal groups consisting of more than 500 people involved in more than 900 crimes some of these groups were eliminated. In addition, more than 4,800 extremist and terrorist crimes were identified, resulting in the detention of more than 1,500 members of radical groups and their supporters, criminal charges were brought against them, and 63 terrorist and extremist acts were uncovered. In the last three years alone, 82 cases of financing terrorists have been identified and registered [12].

According to the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Tajikistan, in 2018, divisions of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Tajikistan identified and detained 13 organized criminal groups, consisting of 65 people who have committed 71 crimes, registered and solved 873 crimes of a terrorist and extremist nature. As a result of the measures taken, 298 members of terrorist and extremist organizations were detained. 11 terrorist acts were also registered (including four attempted murders). As a result of the explanatory work carried out by the employees of the Internal Affairs bodies, 99 citizens of the Republic of Tajikistan who took part in hostilities abroad were returned to the country [11].

In November 2018, the Center for countering terrorism, extremism and separatism of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Tajikistan was opened. At the end of December 2018, the development of the draft Law of the Republic of Tajikistan “On Countering Extremism” [10] began. At the extended meeting of the government of the Republic of Tajikistan in January 2019 it was noted that it was necessary to strengthen the relations of the Republic’s representative offices abroad with labor migrants, which was the responsibility of the Ministries of Labor, Migration and Employment, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, embassies and consulates of the country, as well as local government authorities [4].

It should be noted that in 2018-2019 it became much more difficult to find open official information on the anti-terrorist and anti-extremist activities in Kyrgyzstan. According to the data for the year 2017, the Internal Affairs bodies of the Kyrgyz Republic, as the result of activities countering the spreading the ideology of religious extremists and international terrorist organizations, initiated 290 criminal cases, detained 232 people seized 9041 materials of an extremist nature, as well as various components for making improvised explosive devices and grenades. Three facts of preparation for terrorist acts in the territory of the Republic have been prevented, during which 17 people have been detained. As a result of the monitoring conducted in social networks, 62 sites of an extremist and terrorist nature have been identified, of which 58 sites have been blocked by court decisions. 20 criminal cases were initiated on the facts of illegal migration [3].

The full report for 2018 could not be found on the official websites of the security services. However, the website of Azattyk radio reports that according to the State Committee for National Security for 8 months of 2018 157 citizens associated with international terrorist groups were identified, of which 34 were “neutralized.” In addition, it indicated that 121 citizens related to extremist groups have been identified and also 34 of them have been “neutralized.” 43 people were brought to criminal responsibility for terrorist and extremist activities. 36 foreign citizens suspected of religious extremism were expelled from the country [16].

24.kg News Agency published data from the state penitentiary service of the Kyrgyz Republic that the number of those convicted of terrorism and extremism serving sentences in correctional institutions is increasing every year. 245 people are serving sentences in closed institutions for extremism and terrorism. 215 convicts live in the colonies-settlements for these crimes. On the account of the Criminal Executive Inspection 86 people sentenced are sentenced to probation for these crimes [5].

On August 6, 2018, the Parliament of the Kyrgyz Republic adopted the Law of the Kyrgyz Republic “On counteracting financing of terrorism and legalization (laundering) of criminal proceeds,” and also obliged the Ministry of Internal Affairs jointly with the State Commission on Religious Affairs to conduct additional courses for imams of mosques and clerics on the prophylactic and prevention of radicalization of the population.

Over the past few years, the Kyrgyz authorities have made efforts to combat extremism and strengthen oversight of religious organizations. In 2018, 3,257 religious organizations were registered in Kyrgyzstan, more than 20 of them were banned by the courts for reasons related to extremism. In September 2018, at least 16 websites distributing extremist material were closed.

As part of efforts to combat extremism, the security services have detained dozens of active members of the banned radical groups accused of trying to recruit new members [9]. The information published on the website of the State Committee for National Security of the Kyrgyz Republic in the News section allows us to make the following chronicle for the period from September 2018 to the first half of 2019:

On September 19, 2018, an ITO (international terrorist organization) militant was detained. Since 2013, he was a member of an international terrorist organization, where he received sabotage and terrorist training and took part in combat operations against the Syrian government as part of terrorist groups. On the instructions of the ITO leaders he was engaged in illegal transportation of recruits to Syria. In total, with the direct participation of the detainee, more than 100 recruits from the CIS countries were redirected to the zone of armed conflict.

On September 26, 2018, active members of the banned religious extremist organization Hizbut-Tahrir were detained in the city of Karakol, Issyk-Kul region. It is established that the detainees were actively engaged in recruiting new

members to their ranks and called for the creation of a theocratic “Caliphate.” As a result of the authorized searches at the places of residence of the detainees, a significant number of materials in electronic and printed form containing the ideology of the banned Hizbut-Tahrir were found and seized.

On October 14, 2018, a member of an international terrorist organization, a citizen of the Kyrgyz REPUBLIC, was detained in Bishkek. During the inspection, a fake passport of the Kyrgyz Republic was found in the name of another ITO militant who had previously taken part in the fighting in Syria. It is established that the detainee is a member of an underground international group abroad and was engaged in financing and providing various assistance to militants fighting in Syria in the ITO ranks. The detainee sent about US\$ 100 thousand to finance ITO fighters in Syria.

On October 23, 2018, members of the ITO underground were identified as having committed armed assaults (Ganimat) on wealthy people with the aim of further financing the activities of the ITO fighting in the war zone in Syria and Iraq. It is established that for a large Ganimat, the leaders of the underground for a long time collected information about the channel of money transfer and committed a robbery using weapons and vehicles, which later were buried in a deserted territory in order to cover up criminal traces. In the Batken region, at a depth of 3 meters from the surface of the earth, a car was found that was used in April 2015 as a crime weapon during a robbery by members of a criminal group.

25 Oct 2018, the activity of ITO “sleeping” cells was suppressed on the territory of Chui oblast, as a result five foreign nationals and four citizens of the Kyrgyz Republic were detained. It is established that since 2017, members of the terrorist cell have been actively engaged in recruiting and involving ordinary citizens of the Republic into the ranks of ITO militants in Syria and Afghanistan, as well as planning of subversive actions in Kyrgyzstan with the use of firearms and improvised explosive devices. The criminal group also included foreign citizens from other CAR/CIS countries wanted on charges of involvement in terrorist activities. On the instructions of the ITO emissaries they were sent to Kyrgyzstan to create a sleeping cell and prepare for the arrival of the most experienced ITO fighters.

On November 22, 2018, authorized searches were conducted at the places of residence of members of the religious extremist organization Hizbut-Tahrir in Issyk-Kul region as a part of the initiated criminal case under Article 299-2 of part 1 of the Criminal Code of the Kyrgyz Republic (acquisition, production, storage, distribution, transportation and transfer of extremist materials, as well as deliberate use of symbols or attributes of extremist or terrorist organizations). As a result of investigative and operational activities, a large volume of banned Hizbut-Tahrir literature was found and seized.

On December 25, 2018, searches were conducted at thirteen addresses in Zhety-Oguz and Tyupsk districts and the city of Karakol in Issyk-Kul region. As a result of operational activities, books, brochures, leaflets, DVDs, notebooks and

cell phones belonging to members of a banned extremist organization were found and seized, as well as illegally stored firearms.

On January 29, 2019, a citizen of the Kyrgyz Republic who was on the international wanted list was detained. It is established that in 2015 the detainee having taken the path of supporting the ideology of Jihadism went to Syria, where he joined the gangs of international terrorists, took part in the armed clashes against the government forces of the Syrian Arab Republic and was subsequently transferred to the territory of one of the SCO member states.

February 1, 2019, as a part of the ongoing counter-terrorism efforts to curb the infiltration of militants from the international terrorist organizations moving from the zones of armed conflict in Syria to commit terrorist or other subversive activities on the territory of the Kyrgyz Republic, a Kyrgyz citizen was detained who had been previously convicted for committing a crime under article 241 of the Criminal Code. It is established that in February 2014, having illegally produced a fake passport of a citizen of the Kyrgyz Republic with wrong data, he flew to Turkey and then to Syria, where he joined the ITO gangs. During a short period of time the detainee became one of the active functionaries of the forces of international terrorism, participated in the fighting against the government forces of Syria. Subsequently, he was transferred to Turkey, where he was responsible for the operation of a major channel for transporting militants to Syria.

On February 5, 2019, a citizen from a Central Asian country, officially wanted in his homeland for committing terrorist crimes, was detained in Jalal-Abad. It is established that the detainee took a special course on the manufacture of improvised explosive devices (IEDs) from improvised materials, as well as tactics of combat from automatic weapons in urban and mountain environment. The detainee has illegally entered the territory of Kyrgyzstan with further plans to settle down and create the necessary conditions for the formation of an underground terrorist cell for the purpose of committing a robbery (the so-called Ganimat).

On February 5, 2019, a citizen of the Kyrgyz Republic was detained who turned out to be an ITO emissary engaged in spreading extremist materials in social network resources on the Internet and providing foreign citizens with fake passports of the Kyrgyz Republic. During the operational search, a citizen of one of the Central Asian countries was detained, sought for committing serious and especially serious crimes of a terrorist nature. He was hiding in Kyrgyzstan using forged documents.

On February 9, 2019, a citizen of the Kyrgyz Republic was detained who, in 2014 while studying at a religious institution abroad came under the influence of ITO recruiters and went to Syria with his family. The detainee received combat training in one of the ITO camps and took part in an armed conflict against the government forces of the Syrian Arab Republic.

On February 27, 2019, a citizen of the Kyrgyz Republic, a native of Osh region, was detained while illegally crossing the state border. According to the es-

tablished data, being in the territory of Syria as a part of terrorist gangs, he passed special and diversionary-terrorist training, took part in military operations against the SAR government troops. Subsequently, on the instructions of the ITO leaders he purposefully left the combat zone in order to settle and wait for the instructions on the implementation of terrorist acts in one of the CIS countries/CAR.

On March 7, 2019, a citizen of the Kyrgyz Republic, a native of the Batken region, who was recruited by emissaries through social networks while working in one of the CIS countries, after which he underwent primary military training, was detained. Having sworn to the leaders of the ITO, he planned to fly to Turkey and join a group of ITO mercenaries from other countries, illegally cross the Turkish-Syrian border to further participate in Jihad against the Syrian government forces.

On March 8, 2019, a citizen of the Kyrgyz Republic, a native of Osh region, who was on the international wanted list, was detained. It is established that in 2015 the detainee, while working in one of the CIS countries, came under the influence of ITO emissaries and went to Turkey and then to Syria in order to join the gangs and further participate in Jihad against the government of the Syrian Arab Republic.

On March 15, 2019, an extremist who was on the Interpol wanted list was detained in Bishkek. He was also on an interstate wanted list for illegally involving citizens in armed groups and organizing extremist activities.

On April 20, 2019 GKNB KR detained a citizen of the KR, an ITO militant in Syria wanted for the involvement in terrorist activities. It is established that since 2016 the detainee was a member of international terrorist bands, passed diversionary training and took active part in military operations in the territory of Syria. In November 2018, on the instructions of the ITO leaders he left the territory of Syria to form an underground cell and wait for the arrival of other fighters from Syria to continue the so-called “armed Jihad” in the countries of Central Asia and commit terrorist acts using improvised explosive devices and firearms.

On April 23, 2019, the state security service of the Kyrgyz Republic, in cooperation with foreign partners, detained an ITO militant, a citizen of the Kyrgyz Republic. It is established that in 2014 the detainee went to Syria to participate in “armed Jihad,” where he received special subversive and terrorist training from the Arab instructors. He took an active part in the hostilities and later was appointed an instructor in the training of enlisted recruits in the ITO camps. At the direction of the ITO leaders he entered the territory of the Kyrgyz Republic to legalize, create a terrorist underground and carry out “armed Jihad” in the future.

On May 5, 2019, a citizen of the Kyrgyz Republic wanted for involvement in terrorist activities was detained. He underwent sabotage and terrorist training in the Syrian-Iraqi zone of the armed conflict and subsequently went to one of the CIS countries with the purpose of settling down and waiting for instructions from the leaders of the terrorist organizations to carry out terrorist activities.

On May 23, 2019, a citizen of Kazakhstan was detained in Kyrgyzstan; he was on the interstate wanted list for promoting terrorism and inciting religious hatred.

On May 25, 2019, citizens of the Kyrgyz Republic were detained on the territory of the Batken district while attempting to illegally enter the territory of the Kyrgyz Republic. They came from the Syrian-Iraqi zone of armed conflict and during personal search police found ammunition for Kalashnikov small arms. It is established that in 2015 one of them fell under the influence of ITO emissaries and was transported to the territory of Syria to participate in the fighting. In 2017 he was put on the interstate wanted list by Interpol for committing terrorist crimes, as well as for participating in military operations as an ITO militant on the territory of third countries. Another detainee was also recruited by ITO emissaries and participated in combat clashes against the Syrian government troops.

On June 2, 2019, a citizen of one of the neighboring countries was detained when illegally crossing the state border of the Kyrgyz Republic through the checkpoint Manas Airport on his way to Istanbul; he used a fake passport of a citizen of the Kyrgyz Republic. At the same time, the organizer of the criminal group, a citizen of the Kyrgyz Republic, who organized a steady channel for the production and sale of fake Kyrgyz passports to foreign citizens in order to transport recruits of international terrorist organizations to the war zone, was detained in the waiting room of the Manas airport.

On June 5, 2019, in Jalal-Abad, police officers detained a 36-year-old M. Zh. on suspicion of robbery. The man entered a branch of the Companion Bank and threatened the cashier with a gun. During the search a gun and extremist literature were found in his possession. In addition, it is established that he communicated with members of terrorist organizations through the Telegram channel.

On June 19, 2019, authorized searches were conducted at the places of residence in the At-bashin district of Naryn region of six members of the Hizbut-Tahrir religious extremist organization banned in the territory of the Kyrgyz Republic. As a result of the search, Hizbut-Tahrir literature, rifled firearms (without appropriate permits), 5.45 mm casings, a metal container with gunpowder, pistons, shot, laptop, phones and SIM cards were found and seized.

Obviously, this list is not complete, but in general, these facts indicate the formation of a new model of terrorism ("IS 2.0") [7. Pp. 49-62], based on the use of "pendulum" migration of radical Islamists to the countries of Central Asia and Russia, acting as a core of various extremist organizations.

Therefore, almost all Central Asian states have now focused on taking preventive measures and preventing their citizens from joining terrorist and extremist organizations and movements, as well as on returning to normal life former members and supporters of religious extremist organizations who have sincerely repented of their actions and embarked on the path of correction.

In November 2018, at the sixth International Conference of the Regional anti-terrorist structure of the Shanghai cooperation organization (SCO RATS),

V. Norov, Director of the Uzbek Institute of strategic and international studies under the President of Uzbekistan, who is now Secretary General of the SCO, called attention to the Uzbek model of fighting against radicalization and terrorism [15].

The Uzbek model of fighting includes the following components:

- conceptual review of approaches to the implementation of measures to counter terrorism and extremism, which is enshrined in the Law “On countering extremism” adopted in June 2018, which gives clear definitions of the concept of “extremism”, “extremist activity,” “extremist organization”;

- propaganda of the ideas of enlightened Islam, focus on the struggle for the minds of people, especially young people, by raising their legal culture, spiritual and religious enlightenment. “The post of deputy head responsible for social issues, spiritual education and youth was introduced in the system of executive power at the level of regions, cities and districts; the post of deputy head of the department of internal affairs on youth issues was introduced in the system of law enforcement agencies. Councils of youth leaders have been formed at the supreme judicial council and the Supreme Court to protect the rights and interests of the young generation. In addition, each mahalla introduced the post of Deputy chairman of meetings of citizens on youth issues;

- development and dissemination of Uzbek traditional Islamic culture under the motto “Education against ignorance,” education of young people about the true essence of Islam and their acquaintance with the rich heritage of the great theologians and scientists of the past. Center of Islamic culture was established in Tashkent, Islamic Academy was organized in Samarkand, a research center of Imam Bukhari was set up in Surkhandarya region, center of Imam Termizi. A special department has been created at the Committee for religious affairs to promote the country as a historical center of Islam;

- creation of public councils from among the veterans, activists, athletes and cultural figures who are working with distressed families. They are designed to identify the conditions and causes of religious extremist crimes, as well as to correct people who have fallen under the influence of extremists;

- systematic work on social rehabilitation and return to normal life of those who fell under the influence of extremist ideas and then realized their mistakes. In accordance with the decree signed by the President of Uzbekistan Sh. Mirziyoyev on September 19, 2018, a Republican Interdepartmental Commission was established to consider appeals of the Uzbek citizens who were deluded into being members of terrorist, extremist or other prohibited organizations and groups [1]. The Commission has the right to release from criminal liability those who have confessed and sincerely repent what they have done. In addition, former militants have to disclose criminal activities of the organizations in which they participated. The Resolution notes that rehabilitated extremists shall receive assistance in employment, as well as social and legal assistance. Rehabilitation is possible only once in a lifetime, recidivists who violate the law again, cannot undergo rehabilitation;

– targeted work with children whose parents were influenced by extremists. In 2017, ten thousand such children found employment in Uzbekistan. Special attention is paid to their legal and religious education.

The disparate experience of the three countries, including such highlights as the purposeful work with labor migrants abroad by the Representative Offices of the Republic of Tajikistan; special courses for imams of mosques and clergy on prevention of radicalization of the population organized by the State Commission for religious affairs of the Kyrgyz Republic; the system of social rehabilitation of repentant extremists in Uzbekistan have to be better studied. This involves provision of relevant information in a standardized form. In turn, expert work with such information can help to solve the problem of forming an anti-terrorist Eurasian space, the issue of which was raised in May 2019 at the Council of the CSTO Parliamentary Assembly [13].

Table 1

**List of terrorist and extremist organizations the activities
of which are prohibited on the territory of Central Asian states [2]**

	KIRGHIZIA	TAJIKISTAN	UZBEKISTAN
At-Takfir Wal-Hijra	√		
Al-Qaeda	√	√	√
Boz Gurd			√
Muslim brothers		√	√
Taliban Movement	√	√	
Jund-al-Caliphate	√		
Islamic party of Turkestan (former Islamic movement of Uzbekistan)	√	√	
Islamic party of East Turkestan	√	√	√
Kurdish People's Congress	√		
Islamic State	√	√	√
Lashkar-e-Taiba		√	
East Turkestan liberation organization	√		√
Tablighi Jamaat		√	√
The al-Nusra front	√	√	√
Hizb-ut-Tahrir-al-Islami	√	√	√
Yakyn Inkar	√		
Jihad group (Union of Islamic Jihad)	√		
Takfiri-jihadist movement of Salafi orientation	√		
Jaishul Mahdi	√		
Acromia	√		√
Ansarullah	√	√	√
Jannat of Asiklari	√		

The Katib al Imam al Bukhari	√		√
Jamaat Tawhid WA-Jihad	√		
Propaganda materials and propaganda activities of Tikhomirov A. A.-Said Buryatsky	√		
Group 24		√	
Jamiyat e-Islami Pakistan		√	√
Islamic revival party of Tajikistan		√	
Salafia		√	
Free Tajikistan		√	
Sozmoni tabligot		√	
Al-Jihad			√
World wide Jihad Fund			√
Group of Islamic Jihad			√
Abu Saif Group			√
Jamiat-e-Ulema-e-Islam			√
Jihadists			√
Nurchilar			√
Tawhid WA Jihad			√

NOTES:

(1) Islamic State is an international terrorist organization banned in Russia and other CIS countries.

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