Advances in Social Science, Education and Humanities Research, volume 364

International Conference on Sustainable Development of Cross-Border Regions: Economic, Social and Security Challenges (ICSDCBR 2019)

Factors influencing motivation for terrorist activities being implemented with the use of information technologies in transboundary regions

V V Polyakov[1*] and M A Starodubtseva[1]

[1] Altai State University, 61 Lenina pr., Barnaul 656049 Russia

E-mail: agupolyakov@gmail.com

Abstract. The article discusses the need to analyze the goals and motives causing the participation of criminals in cyber-terrorism activities. The most significant factors contributing to the formation of the personality of terrorists are given: relative and communal deprivations leading to an identity crisis. It is argued that many potential terrorists for various reasons cannot act professionally and self-realize themselves, which pushes them to the so-called "ladder of terrorism.". The paper analyzes various forms of using the Internet and other information and telecommunication technologies for terrorist purposes, in particular, secret communication channels between community members, recruitment of new members, remote control of similar criminal communities, and collecting money for criminal purposes. The cross-border possibilities of cyber-terrorism as the conditions and circumstances conducive to its perpetration were examined, and the regional characteristics of cyber-terrorism were also investigated.

Keywords: terrorist, technology, information technologies, motivation, cyber-terrorism

1. Introduction

The contemporary computer technologies have created favorable conditions for terrorism both at the intra-state and regional levels. In fact, in recent years, terrorists have begun to actively use information and telecommunication capabilities [1]. A new phenomenon has emerged, such as cyber-terrorism, which "blurs" regional and even state borders. The main difference between the methods of committing a crime of cyber-terrorism and traditional terrorism is the use of information and telecommunication technologies as a means of committing a crime. These technologies can be actively used not only for committing terrorist acts, but also for other criminal purposes, for example, organizing criminal activities in terrorist communities, campaigning to join them, and propaganda their activities [2].

An important place in the development of measures to prevent and combat modern terrorist manifestations is occupied by research on the motives and goals of committing these crimes [3]. The issues of studying the identity of these criminals are primarily concerned with such sciences as Criminology. In recent decades, within the framework of these sciences, a lot of research has been conducted in this area, but they deal with the terrorists of the "old generation," i.e. those who committed crimes in the traditional ways. Currently, with the active development of information technology, the methods and means of committing such crimes have changed. For this reason, the

need has arisen to analyze the current state of the basic elements of the forensic characterization of cyberterrorism. It is necessary to pay special attention to the forensic characterization of the identity of criminals and the motives of their behavior. This is not only theoretical, but also of practical importance, as it would help in solving a number of highly important issues related to terrorist activities, including those being conducted in the bordering regions.

2. Materials and Methods

Due to the novelty and rapid development of cyber-terrorism, its research methods are in the process of formation. For the first time for these purposes, the authors propose to use such advanced methods of collecting, analyzing, and versioning judgment in relation to forensically significant information such as machine learning (which is a component of artificial intelligence [4]) and honeypot technologies. In addition, traditional materials and methods of research on the motivation for cyber-terrorism are domestic and foreign databases containing information on the methods and consequences of cyber-attacks, as well as a compilation and analysis of forensic investigative practices and statistical data. A special method is the use of a situational approach to the study of criminal situations identified by the criterion of motivation and goal-setting of the commission of cyber-terrorism.

3. Results

The use of telecommunications networks provides cyber-terrorists with many advantages. For example, access to information resources is improved, regardless of the location of criminals and their victims; also increases the geographically unrelated audience of terrorist appeals; there is a high speed and large volume of transmitted information; a transmission of information via communication channels, which are practically not controlled by the law enforcement agencies. This is evidenced by the results of the study, which showed that the regions of the country that were not traditionally considered to be criminogenic for this type of crime, have ceased to be so. For example, in the Altai Krai becomes suppressed the criminal activity prohibited on the territory of Russia, such as "Misanthropic Division," "Tablighi Jamaat," and others. Interestingly, at first glance, this region does not have favorable conditions for this criminal activity; however, the use by criminals of network information and telecommunication technologies in order to promote and agitate their actions, recruit new members, send information about the conduct of "white patrols", counter-system "flash mobs" contributed to the inclusion of the Altai Krai in modern cyber-terrorism [5].

In the changed conditions of the surrounding reality, the predicted increase in cyber-terrorism manifestations requires conducting research on the motivation and goal-setting of these criminals. We believe that, on the one hand, a specific sociocultural context (relative deprivation, communal deprivation) has a significant impact on the motivation to commit terrorism carried out using information technologies, which forces them to move along the "ladder of terrorism" [6], and on the other hand, propaganda and agitation on the Internet and instant messengers that are actively used by criminal associations, can effectively influence the beliefs and views of those who are dissatisfied with their position.

4. Discussion

American scientist D.G. Hubbard writes, "Effective anti-terrorism policy depends on understanding what the terrorists think, and why they do what they do; if we take ourselves as a model, the behavior of terrorists will seem inexplicable" [7]. This viewpoint shows the importance of scientific research on the motivation and goal-setting of terrorists. On the basis of objective data, we will try to determine the most significant factors influencing the formation of the personality of terrorists.

In the mass consciousness and in some forensic characteristics, a terrorist is often presented as a young ignorant person from the "third world" or a person brought up in orthodox religious customs. However, research suggests otherwise. In fact, many terrorists have a good secular education, which does not exclude their religious beliefs. Note that their educational level often depends on their place of residence. According to a study published by the Center for Psychological Security, of 132

jihadists, 22 people did not graduate from school, 16 people graduated from high school, 38 graduated from an institution like a college, 44 graduated from college, 7 had a master's degree, 5 have a doctoral degree [8]. According to these data, the presence of education does not directly affect the implementation of terrorism, as every tenth of them has a master's degree or a PhD. Also of interest is the professional affiliation of these criminals. Thus, the almost half of those who worked in professions that required deep special knowledge and skills, one third had an average level of qualification, and only a quarter were engaged in low-skilled work [8].

Note that in recent years there has been a tendency to join terrorist groups and communities, fairly educated, young professionals who have outstanding technical knowledge in the field of computer information. One of the reasons for this may be insufficiently developed social and communicative features of their personality, when dissatisfaction with their position in society and concerns about social injustice and inequality of citizens act as an impetus for entering into terrorist organizations that seem to them strong and not indifferent to these problems. Moreover, they are impressed that the leadership of the group is pleased with their membership and is ready to actively apply their knowledge and abilities [9]. Another reason for the lack of implementation of professional skills among potential terrorists is the so-called relative deprivation. Deprivation is a subjectively perceived and painfully experienced mismatch of "value expectations" (benefits and living conditions that people believe they deserve in fairness) and "value opportunities" (benefits and living conditions that people, again, they think can get in reality) [8]. Close to this is another phenomenon, the so-called communal deprivation associated with the position of their group in society. We believe that in the minds of some people there is a negative prejudice, which consists in different stereotypes about the Muslim world, which in some way give rise to this type of deprivation.

We believe that all these generalized factors in one degree or another incline potential terrorists to embark on the so-called "ladder of terrorism". According to F.M. Mohaddam, who is the author of this concept, this ladder consists of 5 steps, climbing which a person for objective and subjective reasons leaves himself less and less freedom of choice and opportunity to leave the criminal terrorist path [6]. At the first stage, a person inclined to terrorism comes to the conclusion that it is almost impossible for him to change his material and social position in society. At the second stage of his troubles, he begins to blame others, for example, the Western world, which imposes its values and practices. He begins to appear until the unrealized aggression. At the third stage there is a hard division "into friends and foes," which leads to participation in closed communities, encouraging aggression towards the enemies of their ideology. Psychologically, entering the last stage is equated with participation in the "great war," which makes it possible to justify for this purpose any violence and crimes.

It is extremely unfavorable for society to have the described favorable conditions, which lead to the fact that uncommon personalities with organizational skills that direct their qualities and prestige to organize or actively participate in the activities of cyber-terrorism organizations enter the ladder of terrorism (Art. 205.4, Art. 205.5 of the Criminal Code).

5. Conclusion

The use of new information and telecommunication technologies by terrorists to implement cyber-terrorism acts, as well as the organization of prohibited activities, propaganda, agitation and recruitment of certain categories of people with unstable views and a special mentality, including those living in certain regions, has a significant impact on modern terrorist activities. To counter these processes, it is necessary to properly understand the motivation and goal-setting that drives terrorists.

References

[1]   Polyakov V V 2015 Features counter cyberterrorism. In *Collection of papers of the II All-Russian scientific and practical conference: information countering extremism and* terrorism (pp. 99-105) (Krasnodar, Russia: Krasnodar University of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Russia)

[2]   Klementyev A S 2010 Organizational and legal aspects of countering terrorism in the information sphere *Bulletin of the All-Russian Institute for Advanced Studies of the Officers of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Russia* **1**(14) pp 28-31

[3]   Kholopova N A, and Polyakov V V 2017 The use of network information technology in extremist activities. In *Materials of the VI International scientific conference of students and undergraduates: organizational, procedural and forensic support of criminal proceedings* (pp. 123-125) (Simferopol, Russia: IT "ARIAL")

[4]   Bakhteev D V 2018 Artificial intelligence in forensics: state and prospects of use *Criminal Procedure and Criminology* **2** pp 43-49

[5]   Kholopova N A, and Polyakov V V 2017 Some ways of committing crimes of an extremist nature with the use of information and telecommunications on the Internet. In Е Д Родионов Ed. Collection of scientific articles of the international conference *Lomonosov Readings in Altai: Fundamental Problems of Science and Education"* (pp. 943-946) (Barnaul, Russia: Altai State University)

[6]   Moghaddam F M 2006 *From the terrorists point of view: what they experience and why they come to destry* (London, UK: Praeger Security International)

[7]   Hubbard D G 1989 *Winning back the sky: a tactical analysis of terrorism* (San-Francisco, CA)

[8]   Dolgarev N N, and Belogurova A S 2017 *Author's handbook of the Center for Psychological Security for profiling terrorists and analyzing terrorist threats* Available at: http://cpb-center.ru/files/cpb-terrorizm.pdf (Accessed 06 04 2019)

[9]   Polyakov V V 2016 Prevention of extremism and terrorism, carried out with the help of the Internet *News of Altai State University* **3**(91) pp 142-144