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CRIMINOLOGICAL ASPECTS OF THE SPREAD OF EXTREMISM ON THE INTERNET AS THREATS TO A SAFE EDUCATIONAL ENVIRONMENT

Abstract: at the present stage, the international information and communication network Internet is actively used to post extremist materials. Using global virtual channels and computer communication capabilities, ideologists of extremist movements and groups actively influence the consciousness of citizens and, first of all, young people. The authors note a significant increase in recent years in the risks of involving young people in extremist communities through psychological pressure via the Internet; they analyze the criminological causes of this phenomenon, consider legal and other measures to counter the spread of extremism in the educational environment of Russia.

Keywords: extremism, youth environment, Internet, security threat, educational environment, legal counteraction.

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КРИМИНОЛОГИЧЕСКИЕ АСПЕКТЫ РАСПРОСТРАНЕНИЯ ЭКСТРЕМИЗМА В СЕТИ ИНТЕРНЕТ КАК УГРОЗЫ БЕЗОПАСНОЙ ОБРАЗОВАТЕЛЬНОЙ СРЕДЕ

Аннотация: на современном этапе международная информационно-коммуникационная сеть Интернет активно используется для размещения экстремистских материалов. Используя глобальные виртуальные каналы и возможности компьютерной коммуникации, идеологи экстремистских движений и групп активно воздействуют на сознание граждан и, в первую очередь, молодежи. Авторы отмечают существенное возрастание в последние годы рисков вовлечения молодежи в экстремистские сообщества путем психологического давления через сеть Интернет; анализируют криминологические причины данного явления, рассматривают правовые и иные меры противодействия распространению экстремизма в образовательной среде России.

Ключевые слова: экстремизм, молодежная среда, сеть Интернет, угроза безопасности, образовательная среда, правовое противодействие.

One of the main directions of Russia's criminal policy at present is countering extremism. Extremist activity is a complex and versatile phenomenon, covering many crimes and administrative offenses. The Constitution of the Russian Federation, among its most important provisions, includes a ban on propaganda and other activities that incite social, racial, national or religious hatred and enmity, as well as a ban on propaganda of racial, national or religious superiority. This provision is contained in Part 2 of art. 29 of the Constitution of the Russian Federation. In order to implement this constitutional norm, the Criminal Code of the Russian Federation provides for many articles establishing criminal liability for extremist activity. However, the implementation of these norms has caused many problems in practice in the field of interpretation and application of these articles of the Criminal Code of the Russian Federation. The

main problem lies in the lack of a common understanding and interpretation of the concept of «extremism», currently, this issue is the subject of many scientific discussions, each researcher dealing with the problems of criminal prosecution for extremism has his own opinion on the definition of extremism, sometimes completely different from the approaches on this issue of other scientists.

The global Internet network has long been an integral part of our daily life, becoming, among other things, a space for communicative interaction and exchange of views on topical issues. Often, such interaction in the Internet space, which is largely depersonalized, becomes a way to spread extremist ideas, which served as the basis for the inclusion by the legislator in a number of extremist crimes of such a qualifying feature as the commission of an act using information and telecommunications networks (including the Internet), for example, in part 2 of Article 280 of the Criminal Code of the Russian Federation (Public calls for extremist activity) or in Part 2 of Article 280.1 of the Criminal Code of the Russian Federation (Public calls for actions aimed at violating the territorial integrity of the Russian Federation). Thus, considering the main methods of similar illegal acts, V.O. Davydov writes: «There are two ways of committing extremist crimes using virtual networks, which should include: a) the production and distribution on the Internet of information prohibited in the Russian Federation that contradicts the interests of state security; b) the use of IT technologies for the creation and subsequent management of the activities of extremist groups and communities, as well as for the direct commission of extremist crimes» [1, c. 12].

In the original wording of the text of the article, there was an indication only of the commission of an act using the mass media, which in the doctrine was subjected to reasonable criticism related to "insufficient certainty of such a criminal law prohibition, which creates significant difficulties for practice in the situation of using the Internet network". Thus, previously, there was a practical problem of imputing this qualifying attribute if the information was posted on an Internet resource. For example, during this period, recommendations were formulated to impute the sign «use of the media» only if the corresponding Internet resource was registered as a mass media. This interpretation of the analyzed feature is proposed on the basis of paragraph 7 of the

Resolution of the Plenum of the Supreme Court of the Russian Federation No. 3 dated 24.02.2005 "On judicial practice in cases of protection of the honor and dignity of citizens, as well as the business reputation of citizens and legal entities". These recommendations were taken into account when applying Article 280 of the Criminal Code of the Russian Federation. On the other hand, when applying art. 282 of the Criminal Code of the Russian Federation, the term «mass media» was sometimes understood more broadly: in fact, the entire global Internet network was included in the category under consideration. Also, the courts regarded the social network «VKontakte» as a mass media (formally, it does not have the corresponding status) [2].

We believe that in order to assess such a regulatory situation, a linguistic analysis of «VKontakte» groups in the Russian-speaking sector of the network should be carried out. The main criteria for choosing such groups were a) names containing signs of extremism, b) the number of participants from 700 or more, and c), respectively, information directly within the groups. The key words for searching and identifying such communities were: «Russian», «nationalism», «national», «unity», «right», «right sector», «tolerance», «migrants», «power» [3, c. 133]. The purpose of this analysis was to identify groups containing extremist materials. To identify signs of extremism, four objects were identified: text recordings of the group, comments on them, photos and videos containing: a) calls for extremist activities; b) statements aimed at inciting hatred or enmity; c) justification of national or racial superiority, or justification of the practice of committing war crimes; d) propaganda of attributes and symbols of a Nazi character. In total, we analyzed 50 groups with signs of extremism in the posted materials: a) 15 groups with signs of political extremism (which was 30%); b) 33 groups with signs of ethnopolitical extremism (which was 66%); c) 2 groups promoting religious and political extremism (which was 4%). Thus, based on the above data, we can conclude that the social network «VKontakte» is dominated by groups with signs of ethnopolitical extremism, due to the large influx of migrants and the special attention paid to this category of citizens by members of communities and groups [2].

For example, in the group «Russian Nationalism» with the number of participants amounting to 4,261 people, participants express signs of political as well as ethno-

political extremism. So, a member of the group, commenting on the picture with the title "What an ideal Russia should look like", writes that such a country will be without an incumbent president, and after his removal, the people will get rid of the rest of the evil, including migrants. In this statement, one can clearly trace the hostile, hostile attitude towards the current government, as well as to persons of a different, non-Russian nationality. In the group «National Union of Russia» with 4373 participants, the main topics of discussion are the displacement of the current government. A quote from one of the group's participants was particularly supported: «I sincerely hope that the Russian people will regain their power and expel Putin's» [3, с. 134].

In the Russian Nationalist group, after analyzing one of the last posts, we came to the conclusion that the author's statements contain a hostile and aggressive nature towards the authorities. To confirm our point of view, we will give an example of the author's statement. N. writes: «We need to promote the development and prosperity of the new empire, instead of a fake federation, apply radical measures to the current government» [2]. The main slogan of the group is «Evil Russia. Resistance» – all hatred, which means hatred of the current government, expressed in posts and pictures posted in the group. The main discussions of the Right Anarchist community are anarchism and fascism [3, с. 133]. Most of the groups present materials justifying national, political, racial or religious superiority, which is manifested in pictures, photos and videos, however, the main part falls on comments to the posts of the participants of these groups. Also, these communities, by posting Nazi, religious pictures and videos, incite hatred or enmity and humiliate human dignity [4, с. 101]. In our opinion, these communities are created to recruit new supporters of extremism, creating an environment in which group members become focused on fighting the state system or ethnic residents of the country.

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