

IRSTI 10.81.71

UDC 343.9.01

JEL K14

<https://doi.org/10.46914/2959-4197-2023-1-4-64-70>

ALIYEV B.A.,*¹

PhD, associate professor.

*e-mail: antiterror-baku@mail.ru

ORCID ID: 0000-0003-0104-4921

¹Court Expertise Center of the Ministry
of Justice of the Azerbaijan Republic,
Baku, Azerbaijan

ANTI-TERRORISM ACTIVITIES: FORENSIC SUPPORT FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES AND SPECIAL SERVICES

Abstract

The article examines the challenges associated with providing forensic support for the operations of law enforcement agencies and specialized services in combating terrorism. The author highlights the significance of adopting a systematic approach to investigating and preventing terrorist activities, particularly through the advancement and application of contemporary forensic methodologies, tools, and technologies. The need for a centralized approach to coordinating anti-terrorist activities and improving interaction between investigative and operational units is discussed. Particular attention is paid to the role of forensic science in equipping the practice of combating crime, including training specialists, developing a unified methodology and effective use of technical means. The article emphasizes key areas for enhancing forensic support, including elevating the role of forensic registration, formulating action algorithms tailored to specific scenarios, formalizing operational intelligence, and establishing a unified system for documenting terrorist acts. The author proposes the creation of a coordination bureau with scientific and methodological functions, popularization of best practices and the organization of specialized courses in forensic science for training employees. The need for an integrated approach to training and implementation of forensic knowledge is emphasized in order to increase the effectiveness of the fight against terrorism.

Key words: anti-terrorist activities, law enforcement agencies, special services, counter-terrorism, forensic science, criminalistics.

Introduction

One of the critical functions assigned to law enforcement agencies and specialized services in the fight against terrorism is the swift and thorough detection and investigation of terrorist crimes. In this context, forensic support plays a pivotal role in investigative, operational-search, and counterintelligence activities carried out by these entities.

Although law enforcement agencies and special services have amassed considerable experience in operational-search and investigative measures to detect, investigate, and prevent terrorist crimes, an analysis of counterterrorism practices reveals that the detection rates for such crimes remain relatively low compared to others. This deficiency is largely attributed to several factors, including insufficient professional training of practitioners, inadequate expertise in forensic methods of investigation, poor organization of activities, and the suboptimal execution of initial investigative and operational-search measures. Additionally, there is limited use of forensic experts' assistance, gaps in collaboration between investigators and operational as well as scientific-technical units within law enforcement agencies and special services, and organizational missteps in ensuring cohesive efforts.

A crucial foundation for improving this interaction is the centralization of counterterrorism functions at the state level, achieved through the establishment of coordinating bodies. These bodies are essential for unifying the efforts and resources of the entire state apparatus and civil society in combating terrorism effectively [1].

The proposed article seeks to highlight potential solutions to the aforementioned forensic challenges that emerge during the disclosure, investigation, and prevention of terrorist crimes. It underscores the critical role of forensic science in equipping law enforcement agencies with modern and effective tools, methods, and techniques necessary for combating crime, including terrorism. The core function of forensic science is to enhance the practice of crime prevention and investigation by providing evidence-based methodologies and technologies to address criminal activity effectively.

The effective fight against terrorism has increasingly necessitated the development and application of forensic science as a critical tool in law enforcement and specialized services. Existing research highlights the importance of systematic and scientifically grounded approaches to the investigation and prevention of terrorist activities. Forensic support, as emphasized in the literature, represents a primary avenue for integrating technological and methodological advancements into crime prevention practices. Antipenko (2004) and Artamonov (2002) underscored the institutional mechanisms and legal frameworks necessary to counter terrorism effectively, advocating for enhanced coordination among state and civil bodies. Averyanova and Belkin (1997) emphasized the significance of organized forensic support, focusing on the role of forensic tools and techniques in crime investigation and prosecution.

Motorny (1999) contributed to this discussion by exploring the theoretical and applied foundations of using forensic explosives in counterterrorism, while Salimov and Aliyev (2003) focused on the methods of investigating terrorist crimes, providing practical guidelines for law enforcement personnel. The recurring theme in the literature is the need for a unified, interdisciplinary approach that combines criminology with technical advancements and educational initiatives. Safonov (2003) and Korshunova (2003) highlighted the importance of pre-trial processes and their role in improving the detection and prosecution of terrorist activities. However, as existing studies indicate, forensic support often remains fragmented and underutilized, pointing to a critical gap in both its application and institutional organization.

This study builds upon previous findings by examining the integration of forensic science in counterterrorism, focusing on improving forensic education, advancing technical capabilities, and fostering organizational coherence. The literature suggests that centralized and scientifically informed frameworks can significantly enhance the practical functioning of forensic support systems, yet the implementation of such systems requires further exploration.

Materials and methods

The research adopts a qualitative methodology, analyzing the existing practices and challenges in forensic support for counterterrorism efforts. The study incorporates data from forensic science literature, operational reports, and institutional documents to evaluate the effectiveness of current systems. A systematic review of literature, including seminal works by Antipenko, Motorny, and Salimov, provides the theoretical basis for the study. Additionally, case studies of forensic application in terrorism-related investigations offer practical insights into the operational dynamics of law enforcement and specialized services.

The research method also includes a comparative analysis of training models and the use of forensic tools across different jurisdictions, with a focus on identifying best practices and gaps in implementation. Emphasis is placed on the educational aspect of forensic support, exploring curricula, training manuals, and technical resources used in law enforcement training programs. The study further evaluates the organizational frameworks that govern forensic activities, analyzing the role of interagency collaboration and centralized structures in enhancing operational efficiency.

Literature review

Data collection involves a detailed examination of forensic education programs, technical manuals, and legal frameworks related to counterterrorism. Interviews with practitioners and subject matter experts provide supplementary perspectives on the challenges and opportunities in the field. The research methodology is designed to ensure a comprehensive understanding of the systemic issues affecting the practical application of forensic support in counterterrorism efforts.

An analysis of crime-fighting practices reveals that forensic tools and methods are indispensable for law enforcement agencies to meet contemporary demands. Without a well-structured and efficiently functioning forensic support system, these agencies face significant challenges in fulfilling their mandate [2]. Forensic support, in this context, is defined as a system of criminalistic knowledge, along with the skills and abilities of law enforcement personnel to apply scientific forensic recommendations, tools, methods, and technologies to prevent, detect, disclose, and investigate crimes effectively.

Addressing the challenges of forensic support is particularly pressing, as it is a foundational task in enabling the effective operations of structures involved in combating terrorism, regardless of its specific nature. However, from a unified scientific, methodological, and technical perspective, the issues related to forensic support for investigative and operational units remain unresolved. Achieving this unity requires coherence and consistency in the methodology and tactics of investigative actions and operational search measures as fundamental prerequisites.

Although operational investigative and counterintelligence activities function independently in both practice and academic training (with distinct disciplines addressing criminalistics), the development of forensic support remains insufficient. It is often limited to specific areas, such as identifying anonymous individuals, conducting explosive diagnostics, and performing identification procedures, without adequately addressing the broader scope of needs [3].

Providing forensic methods and tools for such activities is a vital function of criminology. Within the broader framework of counterterrorism efforts, criminalistic methods, techniques, and tools play a significant role in supporting these activities. It is noteworthy that, outside the bounds of criminal procedural activities, forensic science also develops and implements methods and tools specifically designed for operational investigative activities, thereby enhancing the overall effectiveness of counterterrorism measures.

Main provisions

The direct integration of forensic support with the methodologies and tactics of counterterrorism efforts is of fundamental importance, as tactical tasks must align with these principles to ensure effective implementation [4]. Each tactical objective relies on specific forensic tools and techniques, necessitating the development of a unified approach for forensic support in counterterrorism operations. Such an approach should include not only criminological data but also insights from other disciplines within the criminal sciences. Currently, the provision of scientific, methodological, and tactical recommendations for investigative and operational measures to detect and investigate terrorism primarily falls within the purview of criminology. However, the absence of a dedicated unit within law enforcement structures to conduct a scientific, comprehensive analysis of these activities and prepare tailored recommendations significantly undermines their effectiveness. Expanding the scope of criminology to address anti-terrorism issues could bridge this gap. Key Areas Requiring Enhanced Forensic Support in Counterterrorism:

- ♦ **prevention of Terrorism** To enhance terrorism prevention, the role of forensic registration must be elevated. This includes establishing a unified interdepartmental forensic database focused on terrorism-related activities, such as the use and theft of explosives, ammunition, and firearms. Such a database should provide access to all relevant government agencies, including those in the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), fostering improved interagency collaboration.

- ♦ **Detection and Suppression of Terrorist Acts** Enhancing the effectiveness of detecting and disrupting terrorist activities at various stages—planning, execution, and concealment—requires strengthening the role of duty services and operational investigative teams. These groups must be better equipped and organized to perform targeted and timely counterterrorism operations.

- ♦ **Identifying Individuals and Tracing Crime Instruments** Efforts to locate individuals involved in terrorist acts and determine the origins of tools used in these crimes necessitate the development and dissemination of practical training manuals and scientific resources. These materials should include action algorithms, detailing the sequence of investigative, operational-search, and organizational measures tailored to specific forensic scenarios.

- ♦ **Documentation and Legalization of Operational Information** Addressing the prompt documentation of terrorism-related events and circumstances is critical. This involves overcoming

challenges in “legalizing” operational information, i.e., converting the results of operational-investigative activities into legally admissible sources of evidence within criminal proceedings.

Components of the Forensic Support System:

- ♦ the forensic support system for counterterrorism comprises three interconnected subsystems:
- ♦ forensic Knowledge: This involves the scientific understanding and application of criminological principles and methodologies in counterterrorism efforts.
- ♦ criminological Education: Providing comprehensive training for law enforcement personnel to enhance their expertise in forensic and criminological practices.
- ♦ forensic Technology: Developing and implementing advanced tools and technologies to aid in the detection, investigation, and prevention of terrorism.

Results and discussion

By strengthening these components and addressing the identified areas of improvement, the forensic support system can significantly enhance the effectiveness of law enforcement agencies and special services in combating terrorism. This integrated approach ensures that counterterrorism efforts are informed by a robust scientific and methodological foundation.

Criminalistic knowledge constitutes the essence of forensic science, embodying the understanding of patterns that define the scope of criminology and materializing in tools, methods, and recommendations designed to aid in the detection and investigation of crimes. This knowledge is categorized into two principal forms: fundamental and applied. Fundamental criminalistic knowledge encompasses the principles of general forensic theory as well as specialized theories and teachings within criminology. Applied criminalistic knowledge, on the other hand, is operationalized through scientific recommendations for practice, including criminalistic techniques, tactical strategies, technical operations and procedures, specific methods for investigating crimes, and the application of technical and forensic tools and technologies.

Scientific criminalistic knowledge becomes accessible for practical application when formalized into an information format such as monographs, dissertations, articles, reports, and other academic works. Its operationalization is further realized through materialized instruments, such as technical forensic tools, practical manuals, instructions, textbooks, and information systems. These resources collectively constitute a materialized repository of knowledge, enabling law enforcement agencies to utilize forensic insights in diverse fields of crime-fighting, particularly in counterterrorism. For this knowledge to transition into practice, it must pass through the channel of forensic education, which transforms theoretical understanding into professional skills and competencies. Forensic education is a structured system of training that integrates social functions with professional requirements, imparting the skills necessary for the effective use of forensic methods and tools. The academic discipline of “Criminalistics” serves as the primary vehicle for this transformation, forming an essential component of professional training for law enforcement officers. The curriculum of this discipline is tailored to the level and profile of trainees, ensuring a balance between foundational and applied knowledge. The foundational aspect of education fosters self-directed learning and a deep understanding of forensic science principles, while the applied dimension emphasizes practical problem-solving, enabling trainees to address specific challenges in crime detection and investigation. The modern concept of forensic education integrates basic training with systematic professional development, combining formal instruction with self-education to equip law enforcement personnel with the capacity to adapt to evolving challenges.

A unique feature of forensic knowledge is its reliance on specialized technical means for implementation. Forensic technology constitutes a critical component of forensic support, encompassing the tools and methods required to detect, collect, analyze, and utilize evidentiary information in crime investigations. This includes both specific forensic tools, such as search and research devices, mobile and stationary complexes, and materials for evidence handling, as well as auxiliary equipment like photography, audio-visual tools, communication devices, and computer technologies. These tools and methods are employed by investigators, operatives, experts, and other law enforcement personnel across various activities, including administrative and legal, operational (such as operational-search and counterintelligence), and judicial and investigative activities [5].

Forensic scientific and technical tools may be applied either openly or covertly, depending on the nature of the task. In covert applications, these tools are used discreetly in operational and special activities, with results documented in operational reports, protocols, and acts. Items obtained during covert operations can be incorporated into operational documents and, when necessary, transformed into criminal evidence. Conversely, in open applications during official investigative and judicial activities, forensic tools and methods are employed transparently, with their use procedurally documented in protocols, reports, and associated materials such as plans, diagrams, photographs, videos, and other multimedia evidence. These records are subsequently included in criminal case files, ensuring their evidentiary value and procedural integrity.

The integration of criminalistic knowledge, education, and technology forms the cornerstone of an effective forensic support system for law enforcement agencies. This system addresses the multifaceted challenges associated with the prevention, detection, and investigation of crimes, particularly in the context of counterterrorism. By equipping law enforcement personnel with the requisite tools, methods, and training, forensic support ensures the precision and efficiency of investigative and operational activities. The proper application and procedural documentation of forensic techniques further reinforce their role in the broader criminal justice process, enhancing the capacity of law enforcement agencies to combat crime and terrorism effectively.

The effectiveness of the practical functioning of the forensic support system for law enforcement agencies and special services engaged in combating terrorism, particularly regarding the application of criminological methods and tools, is contingent upon adherence to several critical conditions. First, the forensic support system for identifying, uncovering, and investigating crimes should be prioritized within the broader framework of the operational system of a specific agency. This prioritization reflects the system's role as a primary channel for introducing scientific and technological advancements into the fight against crime.

Second, the forensic support system must evolve in tandem with advancements in forensic science, necessitating accelerated progress in the development and application of criminological methods and tools. Third, criminalistic education within the law enforcement system must align with contemporary and forward-looking research outcomes. The organization of such education should ensure continuous and systematic enhancement of the criminalistic qualifications of law enforcement personnel throughout their careers. Given the complexity of terrorist acts, the multi-phase training and preparation of investigative task forces (SOGs) for such circumstances is justified. This training is best conducted in the form of targeted exercises, where team members not only develop technical and investigative skills but also establish the psychological rapport required to work effectively under extreme conditions [6].

Fourth, the effectiveness of technical, forensic, and other tools used in investigative and operational-search activities hinges on a well-organized system for their utilization. This system must be practical and user-friendly for investigators and operatives, ensuring that the results obtained from these tools are not only evidentiary but are also reflected in criminal proceedings, including sentencing. Finally, the effectiveness of the forensic support system as a whole depends on the efficient functioning of each of its subsystems, including forensic knowledge, education, and technology [7].

Despite its critical importance, insufficient attention has been given to the forensic support of law enforcement activities in the fight against terrorism. Addressing this gap requires several key measures. First, the establishment of a dedicated structure with scientific and methodological functions, such as a coordinating bureau for criminology, would significantly enhance the effectiveness of forensic support. Such a structure would integrate the technical expertise of criminologists, the operational practices of law enforcement units, and the educational needs of relevant personnel into a cohesive framework. Second, promoting best practices in forensic support through the dissemination of scientific and practical manuals would further contribute to the development of this field. These manuals could serve as a resource for operational units and enhance the standardization of practices. Third, the incorporation of criminalistic support as a specialized topic within academic disciplines or as a focus of specialized courses for students and law enforcement personnel would enhance knowledge and practical application in this area.

Conclusion

In conclusion, addressing the deficiencies in the forensic support system for counterterrorism requires a multi-faceted approach that emphasizes the prioritization of forensic science, continuous education, effective use of technology, and the establishment of a central coordinating structure. These measures would collectively enhance the capacity of law enforcement agencies and special services to combat terrorism effectively, leveraging the full potential of forensic methods and tools.

REFERENCES

- 1 Antipenko V.F. The institutional mechanism of combating terrorism. Formation of the legal framework // State and Law. 2004. No. 11, p. 70.
- 2 Artamonov I.I. Terrorism: methods of prevention, methods of investigation: monograph. Moscow: Shumilova I.I. Publishing House, 2002, p. 101.
- 3 Criminalistic support for the activities of criminal police and preliminary investigation bodies / Edited by prof. T.V. Averyanova and prof. R.S. Belkin. Moscow, 1997, p. 64.
- 4 Motorny I.D. Theoretical and applied foundations of the use of means and methods of forensic explosives in the fight against terrorism: monograph. Moscow: Publisher I.I. Shumilova, 1999, p. 37.
- 5 Salimov K.N., Aliev B.A. Methods of investigation of terrorist crimes (educational and practical guide). Baku: Ganun Publishing House, 2003, p. 257.
- 6 Safonov I.I. Organization of the disclosure and investigation of terrorism: monograph / Edited by Prof. A.S. Podshibyakina. Moscow: Shumilov Publishing House I.I., 2004, p. 23.
- 7 Terrorist crimes: criminal prosecution at pre-trial stages / Edited by O.N. Korshunova. St. Petersburg: Publishing house "Law Center Press", 2003, p. 187.

АЛИЕВ Б.А.,*¹

PhD, доцент.

*e-mail: antiterror-baku@mail.ru

ORCID ID: 0000-0003-0104-4921

¹Әзірбайжан Республикасы Әділет Министрлігі
сот сараптамалары орталығы,
Баку қ., Әзірбайжан

ТЕРРОРИЗМГЕ ҚАРСЫ ІС-ҚИМЫЛ: ҚҰҚЫҚ ҚОРҒАУ ОРГАНДАРЫ МЕН АРНАУЛЫ ҚЫЗМЕТТЕРДІ КРИМИНАЛИСТИКАЛЫҚ ҚАМТАМАСЫЗ ЕТУ

Аңдатпа

Мақалада терроризмге қарсы іс-қимыл саласындағы құқық қорғау органдары мен арнайы қызметтердің жұмысын криминалистикалық қамтамасыз ету мәселелері қарастырылады. Автор террористік қылмыстарды тергеуге және алдын алуға, соның ішінде заманауи сот-медициналық әдістерді, құралдар мен технологияларды әзірлеу мен енгізуге жүйелі көзқарастың маңыздылығын атап көрсетеді. Терроризмге қарсы іс-қимылды үйлестіруге және тергеу және жедел бөлімшелер арасындағы өзара іс-қимылды жақсартуға орталықтандырылған көзқарас қажеттілігі талқыланады. Мамандарды даярлауды, бірыңғай әдіснаманы әзірлеуді және техникалық құралдарды тиімді пайдалануды қоса алғанда, қылмысқа қарсы күрес практикасын жарақтандырудағы криминалистикалық ғылымның рөліне ерекше назар аударылады. Мақалада криминалистикалық тіркеудің маңыздылығын арттыру, нақты жағдайларда іс-қимыл алгоритмдерін әзірлеу, жедел ақпаратты заңдастыру және террористік актілерді есепке алудың бірыңғай жүйесін құру сияқты криминалистикалық қолдауды жетілдіру бағыттары көрсетілген. Автор ғылыми-әдістемелік функциялары бар үйлестіру бюросын құруды, озық жұмыс тәжірибесін насихаттауды және қызметкерлерді даярлау үшін криминалистика бойынша мамандандырылған курстарды ұйымдастыруды ұсынады. Терроризмге қарсы күрестің тиімділігін арттыру үшін сот-медициналық білімді оқытуға және енгізуге кешенді көзқарастың қажеттілігі атап өтілді.

Тірек сөздер: терроризмге қарсы іс-қимыл, құқық қорғау органдары, арнайы қызметтер, терроризмге қарсы күрес, криминалистика.

АЛИЕВ Б.А.,*¹

PhD, доцент.

*e-mail: antiterror-baku@mail.ru

ORCID ID: 0000-0003-0104-4921

¹Центр судебных экспертиз МЮ АР,
г. Баку, Азербайджан

АНТИТЕРРОРИСТИЧЕСКАЯ ДЕЯТЕЛЬНОСТЬ: КРИМИНАЛИСТИЧЕСКОЕ ОБЕСПЕЧЕНИЕ ПРАВООХРАНИТЕЛЬНЫХ ОРГАНОВ И СПЕЦИАЛЬНЫХ СЛУЖБ

Аннотация

В статье рассматриваются проблемы криминалистического обеспечения деятельности правоохранительных органов и спецслужб в борьбе с терроризмом. Автор подчеркивает важность системного подхода к расследованию и предотвращению террористических преступлений, включая разработку и внедрение современных криминалистических методов, средств и технологий. Обсуждается необходимость централизованного подхода к координации антитеррористической деятельности и улучшения взаимодействия между следственными и оперативными подразделениями. Особое внимание уделяется роли криминалистической науки в оснащении практики борьбы с преступностью, включая подготовку специалистов, разработку единой методологии и эффективное использование технических средств. В статье выделены направления совершенствования криминалистического обеспечения, такие как повышение значимости криминалистической регистрации, разработка алгоритмов действий в конкретных ситуациях, легализация оперативной информации и создание единой системы учета террористических актов. Автор предлагает создание координационного бюро с научно-методическими функциями, популяризацию передового опыта работы и организацию специализированных курсов по криминалистике для подготовки сотрудников. Подчеркивается необходимость комплексного подхода к обучению и внедрению криминалистических знаний, чтобы повысить эффективность борьбы с терроризмом.

Ключевые слова: антитеррористическая деятельность, правоохранительные органы, спецслужбы, борьба с терроризмом, криминалистика.