



TERRORISM PSYCHOLOGY

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Youth against terrorism (on the work of the anti-terrorist youth festival)

The article presents a capsule review of the work of the anti-terrorist festival of student's, scientific and creative youth "Peace to the Caucasus": participants, plenary lectures, work forms, results.

Keywords: terrorism, extremism, youth, anti-terrorist festival.

A traditional anti-terrorist festival of student's, scientific and creative youth "Peace to the Caucasus" took place on the basis of the department of psychology of the Southern Federal University in Rostov-on-Don, on November 12–14, 2012. The tradition of this festival carrying out in our city appeared in 2009, and every year more and more participants take part in the festival work. In 2012 more than two thousand people took part in the festival work. These were representatives of various regions, not only the South of Russia, but also other regions of our country.

Formation of anti-terrorist consciousness tolerance psychology, especially in student's and youth environment becomes a topical problem in modern Russia. It is extremely important for the multinational Southern Federal District. There are various modern forms of manifestation of radicalism, xenophobia, extremism in the south of Russia; these are ethnonationalism, migrantphobia, religious extremism, chauvinism, racism.

The Southern Federal District represents the region including a considerable quantity of ethnic communities, possessing the unique history, culture and religion that allows to mark out it as a special conglomerate for education of tolerant traditions among the youth environment as the future of Russia. Unfortunately, there is a pressing problem of distribution of ideology of terrorism and xenophobia in the territory of the Russian Federation today; it is most brightly expressed in the Southern Federal District. In these conditions the rising generation of Russia turned out the most culturally unprotected category of the population which is in a peculiar value and spiritual vacuum. The youth environment was disorganized, influenced by extremism and xenophobia, destroying traditional values of national cultures and religions of the peoples of the Southern Federal District.

Therefore the purpose of the festival carrying out is formation of tolerance, understanding of national and cultural features of other people that is possible through communication of the students representing various regions of the Southern Federal



District when having met with each other, we would be able to learn better the history and culture of all nations of our Southern Federal District.

The scientific program of the festival had a wide-ranging character and included sections, round tables, master classes, trainings united in the following directions:

- state policy in the field of prevention of manifestations of extremism and terrorism in the youth environment;
- role of higher educational establishments in formation of anti-terrorist values in the youth environment;
- role of the Internet technologies in formation of steady anti-terrorist world outlook of students and young specialists;
- popularization of technologies of the directed and mediated influence on value sense attitudes in the youth environment;
- sports as a component of formation of civil society values and tolerance attitudes in the youth environment;
- carrying out of lectures, trainings and master classes.

An interregional festival of martial arts "Golden autumn" have passed within the anti-terrorist festival in the sports and fitness complex "Niva" of the settlement Kamenolomni (Rostov region) on November 9–10, 2012. Slogans of the festival were, "Youth against ideology of terrorism and extremism", "Sports, martial arts are a healthy lifestyle". Within these arrangements there were held mixed martial arts competitions where 212 athletes, representatives of eleven teams took part. In the team event the first place and a cup was won by the team of the Republic of Dagestan; the second place was won by the team of "Legion" sports club of Rostov-on-Don; the third place was won by the team of "Dontsy" sports club of Krivlyans-kayastanitsa.

On October 12 at the plenary meeting P.N. Ermakov, Academician of the Russian Academy of Education, Professor, Dean of the department of psychology of the SFU made a report concerning "Formation of anti-terrorist and anti-extremist values in the youth environment". In the report he deals with main components (subjects) of the system of counteraction to the ideology of terrorism (the SCIT), the main activity areas of the SCIT subjects; terrorism psychological basis, personal features of organizers and performers of terrorist activity, the reasons and conditions promoting involvement of youth in terrorist activity; features of youth socialization, socialization risk factors, personal risk factors, the main directions of formation of anti-terrorist anti-extremist attitudes in the youth environment, and also social and psychological methods of influence on personal values: "technologies of convincing influence have to be focused on a personal aspect of interaction between the carrier of ideology and the one who becomes an object of convincing influence. Any technology of the directed influence is refracted through the translator's personality, his commitment to cultural traditions, defining the specifics of convincing influence. The translator's personality is a basic element of the surrounding sociocultural environment which influences personality during information and



propaganda process". He finished the report by Nikolay Ostrovsky's quotation: "Life is given to a person only once, and it is necessary to live it so that one wouldn't be painfully ashamed of aimless years".

At the plenary meeting there was also the report concerning "Religious and political extremism in the North Caucasus: prevention problems" made by Yakhyaev, Doctor of Philosophy, Professor of the Dagestan State University. There he noted that "the main direction of struggle with religious and political extremism as a social phenomenon should be neutralization of key factors promoting its reproduction and activation. Here we mean economic, social and political reasons, first of all. In the strategy of counteraction to extremism and terrorism a special stress should be transferred on solution of problems on settlement of available, prevention of new conflicts, improvement of the whole social and economic situation in the region. The last measure will act the leading part in counteraction to extremism as it not only will narrow a social base of terrorism, but also promote solution of available contradictions, many of which are provoked by a radical contrast of economic interests of people and social polarization of the North Caucasian society that has hitherto been unseen".

New forms of work attracted participants' particular interest:

- the cinema club carrying out, where there was viewing and discussion of the feature film "Unthinkable" of the Australian director Gregor Jordan. The movie is made sternly and naturalistically. Nevertheless, it is not about tortures and lawlessness of American special services. It gets the viewer face to face with an eternal dilemma: whether the end justifies the means? This question became the key in the discussion which took place in the cinema club after movie viewing. As a result of discussion was that participants could agree with each other that, whatever methods are used in the struggle against terrorism, the best thing is to create measures for its prevention, to warn such phenomena by means of enlightenment and education. The conducted festival is an example of such prevention;
- demonstration with subsequent discussion of the document materials and public service advertisement, focused on advancement of anti-terrorist values in the youth environment (discussion with involvement of journalistic community representatives). During the event there were shown: a fragment from the movie of the 32 TC (meeting around a fire with diasporas of Rostov; Ossetian tell about the well-known pies, people listen, taste ... and so forth); "Youth Against Terror" TV commercial. As a result of the followed discussion there were drawn conclusions: great victories are composed of small good and kind deeds ("the theory of small affairs"); the events similar to the conducted festival are very topical and necessary for modern youth (induce to think of problems of extremism and terrorism, to receive more information on this phenomenon, to exchange experiences, to reconsider own views on making a personal contribution to anti-terrorist activity).

On the final day of the festival work there took place a traditional reflexive game "The principles and main directions of joint activity of various groups of society in counteraction to the ideology of terrorism" which purposes were the following:



1) to reveal cultural and mythological stereotypes, social and psychological attitudes, characteristic for the reflexive game participating subjects belonging to various youth organizations, authorities, various groups of society; 2) to reveal cultural and mythological stereotypes, social and psychological attitudes characteristic for the reflexive game participating subjects belonging to various youth organizations, authorities, various groups of society; 3) to develop understanding of other people's behavior in a frustrating situation of involvement in an extremist group or participation in a terrorist act; 4) to expand participants' possibilities in design of social situations and management of social processes on the basis of the reflected forms of behavior in a frustrating situation of involvement in an extremist group and threat of a terrorist act, in a situation of manifestation of extremist moods among youth.

During the reflexive game there were formed 4 microgroups of the mixed confessional character which carried out game tasks, relying on the principles of tolerance, respect for other opinion, mutual assistance and support. In each group there were defined special responsible persons – time managers, recorders, speakers who had to realize the main game actions. However the whole multinational group defended the projects, supporting other groups by thankful applause. Participants repeatedly noted that this type of preventive activity can become a basis for the project of student's experimental platform, that a tight time frame of carrying out (1,5 hours), increased concentration process on the main game questions.

On the whole, the festival took place in a very benevolent, tolerant situation. It is possible to note positive dynamics of change of youth relation to terrorism and extremism problems during annual carrying out of anti-terrorist festivals (since 2009) that is shown, first, in a high level of reflection of young people, secondly, in a clear tolerant position, thirdly, in a constructive orientation of interpersonal and interethnic interaction.

In conclusion of the festival work there was a final round table where the participants of the festival adopted recommendations.

1. Higher educational establishments should actively counteract the ideology of extremism distribution and make more active the work on information and propaganda ensuring anti-extremist actions in the youth environment.
2. Higher educational establishments should involve scientific and student's community in development of theoretical and methodological bases of counteraction to extremism (in all its manifestations) on concrete activities.
3. On sites of higher educational establishments it is necessary to explain the essence of extremism and its public danger, to form permanent society's rejection of the ideology of violence, and also to get youth involved in counteraction to terrorism, extremism, nationalism, religious fundamentalism on Internet resources.
4. A network of the interconnected and constantly operating Internet resources of the anti-extremist orientation should be created on the basis of establishments of the higher and secondary education.



5. "Peace to the Caucasus" site <http://mirkavkazu.sfedu.ru> should be considered as the zonal coordinator for higher education establishments of the Southern Federal District and the North Caucasus Federal District.

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