

The Role of Spirituality in the Struggle with Religious Extremism

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Annotation: The article is based on the initiative of Uzbekistan at the 72nd session of the UN General Assembly to implement the idea of a special resolution “Enlightenment and Religious Tolerance” on December 12, 2018 in the fight against extremism and terrorism.

Keywords: UN, General Assembly, information and communication, Islamophobia, extremism, terrorism, enlightenment, danger, spirituality.

Introduction. In the 21st century, known as the age of information and communication, the age of globalization, humanity has faced many global challenges. One of these problems is the COVID-19 pandemic, which started in December 2019 in Wuhan Province of the People’s Republic of China. Today, the disease has been detected in 217 countries and the number of deaths from the disease is about 1130591 [1], which calls on the people of the world to unite in the fight against this disease. At a time when the international community is working hard to overcome the disease, in some parts of the world there are wars and conflicts, extremism, terrorism, drug addiction and other evils that plague mankind.

Methods. In turn, as a result of the rise of extremism and terrorism, in addition to the \$ 583 trillion in damage to the world economy over the past 10 years, 91,000 innocent people have died as a result of terrorist acts over the past 15 years. Sadly, the majority of those killed were children, women and the elderly, prompting everyone to fight together against this nation.

Results and discussions However, at a time when the world is determined to fight terrorism together, unfortunately, some forces are putting the concept of terrorism side by side with Islam, the religion of peace and humanity, creating a negative mood towards 1.6 billion Muslims around the world by linking violence only to Islam. Efforts are being made to spread Islamophobia. This has led to the emergence of ethno-confessional conflicts in different regions of the world, the emergence of new hotbeds of conflict [2].

However, the fact that the forces that seek to benefit from the idea of their own depravity, which worries and frightens the minds of the world, are disguised as religion has caused mankind to fear religion, especially Islam, without realizing that peace and goodness are its true essence. This, in turn, leads to the emergence in the poetry of some other religions of the notion that Islam is a religious extremism and terrorist movement based on subversion and sabotage.

Today, at the 72nd session of the UN on September 19, 2017, President Sh. M.Mirziyoev explained: “We cherish our sacred religion as an expression of our eternal values. We strongly condemn those who equate our sacred religion with violence and bloodshed, and we can never reconcile with them. Islam calls us to goodness and peace, to the preservation of true human qualities.” [3]

Indeed, the peculiarity of this initiative of the head of our state is that he calls for a common position in the implementation of the goals and principles of the Declaration on the Elimination of All Forms of Intolerance and Discrimination based on religion or belief. It will also focus on

intensifying international efforts to establish a global dialogue to promote a culture of tolerance and peace.

The UN General Assembly, which supported Uzbekistan's initiative to promote a culture of tolerance and peace, adopted a special resolution "Enlightenment and Religious Tolerance" at its plenary session on December 12, 2018.

The resolution, co-authored by more than 50 countries, emphasizes the important role of education, peace, human rights, tolerance and friendship, as well as integration, mutual respect, protection of human rights, tolerance and the promotion of peace and security in the world. The importance of mutual understanding is recognized.

At the same time, the resolution called on UN member states to introduce a communication strategy, such as conducting large-scale propaganda in the national and international media and on the Internet, and disseminating educational information on tolerance, freedom of religion and belief[4].

It is no coincidence that the UN resolution calls for a large-scale propaganda campaign in the national and international media and on the Internet. Therefore, in the context of rapid expansion of information and communication technologies, the fact that various radical groups use Internet resources to spread their ideology in order to pave the way for the radicalization of the population calls on the world community to work together.

In this regard, the Uzbek side invited the UN member states to disseminate information on communication strategies and tolerance, non-violence, freedom of religion and belief, including large-scale information and propaganda campaigns in international and national media.

Indeed, the world recognizes the achievements of Uzbekistan in ensuring inter-religious harmony and religious freedom. In particular, the decision of US Secretary of State Michael Pompeo to officially exclude Uzbekistan from the "list of countries of particular concern" is proof of this. The statement by Chris Cypel, head of the Institute for Global Attraction, that Uzbekistan is the second country to be deregistered by the US State Department in the last 20 years is significant.

The main reason for the US State Department's conclusion is that the reforms carried out in our country in recent years have focused on social rehabilitation and the dignity of human dignity. This, in turn, arouses interest in the return to normal life of those who have been influenced by extremist ideas and who have realized their mistake. In this regard, it is very important that in 2017-2018, more than 20,000 people who were supporters of or were influenced by radical religious movements were excluded. In addition, the social situation of 21,000 [5] families of citizens who

were previously members of religious extremist organizations was studied, and the fact that they were provided with social and legal assistance testifies to the superiority of human rights and freedoms in our country.

Based on the above, the adoption of a special resolution by the UN General Assembly entitled "Enlightenment and Religious Tolerance" and its proposal by Uzbekistan is a testament to the high appreciation of the ongoing reforms in our country. In short, the main ideas and ideologies, as well as the financial basis of foreign states and international extremism and terrorism, the main purpose of which is to disrupt the historically formed society in the region, to use various ideological, religious and ideological means to provoke conflict between friendly and brotherly states and nations. Is to hit.

Conclusion. Therefore, the emergence of such ideas and actions of religious extremism and terrorism, which cause inter-religious conflicts and disrupt the peace and tranquility of the world, affects the spirituality, worldview and ideology of young people who are victims of these terrorist acts. The epoch itself demands the unification of the world community in the ideological struggle against the destructive ideas of religious extremist and terrorist organizations of any content.

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