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# The relevance of studying the problems of religious radicalism in Kazakhstan

**Abstract.** This article deals with the threat of religious radicalism today. Particularly, focuses on the spread of radicalism of false religious movements in the territory of Kazakhstan in the early years of independence, after our country proclaimed itself a secular state, on the influence on people's minds, its negative impact on the country's integrity, and the origin of radical groups. It analyzes the reasons of the propaganda and spread of the ideology of Islamic radical groups. Also, it provides an analysis of a terrible event known as Bloody January that happened in Kazakhstan last year; and discusses the reasons why radicalization based on Salafi Jihadist ideology often spreads among marginalized young people, and the causes they follow extremist movements.

**Keywords:** Radicalism, religious extremism, bloody January, youth.

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#### Introduction

The radicalization of young people remains one of the most pressing problems in all societies. It is clear that the continued radicalization of certain groups in our country, the dissemination of their ideology and propaganda to young people via the Internet and the poisoning of the brains of young people today pose a great threat to our country. The question arises as to why many citizens leave a peaceful country and go to the bloody front in Syria for jihad.

What is the threat to the state of Kazakhstan from the «Islamic State» ideology that has conquered parts of Iraq, Syria and Libya?

Among them, not only the citizens of the Middle East countries, but also the number of citizens of Central Asia who went to Syria and Iraq to become mercenaries varies between 2 and 4 thousand people. These indicators represent 0.0001% of the total population of the region.<sup>1</sup>

But it's not just a question of numbers. We are talking about a social disease that affects the meaning of relationships in society. Some experts say that most of young people who went to Syria live in a socially unstable situation, and that the unemployed young people are mercenary citizens who «went to war for money», others say that no one is ready to die for money, the problem is ideology.<sup>2</sup>

Sociologist Serik Beysembaev: «The main disadvantage of preventing religious extremism and terrorism in Kazakhstan is the excessive emphasis on the theological aspect of the problem of radicalization and the ignorance of the established social context. There are different views,

 $<sup>^1</sup>$ Эдвард Лемон об угрозах терроризма в Центральной Азии и за ее пределами https://www.caa-network.org/archives/14501

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup>https://www.azattyq.org/a/kazakhstan\_round\_table\_islamic\_state\_religious\_situation/27363852.html Қазақстандағы діни ахуал және ИМ

but most of the work is based on the view that radicalization is a consequence of low religious literacy in the population.

At the same time, we forget that the process of dealing with radical ideology in our case has, above all, socio-psychological roots. «Information and propaganda work often does not reach marginalized groups of young people who do not study and work formally, as well as young people involved in crime, but in fact they are one of the most more vulnerable to the influence of radical religious ideology."<sup>3</sup>

Many of the radicalized young people have criminal histories and convictions, come from rough neighborhoods, have profound mental health issues, and their crimes seem to be valued positively in jihadist violence. This is how they try to overcome their grief.<sup>4</sup> Asylbek Izbayyrov, a well-known religious scholar and doctor of historical sciences, says: "Members of extremist groups in our country are former criminals in prison. Most of those convicted of religious extremism were citizens who made a living from illegal trading and mediation, while others made a living from theft and robbery of former racketeers." <sup>5</sup>

According to theologian Rasim Chelidze, the method of spreading religious radicalism has changed from offline to online, the use of social media chats, various virtual games, and the spreading of religious propaganda and ideology have become a preferred means of extremists.<sup>6</sup>

For example, in the period from 2013 to 2016, 5 videos with the participation of Kazakh militants were posted by ISIS on social networks. In addition, amateur videos of people who left Central Asia to fight in Syria are broadcast on social networks. Unfortunately, the radicals freely distribute these materials on the social network "BKOHTAKTE"<sup>7</sup>

In addition, in 2019, 595 Kazakhs, including 406 children, were returned to the country from Syria under «Zhusan» humanitarian operation. «Zhusan» <sup>8</sup>humanitarian operation is a large-scale action aimed at returning Kazakhs from war zones to Syria. «Zhusan» humanitarian operation is a large-scale action aimed at returning the Kazakhs from war zones to Syria. Experts and scientists say that the participation of citizens of Kazakhstan and Central Asia countries, who fought with the radicals, in terrorist activities in the countries of the Middle East poses a direct threat to the national security of the country. This problem is a large-scale problem that requires urgent action at the national and international levels. It may seem to ordinary people that terrorist groups and destructive currents for religious purposes are cut off, but if we remember the past, the first terrorist attacks in our country began in 2011 in several regions and continued in Aktobe (western Kazakhstan) in 2016.<sup>9</sup>

At that time, it was reported that the incidents of religious discord were committed by representatives of the Salafist movement. <sup>10</sup> Unfortunately, especially for the people of Kazakhstan, January 5, 2022 began with fear and suffering, our peaceful state was affected, Kazakhstan, which was an example of peaceful life, was surrounded by anarchy in two days, especially in the city of Almaty, there were mass riots, the authorities lost control of the city. <sup>11</sup> This event is remembered as «Qandy Kantar» (the Bloody January) for the people.

³cabar.asia/en/serik-beisembaev-specifics-and-factors-of-the-youth-radicalization-situation-in-kazakhstan ⁴Radicalisation Farhad Khosrokhavar Editions de la maison des sciences de l'homme Google scholar p.10 ⁵ДІНТАНУШЫ: «ЭКСТРЕМИСТЕРДІҢ ДЕНІ - БҰРЫНҒЫ ҚЫЛМЫСКЕРЛЕР» https://7-su.kz/m/news/

snow//944/ <sup>6</sup>Діни радикализм: жақтас жинау тәсілдері https://aikyn.kz/185155/dini-radikalizm-zhaktas-zhinau-tesilderi <sup>7</sup>https://dalanews.kz/minez/dajdzhest/18380-aza-standa-terrorizm-m-selesi-bar-m Қазақстанда терроризм

мәселесі бар ма?

8Операция «Жусан»: 595 казахстанцев возвращены на родину из Сирии https://forbes.kz/news/2020/02/06/

newsid\_218453 <sup>9</sup>Роковое 5 июня: неизвестные подробности теракта в Актобе в 2016 годуhttps://ru.sputnik.kz/20180605/ aktobe-terakt-vospominaniya-5899389.html

<sup>10</sup>Салафизмніңқоғамғақаупіқандай? Сараптамаhttps://informburo.kz/kaz/salafizmn-oama-aup-anday-saraptama.html

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>11</sup>Январские события: полицейских будут судить за пыткиhttps://ulysmedia.kz/news/13406-ianvarskie-sobytiia-politseiskikh-budut-sudit-za-pytki/

#### Methodology

Despite the multidimensionality of the problem, introducing a conceptual and methodological set that can be used to study any social problem, taking into account the opinions of many domestic experts about the reasons for radicalization among young people, joining religious extremist groups, extremist organizations of this phenomenon (religious extremism, radicalism, political, youth) development and distribution are similar. According to many domestic and foreign experts, listeners of radical groups are especially young people aged 14-29. At the same time, modern studies say that the increase in radicalization is connected with the polarizing effect of social media.

The main problem of the research is to determine the exact role of youth radicalism in Kazakhstan and to determine the causes.

The research hypothesis is based on the assumption that radical youth groups in modern Kazakhstan are not independent political entities. External destructive forces are using the youth to achieve their political goals.

On January 2, several people organized a peaceful demonstration in front of the administrative building of Zhanaozen, a city rich in oil and gas (western Kazakhstan), to protest against the increase in gas prices. The protests started in Zhanaozen and spread to other cities in Kazakhstan, such as Aktobe, Atyrau, Karaganda, Shymkent, Ust-Kamenogorsk, Semey, Ural and Almaty. Participants in the peaceful march first moved from economic demands to political demands and demanded the resignation of the government and the first president, Mr. Nazarbayev. They demanded that Nazarbayev quit politics altogether. It should be noted that Kazakhstan accounts for 40% of the world's uranium production, including Central Asian oil and precious metals. However, according to KPMG data, in 2019 only 162 people owned 50% of the country's wealth.

The protest declaration, which began as a peaceful demonstration in Almaty, turned into a hybrid war, resulting in bloodshed and armed conflict. On January 4, President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev announced that liquefied gas had been reduced by 50 tenge per liter and demanded that citizens not follow the propaganda of destructive currents.<sup>15</sup> But lowering the price of gasoline was only one of the protesters' demands. And people were surprised when they learned that the gas price problem could be solved, and they were convinced that no one could take responsibility for it until the president himself intervened. During this tragic event, the activity of the radical cells, which awoke in January, was very active, say public figures. «Sleeper cells do not pose an immediate threat, but they are a key element of terrorism that can 'explode' at any time.» During a political or economic crisis, these sleeping cells wake up and begin to claim power. The particularity of these groups is that they operate underground. No wonder they're called sleepers. You cannot see them, they are illegal. But they have a strong ability to coordinate, they have their own leaders and sponsors. When the time comes, they will demand the transfer of power. Their danger is that they gather people in their sleep. The most suitable situation for them is crisis, unemployment, uneducated and unstable young people. They extend their capabilities through these people and they are not limited to one country. It is an international phenomenon with its own sponsors and spiritual leaders, says Kazakh political scientist Rasul Zhumaly.<sup>16</sup> Although this tragedy has been around for some time, there are still many unknown issues and there are more questions than answers since those terrible days. The January tragedy led to a change of government and the resignation of some senior officials. The resignation of the

 $<sup>^{12}</sup>$ Қазақстанбилігі «мемлекеттіктөңкеріскеталпыныс» жайлыайта бастадыhttps://www.azattyq. org/a/31647213.html

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>13</sup>Январские события: полицейских будут судить за пыткиhttps://ulysmedia.kz/news/13406-ianvarskie-sobytiia-politseiskikh-budut-sudit-za-pytki/

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>14</sup>https://www.ft.com/content/67568ccc-f64a-4b1b-b757-50c212d51837

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>15</sup>Қасым-ЖомартТоқаевдемонстранттарғаүндеужолдады https://www.inform.kz/kz/kasym-zhomart-tokaev-demonstranttarga-undeu-zholdady\_a3881364

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>16</sup>https://azattyq-ruhy.kz/society/33778-dini-toptardyn-bilikke-talasy-zhasyryn-uiashyktardyn-oianuy-kylmys-lemindegilerdin-oirany-sarapshylardyn-kantar-okigasy-turaly-pikiri

former chairman of the National Security Committee of Kazakhstan, Karim Masimov, was one of the news that surprised the Kazakh people. By decree of President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev, Karim Massimov was removed from office. After that, a preliminary investigation was opened against him under the article «Treason Against the State» of part 1 of Article 175 of the Criminal Code of the Republic of Kazakhstan<sup>17</sup> Authorities have officially labeled the past events as coup attempts.<sup>18</sup> But at the same time, no one reported who needed it. And in society, who is hiding behind this terrible event? Is it possible to create a truly open society in Kazakhstan? Is it terrorists or a group of thieves who tried to undermine the integrity of the country, or is it a socio-political factor in the country that has not been resolved for several years? Perhaps behind this gloomy event lies the trap of terrorists and extremists from the countries of the Middle East, who at this very moment have directed their forces towards the country of Kazakhstan, organizing the «Arab Spring»? Or, according to the information mentioned above, could there be a «Syrian scenario» in Almaty, the largest city in southern Kazakhstan? Is it terrorists or a group of thieves who tried to undermine the integrity of the country, or is it a socio-political factor in the country that has not been resolved for several years? If they are the representatives of radical groups who organized this horrible event, what type of radical organization is it?

According to the information mentioned above, could there be a «Syrian scenario» in Almaty, the largest city in southern Kazakhstan? What is the future of Kazakhstan and what should we do? What can we learn from this tragedy? There is too little information about the January tragedy. This tragedy, known as «Karaly kantar» or «Black January» in history, was a terrible event that happened to the citizens of Kazakhstan, and it was not easy for any of them. between us.

One of the important questions is how the radical group was informed of the increase in the price of gasoline. Or is it the consequence of many decisions taken without consulting the population? Public figure Altynbek Sarsenbayuly says, "Due to the too great distance between government and society, people started to feel like useless objects, and mutual hatred and disgust arose." "It is impossible to run the state without harmonizing it with people's thoughts, conscience, age-old values, attitudes, free will. There is only one path to reconciliation, which is democratic elections, fair administration, separation of the judiciary, strengthening the oversight role of parliament. Only in this system can the state develop in the right way". 19The Prosecutor General's Office of the Republic of Kazakhstan noted that «Yakyn Inkar» was involved in the January incident as a radical group.<sup>20</sup>This group is recognized as an extremist group in Kazakhstan<sup>21</sup>When and where did this group appear? Was he from Syria or Afghanistan or neighboring countries? In addition, the Prosecutor General's Office of Kazakhstan announced that the extremist organization «Iakyn Inkar» is a wing of the extremist group «Tabilgi Jamaat», banned in Kazakhstan. 22TJ» is one of the most active religious tendencies in Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Russia and China, considered strategic partners of Kyrgyzstan, have recognized this organization as an extremist group. However, it can be observed that Kyrgyzstan does not impose any restrictions on the «JT» and pursues an independent policy in the religious field. This organization has its roots in Pakistan, India and Bangladesh<sup>23</sup>Renowned Kyrgyz expert theologian Kadyr Malikov «Iakyn Inkar» said that the religious movement of the extremist group emerged in the neighboring

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>17</sup>https://www.google.com/search?q=gthtdjlxbr&rlz=1C1GCEU\_enKZ983KZ983&oq=&aqs=chrome.0.69i59i450l8. 253311j0j7&sourceid=chrome&ie=UTF-8

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>18</sup>Месяц спустя после январских событий: вопросы без ответовhttps://rus.azattyq.org/a/mesyats-spustya-posle-yanvarskih-sobytiy-voprosy-bez-otvetov/31691645.html

<sup>19</sup>Қайраткерлік қағидасы Алтынбек Сәрсенбайұлының ой пікірлері бет 15

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>20</sup>Қаңтар оқиғасына қатысы бар «Йакын Инкар» радикалды ұйымы туралы не белгілі?

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>21</sup> Еще одну организацию признали экстремитской в Казахстане https://ru.sputnik.kz/20181012/ehkstremizmorganizaciya-genprokuratura-7589409.html

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>22</sup>organizaciya-genprokuratura-7589409.htmlРелигиовед об «Йакын Инкар»: «Опасность в том, что они отрицают государственность» https://newtimes.kz/obshchestvo/143850-opasnost-zakliuchaetsia-v-tom-chto-oni-otritsaiut-gosudarstvennost-religioved-o-iakyn-inkar

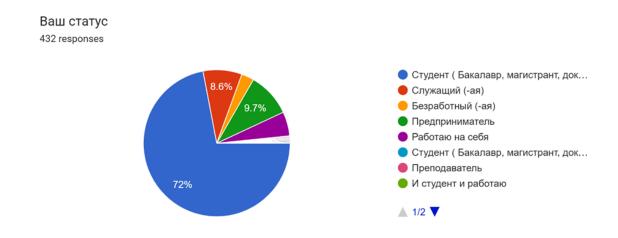
<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>23</sup>ТаблигиДжамаат». Что это за религиозная организация? https://rus.azattyk.org/a/kyrgyzstan-religionislam/29501707.html

country of Kyrgyzstan in the Issykkol region in 2010.<sup>24</sup>Kazakhstan's supervisory body said the aim of this extremist group is to «establish a caliphate» in Kazakhstan, change the constitutional structure by force and threaten independence. Representatives of this group deny the right to exist of other religions. <sup>25</sup>According to a number of experts, after the terrorist attacks of 2011-2012, especially after the Aktobe incident in 2016, it was shown that there could be large, 50 «sleeper perpetrators» or more ready to dangerous armed uprisings on the territory of Kazakhstan.<sup>26</sup>It should be noted that the state of Kazakhstan constantly fights against terrorism and corruption every year. The State Action Program against religious extremism and terrorism for 2018-2022 was adopted in the Republic of Kazakhstan, the total funding of which is 270 billion 148 million tenge (696.389 million US dollars).<sup>27</sup>

Despite the measures taken in the form of programs aimed at strengthening national identity, improving the quality of education, employment and improving the well-being of the population, the question arises whether the funds allocated to these two areas do not always produce results?

### The findings from the data

For our part, we conducted a survey, particularly among young people aged 18 to 30 and a little older, in order to obtain answers to the above-mentioned topical questions.

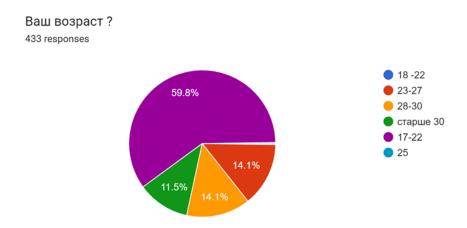


<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>24</sup>Қаңтароқиғасынақатысы бар «Йакын Инкар» радикалдыұйымытуралы не белгілі? https://bugin.kz/22798qanhtar-oqighasyna-qatysy-bar-yakyn-inkar-radikaldy-uyymy-turaly-ne-belgili <sup>25</sup>Қаңтароқиғасынақатысы бар «Йакын Инкар» радикалдыұйымытуралы не белгілі? https://bugin.kz/22798-

qanhtar-oqighasyna-qatysy-bar-yakyn-inkar-radikaldy-uyymy-turaly-ne-belgili

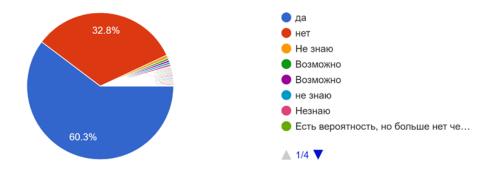
<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>26</sup>Мендкович Н. Кто становится террористом в Казахстане? [Электронный ресурс]. URL: http://www. stanradar.com/news/full/21487-kto-stanovitsja-terroristom-vkazahstane.html

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>27</sup>https://kabar.asya/ru/fight-with-extremism-in-kazakhstan- where-millions are leaving



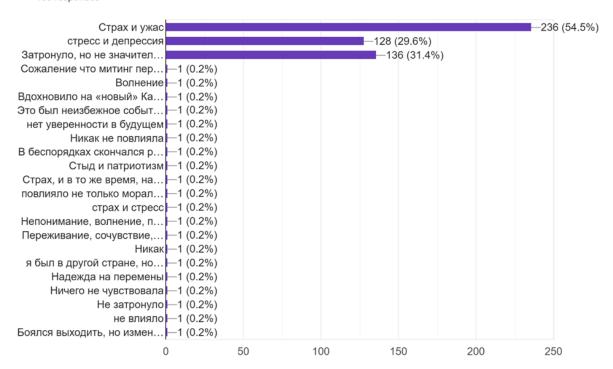
Of those who answered the question, 60.3% said terrorists were behind the event, while 32.8% said it was not.

Считаете ли вы, что к январской трагедии причастны международные террористы и религиозные радикалы - бандиты, которые ...ользовались митингующими как живым щитом? 433 responses



It is apparent from the responses of citizens who participated in the survey that there was fear and anxiety in the minds of the majority.

#### Как повлияла на вас январская трагедия в Казахстане? 433 responses



In the 1990s, after independence, after the adoption of the law «On Freedom of Religious Belief and Religious Associations» in Kazakhstan, many of our young people went to the countries of the Middle East, to Afghanistan, in Pakistan and Saudi Arabia to receive a spiritual education.

According to Kazakh experts, the young people of these countries, in addition to basic knowledge of the Koran and Islam, have absorbed things foreign to the traditional Islamic form of the Kazakh people, learned about other religions, other cultures and lifestyles. In fact, the number of citizens who divorce their wives with a single word «talaq» has increased in society. One of the surprising things is that our experts, theologians and political scientists do not understand the risk of radical religious opinions entering the very young republic.

Another important point to mention is Salafist and Wahhabi tendencies or takfir banned in Kazakhstan? According to religious scholars, Salafists dominate cell phone sales, mainly phone repair, car sales and auto parts sales. In Kazakhstan, they pay more attention to sports like archery, wrestling and equestrian sports.<sup>28</sup>

In Kazakhstan, there is also the problem of the recruitment of citizens serving prison sentences into religious movements.

The southern and western regions of the country are the most vulnerable in terms of radicalization to join the ranks of terrorists. The main target group for recruitment into the ranks of foreign fighters are young people between the ages of 14 and 29.29

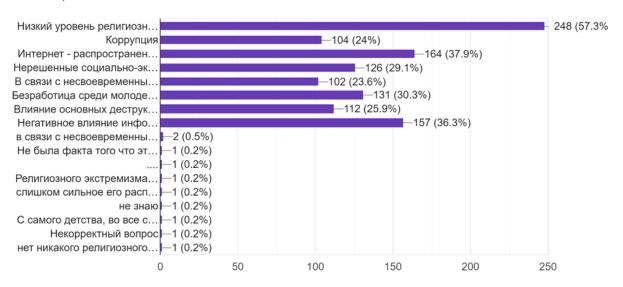
For example, according to Asylbek Izbayyrov, a well-known political scientist and religious scholar, young people who are in the middle of crime turn the wrong way in prison, and the criminal of yesterday turns out to be religious today. In general, it is difficult for a person to

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>28</sup>Діни радикализм: жақтасжинаутәсілдері https://aikyn.kz/185155/dini-radikalizm-zhaktas-zhinau-tesilderi/  $^{29}$ В тюрьмах Казахстана насчитывается более  $^{400}$  осужденных за экстремизм и терроризм https://kaztag.kz/ ru/news/v-tyurmakh-kazakhstana-naschityvaetsya-bolee-400-osuzhdennykh-za-ekstremizm-i-terrorizm

become a religious extremist, but in prisons the process of recruitment into the negative trend continues. According to S. Beysembaev, radicalization based on Salafist-jihad ideology is often observed among marginalized young people and mainly among those who were in a life crisis due to socio-economic upheaval or incompetence before adopting the radical ideology, and stemmed from a failure to adapt to the new conditions of systemic changes in the post-Soviet space. According to statistics, more than 80% of those convicted of religious extremism and terrorism in Kazakhstan are officially unemployed. The question of whether Salafism and Wahhabism should be considered as two different positions in society has not yet been resolved. In 2016, the number of followers of Salafism in Kazakhstan was estimated at around 15,000, but official authorities did not specify them.

Among those who react to the spread of religious extremism, 57.3% indicate low religious literacy.

# Какова причина распространения религиозного экстремизма в Казахстане? 433 responses



Among those who react to the spread of religious extremism, 57.3% indicate low religious literacy. If we consider another scenario of the event of «Karaly Kantar», there are opinions that it is a conflict of internal elites. For example, he says that the elite who grew up in Kazakhstan for 30 years faced a conflict of interests, and the enemy did not come from outside, and an unfair economic model is created for 30 years, depending only on raw materials. According to expert A. According to Grozin, «One of the reasons for the low effectiveness of the fight against terrorism is the long-term struggle between the elite clans of Kazakhstan. In this fight, terrorist groups like (Aktobe Salafist Jamaat) can also be used to fight rivals".<sup>34</sup>

https://ru.sputnik.kz/20180826/vlasti-ugroza-terrorizma-6973369.html

https://ru.sputnik.kz/20180826/vlasti-ugroza-terrorizma-6973369.html

 $<sup>^{30}</sup>$ ДІНТАНУШЫ: «ЭКСТРЕМИСТЕРДІҢ ДЕНІ - БҰРЫНҒЫ ҚЫЛМЫСКЕРЛЕР» https://7-su.kz/m/news/show/7944/

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>31</sup>Серик Бейсембаев: Специфика и факторы радикализации молодежи в условиях Казахстана https://cabar.asia/ru/serik-bejsembaev-spetsifika-i-faktory-radikalizatsii-molodezhi-v-usloviyah-kazahstana

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>32</sup>6 https://zhasalash.kz/sayasat/qantar-qasiretin-zhasagan-jaqyn-inkar-qandaj-ujym-19490.html

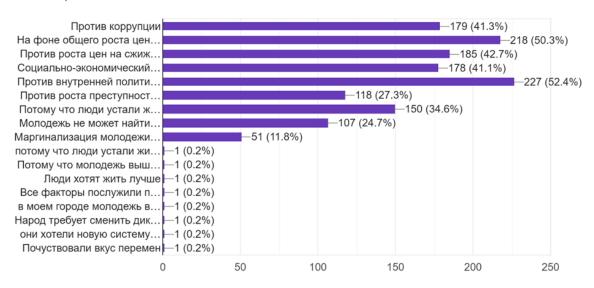
Хроники террора в Казахстане: почему власти долго не признавали угрозу

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>33</sup>6 https://zhasalash.kz/sayasat/qantar-qasiretin-zhasagan-jaqyn-inkar-qandaj-ujym-19490.html

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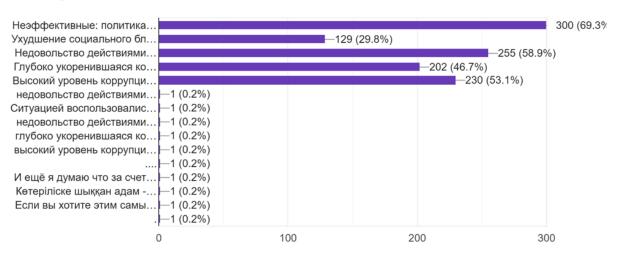
<sup>34</sup>КАЗАХСТАН И УГРОЗЫ ИСЛАМЙСТСКОГО РАДИКАЛИЗМА И ЭКСТРЕМИЗМА А. Грозин

# Почему народ, и особенно молодежь Казахстана, вышла на мирный митинг? 433 responses



# Какие по вашему мнению глубинные причины были обострившейся обстановки в Казахстане?

433 responses



In the survey, respondents highlighted the low level of human rights as well as the highest indicators of ineffective national policy, corruption, and social and economic protest.

#### Conclusion

The people of our country who live in peace did not expect such a dark event to occur in early January. The incident in January has been a huge economic diversity between the poor and the rich, between the government and the people, the social inequalities, the political economic situation of oil, gas, underground wealth, mineral resources has been absolutely revealed to the people. Although it is the lack of transparency, the dependence on raw materials and imports,

the fight against deep-rooted corruption, ineffective politics, the inability of young people to find themselves in society, and opposition to any form of modern slavery, this event will go down in history as the people who endured it for many years demanding political change from the government was a purely political uprising.

Despite the measures taken to strengthen national identity, improve the quality of education, employment and increase the well-being of the population, the reason why this terrible event has a hybrid terrorist character is the role and l he influence of politicized Islam in recent years, the geographical expansion and regional and local armed conflicts in the world, the geopolitical situation has become an important factor and Kazakhstan, as a leader of the Central Asian region, has faced security threats aimed at destabilization.

The state of Kazakhstan occupies a special place on the world map due to its underground natural resources and the fact that it is a rapidly developing country. In our opinion, there are several reasons for the spread of terrorist organizations in Kazakhstan. At first, the authorities recognized terrorism as an external threat and considered that only international terrorist organizations could exist in the country. However, in the current situation, it can be seen that the deep spread of extremist organizations created to carry out terrorist activities has gradually stabilized and it is noticed that religious radicalism has remained durably in Kazakh society.

After the destruction of the main armed forces in Syria, the attention of terrorists and international extremists may have shifted to the states of Central Asia. In addition, the states of Central Asia have a very significant geopolitical importance due to the presence of energy resources. However, the proximity of Central Asian states to unstable and conflict areas risks aggravating the situation. In our opinion, especially in the nearest neighboring country of Kyrgyzstan, especially in the southern regions, underground terrorist groups have formed in recent years.

At the same time, the constant political crisis and socio-economic crises in the neighboring country, Kyrgyzstan, are likely to affect our country. We must not forget the cells of the Taliban and ISIL in this country, as well as the actions of certain terrorist organizations trained in neighboring Afghanistan. Another reason for the spread of terrorist and extremist groups is that foreign religions use the Internet and various messengers to carry out their propaganda and ideologies, especially among young people. Therefore, through the global information space, young people begin to accept ideas of social justice and the need to establish it on their own, instead of respecting the institutions of power, which are initially seen as unfair and illegitimate. Despite the defeat of the so-called «Islamic State», its ideology of radical Islamism has not yet been completely destroyed.

Unfortunately, in most cases, some young people learn about religion from questionable booklets consisting of three or four pages and fall into many errors and criminal misdeeds. In our view, the threat of radical and extremist forces in Kazakhstan is an important factor for the stability of the whole region, of Central Asia.

In addition, the important reasons for the spread of radical groups are the emergence of marginalized groups in the country, the decline in the quality of secular education, especially the poor quality of education in schools in rural areas, the rise of informal Islamic communities which have nothing to do with the religious administration, and the fact that these informal communities receive financial aid from abroad, at the same time, the propaganda of these associations, in particular, directed towards migrant workers, socially inferior groups in rural areas, their activation and attempts to enter the power structures of groups close to the collective structure, and the generalization of the use of religion for political competition, cause the spread radical groups.

Several radical religious groups target young people capable of economic and political careers to spread their ideology and are likely to actively support their promotion to public office, including law enforcement. In our view, the penetration of purveyors of radical religious ideas into the structures of state power may constitute a particular danger for Kazakhstan.

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## Қазақстандағы діни радикализм мәселелерін зерттеудің өзектілігі

**Аңдатпа.** Мақалада бүгінгі таңдағы діни радикализмнің қатері туралы сөз қозғалады. Тәуелсіздіктің алғашқы жылдары мемлекетіміз зайырлы мемлекет болып орныққаннан кейін теріс діни ағымдардың аймақ-аймаққа таралуы, халықтың санасына жетуі мемлекетіміздің тұтастығына нұқсан келтіргені туралы талқыланып, радикалды топтардың қайдан шыққаны туралы сөз қозғалады. Ислам дінін бүркенген радикалды топтардың насихаты мен идеологиясы интернет арқылы таралуының себептеріне анализ жасалады. Сонымен бірге, тарихта «Қаралы қаңтар» деген атпен қалған қасірет Қазақстан азаматтарының басынан кешкен жантүршігерлік оқиғаға анализ

беріледі. Салафиттік-жиһадтық идеологияға негізделген радикалдану көбінесе маргиналданған жастар арасында таралуының себептері және жастардың діни экстремистік теріс ағымдары қабылдауының себептері туралы айтылады.

Түйін сөздер: Радикализм, діни экстремизм, қанды қаңтар, жастар.

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#### Актуальность изучения проблем религиозного радикализма в Казахстане

Аннотация. Данная статья затрагивает тему угрозы религиозного радикализма на сегодняшний день. А в частности, в ней рассказывается о распространении деструктивных религиозных течений на территории Казахстана, в первые годы независимости, после утверждения страны как светское государство, о проникновении этих религиозных течений в сознание людей, вреде для целостности нашей страны и месте зарождения радикальных групп. Проводится анализ причин пропаганды и распространения идеологии исламских радикальных групп. А также, дается анализ страшного события известное как «Кровавый январь», постигшее казахстанцев зимой прошлого года. Обсуждаются причины, по которым радикализация на основе салафитско-джихадистской идеологии часто распространяется среди маргинализованной молодежи, и причины, по которым молодежь следует экстремистским течениям.

Ключевые слова: Радикализм, религиозный экстремизм, кровавый январь, молодежь.

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