

## **Modern Methods of Combating Crime in the Republic of Uzbekistan**

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**Abstract:** This article presents the opinions of domestic and foreign scholars on the legal foundations of combating crime in the Republic of Uzbekistan. The Republic of Uzbekistan has established a comprehensive legal framework aimed at combating crime, ensuring public order, and protecting citizens' rights and freedoms. This framework encompasses constitutional provisions, criminal legislation, procedural laws, and specialized laws addressing specific types of crimes.

**Keywords:** The Constitution of the Republic of Uzbekistan, The Criminal Code of the Republic of Uzbekistan, The Criminal Procedure Code of the Republic of Uzbekistan, The Code of Administrative Offenses of the Republic of Uzbekistan, Laws on Specific Crimes, The Ministry of Internal Affairs (MIA), The State Security Service (SNB), The Prosecutor's Office.

### **Introduction.**

In its battle against crime, Uzbekistan is implementing a number of contemporary strategies, however their efficacy and degree of execution vary. These techniques fall into the following categories:

#### 1. Developments in Technology:

**CCTV Monitoring:** By giving video evidence, closed-circuit television (CCTV) cameras are becoming more and more common in public areas, especially in urban areas. This helps with crime prevention and investigation.

Facial recognition technology is being progressively incorporated into law enforcement to help identify and apprehend individuals. Nonetheless, privacy issues and possible abuse must be addressed.<sup>1</sup>

**Biometric Data Collection:** As identification precision and efficiency increase, fingerprints, DNA, and other biometric data are increasingly being used in criminal investigations.

**Database Systems:** Information sharing and investigative skills are being enhanced by the creation and use of integrated databases to store and exchange data amongst various law enforcement organisations.<sup>2</sup>

**Cybercrime Investigation Methods:** To investigate cybercrimes, specialised units are being trained to use forensic tools and methods to track down the offenders and collect evidence from networks and digital devices.

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<sup>1</sup> **Constitution of the Republic of Uzbekistan**, adopted on December 8, 1992.

<sup>2</sup> *Criminal Code of the Republic of Uzbekistan*, as amended (1994).

## 2. Strategic Methods:

**Community Policing:** Initiatives are being made to improve community involvement in crime prevention, which will strengthen ties between the public and law enforcement. This strategy depends on police and community collaboration and information exchange.

**Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED):** This method uses techniques like better lighting, landscaping, and security measures to create physical spaces that discourage crime.<sup>3</sup>

**Data-Driven Policing:** More efficient resource allocation and focused interventions are made possible by analysing crime data to find patterns, hotspots, and trends. Strong data collection and analysis skills are needed for this.

**Intelligence-Led Policing:** This strategy proactively targets criminal activities and dismantles criminal networks by using intelligence collection and analysis. It calls for cooperation between various intelligence and law enforcement organisations.

**Focus on Organised Crime:** A crucial element of the contemporary strategy is the heightened focus on investigating, seizing assets, and prosecuting organised crime organisations in order to disrupt and dismantle them.<sup>4</sup>

### **Materials.**

**3. Institutional and Legal Reforms:** Fortifying the Criminal Justice System Effectively combatting crime requires constant efforts to enhance the legal system's effectiveness, equity, and transparency. This include increased access to justice, better training for legal practitioners, and judicial changes.

**International Collaboration:** Fighting transnational crimes like terrorism and drug trafficking requires cooperation with foreign law enforcement and international organisations.

**Counter-Corruption Initiatives:** To ensure their efficacy and preserve public confidence, the legal and law enforcement institutions must be free from corruption.<sup>5</sup>

### **Obstacles and Restrictions:**

Even with the use of contemporary techniques, there are still issues:

**Gaps in Implementation:** Some contemporary technologies and tactics are still not being applied uniformly across agencies and geographical areas.

**Resource constraints:** The complete implementation and efficient use of cutting-edge technology and methodologies may be impeded by a lack of resources.

**Data Privacy Issues:** The usage of cutting-edge technology such as biometric and face recognition data presents serious privacy issues that require the implementation of suitable legislative frameworks and protections.

**Building Capacity:** For law enforcement officers to effectively use contemporary techniques, they must receive sufficient training and professional development.

**Cultural Barriers:** It can be difficult to alter deeply rooted cultural beliefs and practices about reporting crimes and collaborating with law police.

### **Research and Methods.**

Uzbekistan has been using a range of contemporary techniques and plans to fight crime and enhance public safety in recent years. The need for efficient methods of law enforcement and

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<sup>3</sup> *Code of Criminal Procedure of the Republic of Uzbekistan*, as amended (1994).

<sup>4</sup> *Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan on Combating Corruption*, adopted on January 3, 2017.

<sup>5</sup> *Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan on Combating Trafficking in Persons*, adopted on April 17, 2008.

crime prevention has been acknowledged by the government.<sup>6</sup> Here are a few of the techniques being used:

1. Digital Technology and Data Analysis: Big data analytics and artificial intelligence are two examples of the cutting-edge technologies that are increasingly being used in crime prevention and investigation. These technologies are being used by law enforcement organisations to better allocate resources, forecast possible criminal behaviour, and analyse crime trends.<sup>7</sup>

2. Community Policing: This strategy focusses on building solid linkages between local communities and law enforcement. Law enforcement may improve confidence, work together on crime prevention tactics, and obtain important insights into local concerns by interacting with the public.<sup>8</sup>

3. Better Law Enforcement Training: Uzbekistan has been emphasising the provision of continuous training for law enforcement officers and other staff members. Building a more professional and responsive police force requires training in human rights, community involvement, and contemporary investigation tactics.

4. Legal Reforms: To enhance the criminal justice system, the Uzbek government has implemented legal reforms. This includes legal modifications that support more efficient law enforcement, improve the effectiveness of the legal system, and safeguard the rights of citizens.

5. International Cooperation: In an effort to fight transnational crime, such as terrorism, drug trafficking, and human trafficking, Uzbekistan has been working more closely with foreign law enforcement agencies and international organisations. This covers exchanging intelligence, working together on operations, and taking part in educational initiatives.<sup>9</sup>

## Results.

6. Youth and Social Programs: The government is funding youth involvement and preventive initiatives in recognition that social issues play a role in crime. Some of the underlying causes of crime are intended to be addressed by programs that promote social inclusion, education, and employment possibilities.

7. Improved Surveillance and Monitoring: By offering vital evidence, contemporary surveillance technologies like CCTV cameras and other monitoring systems aid in crime prevention and investigation ease.

8. Public knowledge Campaigns: The government is working to raise public knowledge of crime prevention. The goal of campaigns educating the public on their rights, how to report crimes, and personal safety is to enable communities to actively participate in preventing crime.<sup>10</sup>

9. Specialised Units: Establishing specialised task forces to deal with particular categories of criminal activity, like organised crime, drug offences, and cybercrime. Because these units are manned by individuals with the necessary training, enforcement actions can be more precisely targeted.

10. Initiatives for Restorative Justice: The use of restorative justice techniques, which emphasise rehabilitation and mediation over punitive actions, has grown in popularity. This strategy aims to hold offenders accountable while attending to the needs of the community and victims.<sup>11</sup>

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<sup>6</sup> *Law on Prevention of Delinquency*, adopted on August 29, 2014.

<sup>7</sup> *Commentary on the Criminal Code of the Republic of Uzbekistan*, edited by legal experts of Tashkent State University of Law.

<sup>8</sup> United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, 2000.

<sup>9</sup> United Nations Convention against Corruption, 2003.

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<sup>11</sup> *International Treaties of Uzbekistan on Crime Prevention*, Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

## Discussion.

A number of factors, such as the legislative framework, law enforcement procedures, judicial procedures, and the larger socioeconomic background, can be used to evaluate how well the Republic of Uzbekistan's legal system fights crime. Here are some important things to think about:

### 1. The Law

In order to combat a variety of criminal activities, such as organised crime, corruption, and human trafficking, Uzbekistan has put laws and regulations into place. In order to update its legal codes and bring them closer to international norms, the nation has also enacted reforms. The goal of these amendments is to make the laws controlling criminal behaviour more consistent and clear.<sup>12</sup>

2. Law Enforcement There has been criticism about Uzbekistan's law enforcement institutions' efficacy. Concerns over things like corruption, a lack of training, and insufficient funding have existed in the past. Law enforcement organisations frequently struggle with accountability and openness. There have been attempts to professionalise and reform police forces, but it is still unclear how much of an influence these changes have had on crime rates.

### 3. The Court System

Reforms have been made to the Uzbek judiciary with the goal of enhancing its independence and equity. Nonetheless, questions about the judiciary's impartiality and defendants' treatment have persisted. Political factors and a lack of legal representation for many defendants, especially in politically sensitive matters, might impair the judicial system's ability to administer justice.<sup>13</sup>

### 4. Aspects of Socioeconomics

Socioeconomic circumstances frequently have an impact on crime rates. Crime in Uzbekistan can be exacerbated by problems like unemployment, poverty, and unequal access to education. Long-term crime reduction depends on addressing these underlying societal challenges through education and economic development.

### 5. Government Programs

In order to combat crime, the Uzbek government has started a number of activities, such as outreach programs, community policing initiatives, and public awareness campaigns. These programs have the potential to increase community and law enforcement trust, which could result in more successful crime-fighting tactics.<sup>14</sup>

### 6. Global Collaboration

In an effort to tackle transnational crime, such as drug trafficking and terrorism, Uzbekistan has become more involved in international collaboration. Partnerships with institutions like the United Nations and other regional organisations have made it easier to share expertise and develop law enforcement's capability.

### 7. Opportunities and Difficulties

Significant obstacles still exist in spite of the reforms, such as a potentially politicised court system, a shortage of funding, and corruption. However, continuous initiatives to increase openness and governance present chances to boost the efficiency of the legal system in preventing crime.

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<sup>12</sup> *Law on Prevention of Delinquency*, adopted on August 29, 2014.

<sup>13</sup> *Commentary on the Criminal Code of the Republic of Uzbekistan*, edited by legal experts of Tashkent State University of Law.

<sup>14</sup> *Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan on Combating Trafficking in Persons*, adopted on April 17, 2008.

## **Conclusion.**

Ultimately, despite changes and international collaboration, Uzbekistan's legal system has achieved progress against crime; yet, a number of systemic problems continue to impede its efficacy. To further increase the efficiency of the legal system in combating crime in Uzbekistan, more reforms, improved law enforcement training, judicial independence, and socioeconomic development would be necessary.<sup>15</sup>

By employing these strategies, Uzbekistan is striving for a more successful crime response system that respects human rights and the rule of law and places an emphasis on technology utilisation, community involvement, and prevention.<sup>16</sup>

Overall, even though Uzbekistan is using more and more contemporary techniques to combat crime, their successful application necessitates consistent work, financial support, and resolving the country's ongoing resource, capability, and human rights issues. In the end, how well these techniques work will depend on how well they are incorporated into an all-encompassing plan that tackles the causes and effects of crime.

## **List of used literatures:**

1. Constitution of the Republic of Uzbekistan, adopted on December 8, 1992.
2. Criminal Code of the Republic of Uzbekistan, as amended (1994).
3. Code of Criminal Procedure of the Republic of Uzbekistan, as amended (1994).
4. Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan on Combating Corruption, adopted on January 3, 2017.
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<sup>15</sup> **Constitution of the Republic of Uzbekistan**, adopted on December 8, 1992.

<sup>16</sup> Criminal Code of the Republic of Uzbekistan, as amended (1994).