

## DETERMINATION OF VIOLENT CRIMES IN THE REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA



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### SUMMARY

Features of determination of violent crimes in the Republic of Armenia are considered in this article. Powerful determinants of violence not only in Armenia, but practically in all countries are poverty and social-economic stratification of the society. It is very well known, that the level of crime, as a rule, is higher in poor and developing countries. It is not accidental, that criminal violence is frequently committed for the purpose of getting goods.

It became usual for many people to solve interpersonal conflicts through the shortest way – the use of violence, without appeal to corresponding state bodies (in particular, law enforcement bodies) and statutory procedures.

**Key-words:** *aggression, criminality, cruelty, determination, factors, reasons, violence, violent crimes.*

### I. Introduction

At a recent time, scholars of different professional fields no longer use term „reason” and do not describe the object of research in terms of reasoning. They prefer to find out the factors determining the object of research and fix correlations among them. The reasons for that are different. Interrelations among systems and their elements are tremendously difficult and diverse. Usually, it is extremely difficult (or sometimes impossible) to determine causality out of myriad of interactions even in physical and biological systems. Therefore, it is not surprising, that from the beginning of the last century, majority of criminologists refuse to constantly search „reason” of crime, proving the expediency of thesis called „determination” [1, p. 9-11].

### II. Issues of determination of violent crimes in the Republic of Armenia

Determination of violent crimes in the Republic of Armenia is significantly diverse. In order to find out corresponding factors for their commitment, it is necessary to define some constant traditions of the country, peculiarities of armenian mentality, types of national character, which develop fertile soil for commitment of criminal violence. However, the core of the problem is not connected to the mysteries of Armenian soul to which high brutality, quick temper, high emotionality, centuries based jealousy, adher-

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#### SUMAR

Acest articol abordează particularitățile cauzelor infracțiunilor violente comise în Republica Armenia. Factorii determinanți ai violenței nu numai în Armenia, ci practic în toate țările sunt sărăcia și stratificarea socio-economică a societății. Este bine cunoscut faptul că nivelul criminalității este, în general, mai ridicat în țările sărace și în cele în curs de dezvoltare, astfel violența penală este frecvent comisă în scopul obținerii de bunuri.

A devenit obișnuit pentru mulți oameni să rezolve conflictele interpersonale prin cel mai scurt mod - folosirea violenței, fără apel la organele de stat corespunzătoare (în special organele de drept) și procedurile legale.

**Cuvinte-cheie:** *agresiune, criminalitate, cruzime, determinare, factori, motive, violență, crime violente.*

ence to old national traditions are typical and which are, in many cases, give birth to group narcissism, suspiciousness, painful ambition, vindictiveness and etc. Decisive factors, in this case, are social conditions and peculiarities of the latest phase of historical development of the country.

Powerful determinants of violence not only in Armenia, but practically in all countries are poverty and social-economic stratification of the society. It is very well known, that the level of crime, as a rule, is higher in poor and developing countries. It is not accidental, that criminal violence is frequently committed for the purpose of getting goods. Besides, society of poor people is spiritually poor in all aspects of this phenomenon, including immorality and crime (including violent crime). However, poverty itself is not a basic and main factor determining violence.

In Armenia, as well as in other post Soviet countries, poverty manifested itself not to the full extent-namely famine and total destitution. Those who live in poverty now, if they are not old, do not suffer any disease, are not burdened with large family, are capable of managing their lives by being initiative and enterprising. However, many of them, due to the idleness, passiveness and absence of wish to go for a risk, do not undertake any action. They wait until someone will do something for them, when someone will offer high paid job, yet not exhausting. At the same time, there are not few people who prefer not working and living in poverty for the reason of the fact that available work does fit to their dignity. But the issue is not a dignity of poor people but extremely high self-esteem. Besides, most of the Armenian poor people are in psychological condition to survive rather than to be successful and self-actualized.



They are mostly hope for state support and magical U-turn in life, rather than success in work or creativity.

Sharp social economic stratification of society which has reached extreme scale in Armenia recently is more tended to have a crime load. People are not capable of getting used to the idea that incomes of specific groups of population can be tremendously different. As a result, Armenian society suffers from the feeling of extreme gap in terms of wealth which has a potential of powerful criminality including various manifestations of criminal violence.

As regards to the above mentioned, young people from low income families are specifically in dire conditions. Modern clothes and other prestigious goods (cars, jewelry and other luxurious goods, contemporary computer technologies and means of mobile communication and etc.) which are extremely attractive to them are not available at all.

At the same time, the level of awareness among them about these goods due to the media (web, TV, press, etc.) and eventually shop showcases is extremely high. And therefore the feelings of envy, neglect, outcast can push them (and often do) to commit crimes for the purpose to possess above mentioned goods. And besides, crime accompanying cruelty, aggression and vandalism serve as unique means of psychological compensation coming from humiliation.

In recent years, Armenia has faced economic, social, political and spiritual severe crises and aggravation of ongoing contradictions. Mentioned circumstances are accompanied by higher social tension in interpersonal relations, deterioration of life conditions of people and society in general, deformation of the system of values. As a result, it is observed not only the loss of cultural, spiritual and moral values of Armenians, formation of unfavorable moral-psychological micro climate, but also steep decrease of level of legal awareness of population, destabilization of social relations, increase in number of violations of law and order.

High level of anxiety of people in modern Armenian society is also conditioned by tangible weakening of compensating power of family. D.A. Shestakov attributes the following to the main factors forming violence orientation of individual in family: interfamily conflict, conflict of the family with its milieu, "training" of violence, anomy sparked by family conflicts, cruelty, alcoholism, drug addiction - that is to say promotion of negative standards of behavior, absence of opposition to the factors of aggression [8, p. 185].

Special attention need to be attributed to those circumstances which make influence on formation of aggressive-violent orientation of individual in childhood. In particular, it comes, first of all, to the domestic troubles of the child, which manifest themselves in the fact that members of the family (first of all mother and father) do not care about child, do not show emotional warmth and care. As a result, the child alienates psychologically, he/she gets feeling of vulnerability and anxiety. Alienation from mother and father leads to further disadaptation. If, later on, situation with child development does not change for positive, similar feelings do progress manifesting themselves through constant uncertainty and anxiety. It is not accidental that many children who suffered psychological alienation, desert their homes, some of whom become the victims of criminals, get involved in criminal activities, the rest becomes hobos, beggars, prostitutes, alcoholics and drug addicts. It is a matter of fact that if a human being was neglected by his own parents and constantly felt it, if he has never been loved and cared

of, it is difficult to think that he would love this world, recognize its values, and take care of others [4, p. 107-124].

Research shows that many of the children and teenagers who lived in such conditions and frequently faced domestic violence, later on resorted to the violence to solve different problems in their own families. Besides, more than 90% of underages convicted for violent crimes before committing the crime became victims of violent, and sometimes cruel treatment by the parents.

Also, out of a range of factors influencing violent crimes, it is necessary to determine unprecedented rise of unemployment which has recently got huge scales. Level of immigration is rising because of shortage of employment. Many people lose their individual development perspective and face crash of hopes because of mentioned circumstances. Unfavorable financial conditions and housing accompanying migration, constant anxiety and despair provoke aggressive „discharge“ which is often manifested through violent behavior.

Unfavorable tendencies taking place in urbanization contribute to the promotion of violent crimes in RA as well. Armenian village, as a matter of fact, is destroyed, active migration into cities goes on. Employable part of rural male population has left its residencies to find a job. Some of them went to capital or other cities of Armenia, the rest - to the near and far abroad countries (mostly Russia and Ukraine). As a result, numerous people has lost their native social ties, process of integration of cities has started (at present, urban population of Armenia is more than 70 %) which led to collapse of the current system of social control, growth of anonymity of life, alienation, anxiety and existential problems and indifference to the lives of others. That was a reason that a number of stereotypes of aggressive violent behaviors in conflict situations among specific groups of population has risen.

Specific cultural factors contribute to the dissemination of violence in Armenia as well. In particular, process of dissemination of the cult of western lifestyle and emancipation of morals has started in Armenia since independence and continue to strive. In accordance with ethnopsychological research, the quantity of ethnical marginals in current Armenian society is high enough [6, p. 63]. If one considers that similar individuals face powerful internal conflicts contributing to the escalation of many negative personal qualities, powerful criminogenic outcomes of dissemination of western cultural standards becomes obvious [5, p. 119].

In modern Armenian society different spiritual values have significantly lose their purpose and role in the life of people. Meanwhile, the positive impact of those values on formation in society of normal moral-psychological atmosphere and socially acceptable interactions among people is irrefutable. It is a spiritual culture, as Yu.M. Antonyan justly marks, that a human being can and must get power and certainty form, find point of support, opportunity for spiritual development and moral decisions [3, p. 270]. However, prevailing part of Armenian population today is in search of daily food, busy with the issues of how to feed, to shoe themselves and their families, to have a shelter and etc., which makes it impossible for a human being to think of spiritual and cultural values. As a result, more people become rude, uncompromised, aggressive and cruel, and society itself, as time goes by, gets more demoralized and loses potency to counteract dissemination of negative phenomena (including violent crimes).



Serious negative changes of moral basis and principles in Armenian society has been sparked by media, especially, TV and internet which disseminated scenes of violence and cruelty and pornographic content as well. Mentioned circumstances, as it is known, have negative influence on psychological state of young generation, youth and persons with unstable mind. TV and internet are the main source of information for them which create specific behavioral stereotypes. Meanwhile, permanent demonstration of scenes of violence, cruelty, idealization of the lifestyle and personality of criminal, discreditation of law enforcement bodies and representatives, the idea of lynching, dissemination of permissiveness in movies, TV programs and sope operas for teenagers lead to the following: trying to imitate favourite movie heroes, teenagers start committing „heroic” acts. Namely, the process of training of committing violence begins. This leads to commitment of violent crimes.

In other words, cult of violence and permissiveness of sexual intercourse in media contribute to the readiness of people to have such a behaviour. Watching on TV and media scenes of violence and debauchery, people slowly start quietly and tolerantly treat such phenomena and even are trying to reproduce what they see in real life. Besides, soap opera and digital network games heroes are promoted as a justice fighters with a purpose to resort to a violence and even cruelty. This leads to the decline of internal tension, anxiety of TV spectators and other media users. They, though only deep inside, feel satisfied that at some point, someone can fight for justice.

There are problems in modern Armenia with reference to upbringing and training of the younger generation. By the way, miscalculations and omissions in this case, lead not only to public trouble, massive economic losses, but what is the most important - fall of morals, crippled faith, tragedies and even bloodshed. Upbringing of children is the main responsibility of parents, especially, mother, and there is no any other more important responsibility than that. A human being, who has been raised in a troubled family is characterized by high anxiety, uncertainty, uneasiness and alienation, namely - features, criminality of which is generally known. At the same time, family which is in dire socio-economic situation which fights on a daily basis for survival using non-moral and sometimes unlawful means for that, stops being an instrument of socialization [2, p. 374].

Objective decline of upbringing potential of the family needs to be compensated by the system of social upbringing, which needs to give teenagers opportunity for normal interpersonal communication, overcoming of alienation from society. However school and other educational institutions which are together with family need to play an important role in socialization of the individual, do not function well in Armenia now. Meanwhile defects of educational system affect antisocial and anti state views and convictions, enforce negative influence of other spheres of micro-environment (family, referent groups and etc.). Besides, preventive actions are not done by educational institutions, especially, to dissociate and reorient groups of juveniles with deviant behavior [7, p. 94-95].

Unsatisfied need of communication, absence of positive relations in small social groups pushes juveniles into street gangs. Undoubtedly, „exit” of juvenile into street gang of peers do not automatically means that he/she would commit a crime. However, it is known, that criminal groups of peers are a fertile soil for formation of antisocial

views and arrangements, mutual enrichment of negative habits and skills serve as a psychological base for self justification during crime commitment (in accordance with principle „I acted as the others did”), immediately involve in antisocial behavior. Violence in such groups, is usually perceived as an encouraging way of behavior, though, if it is done for the benefit of the group.

Alcoholism and its influence on mind are significant factors affecting violent crimes in Armenia. They lead to decline or loss of self control, quick temper, cruelty, aggression and formation of all negative qualities of the individual as well. It is not accidental, that significant portion of grave crimes against human being and hooliganism in RA are committed in the state of alcoholic (significantly less-narcotic) intoxication. In this regard, what is the most disturbing is a detrimental influence that alcoholism and drug addiction have on teenagers. Young people, due to the age peculiarities, are characterized by high emotional irritability, insufficient skills of social self-control, aspiration to self manifestation, demonstration of courage, which are together with the use of spirits and drugs often become the factors influencing crime commitment [7, p. 92-93].

Also, certain criminogenic factor of violent crimes in Armenia is the level of armature of population. At that it comes to illegal circulation of firearms and cold weapon. Mitigation of demands for the storage and carrying of the weapons (rifled firearms included) led to the fact that people who cannot be entrusted a weapon got comparatively easy access to it. It is not accidental that in case of violent crimes committed with the use of weapon in RA, in many cases, it would be possible to avoid grave consequences of the crime, if, at the moment of the crime commitment acting individuals did not have such weapons.

### III. Conclusion

Considering above mentioned circumstances, it is possible to talk about steep rise of reasons to use violence in contemporary Armenian society. Besides, it became usual for many people to solve interpersonal conflicts through the shortest way – the use of violence, without appeal to corresponding state bodies (in particular, law enforcement bodies) and statutory procedures.

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