

THE ACTIVITY OF THE ANTI-TERRORISM CENTER OF THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA IN THE FIELD OF COMBATING AND PREVENTING TERRORISM

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Abstract. *An important issue in the field of combating terrorism is the formation of an appropriate regulatory framework and the existence of an effective system of counteraction at the national and international levels. Many states have adopted special laws regarding the fight against terrorism; most countries long ago came to the conclusion that the fight against terrorism must be the prerogative of special organizations. The article will highlight the activity, the political and legal framework of the Anti-terrorism Center of the Republic of Moldova in the field of combating and preventing terrorism.*

Keywords: *International terrorism, international cooperation in fight against terrorism, prevention of terrorism, the Anti-terrorism Center of the Republic of Moldova, The Security and Intelligence Service of the Republic of Moldova*

1. Introduction

At the end of 20th – the beginning of 21st century, the understanding of international security issues has changed in a key way. Threats of a global nature, including international terrorism, have acquired paramount importance. International terrorism in the entire history of its existence has undergone many transformations, turning at the end of the 20th century into a global threat. Terrorism is transforming from a local phenomenon into a transnational phenomenon in which religious and ideological components are clearly expressed.

At the beginning of the 21st century, a distinctive feature of international terrorism as a socially dangerous socio-political phenomenon is the presence of a pronounced ideological base, represented by armed radical Islamism. At the same time, the subjects of terrorist activity in the person of international terrorist organizations of the Islamist persuasion, despite the activity of the international community in countering them, claim to become a full-fledged actor in international relations. The main goal of international terrorism today is the reorganization of the world, the implementation of an alternative global project of political development. It is impossible not to note that never before in the history of mankind have terrorist organizations set themselves such global tasks.

For the past two decades, the fight against terrorism has been at the forefront of the global geopolitical order. The scale of terrorism that increased at the beginning of the 21st century objectively demanded closer interaction between special services, security agencies and law enforcement agencies of the entire world community. There are two main approaches to understanding the methods of combating international terrorism at the current stage. The first approach is to strengthen the powers of law enforcement agencies in the

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field of public security, limiting civil liberties and democracy in the name of the stable development of human civilization. It is argued that only a strong state and the effective activity of special services can serve as a guarantee of a successful fight against terrorism. However, it must be recognized that all attempts to fight terrorists only through force and military methods have not ensured the limitation or reduction of terrorist activity. An approach to the problem of combating international terrorism based entirely on military measures may lead to a weakening of the potential for collective action against terrorism. A significant reduction in the rights and freedoms of people and citizens will lead, if not to the decline, then to the stagnation of modern democratic states, the dissatisfaction of the general population, and thus will contribute to the achievement of the goals of terrorists. The essence of the second approach is the recognition of non-coercive methods of combating international terrorism as the main ones, which does not deny the importance and necessity of conducting precise anti-terrorist military operations.

At the current stage, the awareness of the need to move to a well-thought-out and intentional system of the widest range of measures, primarily political, at the international level, is beginning. Military means and other means of force in the field of combating the international terrorist threat should be considered complementary to political methods of struggle.

An important issue in the field of combating terrorism is the formation of an appropriate regulatory framework and the existence of an effective system of counteraction at the national and international levels. Many states have adopted special laws regarding the fight against terrorism; most countries long ago came to the conclusion that the fight against terrorism must be the prerogative of special organizations.

2. Institutional capabilities to counter terrorist risks and threats of of the Anti-terrorism Center of the Republic of Moldova

The Anti-Terrorism Center attached to the Security and Intelligence Service of the Republic of Moldova started operating on November 17, 2006. The formation of the Counter-Terrorism Center was one of the objectives included in the National Program for the implementation of the Republic of Moldova – European Union Action Plan, as well as Republic of Moldova – NATO Individual Action and Partnership Plan. The objectives of this center relate to the technical coordination of measures to prevent and fight terrorism; assessment of risk factors and territorial threats to the national security of the Republic of Moldova; the storage and analysis of information regarding the state, dynamics and trends of the spread of the phenomenon of terrorism and other extreme manifestations; the development and implementation of the national information system in the event of a terrorist threat; carrying out the exchange of information with foreign and international structures dealing with the activity of preventing and combating terrorism etc. (Hotărârea a Parlamentului Republicii Moldova nr.1295 din 13 noiembrie 2006)

In accordance with the Law of the Republic of Moldova on the prevention and combating of terrorism (2017), the SIS Anti-Terrorism Center prevents and combats terrorism by: drafting and implementing legislative and normative acts, policy documents in order to prevent and combat terrorism in accordance with the international norms and commitments; strengthening the cooperation and coordination of the activity of preventing and combating terrorism carried out by the competent authorities of the central public administration and the development of cooperative relations with similar institutions of other states; actions to detect and eliminate terrorist activities, including international ones, carrying out anti-terrorist operations; ensuring, together with other authorities, the security

of the institutions of the Republic of Moldova located on the territory of other states, of the citizens of the Republic of Moldova employed in these institutions and their family members; execution, through the special purpose unit, of the counter-terrorist intervention, independently or in cooperation with other forces, on the entire territory of the country or on a part of it, on the objectives attacked or occupied by terrorists for the purpose of their capture or annihilation, the release of hostages and the restoration of legal order; the collection, analysis and exploitation of information about potential risks and threats to counterterrorism security, obtained as a result of the information and counter-informative activity; collecting data on international terrorist organizations; undertaking other specific measures to prevent and combat terrorism assigned by law within its competence (Legea cu privire la prevenirea și combaterea terorismului 20.10.2017).

The organizational structure of the Anti-Terrorism Security Intelligence Center includes: the Center's Management Directorate, the Monitoring and Analysis Section, the Coordination, Planning and Forecasting Section, the Legal Evaluation Section and the Information Resources Section. It should also be mentioned the special destination forces of the ALFA Special Destination Detachment of the SIS and the FULGER Special Destination Battalion of the Ministry of Defense which are directly responsible for the anti-terrorism activity in the Republic of Moldova. The Special Destination Detachment "Alfa" is a specialized subunit, with tasks in the fight against terrorism on the territory of the country, as well as in locating and ending acts of terrorism against citizens of the Republic of Moldova abroad, annihilating the criminal activity of organized crime groups, releasing hostages and apprehension of wanted criminals. In May 2022, the Law "On the Prevention and Combating of Terrorism" was amended. The special force unit "Pantera", subordinate to the Penitentiary System, was involved in counter-terrorism operations, according to the amendments to the Law on the Prevention and Combating of Terrorism.

According to the amendments, the "Pantera" unit will ensure the safety of personnel and the protection of weapons, ammunition, explosives and subordinate installations, ensuring the defense capability; it will participate in counter-terrorism operations at the request of the Anti-Terrorism Operational Command; will provide the necessary logistical and operational support and special means and equipment at the request of the Anti-Terrorism Operational Command; will ensure the protection, supervision and/or escort of detainees who present a particular danger to the security of the state.

In accordance with the legislative provisions, the Anti-Terrorism Center issues mandatory instructions and recommendations to government agencies, as well as natural persons and legal entities. These instructions concern measures to prevent and combat terrorism.

The center also carries out the so-called "anti-terrorist tests", "testing" persons, objects, devices, premises, procedures, etc., if any of the above are of interest to terrorists or an anti-terrorist operation.

The Anti-Terrorism Center, together with the state structures responsible for the fight against terrorism, creates a database of terrorists and terrorist organizations, which also includes those who are suspected of supporting terrorism. The database can include both Moldovan and foreign citizens. There are several reasons why a person or organization can be included in the database: a decision by a court in the Republic of Moldova or a court in another state to recognize an organization/person involved in terrorist activities, a judicial decision to suspend of an organization's activities for the same reasons.

Legal entities and natural persons are required by law to assist the employees of the Anti-Terrorism Center, if necessary. They, among other things, will have to immediately

provide SIS with their movable and immovable property, documents and information about persons and events of interest to the counter-terrorism center. Refusal to cooperate with the anti-terrorism center attracts liability: disciplinary, administrative, civil or even criminal.

The Anti-Terrorist Center also has the right to request that government agencies, businesses and organizations provide people, transport and IT systems for the conduct of an anti-terrorist operation.

It should be noted that the Venice Commission of the Council of Europe published its findings in October 2018 in relation to the Law of the Republic of Moldova no. 120 on the prevention and combating of terrorism of September 21, 2017. The Venice Commission is convinced that it is necessary to review the list of measures that the Security and Intelligence Service of the Republic of Moldova, including the Anti-Terrorism Center, can undertake in order to prevent terrorism. In this sense, it is necessary to clearly delimit the areas of application of special measures, and the law should provide for an external authorization (court order, prosecutor's office resolution, etc.), detailed measures and respective procedures (The Venice Commission insists on the revision of the anti-terrorism law, 2018).

Also, the report emphasizes that the President of the Parliament should not have the right to coordinate the anti-terrorist activity; this should be the prerogative of the executive. Instead, the parliamentary control mechanism should be strengthened with the participation of the Security and Intelligence Service of the Republic of Moldova or a mixed committee of experts, but with the broad participation of the opposition in both structures. In addition to examining general reports, these bodies should have access to concrete cases. An adequate record keeping system should be implemented within the Security and Intelligence Service of the Republic of Moldova.

Experts from Venice believe that anti-terrorist operations should have a limited period and cover a limited geographical area; any expansion of the geographical area or duration of the operation should be accompanied by increased parliamentary scrutiny. In addition, the Law should provide for criminal and disciplinary liability for security service personnel in the event of grossly disproportionate actions and in the event of improper planning and conduct of anti-terrorist operations. The commission emphasizes that the state should bear civil and legal liability for the injuries caused by these disproportionate actions. The unplanned use of weapons, other than the situation, should be prohibited by law, and the actions of security personnel that lead to death or serious bodily injury should be the subject of an independent investigation.

Likewise, the Venice Commission finds that the "blacklists" of terrorists that are drawn up in the country should not be blindly based on the decisions of foreign courts and governments.

The Anti-Terrorism Center of the SIS of the Republic of Moldova actively collaborates, at the national level, with the competent public authorities in order to implement practical counter-terrorism policy measures. Thus, in 2018, Regulation no. 277-284 on the anti-terrorist protection of critical infrastructure by the SIS was elaborated, and aims to streamline the process of identification, designation and anti-terrorist protection of critical infrastructure objectives and to optimize the procedures for identifying and including critical infrastructure objectives in the National Nomenclature of Critical Infrastructure, as well as to strengthen national mechanisms in the segment of terrorism prevention, identification and elimination of possible risks to critical infrastructure.

The objectives of the existing critical infrastructure in the Republic of Moldova correspond to those present in most economically developed countries, with certain

exceptions. The regulation identifies 11 sectors that target critical infrastructure, from water supply to places of mass agglomeration, as well as 27 sub-sectors, from maritime transport to healthcare. The objectives of major importance are the natural resources, among which the 3,500 artificial aquatic objectives, including the Stânca-Costești and Dubăsari hydroelectric dams. Targets of high vulnerability are those in the information and communication technology sector. Even if this sector benefits from increased attractiveness, with the sales volume constituting 7% of the national GDP in 2019, the critical ICT infrastructure benefits from limited protection. However, the objectives exposed to the most substantial risks are located in the administrative-territorial units to the left of the Nistru. In the Transnistrian region, on the one hand, the critical infrastructure objectives have the greatest vulnerability, and, on the other hand, the control of the protection procedures is not held by the constitutional authorities of the Republic of Moldova (Țurcanu, Valeriu, Rusu Iulian, 2021).

Currently, the protection of critical infrastructure in the Republic of Moldova is ensured by several public institutions, depending on the nature of potential threats. The Civil Protection and Emergency Situations Service (CPESS) is responsible for the management of man-made, natural and biological-social emergency situations. Also, from a sectoral perspective, the Anti-Terrorism Center (ATC) is responsible for the management of terrorism situations, and the Information Technologies and Combating Cyber Crimes Section (ITCCS) is responsible for the management of computer crime situations. At the national level, critical infrastructure objectives are protected by the application of both existing laws and action protocols, security plans, management mechanisms and other operational documents. At the international level, the protection of these objectives is ensured by the application of at least 18 multilateral and bilateral international agreements concluded by the Republic of Moldova.

The Government of the Republic of Moldova approved on October 26, 2022, the National Program for the consolidation and realization of anti-terrorist protection measures of critical infrastructure objectives for the years 2022-2026 and the Action Plan regarding its implementation. The need to realize and implement the National Program for the consolidation and implementation of anti-terrorist protection measures of the critical infrastructure objectives for the years 2022-2026 is imposed in order to implement the provisions of Resolution 2341 of the United Nations Security Council of 13.02.2017, Law no. 120/2017 regarding the prevention and combating of terrorism, as well as the National Defense Strategy and the Action Plan regarding the implementation of the National Defense Strategy for the years 2018-2022, approved by Parliament Decision no. 134/2018, and based on the provisions of art. 6 of Law no. 120/2017 regarding the prevention and combating of terrorism (Nota informativă la proiectul hotărârii Guvernului „Cu privire la aprobarea Programului Național de consolidare și realizare a măsurilor de protecție antiteroristă a obiectivelor infrastructurii critice pentru anii 2022-2026”).

The new measures are imposed as a result of regional developments and the increase in threats to national security. The document includes information on the impact of the program, the parties involved in its implementation, the current situation and the objectives set for the anti-terrorist protection of critical infrastructure.

Currently, even if the Republic of Moldova does not face major terrorist risks and is not a direct target for terrorist entities, the indicators detected in the last period denote an amplification of the situation in the anti-terrorist security segment. This fact imposes the need to strengthen the national potential in the fight against terrorist manifestations. Analyzing the tactics applied by terrorist entities and the statistics of attacks in the EU and

CIS space in the last period of time, we can see that in most cases the targets of the attacks become the objectives of the critical infrastructure (the transport system, the energy sector, objectives of mass gathering, etc.). Under these conditions, countries implement mechanisms and procedures in order to ensure the security of citizens and the protection of critical infrastructure objectives (Nota informativă la proiectul hotărârii Guvernului „Cu privire la aprobarea Programului Național de consolidare și realizare a măsurilor de protecție antiteroristă a obiectivelor infrastructurii critice pentru anii 2022-2026”).

The plan also mentions that the disruption or destruction of critical infrastructure objectives may cause a negative impact for the safety, security, social and economic well-being of the state, loss of essential services, danger to human life and health and negative effects on the environment. As a result, it is necessary to develop and implement nationally a set of continuous legal, organizational, economic-financial, engineering, operative, informative, counter-informative measures undertaken by central and local public authorities, critical infrastructure operators as well as persons specially authorized in this regard, which aim to ensure the functionality, continuity and integrity of the critical infrastructure in order to deter, reduce and neutralize a threat, a risk or a vulnerable point.

According to the National Program for the consolidation and realization of anti-terrorist protection measures of critical infrastructure objectives for the years 2022-2026, the actions to be carried out are: 1) strengthening the interaction mechanisms with critical infrastructure operators; 2) streamlining risk management for critical infrastructure objectives; 3) strengthening and streamlining mechanisms and measures to protect critical infrastructure objectives; 4) control and verification of the effectiveness of the anti-terrorist protection measures of the critical infrastructure; 5) optimization of the national legal framework in the field of organization and provision of physical protection of critical infrastructure; 6) development of national and international cooperation in the field of anti-terrorist protection of critical infrastructure (Hotărîre a Guvernului Republicii Moldova cu privire la aprobarea Programul Național de consolidare și realizare a măsurilor de protecție antiteroristă a obiectivelor infrastructurii critice pentru anii 2022-2026 și a Planului de acțiuni pentru realizarea acestuia, 2022).

The implementation of the Program will be ensured by the Anti-Terrorist Center of the Security and Intelligence Service of the Republic of Moldova and by the operators – ministries, other authorities or public institutions and legal entities, which have under their management objectives included in the National Nomenclature of Critical Infrastructure (Programul Național de consolidare și realizare a măsurilor de protecție antiteroristă a obiectivelor infrastructurii critice pentru anii 2022-2026, aprobat de Guvern, 2022).

The Anti-Terrorism Center has created a situational response level system to terrorist threats that adopts world practice. Within this system, it is possible to set three levels of terrorist threat: increased – “blue”, high – “yellow”, critical – “red”. The introduction of terrorist threat levels does not restrict the rights and freedoms of citizens, but foresees the need for additional measures from the authorities to prevent a possible terrorist act.

The national terror alert system of the Republic of Moldova (NTAS) entered into force on October 26, 2018. This system represents a unique platform for coordinating measures in the event of terrorist threats. The territorial units empowered to fight against terrorism will be assigned to the Security and Intelligence Service of the Republic of Moldova. Their duties will include the exchange of data and the investigation of cases that present a threat.

NTAS consists of 4 levels, distinguished by 4 codes (expressed in colors), which reflect the degree of risk depending on the intensity of the manifestation of the terrorist danger: low level (blue color); moderate level (yellow color); high level (orange color) and critical level (red color). It should be noted that, at each established alert level, the competent public authorities will undertake specific measures to ensure national security.

On March 25, 2019, the Security and Intelligence Service (SIS) announced, for an indefinite period, the low level (blue code) of terrorist alert throughout the territory of the Republic of Moldova. The establishment of the blue code provides for a series of mandatory measures for the relevant institutions, as well as recommendations for the population (*Cod albastru de alertă teroristă în R. Moldova. Ce prevede acest lucru*, 2019). However, in the context of the regional security situation created on February 24, 2022, the Security and Intelligence Service introduced the moderate level (yellow code) of terrorist alert.

In the event of the establishment of a moderate level of terrorist alert (yellow code), the authorities with competences in the field of preventing and combating terrorism, within the limits of their powers, undertake the actions intended for the low level, additionally carrying out the following measures:

1) concentrating efforts in order to deter, detect and prevent situations that may cause a terrorist danger;

2) enhancing control measures and ensuring public order at state border crossing points, airports, railway and bus stations, places of mass gathering;

3) checking the state and level of physical protection and increasing security measures at critical infrastructure targets under management, in order to detect and prevent potential terrorist crisis situations;

4) the intensification of measures to verify and ensure public order in places of mass gathering during mass demonstrations, cultural and sporting events, in order to detect possible indicators and risk situations (explosive devices, people with suspicious or violent behavior, etc.);

5) conducting additional training for employees who are involved in taking measures to protect the rules of law and for the personnel within the objectives that may become targets for terrorist attacks;

6) checking the level of training of the forces and the means that can be used in the reaction procedures in terrorist crisis situations and liquidating their consequences (În Republica Moldova a fost instituit nivelul moderat (cod galben) de alertă teroristă, 2022).

In 2020, by the decision of the Government of the Republic of Moldova, the Regulation of the Anti-Terrorist Operational Command (AOC) was approved, which is established in the event of a terrorist crisis. The need for such a Regulation is imposed in order to execute the provisions of art. 25 para. (7) from Law no. 120/2017 on preventing and combating terrorism. Thus, based on the provisions of art. 6 of the stated Law, the Government is the main authority responsible for organizing the activity of preventing and combating terrorism, as well as ensuring it with the necessary forces, means and resources. The Anti-Terrorist Operational Command has the right to use, in the manner established by the Government, the forces and means of the public administration authorities. These authorities make available to the Command human forces, buildings, weaponry, special means, means of electronic communications, information systems, means of transport, other technical and material resources necessary for carrying out the anti-terrorist operation.

For directing and conducting the anti-terrorist operation, the AOC, within the limits established by law, has the following duties: 1) accumulates, generalizes and evaluates information regarding the created situation, determines the risks, character and extent of the

terrorist crisis; 2) prepares the calculation of forces and means necessary for the anti-terrorist operation; 3) elaborates the plan for carrying out the anti-terrorist operation; 4) issues combat orders, other documents that establish the order of preparation and conduct of the anti-terrorist operation, as well as its legal regime; 5) organizes the interaction between the forces involved in the anti-terrorist operation; 6) coordinates the evacuation of the population from the anti-terrorist operation area, as well as organizes the emergency medical assistance process; 7) organizes, in accordance with the legal provisions, the process of negotiations with terrorists; 8) elaborates scenarios regarding the evolution of the crisis situation and the counter-terrorist intervention plan; 9) plans and coordinates, under the conditions provided by the legislation, the counter-terrorist intervention; 10) coordinates the activity of informing the population regarding the terrorist crisis situation; 11) take other measures aimed at removing the terrorist threat and ameliorating the consequences of the terrorist crisis (Hotărîre a Guvernului Republicii Moldova cu privire la aprobarea Regulamentului Comandamentului Operațional Antiterorist, 2020).

Starting from 2007 on the territory of the Republic of Moldova, ATC organizes anti-terrorist exercises (United Forces – 2007 and 2008, Special Forces – 2010, Special Forces – 2011, Meteor– 2012, ENA – 2013, Rădăuți – 2016, Strong Border – 2017, Bucovina – 2018, EST – 2020). The purpose of these practical measures consisted in checking the reaction and response capacities of the competent authorities, evaluating the level of coordination and interaction between the law enforcement agencies and detecting gaps in the national anti-terrorist policy.

In 2008, the official website of the Anti-Terrorism Center of the SIS www.antiterror.sis.md was launched, which reflects the subunit's daily activity, international collaboration with relevant international structures and organizations, full information on the legislative basis and national policy in the field of countering the terrorist phenomenon, etc.

The Anti-Terrorism Center also undertakes measures aimed at boosting the mechanisms of interaction with society and promoting the security culture. In this sense, intelligence and security officers had meetings with representatives of local public authorities and civil society in all districts of the country. Among the main topics addressed are the national security policy, the legislation in the field and the measures implemented at the country level. In the same way, aspects of the cooperation of the Security and Intelligence Service with the authorities carrying out the activity of preventing and combating terrorism were presented. In particular, the provisions of the new Law regarding the prevention and combating of terrorism, the role and place of local public authorities and society in the prevention of terrorism and violent manifestations of extremism were discussed.

One of the Center's activities is related to scientific research in the field of combating and preventing terrorism. Thus, during 2019, an analytical study on the "The Evolution of terrorist attacks in 2019" was developed, and in the summer of 2022 – the analytical study "The Perspective of the United Nations Organization and other international bodies regarding the prevention and combating of violent extremist or terrorist acts" (Buletin informativ - semestrul I – 2020).

The Security and Intelligence Service of the Republic of Moldova ensures, through its specialized subunits, active measures to develop and strengthen the partnership in the field of aeronautical security. Thus, the trainers from the Anti-Terrorism Center and the National Institute of Intelligence and Security "Bogdan, the Founder of Moldova" at the beginning of 2022 conducted a theoretical-practical training course for the employees of the

flight crew of the HiSky airline (Angajați din cadrul personalului navigant al companiei aeriene HiSky, instruiți de ofițerii Centrului Antiterorist al SIS al Republicii Moldova).

The process of preventing and combating terrorism is unachievable without international cooperation. In this context, the Anti-Terrorism Center of the SIS of the Republic of Moldova conducts a relevant exchange of information and good practices with partners abroad, collaborating with specialized structures from Bulgaria, Germany, the USA, France, Romania, the CIS and other states or regional and international organizations (Cooperarea la nivel național și internațional a Serviciului de Informații și de Securitate a Republicii Moldova, 2018).

As mentioned above, the Center is also responsible for the development of a national system designed to prevent possible terrorist attacks, with the emphasis being placed on prevention actions, the improvement of anti-terrorist intervention mechanisms and the adjustment of national legislation to international and European norms. Among these measures, special attention is paid to the ban on the entry into the country of persons suspected of belonging to extremist-terrorist groups or their sympathizers. In order to achieve this objective, the Anti-Terrorism Center of the SIS periodically renews the lists of persons, entities and groups involved in terrorist activities. The respective lists are drawn up based on the consolidated lists established by UN Resolution 1267, 1988, 1989 and Common Position 2001/931/CFSP of the Council of the European Union (Centrul antiterorist al SIS a împlinit 5 ani, 2011).

The Republic of Moldova has experienced the consequences of terrorist activity as a transit zone and shelter for existing or potential terrorists. The Security and Intelligence Service of the Republic of Moldova destroyed a transit network of elements related to international terrorism. The service thwarted the attempt of a group of foreign citizens, originally from the Russian Federation and Tajikistan, to cross the country's territory, possibly having Syria as their final destination. At the same time, the SIS, jointly with the Ministry of Internal Affairs, undertook a complex of special anti-terrorist measures, as a result of which it was possible to identify and annihilate a cell with terrorist elements, made up of foreign citizens suspected of being members of ISIS and who intended to move to Syria (CAT al SIS: combaterea terorismului – problema mondială primordială, 2015).

According to the statement of the former head of the SIS, Mihai Balan, the main purpose of the intruders who arrive in the Republic of Moldova is to leave for the EU, which borders our country (Спецслужбы возьмут «под колпак» всех авиапассажиров, 2017).

Also, according to the opinion of a number of experts, militants who participated in some operations abroad or the wounded who came for treatment may be hiding on the territory of the Republic of Moldova. Likewise, they can hide from the justice of other states.

3. Conclusions

Today it becomes obvious that it is impossible to fight against such threats as terrorism alone. It is necessary to consolidate all the efforts of the international community in the fight against these threats. It should also be noted that, despite all the achievements in countering terrorism at the national and interstate regional levels, the most problematic issues include the development of preventive measures against the potential of terrorists and a prompt response to terrorist challenges, caused by the growth of global instability, the crisis of the neoliberal model of the world economy and institutions of global governance, as well as processes of socio-political destabilization in the region. Namely, these directions must be prioritized for the activity of the Anti-Terrorism Center of the Republic of Moldova.

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