

# Schoolshooting as a modern form of terrorism in the educational environment

*Lyudmila Aleksandrovna Spector<sup>1</sup>, Alexander Danilovich Malutin<sup>2</sup>*

<sup>1</sup>Institute of Service and Entrepreneurship (branch) of Don state Technical University in Shakhty, Shevchenko 110, Shakhty city, Rostov region, 346500, Russia

<sup>2</sup>Institute of Service and Entrepreneurship (branch) of Don state Technical University in Shakhty, Shevchenko 110, Shakhty city, Rostov region, 346500, Russia

## **Abstract.**

Armed attacks by a student or an outsider the attacks on students and teachers inside the educational institution (schoolshooting), which often lead to mass killings, are becoming an urgent problem of ensuring the safety of children. The article discusses the issue of raising awareness of students, future teachers, about the causes and prevention of schoolshooting. A program is proposed that includes a number of activities aimed at raising students' awareness of the causes, prognostic signs, and prevention of mass killings in educational organizations, as well as safe behavior in the event of an attack. The article deals with the issues of crime prevention in the educational environment, examines the normative legal acts adopted by various state authorities. The article examines the feasibility of supplementing the Criminal Code with a new article providing for liability for schoolshooting. The relevance of the chosen topic is due to the fact that aggression and violence among young people, in particular, schoolshooting, are becoming more and more active in the modern world, and armed attacks in schools are becoming a frequent phenomenon.

**Keywords:** schoolshooting, columbine, violence, national security, moral and psychological health of the child, education system.

## **1 Introduction**

One of the most serious threats to organizations these days is the threat of violence. Violence comes in many forms, but the most serious acts typically involve the use of deadly weapons. These incidents can have a tremendous impact on an organization and may result in their complete collapse [1].

Currently, in the structure of crime, minors account for about 8% of all crimes. In addition to the attackers, parents, teachers, the director of an educational organization and a security guard or a person who monitors who visits this institution can be brought to justice.

What's it? Sudden attacks of hatred towards everyone around you, or a natural reaction of a person who constantly endures ridicule and humiliation from classmates? Apparently,

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<sup>1</sup> Corresponding author: [demidenko733@bk.ru](mailto:demidenko733@bk.ru)

along with the expansion of intercultural interaction, negative examples of the foreign social environment have also come to us: violence, promiscuity, base needs and interests, selfishness. All these phenomena have been with us, but, as it seems to us, they did not have such a spread and remain alien to the culture and mentality of Russians. Information about the attacks is spreading rapidly around the world, thanks to the Internet and the media.

It is fixed in the information field. This contributes to the fact that the attackers have followers who to this day strive not only to repeat this "feat", but also to surpass their imitators. Imitation of murders and suicides is well known to science and has its own scientific term - Werther syndrome.

Criminal ideology on the Internet is a phenomenon consisting of a central criminal-ideological theme, means of influence and dissemination tools that are important for the criminological determination of crime. This central theme is the leading component of the phenomenon under consideration. It is often based on the distortion of philosophical, religious and political doctrines, concepts and teachings. The presented component of criminal ideology on the Internet determines its criminogenic content, encourages and justifies certain forms of criminal behavior, contributes to the distortion of the system of value orientations and worldviews, needs, desires, creating a criminogenic "field" into which a person falls. The transmission of criminal ideology on the Internet is provided by means of its dissemination tools, representing a set of resources of the Internet information and telecommunications network used for the dissemination of criminal and ideological concepts, ideas and value orientations. The most popular of them are social networks, messengers, resources of the shadow space of the Internet [2,3].

## **2 Materials and Methods**

When writing an educational and research work, the method of analysis and synthesis is used: First, we analyze disparate legal and literary sources, information from which is synthesized to draw conclusions and form hypotheses.

## **3 Results**

The Columbine ideology was formed after the tragic events in Colorado at Columbine High School, where two students committed an attack, during which 12 students and a teacher were killed. The central theme of Columbine's ideology is the idea of the worthlessness of humanity, strangled by society, work and school as institutions of depletion of human nature.

The latter, in turn, plays a special role - the taming of man, and students who do not understand such mechanisms deserve death. The conceptual ideas of the phenomenon under consideration were reflected in the personal diary of one of the criminals, referred to in the circles of "columbineers" as the "Diary of God". The presented criminal doctrine is based on the simplification and absolutization of the views of Friedrich Nietzsche, the existentialist philosophers - M. Heidegger, J. P. Sartre, A. Camus. The ideological justification of human freedom and individuality, where the most "adequate" form of manifestation is murder, is actively spreading in the information and telecommunication resources of the Internet [4]. The main tools for spreading the presented phenomenon are social networks, forums, messengers, and shadow web resources. In turn, the means of influence of the Columbine ideology in the online space are memes, fan fiction, fan art and other photo and video information broadcast on the Internet.

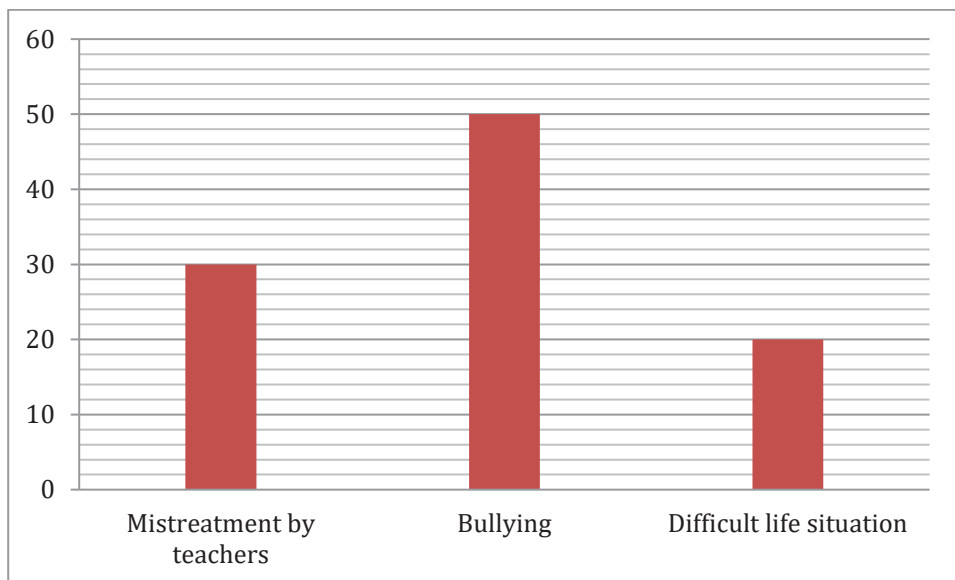
So on the Internet there was a group of VK "Columbine", which has a little more than two thousand subscribers. Almost all the teenagers who attacked their classmates and teachers were in this group. The attacks on the school were mainly committed by students aged 15-18. One of the explanations for this is that it is during this period that young people are most impulsive, almost every one of them strives to stand out from the crowd, to self-actualize [5].

The most impressionable and driven of them often become victims of manipulators in Internet networks or participants in such subcultures as Columbine. A wide variety of weapons can be used for an attack: smoothbore and rifled firearms (rifles, carbines and pistols), edged weapons (knives, axes), explosive devices. To understand the reasons for this behavior, it is necessary to consider several external and internal factors together.

In the case of schoolshooting, the tragedy lies in the fact that these terrible attacks are committed not by terrorists, not by bandits, but by students of the same educational institutions. That is, those with whom the victims were familiar, often communicated, did not expect anything bad or dangerous from them.

And the victims are teachers who taught them, classmates or people who accidentally got in their way. The most common reasons for such attacks, according to students, are abuse by teachers, classmates, bullying at school, mental health disorders, family problems, imitation of "shooters". No one has indicated that the cause may be the harmful influence of social networks, computer games.

**Table 1.** The most common causes of attacks.



*Source:* ("Compiled by the authors").

Despite the measures taken to combat the "skulshutink", the problem has not been completely solved. To date, mass security checks have been carried out on the territory of the Russian Federation - the presence of an evacuation plan, the operability of access systems and video surveillance systems, alarm buttons [6]. These requirements are fixed in the Decree of the Government of the Russian Federation dated 07.10.2017 No. 1235. In 2019, a bill (No.

472069-7.) was submitted to the State Duma to ban the sale of pneumatic weapons to minors, but due to the "withdrawal of the initiative" it was withdrawn from consideration. It should be noted that, along with all the attempts being made, the issue of limiting the distribution of computer games containing open propaganda of violence and cruelty remains unresolved; monitoring minors in social networks, blocking groups containing information that violates the moral and psychological health of a child has not yet found its practical reflection. It should also be noted that in the current Criminal Code, a special norm establishing criminal liability for the crime in question is not fixed.

## 4 Discussion

Analyzing the judicial practice in cases of "schoolshooters", we will highlight the most applicable articles: Part 2 of Article 105 of the Criminal Code; Part 2 of Article 115; Part 2 of Article 116 of the Criminal Code; Article 205 of the Criminal Code; Part 4 of Article 206 of the Criminal Code; Article 213 of the Criminal Code; Part 1 of Article 223.1 of the Criminal Code; Article 282 of the Criminal Code. In the case when such acts did not lead to serious consequences specified in the disposition of the articles, the actions are qualified as hooliganism.

For example, on September 5, 2017, in the Educational Center No. 1 of the city of Ivanteevka, Moscow region, a student opened fire with an air rifle using explosives. As a result of the attack, 4 people suffered bodily injuries of varying severity. The attacker on February 15, 2019 was sentenced to imprisonment under Part 3 of Article 30, Part 2 of Article 105, part 3 of Article 213 of the Criminal Code of the Russian Federation. Also, on October 17, 2018, Kerch Polytechnic College, 21 people were killed, 67 people were injured [7,8].

The attacker used a pump-action shotgun, which he had a license to own, as well as explosive devices. The actions of the attacker were qualified by the investigation under paragraphs "a" and "e" of Part 2 of Article 105 (murder of two or more persons in a generally dangerous way), as well as Part 1 of Article 222.1 of the Criminal Code of the Russian Federation. An example of the tragedy that occurred on September 20, 2021 should be given. A student of Perm State University staged a shooting at the university as a result of which 6 people were killed and about 40 people were injured. In all these cases, it is possible to find a connection with the tragedy that occurred on April 20, 1999, namely the crime scenario, the clothes of the attackers, confessions and signatures on social networks. All changes in the current legislation on the topic under consideration are aimed only at countering the propaganda of "schoolshooting". In this regard, today the issue of the need to amend the criminal legislation concerning various manifestations of "schoolshooting" is debatable. The Investigative Committee of the Russian Federation supported the bill proposed by the authorities of Tatarstan concerning the prohibition of propaganda of "schoolshooting" [9].

## 5 Conclusion

It is proposed to supplement the Criminal Code of the Russian Federation with Article 207.3 "Organization of activities aimed at inciting violence against citizens and (or) harming one's own health." It is worth partially agreeing with the opinion of S.L. Petrenko, an employee of the RF IC, who noted that the creation of videos and other immoral content that encourages children to commit illegal actions does not bear serious responsibility and the new article will reduce the amount of dangerous content and will play the role of a preventive tool [10,11]. But, on the other hand, there are already articles in the Criminal Code of the Russian Federation, according to which it is possible to qualify the antisocial behavior of the attackers. However, we believe that in this case it is necessary to proceed from the fact that the criminal,

shooting at people, does not aim to kill or harm this particular person, i.e. they are not the original goal in terms of choosing a personalized victim of criminal violence and, in our opinion, it is this feature that distinguishes the crimes we are considering from murder committed during interpersonal conflicts when the victim is determined in advance.

It is also important to pay attention to a certain ritual of schoolshooting, namely: specific clothing, which is present in almost all cases that have occurred in Russia, the route - corridors, classrooms, library, and also for these reasons, we consider it justified to supplement the Criminal Code of the Russian Federation with an article providing for responsibility for schoolshooting, which needs to be talked about as a new phenomenon in the country. The ability to protect against outside threats is the responsibility of every employee, contractor and guest. Every authorized person should be trained and retrained on security awareness and procedures, emergency actions, the reporting process, and any other site specific requirements in regards to safety and security. A few options to consider in addition to the ones listed under internal threats are [12].

Implement physical security countermeasures (lighting, barriers, locks and access control, video, intrusion detection, security officers, security procedures and guidelines, etc.) Prepositioning of specialized equipment for first responders that provides rapid access and supports their response (maps/floor plans, chemical masks, bolt cutters, keys/badges, tactical breaching tools, door stops).

Strategically place medical items around the site and provide training on their application (tourniquets, blood-clotting bandages, airway tubing, etc.) [13]. Verify/test all communication systems and prepare a message. Test the entire site for operable one-way and two-way communications, and consider individual real-time communication technology such as. In addition, the organization should have a previously prepared message to alert and inform everyone on site.

Provide training, awareness education and exercises. Training for a shooting is different than most emergency scenarios as it involves a rapid individual decision on what to do and when to do it. Awareness education can give each participant knowledge about potential triggers and motivations that could initiate an attack, along with best practices for communications and actions to be considered in response to a shooting. Exercises help test the overall plan using realistic scenarios, find vulnerabilities, and improve coordination and collaboration with first responders [14,15].

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