

On the Advantages and Disadvantages of Russia's Anti-terrorism Mechanism

Xiao Kaiqiang

School of Basic Teaching Department, Southwest Petroleum University, Mianyang, China

Keywords: Russia, anti-terrorism mechanism, advantages, disadvantages, enlightenment

Abstract: After the disintegration of the Soviet Union, Russia has always faced a serious threat of terrorism. Anti-terrorism has become an important means of maintaining Russia's social stability and national security. In the long-term practice of counter-terrorism, Russia has formed a set of relatively mature and effective anti-terrorism mechanisms, which have played an important role in preventing, stopping and combating domestic terrorist activities. This paper intends to analyze the advantages and disadvantages of Russia's anti-terrorism mechanism, and hopes to provide useful experience for the improvement and development of future counter-terrorism mechanisms.

1. Introduction

After Russia's independence, both the terrorist activities of the separatist forces in the country and the terrorist activities of neighboring countries, especially Central Asian countries, have caused great threats to their national security environment. But this also promoted the formation and development of Russia's counter-terrorism mechanism. Although Russia's anti-terrorism mechanism has achieved great results in the implementation process, it has effectively prevented many terrorist activities in the pipeline. However, in recent years, terrorist incidents in Russia, such as the Moscow Metro bombings and the Federal Security Administration College bombings, have also exposed some of the shortcomings in Russia's counter-terrorism mechanism.

2. Advantages of the Russian anti-terrorism mechanism

2.1 A relatively complete anti-terrorism legal system

In the complicated and ever-changing practice of counter-terrorism, Russia has gradually established a relatively complete anti-terrorism legal system in order to better combat various forms of terrorist activities. This has become the basis and important guarantee for its anti-terrorism work process. Russia's anti-terrorism legal system can be basically divided into three categories: the basic law against terrorism, the special anti-terrorism law and the anti-terrorism auxiliary law.

1) The Basic Law against Terrorism is the core law of Russia in combating terrorism and safeguarding national security. The Constitution of the Russian Federation, passed in 1993, clearly stipulates that any form of attempt to subvert the Russian government and sovereignty, endanger national security, and form armed forces is prohibited.^[1] Based on this, Russia made major changes to its criminal code in 1997. The Criminal Code stipulates the concept of organized crime and the conditions of criminal responsibility for organizing, leading and committing crimes. It also defines and sentenced terrorist acts in more detail in Articles 205 to 211 of Chapter 24 of Title XIX. And by further clarifying the nature of terrorist activities, the Criminal Code provides a weapon for the police to fight against terrorist forces.^[2]

2) The special anti-terrorism law has laid a solid foundation for the final formation of the Russian anti-terrorism legal system. Russia has promulgated two anti-terrorism laws. One is the Anti-Terrorism Law of the Russian Federation promulgated in 1998. In this law, the purpose, principles, organization and international cooperation of anti-terrorist acts are detailed, and the legal and organizational basis for Russia's counter-terrorism is determined. The actions of the executives at all levels, social organizations, organizations, officials and individuals in the fight against terrorism have clearly defined the rights and obligations of citizens in the fight against terrorism. The formulation and implementation of the special anti-terrorism law is of great significance in

preventing the breeding and spreading of terrorism thoughts and actions.

3) Anti-terrorism auxiliary legal documents are an important supplement to the construction of anti-terrorism legal system. In the course of Russia's anti-terrorism practice, anti-terrorism legal documents such as the "Orders on Measures against Terrorism", the "Russian Anti-Terrorism Concept" and the "State of Emergency Law" was also enacted. Russia has also signed a series of conventions and documents related to counter-terrorism in the process of counter-terrorism cooperation with other countries. These counter-terrorism legal documents have to some extent made up for the shortcomings of the Basic Law and the Special Law in certain aspects, and are an important part of the Russian anti-terrorism legal system.

A comprehensive legal system provides the necessary legal basis for determining terrorist activities and clarifying terrorist acts. This allows the armed forces to take decisive measures in the course of handling terrorist incidents, greatly improving the ability and efficiency of counter-terrorism. This complete legal system also reflects the supremacy of national security and reflects the advanced legislative thinking of resolutely cracking down on various types of terrorist crimes.

2.2 Efficient leadership and action mechanism

In the long-term practice of counter-terrorism, in accordance with relevant laws and regulations, Russia has established a set of efficient leadership and action mechanisms organized by the President to the National Counter-Terrorism Committee and then to the Federal Security Agency.

1) The Russian President, as the head of state, is the main responsible person for formulating the national counter-terrorism strategy. He has the right to declare the beginning and end of anti-terrorist actions, has the right to appoint and disapprove the heads of various counter-terrorism departments, and has the right to declare implementation in a certain region or even across the country. In response to the state of emergency of terrorist acts, the right to mobilize troops to participate in the siege of terrorist acts is the main leader of the government's anti-terrorist actions.

2) The National Counter-Terrorism Committee is Russia's highest anti-terrorism decision-making and coordinating body, directly responsible to the President, and the chairman is the Director of the Federal Security Administration. The main task is to put forward anti-terrorism proposals to the president, help improve the anti-terrorism laws, and coordinate counter-terrorism actions of various federal and local authorities. In addition, the National Counter-Terrorism Committee also assisted in coordinating the mobilization of nine major relevant departments, including the Federal Security Administration, the Ministry of Internal Affairs, the Ministry of National Defense, the Foreign Intelligence Agency, and the Ministry of Emergency Situations, to participate in anti-terrorist operations.^[3]

3) The Federal Security Service is the main executive department of Russia's counter-terrorism activities. Their main task is to collect intelligence through various means and measures to expose the terrorist activities of terrorist organizations and terrorists. Organize and implement detective measures to expose, prevent and suppress illegally armed organizations. Cooperate with other state organs and organizations to combat various types of terrorist activities and to discredit the main activities of terrorist organizations.

This set of effective anti-terrorism leadership and action mechanism is an important part of Russia's national security system. This avoids the emergence of multiple political and deportation in anti-terrorist operations, so that counter-terrorism forces can act in anti-terrorism operations. The decisive attack has ensured the efficiency of Russia's anti-terrorist operations and reduced the incidence of terrorist attacks to a certain extent.

2.3 Professional anti-terrorism special forces

In order to deal with the threat of complex and ever-changing terrorist activities, Russia has specially established professional anti-terrorism special force to fight terrorists. The special forces of Russia include the special forces of the Ministry of Defense, the Ministry of Internal Affairs, the Ministry of Emergency Situations, and the Federal Security Service. They are mainly divided into three categories:

The first category is the “СНБ РФ (Gruou)”. The “СНБ РФ (Gruou)” is the abbreviation of the Russian Military Intelligence Directorate. As the only military intelligence agency in Russia, it is mainly responsible for collecting all intelligence that may threaten the security of the Russian state, threatening and preventing the occurrence of sudden attacks, and carrying out various kinds of attacks behind the enemy. Destructive activities have effectively curbed all kinds of threats to Russia. It is a veritable wind and clairvoyance in Russia. In the handling of domestic wars and conflicts, the “СНБ РФ (Gruou)” played an important role. In the second Chechen war, the “СНБ РФ (Gruou)” eliminated more than 3,000 Chechen militants and in 2004 destroyed the Chechen dagger Graev.

The second category is the special force attached to the Russian Federal Security Service. As two swords of the anti-terrorist operation of the Russian Federal Security Service, the two special forces of “Alpha” and “Signal Flag” are mainly responsible for domestic anti-terrorism activities. One is responsible for foreign anti-subversion and vigilance against Russia's foreign targets, and defending Russian national security. Play an extremely important role. Among them, the “Alpha” special force were well known for their excellent hostages in the mine water city, the hostage incident in Moscow Red Square and the hostage incident at the Moscow Opera House. The “signal flag” special force also performed eye-catching in stopping the terrorist bombings on the outskirts of Yekaterinburg and the Beslan hostages and became the main force in Russia's anti-terrorist operations.

The third category is the Internal Security Force of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Russian Federation. Among the internal forces, there are many forces such as “Warrior”, “Rose” and “Rosic”, among which the “Warrior” special force are the most famous. The “Warrior” Special Forces are specifically responsible for counter-terrorism missions, but they have also been trained to cope with internal insurrections, prison insurrections, and mutiny of regular troops. They not only played an important role in combating Chechen militants in the Chechen war, but also in Kizlia. Both the hostage incident and the handling of the hostage events at the Moscow Opera House have performed well. On September 1, 2008, the “Warrior” Special Forces and the “Ross” Special Forces merged into the “604th Special Operations Center”, under the direct command of the Ministry of Internal Affairs.

2.4 A fairly mature international cooperation mechanism against terrorism

In the process of cracking down on domestic and international terrorist activities, Russia actively carried out international cooperation against terrorism and formed a counter-terrorism cooperation mechanism of “United Nations - neighboring countries - Western countries.”

1) Strongly support the leading role of the United Nations in the field of counter-terrorism. After the “9.11” incident, Putin made an important speech clearly indicating the need to focus on strengthening the important role of the UN and its Security Council in strengthening national security, and Russia's actual actions to join all anti-terrorism conventions under the UN framework have shown Active support from the United Nations-led international counter-terrorism cooperation.

2) Strengthening counter-terrorism cooperation with neighboring countries is the most important and core content of Russia's international cooperation against terrorism. Cooperation with neighboring countries mainly includes anti-terrorism cooperation with the CIS countries and SCO member states. In 2000, Russia and other CIS countries signed the “Program of Joint Opposition of International Terrorism of the Commonwealth of Independent States” and the “CIS Constitution of Anti-Terrorist Centers”, and in June 2001 established the CIS against terrorism. Center, this is an important function of counter-terrorism cooperation among CIS member states.

3) Although there are certain differences between Russia and the Western countries, since both sides are facing the threat of terrorism, Russia is still actively strengthening cooperation and exchanges with the Western countries on anti-terrorism issues. In March 2005, Russia and the NATO Council convened a military representative conference on military cooperation in the field of counter-terrorism. In September 2016, Russia and the United States reached an agreement on combating extremist organizations in Syria. The counter-terrorism cooperation between Russia and

the West is of great significance to its ties to the terrorist forces inside and outside the country and to weaken the strength of domestic terrorism.

3. The defects of Russia's anti-terrorism mechanism

In Russia's long-term anti-terrorism practice, it has gradually formed a relatively complete anti-terrorism theory, system as well as action machine. However, there is also a tendency to focus on one side, so that it still faces a more serious threat of counter-terrorism.

3.1 Heavy blow, light prevention

Under the pressure of strong counter-terrorism, Russia's anti-terrorism situation has changed a lot in recent years, but the Chechen area, which is the source of terrorism, has not been dealt with well. Therefore, Russia still has a serious threat of terrorism. At present, the organizers and implementers of major terrorist attacks in Russia are basically Chechen rebel forces. Although the Russian army has eliminated most of the Chechen rebels through two Chechen wars and many clearings, there are still some insurgents still relying on them. The terrain and the Russian army have been circling, and various terrorist attacks against the government and civilians have been planned, which has put great pressure on Russia's anti-terrorist operations.

The current turmoil and instability in the Chechnya area is an important reason why the insurgent armed forces can continue to exist and develop. After more than a decade of civil war and conflict, the economy of Chechnya has been riddled with turmoil and social unrest, making it the most backward region in Russia. To truly reduce the threat of Russian terrorism, in addition to strengthening the clean-up of the Chechen rebels, promoting the sustained and healthy development of the economy and society in Chechnya is an important part. Only by continuously developing the local economy, creating new jobs, and improving the living standards of local residents can we cut off the sources of power of the Chechen rebels from the roots.

3.2 Vulnerabilities in the anti-terrorism system

After years of anti-terrorism practice, Russia has formed a relatively mature anti-terrorism system. However, Russia still has serious problems such as weak intelligence disposal, lax enforcement, corruption and corruption, which has led to terrorist attacks.

1) The intelligence department is not sensitive to intelligence information. Take the 2004 Beslan hostage incident as an example. The terrorists led by Hook Barov had lived in the Marka Becketki area for a few days before the implementation of the operation, but the local security bureau did not receive any information. Even the terrorists who bought the raw materials related to explosives in the local market did not attract the attention of the local police department, which eventually led to a serious "hostage incident."^[4]

2) There are loopholes in the security system and system in Russia. Regardless of the airport or the subway station, the security inspection system is rather chaotic, especially in the use and deployment of high-tech anti-terrorism equipment. Taking the subway as an example, the Moscow metro is one of the largest subways in the world. Its security system and system are very backward. Generally, there is no security equipment at the entrance of the Moscow subway. The passengers on the station are taking "sampling inspection". The security check method, when the security personnel find suspicious files, will ask the other party to accept the instrument inspection, which gives terrorists a chance to take the explosives into the subway. The 2010 Moscow subway bombings and the 2017 St. Petersburg subway bombings have a lot to do with this.

3) Russia's anti-terrorism program has not been adjusted in time, and there is a phenomenon of lack of pertinence. With the strengthening of the fight against terrorism, the arrogance of terrorists has been contained. Although terrorism does not have the capacity to organize large-scale terrorist activities, it has begun to use suicide bombings, such as low-cost, concealed and harmful methods, as the main means of terrorist attacks. However, the Russian counter-terrorism department did not timely adjust the anti-terrorism program to this change, and did not formulate supporting countermeasures and plans to enable terrorists to succeed frequently. For example, in 2010, the

“suicide attack” at the Lubyanka subway station killed 22 people; in 2011, at least 10 people were killed and 20 injured in a suicide bombing in Domodedovo airport in Moscow.

In addition, some government officials and military and police officials in Russia have serious corruption and illegal acts. They lost their positions in the face of the temptation of monetary interests and slandered with terrorists. This not only severely restricts the implementation of the anti-terrorism system and the effective development of counter-terrorism actions, but further deepens the contradiction with the people has enabled terrorists to use these opportunities and contradictions to continuously recruit new members and expand their sphere of influence.

In today’s world, the threat of terrorism is growing, and many countries face situations similar to those faced by Russia. By analyzing the advantages and existing problems in Russia's anti-terrorism mechanism, I hope relevant countries can learn from and learn from Russia's anti-terrorism experience, carefully analyze their shortcomings and shortcomings, and actively establish and improve anti-terrorism mechanisms in line with the national conditions of each country.

References

- [1] Hu Xiangchun. Russia's anti-terrorism policy and practice [J]. Modern Military, 2015, (10), 48-53.
- [2] Wang Meili, Xi Wei. A Comparative Study of Chinese and Russian Anti-terrorism Legislation [J], Journal of Hunan University of Science and Technology (Social Science Edition), 2010, (6), 76-80.
- [3] Dai Yanmei. Research on Russian anti-terrorism mechanism [J], Russia Central and Eastern Europe Studies, 2012, (05), 31-38+95-96.
- [4] Liu Xiaoyan. Research on Russian Counter-terrorism Intelligence Errors [J], Journal of the Chinese People's Armed Police Force. 2010, (05), 90-93.