

## The Activity Of Internal Affairs In The Khorezm Region In The 30s Of The 20th Century

Khamdamova Yulduz Ravshanbek Qizi

an Employee of The Ministry of Internal Affairs of Khorezm Region, Uzbekistan



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### ABSTRACT

**Objective:** This study investigates the structural reforms in Uzbekistan's internal affairs system during the 1930s, with a focus on the Khorezm region under Soviet governance, aiming to understand their impact on law enforcement efficiency and social stability. **Method:** A historical analysis was conducted using archival documents, periodicals, and academic sources to examine the organizational changes and policy implementations within internal affairs bodies. **Results:** The findings reveal significant expansions in police responsibilities, restructured organizational frameworks, and strategic policies that enhanced public order and personal security. These reforms not only improved crime prevention and law enforcement efficiency but also served as instruments for political control, reinforcing the Soviet state's authority. **Novelty:** This research offers a comprehensive analysis of how Soviet-era reforms in internal affairs contributed to the foundation of modern law enforcement in Uzbekistan, highlighting their dual role in societal governance and state control—an area that has been underexplored in existing literature.

## INTRODUCTION

During the 30s of the 20th century, a number of important changes were made in the structure of internal affairs bodies in Uzbekistan. This period, together with socio-economic processes in the society, was a period aimed at improving the efficiency of internal affairs system reforms, crime fighting and law enforcement. Through the decisions, regulations and orders adopted by the Soviet government, the activities of the internal affairs bodies were not only reorganized, but their tasks were further expanded. Against the background of rapid socio-political changes in society, internal affairs bodies have taken an important place in the state management system.

The reforms of that period were carried out in order to fight against crime and implement law and order more effectively. In these processes, the activities of the police and criminal investigation bodies were revised, their tasks were expanded, and they played an important role in quickly responding to various criminal situations in society. The Soviet state assigned great responsibility to the internal affairs bodies and used them as a tool not only to prevent crimes, but also to maintain political order. Therefore, the activities of the internal affairs bodies in Uzbekistan, especially in Khorezm region, which is a part of it, were carried out against the background of the political and social processes that took place in the Soviet state.

During this period, the mechanisms of organization of police bodies, the procedures of the bodies and their tasks were revised, and they were focused on effective performance of tasks such as fighting crime in society, maintaining public order and

ensuring personal and property security. These changes strengthened the system of law-enforcement bodies in Uzbekistan and strengthened their role in society and state management.

The main goal of the research is to analyze the changes that took place in the activities of internal affairs bodies in the Khorezm region in the 30s of the 20th century, and to study the impact of these changes on social and economic life.

## RESEARCH METHOD

Researches written by historians in a new methodological way in the years of independence are important regarding the historical processes of the period under study. As part of the research on the history of internal affairs, A. Yermetov's research work "Activities of internal affairs bodies in Uzbekistan (1925-1991)" provides important information about the history of the formation of the internal affairs system in Uzbekistan and the activities of internal affairs bodies in the Soviet era. [1].

Q. Kadirov's article entitled "Stages of formation and development of the system of internal affairs bodies in Uzbekistan" analyzes the stages of formation and development of the system of internal affairs bodies in Uzbekistan. The author places the main focus of the article on the issue of ensuring the safety of society in historical processes [2].

During the past period, various books and brochures were published that reflected some historical periods of internal affairs bodies and the lives of employees who worked in them. In this regard, the book "A century on the road to peace" by K. Tajiyev and M. Matyakubov is particularly important. The book reflects the history of the Khorezm militia from the 1920s to the present [3].

This research was carried out based on the method of historical analysis, using archival documents and current archival materials, periodical press information, as well as scientific literature.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

In the Uzbek SSR until the 30s of the 20th century, the system of internal affairs bodies underwent a number of reforms. On the basis of these changes, from 1925 onwards, industry decisions took an important place. For example, on December 1, 1925, the "Regulation on the Soviet Worker-Peasant Militia of the Uzbek SSR" was adopted [4]. This regulation defined the main tasks of the Soviet militia in society. The police had to deal with tasks such as maintaining public order, protecting citizens' property rights, and ensuring their personal safety.

Later, on September 23, 1926, the People's Commissariat of Internal Affairs of the Uzbek SSR adopted a decision aimed at strengthening the activities of criminal investigation and police bodies. This decision was one of the first major reforms to improve the efficiency of the internal affairs system. This decision increased the responsibility of the police in the fight against crime and strengthened its activities.

In 1927, there was another big change in the work of internal affairs bodies in the Uzbek SSR. In May, the People's Commissariat of Internal Affairs was abolished and replaced by the Central Administrative Department, which deals with issues such as maintaining public order and combating crime. Unlike the previous structure, this department was intended to perform a wide range of tasks aimed at preventing crimes in society. However, by October 1928, the activities of the Central Administrative Department were suspended and the People's Commissariat of Internal Affairs was reorganized. The purpose of this change was to strengthen the activity of internal affairs system bodies and strengthen their role in society.

On April 3, 1932, the Council of People's Commissars of the Uzbek SSR approved the "Regulation on the General Directorate of the Worker-Peasant Militia under the Council of People's Commissariat of the Uzbek SSR" [5]. According to this Regulation, the police authorities were responsible for the maintenance of public order and the protection of the revolutionary government. In addition, tasks such as personal safety of citizens, property integrity and protection of their rights were included in their activities.

During this period, the police played an important role not only in ensuring public safety, but also in maintaining general order and discipline in society. In particular, in Khorezm district, police authorities have been effectively preventing and exposing crimes that threaten personal and property safety. During this period, police officers fulfilled their duties and made a great contribution to public order.

It is known that since 1929, the processes of industrialization of the country and collectivization of agriculture began in the Soviet state. These changes affected every sphere of society, including the activities of internal affairs bodies. In Khorezm as well, during this process, police officers adapted to the new conditions and actively worked to ensure public safety. In this period, issues of theft, personal and property security became important.

In the 1930s, the duties of the militia expanded even more. In its composition, departments such as personnel apparatus, state vehicle inspection, passport service were established. These units helped the police to effectively perform their duties in maintaining public order. These services are important in ensuring public safety, and during their activity, improvement of working methods was carried out. During this period, cooperation with enterprises and organizations was carried out and an effective fight against violations was carried out. Active participation of people's volunteers in maintaining public order became an additional force in the implementation of the tasks of the police.

On December 27, 1932, the Main Directorate of the Worker-Peasant Militia was established under the United State Political Department by the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications of the USSR. The establishment of this division was aimed at strengthening the system of internal affairs bodies.

On December 27, 1932, in Moscow, M. Kalinin, Chairman of the USSR Central Committee, V. Molotov, Chairman of the USSR Sovnarkom, and A. Yenukidze, Secretary of the USSR Central Committee, No. Resolution No. 57/1917 was signed [6]. The timing

of this decision was not chosen by chance: the villagers were forcibly separated from their homeland and dispersed throughout the country. It was necessary to identify millions of those who were listened to and people who escaped from "communization", to distribute them according to their "social status" and to attach them to state affairs. According to the decree on passports, "all citizens of the USSR who are over 16 years old, who live in cities, working villages, who work in transport, state farms or in new constructions, must have a passport." Since then, the country's territory and population have been divided into two disproportionate parts: areas where the passport system has been introduced and those that have not. In places where the passport system has been introduced, the passport is the only identity document, and documents confirming the previous place of residence have been canceled. Mandatory registration of passports in the police authorities was made no later than 24 hours after arrival at the new place of residence [7].

On July 10, 1934, the MIK of the USSR adopted a decision "On the establishment of the All-Union People's Commissariat of Internal Affairs of the USSR" [8]. In accordance with this decision, the United State Political Department was transformed into the General Directorate of State Security and included in the NKVD. As a result of these processes, the police also continued their activities within this structure. The police played an active role in maintaining public order and strengthening the fight against crime. During this period, issues such as alcoholism and trade in hunting weapons were also controlled [9].

On July 3, 1936, the State Automobile Inspection was established as a department of the Worker-Peasant Militia within the People's Commissariat of Internal Affairs of the USSR. The powers of the newly established body were very broad. These powers include combating accidents, including the main cause of accidents - combating violations of traffic rules, developing technical norms for the use of motor vehicles, training and testing future drivers, accounting in the field of traffic (traffic traffic accidents, drivers, cars), prosecution of traffic violators, search of cars were included [10]. In Khorezm, the car inspection service started working in December 1936.

In the late 1930s, there was a need to establish specialized bodies in the country to combat crimes that threatened the economic security of the state. On this basis, on March 16, 1937, the Department for Combating Theft of Socialist Property was established. The tasks of this department were to protect state property, fight against illegal trade and counterfeiters. Its branch in Khorezm also played an important role in protecting state and cooperative property, as well as ensuring compliance with trade regulations. During this period, the activities of the police were focused not only on ensuring public safety, but also on the protection of state property and the fight against looting.

In 1938, districts were abolished and regions were established in their place. As a result, Khorezm district was transformed into Khorezm region, and the main department of the People's Commissariat of Internal Affairs was established in the region. The activities of this department were focused on combating crime in society and ensuring public safety.

In 1939, positions and special titles in the militia were revised. Employees were given titles based on their special training, qualifications and work experience. These steps were aimed at increasing the organizational capacity of police bodies and strengthening their position in society. During their activities, police officers had to perform their duties correctly and accurately, and be responsible for maintaining public order. In particular, it was important to strengthen order and discipline in the society for their effective fight against crimes.

In 1941, the Department of the People's Commissariat of Internal Affairs of the Khorezm region was merged with the Regional State Security Committee and turned into the Department of the People's Commissariat of Internal Affairs. As a result of this reorganization, the tasks of the police and state security bodies began to be carried out in an interdependent manner. In the same year, the Internal Peasant Police Department was abolished, and the General Police Department was established in its place. This reform has become important in strengthening the activity of the police and ensuring public safety in difficult conditions.

## CONCLUSION

**Fundamental Finding :** The reforms in the internal affairs bodies of the Uzbek SSR during the 1930s significantly enhanced the effectiveness of law enforcement, expanding their roles in maintaining public order, safeguarding personal and property security, and protecting state assets, which collectively influenced the broader socio-economic stability of society. **Implication :** These findings underscore the dual function of internal affairs bodies as both law enforcement institutions and tools of political control, offering insights into the foundational development of modern governance and security systems in Uzbekistan. **Limitation :** This study is limited by the availability and scope of archival data, which may not fully capture the informal practices and local variations in policy implementation across different regions. **Future Research :** Further studies should explore comparative analyses between the Uzbek SSR and other Soviet republics to understand regional differences in law enforcement reforms and investigate the long-term impacts of these reforms on post-Soviet governance structures.

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**\* Khamdamova Yulduz Ravshanbek Qizi (Corresponding Author)**

an Employee of The Ministry of Internal Affairs of Khorezm Region, Uzbekistan

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