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<https://doi.org/10.61796/ejlhss.v1i7.755>**ORGANIZATION AND ACTIVITY OF THE POLICE
BODIES IN THE BUKHARA PEOPLE'S SOVIET
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Abstract: This article addresses the issues of the organization and activities of the police agencies in the Bukhara People's Soviet Republic. The author highlights the shortcomings in the knowledge and skills of police officers, their lack of sufficient practical experience, and the existence of problems in material provision, which have led to cases of corruption and abuse of their service duties. Key attention is paid to issues related to law enforcement, including the judiciary, prosecution, public security, penalties, emir's courts, contracts, Red Army, crime prevention, prisons, detention centres, revolution, council, and Bolsheviks

Keywords: police, judiciary, prosecution, public security, penalties, courts, contracts, Red Army, crime prevention, prisons, revolution, council, Bolshevik

This is an open-access article under the [CC-BY 4.0](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/) license**Introduction**

In September 1920, after the abolition of the emirate administration in Bukhara, power passed to the revolutionary committee of the Young Bukharians government. After that, with the establishment of the new republic, the formation of the Red militia agencies began. Mukhtorjon Saidjonov was appointed as the leader in organizing the Red Militia [1:147]. Recruitment into the Red Militia was not done forcibly; young individuals who desired to work in the militia were voluntarily enlisted. Additionally, due to the unclear establishment of the militia's staff (the number of personnel in the militia), individuals of various ages were accepted into the Red Militia based on demand. Naturally, the emir's courts did not interfere with the Red militia. However, it was emphasized by the Bolsheviks that the oppressive rule of the emirate administration was abolished, while the Red militia was declared as the executor of the working and peasant government [2:181].

Methods

Historical Analysis: The article employs a historical research design to examine the organization and activity of police bodies in the Bukhara People's Soviet Republic. This involves collecting and analyzing primary sources such as official documents, laws, and archival records from the period.

Comparative Study: It may include a comparative aspect, comparing the organization of police bodies in Bukhara with other Soviet republics or similar administrative units during the same time period.

Primary Sources: The study relies on primary sources such as government reports, legislative documents, and archival materials related to the organization and functioning of police bodies in Bukhara.

Secondary Sources: Additionally, secondary sources like scholarly works, historical analyses, and comparative studies provide context and supplementary information.

Content Analysis: The article employs content analysis to examine the structure, roles, and responsibilities of police bodies in Bukhara. This involves categorizing and interpreting textual data from primary and secondary sources to identify patterns and themes

Result and Discussion

On September 15, 1920, Mukhtorjon Saidjonov was appointed as the head of the newly established Department of Internal Affairs and Hoji Fayzullo Solih was appointed to lead the Bukhara City (capital) security department [3:147]. The formation of the government of the Bukhara People's Soviet Republic and the Ministry of Internal Affairs, as well as the division of responsibilities with Muinjon, were documented in the memoirs of Zaki Validiy [4:331-b].

All laws, regulations, and directives of the Red Army were applied to the activities of the militia. This was accepted on the basis of the legality of the internal affairs commissariats of the Turkestan ASSR and the RSFSR. Specifically, the organization of internal affairs activities and the tasks of the Worker-Peasant Militia were based on the regulations and decisions adopted in the Turkestan ASSR. On April 22, 1920, the "Regulation on the Soviet Worker-Peasant Militia" was adopted by the Turkestan ASSR and the Bukhara People's Soviet Republic [5:37-b]. This regulation took into account the experience gathered in organizing the militia in the Turkestan ASSR and the RSFSR. Following this model, the Worker-Peasant Militia was established in the Bukhara People's Soviet Republic on September 30, 1920 [6:44-b].

The establishment of law enforcement agencies in the Bukhara People's Soviet Republic began from the earliest days of its existence. At this juncture, the newly established Ministry of Internal Affairs (commissariat) was tasked with overseeing the implementation of all decisions and decrees of both central and local authorities. The central and local administrative bodies managed the activities of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, organized the militia, and supervised prisons [7:65].

In late September 1920, the General Security Department ("Amniyat Umumiya") was established within the Ministry of Internal Affairs to maintain public order in the republic, with Ali Rizo appointed as its head. Subsequently, under the leadership of regional revolutionary committees, provincial militia services began to be organized [8:147].

By late October, Hoji Fayzullo Solih was appointed as the head of the investigative department of the General Security Department, while the directorate of the city and Bukhara provincial security department was assigned to Yunus Mahmudov [9:147].

By September 1921, within one year, militia administrations were established in all provinces of the Bukhara People's Soviet Republic, and it was determined that militia personnel would serve the population of the kingdom residing in the provinces straightforwardly.

In 1922, the Department of Investigations was established within the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Bukhara People's Soviet Republic [10:4-5-b]. Its responsibility was to create police measures to prevent incidents that could potentially harm the personal security of citizens or disrupt the state system established in the republic, due to actions taken by certain individuals or groups. The department was divided into three sections: political investigations (struggle against counter-revolutionaries), criminal investigations (struggle against crime), and militia (protection of citizens' personal and legal rights) [11:29-b].

During the initial period in the Bukhara People's Soviet Republic, due to the inadequacy of personnel in the internal affairs agencies, it became necessary to impose compulsory militia duties on the population. In each area where people lived, one or two individuals were selected and entrusted with the responsibility of maintaining order under their supervision. Those selected from the areas actively participated with the oversight and assistance of the militia agencies. According to available information, this method of maintaining public order was also implemented outside of the Bukhara People's Soviet Republic, in the Khorezm People's Soviet Republic. Individuals selected from

communities, primarily elders (especially in rural areas), were chosen to assist in maintaining order, ensuring the safety and security of the population [12:42-b].

In the 11th issue of the Bukhara Akhbori newspaper dated December 1, 1920, the 7th decree of the Department of Internal Affairs (Ministry of Internal Affairs) of the republic was published. This decree consisted of two sections. In the first section, it was stipulated that anyone who starts a fire in the cities and fails to report it to the militia shall be punished according to the law if they do not assist. The second section of the decree stated that it is permissible to start a fire only in case of extreme necessity or in the event of an incident. The decree was signed by the Minister of Internal Affairs, Abdulhamid Oripov, and the Director of General Affairs, Ali Rizo [13:178-b].

The tasks of ensuring public safety by the militia in the republic were determined by the Department of Internal Affairs. The narrowness of the streets in Bukhara City, the darkness of some streets at night, and difficulties for pedestrians due to puddles were highlighted. In addition to this, the Department of Internal Affairs established a section responsible for inspecting and registering transportation vehicles [14:8]. During this period in the Bukhara People's Soviet Republic, it was noted that various vehicles such as carts, wagons, and horses were used as internal transportation means. A decree was issued stipulating that in order to organize transportation activities in government agencies, it was necessary to register carts, wagons, and horses and assign them to the transportation section [15:8].

Improving the living conditions of the population, urban and rural development, combating diseases, and eradicating pests, as well as opening irrigation canals, were among the important directions of government policy that were widely covered in the press of that period. The government also implemented a series of measures related to the improvement of streets in Bukhara, cleaning transportation routes, and taking steps to regulate transportation. According to media reports, the streets of the old Bukhara city, the capital of the republic, were narrow, some streets were dark at night, and pedestrians faced difficulties due to puddles. For example, according to information obtained from the Department of Internal Affairs, it was noted that there were many accidents involving pedestrians hit by speeding cars and wagons or falling under them, often resulting in serious injuries or fatalities [16:78-b].

In 1923, with the assignment of responsibilities by the Council of People's Commissars of the Bukhara People's Soviet Republic, a sum of six hundred thousand sums in gold was allocated to improve the financial situation of the Red Army and the militia. This gold was allocated from the state budget and was earmarked for future expenditure to improve the financial situation of the Red Army and the militia [17:181].

In addition to improving the material conditions of the soldiers, efforts were made to enhance their spiritual well-being and provide education. This issue was also addressed in several newspaper articles. For example, Bekboy, a newspaper informant, expressed his opinion on the moral and ethical education of soldiers in the army and militia, stating that the reason for the low level of discipline among soldiers (especially among local people's representatives) is that "all knowledge has been given to the madrasas in Bukhara city, neglecting the need for education among the people" [18:134].

Following the suppression of those who opposed the council system and militia leaders by the Department of Internal Affairs of the Bukhara People's Soviet Republic, there was a decrease in individuals openly criticizing the Soviet system. Subsequently, the government began to forcibly dismiss individuals who posed a threat to the country's security and who opposed the "oppressors" (the members of the national liberation movement against the Soviets were called "oppressors") from the ranks of the Red Militia [19:55-56-b].

In March 1922, Western Bukhara witnessed active movements against the Soviet system. Military Minister Abdulhay Oripov was sent to confront the "oppressors" to suppress their combat activities and counter attacks against the Soviet regime. The military minister's deputy, Turkish officer Tal'atzoda, and the deputy of the Internal Affairs Minister, Mulla Bobo, also joined Oripov in countering the opponents of the Soviet system [20:322-b].

The Bukhara People's Soviet Republic Red Militia entered a new phase of activity starting from August 1, 1922, as reported in the press: "After the revolution, security affairs were initially overseen by the General Security Administration, but then these services were again placed under the supervision of the Cheka." The cooperation of these two agencies is vital for the protection of our republic. Furthermore, to streamline our militia activities and reduce staff, from August 1, 1922, both the General Security Administration and the Cheka were dissolved. The entire security affairs of the republic were entrusted to a single body, with Qori Yoldosh appointed as the head, assisted by Olimjon Okchurin and Yunus Mahmudov. Yunus Mahmudov will be responsible for internal security affairs, while Olimjon Okchurin will handle political and trade affairs related to the security of the republic. Similar regional security administrations were also established in the provinces [21:147].

In literary sources, the militia, considered the oversight body of the Soviet government, is referred to by various names such as "Red Militia," "Worker-Peasant Militia," "People's Militia," and "Red Guards." Information published in the press indicates that the establishment of the Red Militia in the Bukhara People's Soviet Republic took place on March 23, which coincides with the celebration of a wide-scale holiday in the republic [22:140].

On March 23, 1923, the entire territory of the republic celebrated a three-day holiday in connection with the two-year anniversary of the formation of the Red Militia, following a decision by the Bureau of People's Commissars of the Bukhara People's Soviet Republic. In accordance with this decision, a commission was formed to provide assistance to the Red Militia and organize the holiday celebrations. Qori Yoldosh Polatov was appointed as the head of this commission, with Giyosiddin Hasanov, the deputy military commissar, and Yunus Mahmudov, the internal affairs commissar, serving as members [23:140].

A week of support for the Red Militia was announced in conjunction with this event. It emphasized the necessity to provide both material and moral support to the Red Militia. The central message of this call to action was expressed as follows: "Let the Red Militia not be weak, let it not be powerless, let it not be in need and not deviate from the right path" [24:139]. This task of providing assistance to the Red Militia implies creating conditions for fulfilling the responsibility placed upon the Red Militia in terms of material support.

The fact that the living conditions of militia personnel were not favourable often hindered them from properly carrying out their duties. This information is abundantly found in the archives [25:1,15-b]. This situation was not only prevalent in the Bukhara People's Soviet Republic but also in the Turkestan ASSR and the Khorezm People's Soviet Republic. For example, in the Turkestan ASSR, the social situation of militia personnel was so dire that they engaged in moonlighting, linguistic and even espionage activities. The social status of local personnel working in the field of militia was not given due attention. The head of the Turkestan ASSR militia, Asanboev, described the precarious material conditions of the country's militia with vividness: "Turkestan militiamen are barely making ends meet. They do not hesitate to rob and kill children to satisfy their needs (both those who have been killed and those who are still alive). Some militia personnel, not having received food for a long time, resort to stealing from wagons in the streets to make money" [26:137-b].

Results

On March 23, 1923, during the celebration of the second anniversary of the establishment of the Red Militia in the Bukhara People's Soviet Republic, congratulations were expressed, emphasising that nearly three thousand militia personnel were actively serving in the republic. The following sentiments were shared: "Our Red Militia has rendered great services to the homeland and the people from every aspect. It has demonstrated great heroism and sacrifice in protecting the order of the homeland, ensuring the safety of the people, and defending the honour and dignity of our wives and daughters against the enemies of the people, the 'oppressors.' Therefore, the working people in our militia are the most esteemed and respected individuals for us. The Red Militia, which has been established from among the people, has successfully fulfilled its task, which has been entrusted to it for the benefit of the people, throughout its entire existence up to this day. To honour the services rendered by the Red Militia, a commission has been organised for the celebration. The Red Militia,

with its three and a half million-strong people behind it, has firmly attached itself to the iron heart of the homeland" [27:140]. On the occasion of the second anniversary of the establishment of the Red Militia in the Bukhara People's Soviet Republic, the government did not solely celebrate but rather involved the people in the festivities, undoubtedly indicating the participatory nature of the republic's governance. Additionally, the widespread celebration served to pique the interest of local youth in the Red Militia and to solidify their support for it.

In the Bukhara People's Soviet Republic, appointments to the position of Minister of Internal Affairs were made by the government leader, Fayzulla Khojayev, with the explicit involvement of elected representatives of the local population. Similar information about the presence of indigenous personnel in militia organizations is also available for the Turkestan ASSR and the Khorezm People's Soviet Republic

Conclusion

In conclusion, the militia organization in the Bukhara People's Soviet Republic was established as the main pillar consolidating the existing system of government oversight. Representatives of the local population were directly involved in the composition of this supervisory body. However, these officials were later directed to wars with fighters against the Soviet regime. The lower qualifications and lack of experience among militia personnel, along with existing problems in material support, led to instances of inefficiency and abuse of their service duties. Nevertheless, in the Bukhara People's Soviet Republic, the militia played a crucial role in maintaining public safety, protecting the property of the citizens, and preserving the stability of the state. The government of the Bukhara People's Soviet Republic made efforts to improve the material support of militia personnel as much as possible. After facing significant opposition from the Soviet system, the Worker-Peasant Militia transitioned into the Red Army state. Worker-Peasant Militia units actively participated in the armed struggle initiated against the counter-revolutionary movements by the government.

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