

# Internal Affairs Bodies Of Independent Uzbekistan: Reforms, Results And Prospects

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**Abstract:** The article deals with the extended reforms implemented in the system of internal affairs bodies during the years of independence in the Republic of Uzbekistan and at the same time their results is analyzed by dividing into certain stages. Furthermore, some views on the main directions and prospects for the constant continuation of reforms in this sphere in the future is developed.

**Keywords:** internal affairs bodies, Ministry of internal affairs, reforms in the system of internal affairs bodies, fighting against crime, ensuring public safety, crime prevention, crime prevention inspector, makhalla (the term means of “people’s residential area”, “community”, “neighborhood”).

## Introduction

As a truly popular, socially-oriented professional structure, the formation of the internal affairs bodies of our country has gone through thirty years of history. The deep and radical reforms have been implemented in the system of internal affairs bodies, as an integral part of ensuring law and order in our country along the way of the historical and gradual development.

To begin with the systemic reforms carried out to improve the activities of internal affairs bodies of the independent Uzbekistan, these reforms can be studied in the following stages according to their content-meaning, scope and characteristics.

The first stage of reforming internal affairs bodies contains mainly 1991-2004 years, the reforms of this period had the following features:

First of all, the internal affairs bodies of independent Uzbekistan have been established and its legal status has been strengthened.

The Ministry of internal affairs was transferred to the legal jurisdiction of the Uzbek SSR in accordance with the Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan as of on August 25, 1991. The internal troops of the Ministry of internal affairs of the USSR located

on the territory of the republic were directly subordinated to the President of the Uzbek SSR.

## The Main Findings and Results

One of the most important issues facing the country was to improve the criminogenic situation, curb on crime, in particular, eliminate its organized manifestations, strengthen law and order after obtaining the independence of Uzbekistan. Therefore, the Regulation on the Ministry of internal affairs, approved by the Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan No. 270 on October 25, 1991, clearly defines the status of the system as a law enforcement body.

Second, crime in the republic has been curbed and measures have been taken to ensure the inevitability of punishment for committed crimes.

The old methods of governing the former Soviet Union in organizing the work of the internal affairs bodies were not completely abandoned in the early years of independence. The existing drawbacks and problems in the system, staff shortcomings did not create sufficient conditions for internal affairs bodies to effectively perform their duties and functions. This situation has led to a dramatic increase of criminality including organized crime.

Although it was impossible to curb and stop the steady growth of crime in the country in 1991 and 1992 years. As a result of measures taken to ensure social stability and strengthen the fight against crime in the country, in 1993, overall crime rate was 4% lower than in 1992, while in 1994 it was 18.3% and in 1995 it was 8.9%.

Third, the structure of internal affairs bodies has been optimized, the main tasks of sectoral services have been clearly defined, to avoid duplication and parallelism in their activities, to coordinate and organize their activities under a single leadership, to ensure strict specialization in the system were of paramount importance.

Consequently, the efficiency and mobility of internal affairs bodies in responding to crimes has increased.

Fourth, the institution of crime prevention inspectors and base stations in each makhalla (neighborhood) were established on the basis of police precinct inspectors during this period. The systematic cooperation of internal affairs bodies with public structures, in particular, citizens' self-government bodies has been established and this cooperation has been legally defined.

Fifth, particular attention was paid to the training of qualified personnel for internal affairs bodies, strengthening the material and technical base as much as possible and social support.

The features of the second stage of reforms in the judicial system of the country, especially in the internal affairs bodies, one of its important directions in 2004-2016 years, first of all, manifested in the creation of an integrated legal system for the protection of the rights, freedoms and legitimate interests of citizens in the country, ensuring the security of citizens, society and the state, ensuring public safety, combating crime and prevention of crime.

In addition, the practice of combating crime and its consequences in the field of law and order has been transferred to the practice of prevention of offenses, identification and elimination of the causes and conditions of their occurrence.

In this regard, the continuous cooperation of crime prevention inspectors with public structures on the basis of base stations and citizens' self-government bodies gave its fruitful results.

At the same time, special attention was paid to the provision of internal affairs bodies with competent specialists, their retraining, internship and advanced training, the order of service in the system, financial incentives and social and legal protection as well.

In particular, the establishment of the Day of Internal Affairs bodies of the Republic of Uzbekistan on October 25 in accordance with the Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan "About establishment of the Day of Internal Affairs bodies of the Republic of Uzbekistan" on December 6, 2006 was one of the most important historical events of this period. For the first time in our country, from 2007 every year on October 25, the Day of internal affairs bodies was widely celebrated as a holiday.

The signing of the Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan "About Internal affairs bodies" on September 16, 2016 became the beginning of a new third stage in the extensive and systemic reforms to improve the work of internal affairs bodies in our country.

The implementation of important tasks mentioned in the Strategy of Actions for the five priority areas of development of the Republic of Uzbekistan for 2017-2021 years, developed under the leadership of our honorable President Shavkat Mirziyoyev and approved by the Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan No. PD-4947 as of February 7, 2017 was tremendous motivation for further continuation of the consistent reforms in the field of internal affairs bodies. Over the past period 13 laws, 11 decrees, 3 orders and 46 resolutions of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan, 117 resolutions of the Cabinet of Ministers and more than 200 inter-departmental normative-legal regulations have been adopted.

Specifically, the Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan No. PR-5005 as of April 10, 2017 "About measures to radically increase the efficiency of internal affairs bodies, strengthen their responsibility to ensure public

order, reliable protection of the rights, freedoms and legitimate interests of citizens” is important in this regard. This Decree has identified 10 most important areas of reform in the system of internal affairs bodies.

Shortly, the reforms in the system have transformed the internal affairs bodies into a socially oriented professional, truly “people-loving”, “people’s assistant” structure, which provides timely and quality assistance to the population, where each officer considers it as a sacred duty to “serve the interests of people”.

The visit of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev to the Ministry of internal affairs on February 12, 2021 and his participation in the first enlarged meeting of the board of the Ministry marked a new historical stage in the development of the system.

The completely new mechanisms have been introduced to combat crime, ensure public safety and early prevention of crime in our country as a result of the implementation of measures in public life. The priorities set by the President at the meeting as well as the important measures mentioned in the Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan dated on March 26, 2021 PR-6196 “About raising the activities of internal affairs bodies to a qualitatively new level in ensuring public safety and combating crime”.

Particularly, the organizational structure of internal affairs bodies has been revised and the activities of sectoral services have been optimized. The main part of the staff of the central office of the Ministry of internal affairs and the territorial offices of the Ministry of internal affairs has been reduced to subordinate structures, bringing the internal affairs bodies closer to the people. In order to bring the internal affairs bodies closer to the people, to receive appeals around the clock, to solve existing problems on the spot and in a timely manner, the activities of more than 200 internal affairs departments and divisions have been completely reorganized.

The management system of the Ministry of internal affairs of the Republic of Uzbekistan has been improved and the Departments of Operational-search, Public security, Ensuring

safety at transport and tourism facilities, Spiritual enlightenment and personnel departments headed by the deputy ministers have been established to effectively coordinate the activities of related sectoral services.

All penitentiaries were removed from the jurisdiction of the territorial internal affairs bodies and transferred directly to the Penitentiary Department under the Ministry of internal affairs.

A system of targeted communication with the population has been established and the third sector has been assigned to the internal affairs bodies in order to organize work on a sector-by-sector basis in order to achieve comprehensive socio-economic development of the regions, radically improve living conditions and achieve significant positive changes in living standards. Subsequently, on-site solution of problems and issues of concern to citizens, the fight against crime in the regions, the systematic and targeted implementation of crime prevention has been rationalized.

The criminogenic situation in all makhallas of the country was divided into “red”, “yellow” and “green” categories and the analysis showed that the crime rate increased in 2142 (23.4%) (“red”) makhallas, although crimes were committed in 2,538 (27.7%) (“yellow”) neighborhoods, no increase was observed and no crime was found in 4,488 (49%) (“green”) makhallas. The practice of ensuring social prevention of offenses has been introduced in each makhalla, family and individual through the introduction of a system of “citizen by citizen” (each citizen), “family by family” (each family) and “makhalla by makhalla” (each makhalla) in identifying the causes of crime and eliminating them.

The role of internal affairs bodies in strengthening the new order, such as the “Iron book”, “Women’s book”, “Youth book” and “Care book” has been strengthened in order to provide employment, comprehensive assistance to the needy, low-income and temporarily unemployed, to address youth issues, targeted work with needy families and women.

The practice of forecasting and preventing crime by conducting an in-depth

analysis of the criminogenic situation on the ground, identifying the factors influencing the dynamics and commission of crimes and making a “scientific diagnosis” has been established.

Each makhalla has been assigned a crime prevention inspector and their number has been increased from 5,500 to 10,000. Crime prevention inspectors were provided with service houses and preferential loans for the purchase of a private car in order to provide uninterrupted service in their territory.

Currently, each crime prevention inspector has become the deputy chairman of the makhalla for law enforcement and their powers related to security have expanded. On the basis of the base stations where the relevant sectoral services of the territorial internal affairs bodies and the coordinated activities of the National Guard and other state bodies are gradually being established.

The crime has not been committed in 49% of 9168 makhallas in the country by the end of 2020. The number of crime has been dramatically reduced as a consequence of measures taken to work in bringing internal affairs bodies closer to the population, solving problems. The issues of concern to citizens on the spot, combating crime in the regions, ensuring the systematic and targeted implementation of crime prevention, continuous cooperation with citizens’ self-government bodies, public structures working on family, women’s, youth and juvenile issues are thoroughly being solved.

The prevention of youth delinquency began on a scientific basis at the school threshold, the legal and psychological education of children for the first time in the recent history of Uzbekistan. For this purpose, 1,100 inspectors-psychologists have been assigned to the system this year. Next year, it is planned to increase this figure to 2,000, which will help our children to develop in the spirit of obedience and respect for the law from school age.

It is significantly important that due to the nature of the service, pecuniary aid has been set for the monthly salaries of more than 25,000 officers who perform their duties in special conditions. 7,246 staff of internal affairs bodies

were provided with service houses, as well as about 2,300 apartments were allocated from multi-storied houses built on preferential mortgage loans.

Unprecedented opportunities has been created to properly assess the activity of dedicated staff of internal affairs, their social protection and support. More than 500 officers of the internal affairs bodies and military personnel have been awarded state awards over the past five years.

It is notable that previously there were only 2 cars in 1 district internal affairs department, today to increase the regional units and improve their logistics in 2016-2021, about 3,5 thousand new vehicles, more than 16 thousand special and technical means were allocated in all territorial areas of internal affairs bodies.

Absolutely new system has been introduced in the country to ensure public safety and combat crime, early crime prevention in makhallas in recent years, as a result of tremendous reforms aimed at transforming the internal affairs bodies into a socially oriented professional structure for the benefit of the people. This serves to increase the confidence of our people in the internal affairs bodies and respect for the staff of internal affairs bodies.

The turbulent political situation in neighboring countries, the emergence of new types of crime requires continuous improvement of the work of internal affairs bodies in the context of maintaining peace and tranquility in the country, strengthening civil security, interethnic harmony and religious tolerance which are constantly improving in current dangerous period.

The problems of protecting our young generation from spiritual threats, preventing them from being influenced by various alien ideas, religious and ideological beliefs, ensuring the internal security of the country by limiting the spread of violence and radical views in society in such a complicated situation are becoming increasingly important.

Of course, the role of internal affairs bodies in the effective implementation of such urgent tasks is invaluable. At the same time,

today's relentless, rapidly changing socio-political situation requires the organization of the system a completely new way in accordance with modern requirements. On the bases of these requirements, it is necessary to pay special attention to the following issues aimed at further improvement of the efficiency of internal affairs bodies:

1) the constant communication of crime prevention inspectors with the population in the makhallas, abandoning the practice of combating the consequences of illegal actions committed by certain individuals and focusing on working with them; to carry out educational and preventive work with non-social behavior based on public exposure through the study and individual "diagnosis" of them, ensuring early crime prevention and social prevention of offenses aimed at the organization of systemic victimological prevention with persons at high risk of crime;

2) Widespread elimination of cases of evaluation of the activities of internal affairs bodies on the basis of criminal statistics, certain inhuman or degrading acts and inappropriate methods of investigation that still occur in the practice of detection and investigation of crimes; the inevitability of criminal liability, strengthening the guarantees of individual rights and freedoms, compensation for damages to the victim, the introduction of a single automated electronic register of crimes, which ensures openness and transparency in this area; introduction of effective mechanisms for the fair, impartial and fair conduct of interrogation and investigation activities, setting as a key criterion the efficiency of the solution of the problems of population and work with citizens' appeals in the assessment of the system;

3) creation of perfect legal framework for cybersecurity and combating cybercrime at a time when the share of crimes committed using information and communication technologies and programs in the overall crime rate in our country, as well as around the world, is growing and social risks are growing; implementation of comprehensive measures on legal, organizational-institutional, logistical and staff training aimed at the introduction of best

practices and methods of work in the field, innovative digital technologies, providing the system with qualified personnel;

4) Today, some of the sphere's representatives lack of professional skills and morale and in some cases, they make mistakes in open professional communication with the general public, especially bloggers and journalists are becoming shortcomings of the system. Increasing the intellectual and professional potential, spiritual and educational level, physical and mental training of the staff of internal affairs bodies by taking into accounts the threats and aggression against them by some law-abiding citizens may damage the reputation of the system;

Adoption of the "Code of professional culture", which will be programmatic for officers in this regard, further strengthening the social and legal protection of officers and their families, consistent continuation of systematic measures to promote the hard and selfless work of the staff of internal affairs bodies are of paramount significance.

5) The use of obsolete methods, outdated equipment and technologies in the large-scale activities of internal affairs bodies aimed at ensuring public safety, combating crime and crime prevention has a negative impact on productivity and efficiency. It is important to constant introduce the new generation of technical and special vehicles, information technologies, modern software used in the practice of developed foreign countries, as well as comprehensive digitization of the system;

6) Frequently inefficient decisions are made centrally without analyzing the specific nature of each region, the lack of operational and criminogenic and socio-economic situation, as well as the lack of responsibility and initiative of local authorities in the organization of the work of internal affairs bodies in regions. It is necessary to further increase the responsibility of local governments in organizing the large-scale activities of territorial internal affairs bodies in accordance with today's requirements, as the practice of introducing uniform methods and practices based on a single approach.

Creation of certain independence in determining the organizational staffing, logistics of internal affairs bodies on the basis of practical needs and requirements and thus to create the basis for the introduction of a developed system of internal affairs bodies in the country,

### Conclusion

In short, regular continuation of systematic and large-scale reforms to create new internal affairs bodies in New Uzbekistan will remain one of the main directions of our state policy in the future. Bringing of the internal affairs bodies closer to the people and to every family and transforming this system into a truly democratic structure is the main goal of our reforms in this sphere.

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