



# **LEGAL FOUNDATIONS OF THE ACTIVITIES OF INTERNAL AFFAIRS BODIES' PATROL-GUARD SERVICE UNITS: SCIENTIFIC ANALYSIS AND PROSPECTS**

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<b>Article history:</b>	<b>Abstract:</b>
<b>Received:</b> 20 <sup>th</sup> April 2025 <b>Accepted:</b> 14 <sup>th</sup> May 2025	This article analyzes the regulatory legal documents adopted in recent years within the framework of reforms carried out in the field of ensuring public order and safety by the internal affairs bodies. It highlights their role as a legal foundation for maintaining public order and security, the essence of the social relations regulated by these legal norms, and the prospects in this direction. The article also presents conclusions based on the analysis of scientific research and legal literature concerning the topic.
<b>Keywords:</b> Internal affairs bodies, maintenance of public order, ensuring public safety, legal framework, regulatory legal documents, modern working methods, law.	

In recent years, significant changes have been introduced in Uzbekistan to prevent crime, establish effective mechanisms for the prevention of offenses, improve the legal awareness of the population, and instill in citizens the principle of "Rule of law and inevitability of punishment" [1]. In particular, one of the key directions has been the development of the legal foundations of this field in line with modern requirements and the implementation of contemporary working methods.

As part of the implemented reforms, several innovative measures have been introduced: the use of personal video recorders (body cameras) by personnel on duty; the deployment of intelligent surveillance and independent monitoring systems (so-called "Smart" cameras); the provision of tablet devices equipped with electronic systems for registering and reviewing offense-related cases. In addition, the development of modern policing models such as the "Safe Capital" and "Safe and Smooth Roads" concepts, "Safe Home" and "Safe Yard" systems, the "Smart Mahalla" information system, and the "Safe City" hardware-software complex has clearly demonstrated the advantages of modern operational approaches. In support of this, legal scholar S.S. Sharipov rightly emphasizes that "the introduction of information and communication technologies has made it possible to reduce bureaucratic burdens for citizens in administrative offense matters, save the time of law enforcement officers, ensure the timely and swift execution of justice, allow for the rapid mobilization of

forces and resources, and provide a faster response to citizens' appeals" [15; p. 20].

The analysis of regulatory legal documents adopted in recent years within the framework of reforms in the internal affairs system demonstrates that particular attention has been paid to the establishment of legal foundations for the activities aimed at maintaining public order and ensuring safety in accordance with the demands of the time. In other words, there is hardly a single legal act aimed at improving the functioning of internal affairs bodies that does not specifically address legal regulation issues in the sector.

It is well known that one of the primary attributes of governance is the legal regulation of its objectives, tasks, and functions. Administrative legal norms reinforce the legal status and functions of both the subject and object of governance, while enhancing the responsibility of each participant in the public administration system [17; p. 14].

Ensuring the effective management of internal affairs bodies in maintaining public order and ensuring public safety requires regular monitoring of the legal framework in this area, as well as constant observation of its relevance and applicability to the social context. This in turn includes:

a) studying the compliance of subordinate regulatory legal acts in this field, including departmental documents of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Uzbekistan, with the Constitution and laws of the Republic of Uzbekistan;



b) monitoring the full implementation of constitutional norms and principles in laws and subordinate legal acts, as well as their practical application;

c) examining the interconnection, comprehensiveness, and coherence of legal norms in newly adopted legal acts;

d) assessing the practical enforcement and implementation of laws and subordinate legal acts in the field, as well as evaluating their effectiveness and benefit to society;

e) identifying, analyzing, and eliminating causes and conditions that lead to the failure of enforcing certain existing laws and subordinate acts, which remain only on paper, and taking appropriate measures for their improvement [16; p. 159].

The legal foundation for the activities of internal affairs bodies in maintaining public order and ensuring safety is formed by the regulatory legal documents of the Republic of Uzbekistan. According to the Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan "On Regulatory Legal Acts" (April 20, 2021) [13], these include the Constitution of the Republic of Uzbekistan, the laws of the Republic of Uzbekistan, decisions of the chambers of the Oliy Majlis (Parliament), decrees, decisions and orders of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan, resolutions of the Cabinet of Ministers, orders and decisions of ministries, state committees and agencies, as well as decisions of local government authorities.

It can be stated that the laws of the Republic of Uzbekistan represent essential legal foundations regulating the activities of internal affairs bodies in maintaining public order and ensuring public safety. Analysis shows that these laws serve to regulate specific social relations within the sphere of public order and safety.

For instance, the Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan "On Environmental Protection" (December 9, 1992) regulates the powers of public security divisions within internal affairs bodies, alongside other government agencies, in overseeing legal relations pertaining to environmental protection, eliminating disasters and their harmful ecological consequences, and ensuring accountability for violations of environmental laws [3].

Similarly, the Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan "On Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances" (August 19, 1999) regulates the activities of public security units of internal affairs bodies in the prevention and control of offenses related to chronic alcoholism, drug and substance abuse—phenomena that endanger public order, citizen well-being, health, and morality,

while also safeguarding the rights and freedoms of citizens [4].

The Laws of the Republic of Uzbekistan "On Public Associations in the Republic of Uzbekistan" (February 15, 1991) and "On Citizens' Self-Government Bodies" (April 22, 2013) serve to regulate the cooperation between public safety units of the internal affairs bodies and public associations. The first of these laws governs the establishment, operational procedures, rights, and conditions of public associations, as well as liability for violations of legal norms governing their activities [2]. The second emphasizes that citizens' self-government is an independent activity aimed at addressing local issues based on constitutionally guaranteed rights and interests, historical development, national and moral values, local customs, and traditions. It defines the legal status of self-governing bodies, their organizational framework, and their involvement in local socio-economic development.

As stated in Article 13 of the law, citizens' self-government bodies assist law enforcement in ensuring public order and safety within their territories, including registering the arrival and departure of residents, preventing juvenile delinquency and neglect, and protecting minors' rights [6].

The Law "On Combating Terrorism" (December 15, 2000) regulates the activities of internal affairs bodies in countering terrorism and religious extremism, as well as in eliminating the causes and conditions that give rise to these threats. Religious extremists, in particular, exploit one of the most heinous forms of crime—terrorism, including international terrorism. According to Article 5 of this law, the prevention of terrorist activities is carried out through joint political, socio-economic, legal, and other preventive measures implemented by state bodies, citizens' self-governing organizations, public associations, enterprises, institutions, and organizations [5].

The Law "On the Prevention of Juvenile Delinquency and Neglect" (September 29, 2010) serves as a legal basis for the activities of public safety divisions within internal affairs bodies. This law regulates social relations in the field of preventing juvenile neglect and delinquency. It is aimed at identifying and eliminating the causes and conditions that contribute to minors' neglect and the commission of offenses or other antisocial behavior. It also provides for the implementation of social, legal, medical, and other preventive measures, alongside individual preventive work, and coordinates the work of bodies and institutions engaged in juvenile crime prevention.



Furthermore, this law legally underpins the mutual cooperation of internal affairs bodies in the following functions: preventing juvenile crime in public places; identifying minors left unattended or found in a state of intoxication (due to alcohol, drugs, or toxic substances); transporting such minors to the internal affairs duty unit or local law enforcement base; identifying youth prone to delinquency or gathering in suspicious groups and reporting such findings to duty officers or inspectors; identifying persons involving minors in illegal activities such as gambling, begging, alcohol or drug use; and preventing unaccompanied minors from being in public places during night hours, except under legally permitted circumstances [7].

It is well known that public security divisions of internal affairs bodies assist other units in conducting operational-investigative activities aimed at protecting the life and health of citizens, detecting and exposing crimes, apprehending perpetrators, and preventing property and other offenses.

This assistance is regulated by the Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan "On Operational-Search Activities" (December 25, 2012) and subordinate regulations adopted on its basis. Article 4 of the law outlines the main tasks of operational-search activities: protecting human rights, freedoms, and legitimate interests; safeguarding property of legal and natural persons; ensuring the security of individuals, society, and the state; preventing, detecting, suppressing, and solving crimes; identifying and locating individuals preparing or committing crimes; tracing suspects hiding from investigation or the court, persons evading criminal punishment, the missing, and in some cases other persons; identifying unknown corpses; and gathering intelligence on persons, events, or actions posing threats to public, personal, or national security [8].

It is well known that ensuring road traffic safety is one of the core areas of activity for the public safety divisions of the internal affairs bodies. This activity is directly regulated by the Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan "On Road Traffic Safety" (April 10, 2013) and subordinate legal acts adopted on the basis of this law.

In addition, employees of the public safety divisions of the internal affairs bodies serving on post and patrol routes are legally empowered to prevent individuals under the influence of alcohol, narcotics, or toxic substances, as well as visibly underage persons (based on appearance or known information), from operating vehicles. They are also responsible for taking preventive measures against other traffic-related

offenses and cooperating with road patrol service officers to promptly eliminate any obstacles that interfere with traffic flow [9].

The adoption of the Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan "On the Prevention of Offenses" (May 14, 2014) further liberalized and democratized the activities of internal affairs bodies in the field of offense prevention. It aims to enhance cooperation in the prevention of offenses, promote the participation of civil society institutions in this process, and increase the effectiveness of public oversight.

This normative act defines the main objectives and principles of offense prevention, its types, and the authorities and institutions responsible for implementing and participating in preventive activities, along with their respective powers and responsibilities.

The law also serves as a legal basis for the function of public safety divisions of the internal affairs bodies to carry out "measures aimed at the early prevention of offenses," including identifying, preventing, and eliminating offenses, apprehending offenders, and conducting patrols in streets, squares, parks, alleys, transport facilities, and other public areas.

The activities of the public safety divisions of the internal affairs bodies are carried out on the basis of the principles of legality, protection of citizens' rights, freedoms and legitimate interests, impartiality, transparency, and openness [10].

According to the Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan "On the Sanitary and Epidemiological Well-Being of the Population" (August 26, 2015), individuals found guilty of violating sanitary-epidemiological regulations shall be held liable in accordance with the law. This legal norm authorizes internal affairs bodies to detect, prevent, and eliminate violations of sanitary-epidemiological legislation, apprehend those responsible, and deliver them to the authorities for administrative accountability as prescribed [11].

As I. Ismailov noted, the adoption of the Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan "On Internal Affairs Bodies" (September 16, 2016) marked a new stage in the system of reforms of the internal affairs bodies by eliminating legal gaps, ambiguities, and inconsistencies in regulating their highly responsible and diverse functions. It also brought coherence to the fundamental principles of internal affairs bodies' activities within a unified legal framework [14; p. 162].

This law establishes that maintaining public order and ensuring public safety shall be carried out by the internal affairs bodies as one of their main areas of activity, within the scope of their legally defined powers [12].



## CONCLUSION

The activities of the internal affairs bodies of the Republic of Uzbekistan in maintaining public order and ensuring public safety are grounded in a solid legal framework. In recent years, comprehensive reforms, the adoption of legislative and sub-legislative acts, and the implementation of modern administrative and technological approaches have significantly enhanced the effectiveness of these bodies.

The legal framework clearly defines the scope of authority for internal affairs bodies, strengthens their cooperation with the public, and regulates their role in preventing offenses, ensuring road traffic safety, combating terrorism, extremism, drug-related crimes, and juvenile delinquency. In particular, laws such as "On Internal Affairs Bodies" and "On the Prevention of Offenses" provide systematic regulation of the legal mechanisms governing these activities.

Furthermore, effective cooperation with citizens' self-government bodies and public associations, alongside efforts in legal education and public oversight, demonstrates a holistic approach to ensuring public safety.

In conclusion, the public safety activities of internal affairs bodies remain a priority area within the state's national security policy. There is a growing need to further improve the legal foundations of this work, ensuring their alignment with modern technologies and democratic institutions, which continues to be one of the most pressing tasks of the present time.

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