

THE CONCEPT, TYPES AND LEGAL REGULATION OF MULTIPLE CRIMES

Abduvaliyeva Komolaxon Maxmudjon qizi

4th year Bachelor's student in Jurisprudence Academy of Labor and Social
Relations Tashkent, Uzbekistan

Abstract: Multiple crimes constitute one of the most complex and practically significant institutions of the General Part of criminal law. This legal phenomenon encompasses various forms of repeated criminal activity by the same person and requires precise qualification to ensure the principles of legality, justice, and individualization of punishment. This thesis provides a comprehensive analysis of the concept of multiple crimes, its main types recidivism, repetition, and aggregation of crimes as well as their distinctive features and legal regulation in the criminal legislation of the Republic of Uzbekistan. Particular attention is devoted to the theoretical foundations, mandatory criminal-legal signs of each form, their differentiation in judicial practice, and the impact on sentencing. The study examines the provisions of the Criminal Code of the Republic of Uzbekistan, current problems arising in law enforcement, and development trends within the framework of the criminal policy of New Uzbekistan aimed at humanization and increasing the effectiveness of crime prevention. The thesis emphasizes that correct understanding and qualification of multiple crimes serve as essential conditions for achieving the goals of criminal law, ensuring fair punishment, and protecting society from repeated criminal encroachments.

Keywords: multiple crimes, recidivism, repetition of crimes, aggregation of crimes, criminal record, qualification of crimes, sentencing, Criminal Code of the Republic of Uzbekistan, criminal policy, New Uzbekistan.

Multiple crimes represent a special legal phenomenon in which one and the same person commits two or more criminal acts. Unlike a single crime, this institution

presupposes a certain connection between several offenses, which substantially increases the overall degree of their public danger and necessitates special rules for qualification and imposition of punishment. In the criminal law of the Republic of Uzbekistan, multiple crimes occupy an important place in the system of institutions of the General Part and directly influence the issues of criminal liability and individualization of punishment. The concept of multiple crimes is characterized by several mandatory features. First, the commission of two or more independent criminal acts. Second, these acts are committed by one and the same person. Third, the presence of a specific legal connection between them, which determines the form of multiplicity. The absence of any of these features excludes the recognition of multiplicity and leads to qualification as separate crimes or a single continuing offense. Modern criminal legislation of Uzbekistan distinguishes several main types of multiple crimes. The most significant among them are recidivism, repetition (takrorlanish), and aggregation (jamlanish) of crimes. Each type possesses its own criminal-legal nature, conditions of formation, and legal consequences.

Recidivism is recognized as the commission of a new intentional crime by a person who has a previous conviction for an intentional crime that has not been expunged or removed in accordance with the procedure established by law. Thesis 34 of the Criminal Code of the Republic of Uzbekistan establishes a differentiated system of recidivism, dividing it into simple, dangerous, and especially dangerous recidivism. This form is considered the most dangerous type of multiple crimes because it demonstrates the persistence of the offender's antisocial orientation after the state has already applied measures of criminal punishment and correction. Repetition of crimes occurs when a person commits two or more identical or homogeneous intentional crimes before being convicted of any of them. This form is characterized by the absence of a conviction at the time of committing subsequent acts. Repetition indicates a stable criminal intent and

is often recognized as a qualifying circumstance in the thesis of the Special Part or as a general aggravating circumstance when imposing punishment.

Aggregation of crimes exists when a person commits two or more crimes before conviction for any of them. Uzbek criminal law distinguishes between real aggregation (when different crimes are committed at different times) and ideal aggregation (when one act contains signs of two or more *corpus delicti*). In cases of aggregation, the court imposes punishment separately for each committed crime, after which the final punishment is determined by the rules of absorption or partial addition of sentences. The criminal-legal significance of multiple crimes manifests itself primarily in two main directions. First, it affects the qualification of the committed acts, often serving as a qualifying or especially qualifying sign. Second, it influences the process of sentencing, as a rule, acting as an aggravating circumstance and leading to the application of stricter measures of criminal liability. Correct differentiation of the forms of multiple crimes is therefore of exceptional importance for ensuring the principle of justice.

The institution of criminal record plays a decisive role in distinguishing recidivism from other forms of multiple crimes. A conviction arises from the moment the court's guilty verdict enters into legal force and continues until it is expunged or removed. Only the presence of an unexpunged conviction allows qualification of a new crime as recidivism. After expungement or judicial removal of the conviction, subsequent criminal acts cannot be considered recidivism, although they may form repetition or aggregation. In the judicial practice of the Republic of Uzbekistan, a number of difficulties regularly arise in the qualification of multiple crimes. The most common problems include determining the exact moment of conviction, assessing the legal consequences of suspended sentences, conditional early release, replacement of the unserved part of punishment with milder types, and the application of amnesty and pardon acts. Mistakes in qualification lead to violations of the principles of legality and

justice, often becoming grounds for review of court decisions in cassation or supervisory instances.

The criminal policy of New Uzbekistan is characterized by a balanced approach to the regulation of multiple crimes. On the one hand, legislative reforms are aimed at humanizing criminal law and expanding the application of alternative sanctions and restorative justice mechanisms. On the other hand, stricter legal measures are maintained and strengthened with respect to persons committing repeated serious and especially serious crimes, organized criminal activity, or crimes against public safety. This balanced policy seeks to ensure both reliable protection of society and the possibility of correction and successful resocialization of offenders. Theoretical analysis shows that special (identical) recidivism and repetition of homogeneous crimes pose a particularly high social danger. These forms indicate a deep criminal orientation of the personality and require the application of more intensive corrective, preventive, and resocialization measures. At the same time, cases of general multiplicity, where crimes of different categories are committed, may be caused by situational factors or changes in the person's life circumstances, which must be taken into account when individualizing punishment.

Effective combating of multiple crimes demands not only perfect criminal legislation but also high-quality investigative and judicial practice. The creation of unified electronic databases of convictions, improvement of inter-agency information exchange, and digitalization of justice processes significantly facilitate the accurate identification and qualification of various forms of multiple crimes. At the same time, special attention should be paid to identifying and eliminating the causes and conditions contributing to the commission of repeated crimes. Comprehensive preventive work with persons who have served their sentences, organization of effective probation service, and development of post-penitentiary support programs play an increasingly important role in reducing the level of multiple crimes. Closer cooperation between law

enforcement agencies, local authorities, civil society institutions, and mahalla committees is of particular importance for the successful social adaptation of former convicts.

In conclusion, the institution of multiple crimes in the criminal law of the Republic of Uzbekistan is a complex, multifaceted, and practically significant legal phenomenon. A clear understanding of its concept, types, distinctive features, and legal consequences is an essential condition for the proper application of criminal law norms, ensuring fair and individualized punishment, and achieving the goals of criminal justice. Further improvement of the legal regulation of multiple crimes, taking into account international standards, best foreign practices, and national realities of New Uzbekistan, remains one of the priority directions for the development of national criminal legislation and law enforcement practice.

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