
MODERN RUSSIA: IDEOLOGY, POLITICS, CULTURE AND RELIGION

YURY ZININ. TERRORIST ATTACK IN CROCUS CITY HALL:
REACTION AND RESPONSE IN THE MIDDLE EAST

*Keywords: terrorist attack; Russia;
Crocus City; Middle East; reaction;
opinions; assessments; Arabs; ISIS;
Afghanistan.*

Yury Zinin,

PhD(Hist.), Senior Research Associate,
Centre for Middle Eastern and African Studies,
Institute of International Studies MGIMO MFA of Russia,
e-mail: zinin42@mail.ru

© Yu. Zinin 2024

Citation: Zinin Yu. Terrorist Attack in Crocus City Hall: Reaction and Response in the Middle East // Russia and the Moslem World, 2024, № 4 (326), P. 5–17. DOI:10.31249/rmw/2024.04.01

Abstract. The article examines reaction and response to the terrorist attack in Crocus City Hall at the official and unofficial levels in the Middle East. The media, social networks and the expert community condemn the actions of the terrorists. At the same time, a review of the speeches indicates different interpretations of the event, especially that which is related to its orchestrators and curators. The author concludes that many Arab authors perceive the attack on Crocus as a challenge, projecting it onto the realities of their region. In their publications they

talk about the need to pay greater attention to monitoring terrorist actions, its roots, practices in responding to it and the fight against terrorism in the Middle East. Arguments and theses in the rhetoric of local radical Islamists are observed.

The bloody terrorist attack in Crocus City Hall caused resonance and responses in political circles, media space and social networks of the Middle East. The foreign ministries of Arab countries sent messages expressing condolences and solidarity with the Russian Federation in connection with the tragedy.

Al-Azhar in Cairo, the oldest Moslem spiritual university in the world, founded in the 10th century, strongly condemned the attack. It called it a crime against innocent people, which is rejected by "all divine laws" and threatens the perpetrators with the most severe punishment¹. The terrorist act was condemned by the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, the League of Arab States and others.

The media of the region are monitoring the progress of the investigation of this crime in Russia, its background, possible consequences. Views on them are divided. There are opinions that there was an international conspiracy to put pressure on Russia regarding the Ukrainian dossier, but not directly, but indirectly – "by proxy".

The focus is on the timing of the operation. It took place after the success of Russian President V.V. Putin in the elections, the emergence of signs of clear progress by Russia during the SMO in Ukraine, – the Emirati newspaper Al-Ittihad points out. This increases the likelihood of the influence of external motives on what happened.

Other authors see in it the intention to strike a blow at stability within Russia, to destabilize the multinational and multi-confessional state. Moreover, Moslems of the Chechen Republic are participating on the battlefield together with Russian troops against Ukraine. According to the Iraqi publication Al-Muraqib Al-Iraqi, ISIS is responsible for the terrorist attack in Crocus City.