

Oleksiy M. Skryabin, Dmytro B. Sanakoyev. Socio-psychological portrait of the leader of an ethnic criminal group. Ethnic criminal groups are particularly dangerous today, as they are transnational in nature and difficult to detect. The increase in the number of ethnic criminal groups is due to social, economic and political instability, as well as the consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic. It is important in this aspect to identify the socio-psychological portrait of the leader of an ethnic criminal group, which directs the actions and is the driving force behind the activities of ethnic criminal groups. The leader of ethnic criminal groups is characterized by a set of social and psychological qualities: a high level of initiative and activity, organizational experience, interest in achieving group goals, awareness of group affairs, camaraderie, personal attractiveness, high prestige and authority in the group. The main socio-psychological characteristics of leaders of ethnic criminal groups are the following characteristics: social origin, worldview and main motives of criminal activity, general characteristics of the offender, personal characteristics (main qualities of the offender, psychological type, presence of syndromes, individual characteristics, relationships in the social group). emotional characteristics, logic of thinking), general characteristics of a successful criminal. A clear definition of the leader of an ethnic criminal group, taking into account its socio-psychological characteristics will ensure the successful work of law enforcement agencies in the fight against organized crime. Counteracting and detecting crimes committed by ethnic criminal groups requires a detailed study of the socio-psychological characteristics of leaders and members of such criminal groups.

Keywords: *ethnic criminal group, leader of ethnic criminal group, socio-psychological portrait, organized crime, ethnic crime.*