

Innovative Methods for Preventing Theft Crimes

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Received: 10 April 2026; **Accepted:** 04 May 2026; **Published:** 31 May 2026

Abstract: This article examines Uzbekistan's position in international indices, provides a brief analysis of theft crimes in certain foreign countries as reported by international scientific organizations, and analyzes the share of theft in the overall crime structure of the Republic. It also explores methods of committing cyber theft and modern approaches to combating them, including the development and large-scale implementation of the "Mulkiy xavfsizlik" module within the "E-Jamoat xavfsizligi" information system. Furthermore, the paper proposes definitions for "a person prone to committing theft" and "prevention of theft crimes," and offers recommendations for preventing this type of crime.

Keywords: Theft crimes, crime prevention, prevention measures, "E-Jamoat xavfsizligi" information system, "Mulkiy xavfsizlik" module, modern technologies, new types of cyber theft, innovative approaches, cyber culture and legal awareness, fraudulent calls, blockchain-based monitoring system, theft prevention.

Introduction: Today, in strengthening the legal foundations of the economic base of our republic, special attention is paid to strengthening the protection of various forms of property, and a number of targeted measures are being implemented and improved. In particular, systematic work is being carried out to differentiate liability for theft committed by unauthorized access to computer systems and on oil and gas pipelines, oil and gas product pipelines, to increase the effectiveness of theft prevention, and to improve victimological prevention. "Improving the system of combating crime and preventing offenses against the foundations of the economy associated with encroachment on property" has been identified as one of the priority areas for ensuring the rule of law and further reforming the judicial and legal system, and research in this area is of great importance. [1]

It should be recognized that as a result of the reforms carried out in New Uzbekistan in recent years, the standard of social life has significantly improved, crime has been curbed, important results have been achieved in creating a safe, peaceful and orderly environment in all neighborhoods, and the introduction of advanced experiences and practices in the regions.

According to the "Safety Perceptions Index" rating by the Institute for Economics and Peace, based in

London, Great Britain, for the period 2021–2024, Uzbekistan was recognized as a safe country, achieving its best result in its history (29th place among 146 countries). [2]

According to the Order and Security Indicator of the Rule of Law Index, conducted annually by the World Justice Project (USA), Uzbekistan in 2024:

- 17th place among 142 countries in the world;

- 5th place among 49 countries in Asia;

- It took the 1st place among the countries of Eastern Europe, Central Asia, and the Shanghai Cooperation Organization.

Uzbekistan is also considered one of the safest countries in the Commonwealth of Independent States in terms of the number of crimes committed per 100,000 inhabitants (359.5). [3]

While the modern world offers humanity unlimited opportunities, it also poses negative threats, such as the emergence of hidden threats to the security of states, a sharp increase in transnational crimes and the illicit trafficking of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, crimes against the foundations of the economy, and the emergence of new forms of cybercrime.

According to the United Nations Institute for Crime and

Justice Studies, theft accounts for 60-65 percent of all crimes committed worldwide.

According to the Criminology Journal, theft accounts for 45-50 percent of total crime in Europe, 40-45 percent in the United States, 55-60 percent in Asian countries, and 65-70 percent in African countries.

A study by The British Journal of Criminology found that 70 percent of thefts are committed due to the carelessness and negligence of the victims.

Today, with the development of digital technologies, the number of cyber thefts is also increasing. According to Harvard Law Review, while traditional thefts have decreased by 15-20 percent in the past 5 years, cyber thefts have increased by 45-50 percent.

In our republic, 80 percent of all crimes in 2024 were committed by the following types of crimes:

- crimes committed using information technologies (44.4 percent, of which 61.9 percent were cyber theft, 35.7 percent were cyber fraud and 2.2 percent were other crimes);
- illicit trafficking in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances (9.3 percent);
- theft (9 percent);
- crimes related to traffic accidents (7.1 percent);
- fraud (6.2 percent);
- intentional bodily harm (4.8 percent). [4]

The fact that the majority of crimes committed in our republic are thefts, and the share of thefts among preventable crimes remains high, including the fact that thefts accounted for 41.3 percent of preventable crimes in 2024, is a clear example of this.

The majority of persons who committed thefts in 2024, i.e. 9.7 percent, were unemployed young people aged 18–30, and 4.4 percent were drunk.

In 3 months of 2025, 21.2% of the crimes committed by convicts, 23.5% of the crimes committed while intoxicated, as well as every third of the crimes committed by young people, and every second of the crimes committed by minors are theft crimes.

Currently, the following innovative methods are used to prevent theft crimes:

- digital prevention systems (databases, etc.);
- video surveillance and "safe city" technologies;
- campaigning through social networks;
- criminological forecasting models.

These approaches, while increasing the effectiveness of prevention, allow for targeted use of resources.

From this point of view, it is proposed to create and

widely implement the "Civil Security" module of the "E-Jamoat Security" information system in order to combat theft crimes and prevent them early, to implement targeted preventive work with persons who may commit theft crimes (previously convicted, those on preventive accounts, prone to committing theft crimes, etc.) and persons who may be victims of this crime using artificial intelligence and assessment, as well as to monitor the work being carried out to prevent theft crimes across regions and determine appropriate measures in a timely manner.

The following information is planned to be generated in the "Civil Security" module of the "E-Public Security" information system:

Information on persons previously convicted of theft, robbery and fraud;

Information on persons prone to committing theft, robbery and fraud;

A person with a tendency to commit a crime of theft is a natural person who is in a position of possibility to commit a crime of theft due to the danger of his antisocial behavior.

Information on victims of theft, robbery and fraud and potential victims;

Information on unemployed citizens in the region;

Map of the location of those convicted of theft, robbery and fraud and persons prone to committing these types of crimes;

Work to be carried out to prevent theft, robbery and fraud (For example: places and objects where cameras should be installed, the state of connection to the security remote control of objects belonging to legal entities and individuals in the area, promotional activities, warning letters issued to persons prone to committing theft, etc.).

Prevention of theft crimes is a system of legal, social, organizational and other measures of general, special, individual and victimological prevention of offenses, used to identify and eliminate theft crimes, as well as to identify and eliminate the causes and conditions that allow them to be committed.

This system ensures the early detection of property offenses, the elimination of conditions that allow them

to be committed, as well as monitoring the actions of offenders and the timely implementation of targeted preventive measures.

Also, during our research, attention was paid to the use of non-traditional methods of combating crime, in particular, the prevention of crimes by improving the environment of certain areas and houses with a severe criminogenic situation.

For example, in Tokyo, where high-rise buildings and apartments are densely populated, 1,700 house burglaries were recorded in 2023, forcing the police and government to focus on preventing and combating this type of crime. When studying the best practices of other regions, it was found that crimes were less common in areas where landscaping, flowers were planted, and gardens were built. As a result of the involvement of the general public and the great attention paid by the officials of this region to the improvement of the area, overall crime was reduced by 50 percent, and house burglaries by 80 percent. [5]

Indeed, during scientific studies conducted in the Tashkent region to ensure the implementation of Resolution No. PP-1 of January 3, 2025, it was found that the majority of crimes committed in the region were committed in deserted, abandoned, and poorly lit places.

The application of the Tokyo experience in the conditions of Uzbekistan can be considered one of the effective methods for preventing crimes.

It should be noted that during the 12 months of 2024, crimes committed using information technologies in the republic accounted for 44.4% of the total number of crimes, of which 35.7% were cyber fraud and 61.9% were cyber theft. This shows how rapidly cyber theft and cyber fraud crimes are growing.

From this point of view, with the development of modern technologies in Uzbekistan, innovative approaches are needed to combat new types of cyber theft:

- a number of works need to be carried out to prevent cyber theft, including the introduction of a blockchain monitoring system in the fight against cryptocurrency theft, the development of a clear procedure for monitoring the activities of crypto exchanges, and the creation of a system for identifying suspicious transactions, which is becoming increasingly urgent, given that the number of undetectable methods of transferring money around the world is currently increasing;

- It is necessary to develop biometric authentication systems in the fight against identity theft, and the current situation is one of the

20-year-old methods. Practical work aimed at raising public awareness of cybersecurity is not enough;

- It is necessary to introduce improved methods of monitoring and tracking transactions in the fight against theft in the electronic payment system. In the current system, more and more transactions made through electronic payments are being obtained through theft and fraud. However, the fact that these transactions disappear and the possibility of tracking them is limited requires the introduction of new reforms in our management sector.

According to the analysis, cyber thefts are mainly committed in the following 4 ways:

- 1) gaining control of a bank card or mobile device by sending malicious links and programs;
- 2) obtaining the "Confirmation SMS code" for managing bank cards and accounts in mobile applications by fraud through a fake (SIP) call;
- 3) issuing an online loan in the name of an individual;
- 4) committed due to technical weaknesses of banks and payment organizations.

Due to the lack of targeted measures to completely eliminate cybercrime crimes committed by obtaining the "Confirmation SMS code" through fake calls, bank card and mobile application accounts, they are increasing year by year.

Crimes to obtain someone else's property and personal information through fake calls are increasing worldwide. [6]

Criminals call from abroad using fake (SIP) phone numbers (as if using a national operator's subscriber number), introduce themselves as a bank or MCO employee, and use frightening (online loan applications, cyberattacks on the money on the card or deposit) fraud to take control of citizens' bank card and payment application accounts.

To prevent these crimes, all national operators in the republic should start practical work on introducing technologies to prevent fake calls made from abroad via the Internet.

Analysis of foreign experience shows that cases of fraud and theft of citizens' personal data through fake calls are observed in all countries, and three main measures are used to prevent them:

1. In some countries (China, UAE, Saudi Arabia, Iran), in order to prevent fraud and theft, support national operators, and ensure full state control,

IP telephony services are completely banned;

2. In most countries (USA, EU countries, India, South Korea, etc.), the personal liability of mobile operators

for making fake calls via IP telephony is established by law, and modern technical solutions have been introduced;

At this point, let's give an explanation of IP telephony, IP telephony is the transmission of voice, video and data in digital form over the Internet, using servers and softphones instead of telephone exchanges. 3. Mobile operators are providing services to identify suspicious calls and automatically block them or notify the recipient and leave the issue of blocking to him.

According to the analysis, the following factors hinder the prevention of fake (spoof) calls and thefts committed through them:

-The fact that making calls to fake numbers via IP telephony is not prohibited by legislative acts and the system for combating it (responsible institutions, obligations and responsibilities) has not been formed;

-Although the use of IP telephony services is permitted, there is no technological mechanism to prevent making fake calls through them;

-International and bilateral cooperation to prevent violations in this area is out of date;

-Lack of "cyber culture" and legal awareness among citizens regarding the use of digital technologies. Insufficient organization of preventive measures in this regard in the regions, in particular, citizens lack understanding of issues such as ensuring security when using online payments, protecting personal data in cyberspace, and so on;

-insufficient knowledge, qualifications and skills of prevention inspectors in the prevention of cybercrimes. These circumstances create methodological difficulties in organizing preventive work with citizens in the field;

-the absence of automated operational-information systems aimed at identifying and early preventing theft crimes committed using information technologies.

According to analyzes, young people are increasingly involved in cybercrimes. Therefore, the following are proposed to prevent this type of crime:

-Introducing cybersecurity subjects in the education system. This is not only the task of young people, but also of educational institutions to organize various circles, clubs, sections for their interests, aimed at developing the intellectual, physical and creative abilities of students, as well as to set as their goal and main tasks the task of educating intellectually developed youth with high spiritual and moral qualities and a sense of patriotism, and preparing students who take responsibility for the future of the Motherland, are ready to defend the honor of the Motherland, have a strong view and a firm civic position;

-Explaining the rules of digital etiquette to young people;

-The wide popularity of online games among young people is making them a convenient target for cybercriminals. Online games have become an integral part of young people's lives. At the same time, they serve as a convenient platform for cybercrimes.

Excessive addiction to games leads to psychological and economic problems for young people.

This process leads young people to financial debt and leads to their involvement in illegal activities. [7]

To solve these problems, it is necessary to create systems for monitoring the activities of young people in online games.

In addition, in order to eliminate the factors that lead to the formation of criminal behavior in minors and young people and to form positive behavior in them, it is proposed that parents, schools, neighborhoods, internal affairs, interdepartmental commissions for children, public associations, and health institutions carry out the following tasks:

Firstly, to organize the child's free time meaningfully, organize creative houses and sports facilities and clubs in the place of residence, create the necessary conditions for attracting all children living in this place, hold competitions or artistic and creative evenings in at least one sport every month;

Secondly, introduce a system of constant encouragement for exemplary children with exemplary behavior, who study with excellent grades at school, and who show themselves positively at sports competitions and artistic and creative evenings;

Thirdly, develop rules for children's use of the Internet and social networks and constantly monitor compliance with these rules;

Fourthly, develop and implement a mechanism for re-educating minors who have violated their behavior, regularly skip classes without reason, and have committed administrative offenses or crimes, thereby raising a harmonious generation and forming positive behavior in minors.

I believe that the widespread implementation of the above proposals will be an important impetus in preventing these types of crimes.

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