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## Psychological and Criminal-Legal Features of Convicted Migrants Determining Their Aggressive Behavior (Based on the Results of Theoretical, Methodological and Empirical Research)

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### Abstract

*Introduction:* the article considers psychological and criminal-legal features of convicted migrants in places of detention. *Purpose:* to identify psychological and criminal-legal features of convicted migrants in places of detention, which determine aggressive behavior, and to develop their criminal-psychological profile. *Methods and techniques:* analysis of personal files, questionnaires, interviews, testing using the State-Trait Anxiety Inventory (Ch. Spielberger). *Results:* an empirical study conducted in April 2025 in the general regime correctional facility of the Federal Penitentiary Service of Russia in the Ryazan Oblast covered 95 convicted migrants, including those held in panel settlements. It is established that the psychological profile of most convicted migrants in places of detention is characterized by a combination of rigidity and instrumental aggressiveness with a reduced level of anxiety and frustration, while statistical outliers on the scales of "Frustration" and "Rigidity" mark a risk group with extreme distress. The revealed subcultural stratification indicates that this category of convicts is dominated by a neutral-passive stratum, formally following regime requirements. Based on the identified psychological and criminal-legal characteristics, a psychological portrait of a convicted migrant in places of detention is developed. Convicted migrants mostly serve sentences of up to 5 years, have committed crimes of a mercenary nature, 59% have penalties, 51% do not have incentives, 35% are on the preventive register. *Conclusions:* based on the theoretical analysis, it is established that aggressive behavior of convicted migrants is determined by a complex of factors, the key of which are the state of "double marginalization" and the legal uncertainty of their status. The empirical study has specified this model, showing that the majority of convicted migrants in places of detention have instrumental aggression

and are combined with rigidity with reduced indicators of anxiety and frustration, while the risk group with extreme distress and the oppositional subcultural stratum represent the main carriers of destructive potential. The developed psychological profile of a criminal can be used for the prevention of aggressive behavior and differentiated psychological support.

**Key words:** penal system; correctional institutions; convicted migrants; aggressive behavior; psychological characteristics; criminal-legal characteristics.

#### 5.3.9. Legal psychology and accident psychology.

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#### *Introduction*

Nowadays, there is a new generation of convicts in places of detention – convicted migrants who commit crimes not only for financial gain, but also to demonstrate themselves from a position of strength, which makes it difficult to work with them in correctional facilities. The study of aggressive behavior of convicted migrants in places of detention is of particular interest, since they often behave aggressively, including towards penal system employees.

A number of authors study the problem of convicted migrants. I.I. Glotov analyzes causes, conditions, and indicators of migration in the Russian Federation, and point to “a problem of the increased number of convicted migrants in institutions and bodies of the Federal Penitentiary Service of Russia” [1, p. 37].

R.E. Mammadov establishes that “there is a connection between the criminal activity of convicted migrants and their psychological characteristics, such as antisociality, alienation, suspicion, hypersensitivity in interpersonal relationships, poor social adaptability, negative attitude to social and legal norms” [2, p. 244].

I.A. Sementsova and E.A. Fedorova reveal that “difficulties in the course of social adaptation, ignorance of legal norms and moral characteristics of the region of the migrant’s temporary residence impulsive, hostile and aggressive behavior” [3, p. 146].

A.M. Zyukov notes in his criminological research that “representatives of various ethnic groups are often guided in conflict resolution not so much by the norms of formal law as by traditional ideas of honor, collective responsi-

bility and acceptable ways to protect dignity” [4, p. 72]. The clash of these informal norms with internal regulations of the correctional institution becomes a constant source of frustration and conflict, where aggression is perceived as a legitimate and socially acceptable (within the group) way of responding.

E.B. Magomedov identifies components of migration crime of convicted foreigners: living conditions in the country of origin, moral and psychological characteristics, living conditions in Russia [5, p. 92; 6, p. 35].

Aggressive behavior of convicted migrants in places of detention is derived from a complex of interrelated psychological and legal factors. T.S. Khvan emphasizes that “foreign and stateless convicts experience a state of double marginalization, becoming alienated both from the society of the host country and from their original cultural environment” [7, p. 98]. This condition generates chronic stress, feelings of insecurity and hostility towards others, which easily transforms into aggressive reactions, especially in conflict situations.

I.S. Ganishina and I.V. Ukhova prove the importance of using psychodiagnostic tools for timely and qualitative detection of aggressive behavior tendencies among convicted migrants in places of detention with regard to their nationality and leveling conflict situations among convicts [8, p. 30; 9, p. 421].

Scientific definition of the determinants of aggressive behavior is important in the context of the problem under study. According to the concise philosophical dictionary edited by G.G. Kirilenko, E.V. Shevtsov, “a determinant is

a decisive factor, a reason that determines the necessity and specific nature of a process or phenomenon" [10, p. 95].

Aggressive behavior of convicted migrants in places of detention is a complex phenomenon caused by the imposition of specific psychological difficulties on a special legal status. Researchers emphasize that key determinants of such behavior are rooted in the crisis of social adaptation, cultural isolation and legal uncertainty, which form a unique environment for serving sentences of this category of persons.

K.I. Yurova identify key determinants of the criminality of convicted migrants, such as "problems of interethnic relations, lack of legal regulation of market relations, unsettled relations between the state and foreign citizens, psychological unpreparedness for conflict situations, weakening of migration registration, national specifics, low adaptation level in the settlement region" [11, p. 68].

I.N. Arkhiptsev, analyzing criminological aspects, emphasizes that "migrants, once in prison, often experience a state of "double marginalization", which contributes to their cohesion into closed community groups based on ethnic solidarity, within which aggressive behavior can be encouraged as a means of protecting and maintaining hierarchy" [12, p. 134]. Alternative norms are formed within such groups that justify violence against representatives of other groups or the administration.

A.A. Sedova, analyzing criminal and legal characteristics of the personality of a migrant criminal and the issues of belonging to a particular nationality, identifies key determinants of the crime of foreign migrants, their external and internal factors contributing to the commission of crimes. "Based on them, a criminological portrait of a migrant criminal is developed: a 30-49-year-old man, a representative of the Central Asian countries that are part of the Commonwealth of Independent States, with secondary specialized education, without a specific occupation (without a source of income), who has committed a crime for selfish motives" [13, p. 232].

S.N. Minsafina notes that "a lack of legal mechanisms to protect their rights and the fear of deportation force convicted migrants to seek protection in informal structures, where loyalty is often achieved by demonstrating aggression

and willingness to conflict with the regime" [14, p. 145]. Thus, aggression becomes instrumental, necessary for acquiring status and relative security in the prison hierarchy.

Aggressive behavior of convicted migrants is determined by a complex interaction of factors, where psychological characteristics are the primary basis, and criminal law ones are the secondary, but powerful catalyst that perpetuates destructive behaviors.

I.V. Ukhova notes that the problem of aggressive behavior among convicted migrants in places of detention requires an integrated approach, including consideration of ethnic, criminal law and socio-psychological factors [15, p. 355; 16, p. 75].

According to A.A. Krupstov, "the criminal-legal status of a foreign citizen, in contrast to the status of a citizen of the Russian Federation, is characterized by additional restrictive elements related to the application of norms on extradition, administrative expulsion and a special procedure for serving a sentence" [17, p. 67]. This legal complexity and the procedural uncertainty associated with it, according to S.N. Minsafina, "generates in convicts a persistent sense of vulnerability, insecurity and prejudice on the part of state institutions, which leads to the formation of defensive and aggressive attitudes" [14, p. 89].

G.V. Luk'yanova states that "the majority of migrant criminals are representatives of Central Asian countries that are part of the Commonwealth of Independent States, of which, one in seven has previously committed a crime, one in five is part of a group, and one in three has two or more criminal records" [18, p. 120].

Yu.N. Kharlamova states that "the criminal-legal status of foreign citizens is fraught with a number of restrictions and procedural difficulties, including issues of extradition and commutation of imprisonment to expulsion, which creates a stable sense of legal insecurity and uncertainty of the future for the convicted person" [19, p. 114]. This feeling undermines trust in the state institutions and the administration of correctional facilities, pushing for the search for protection and justice within closed communities.

O.N. Palieva and V.B. Paliev emphasize that "crimes committed by migrants are mainly of a mercenary and violent nature (theft, robbery,

fraud, robbery), however, a large percentage of crimes related to illicit trafficking of narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances and weapons, human trafficking, terrorism and extremism are committed by convicted migrants" [20, p. 130].

As noted by D.N. Shurukhnova, "the procedures of extradition and administrative expulsion are associated with prolonged procedural uncertainty, which destructively affects the psycho-emotional state of a convicted person, limiting the formation of life plans and increasing apathy or aggressive protest" [21, p. 45]. The lack of a clear prospect for rehabilitation and reintegration deprives the convict of motivation to law-abiding behavior in places of detention.

A.I. Bykov and R.M. Zhilyaev reveal that convicted migrants have committed more repeated crimes after arriving in the Russian Federation than in their homeland mostly because of deliberate mercenary motives. They admit their guilt in the crime, serve their sentences for committing grave and especially grave crimes for a term exceeding 5 years, while almost half of the migrants – for a term exceeding 10 years [22, p. 41; 23, pp. 183–185].

O.M. Yur'eva points out the existence of "specific problems in the organizational and legal support of correctional institutions in relation to convicted foreign citizens, including difficulties in translating documents, lack of contacts with consular institutions, difficulties in attracting to work and education" [24, p. 112]. These systemic barriers violate the principle of equality before the law and hinder re-socialization, provoke feelings of hopelessness and despair, which is fertile ground for aggressive outbursts.

In foreign literature, J. Mazzocchi proves "growing criminalization and isolation of the youth from poor areas and primary migrants based on the results of twenty years of fieldwork and numerous ethnographic studies conducted mainly in Burkina Faso, Belgium and Malta, in terms of their involvement in the neoliberal project and resistance to the ostracism inherent in its egalitarian functioning" [25, p. 89].

D. Ignjatović analyzes links between migration and crime in the United States of America and identify one of the key psychological aspects as "consequences of horizontal mobility of large groups of people, which in recent years has acquired dramatic proportions" [26, p. 51].

G. Tutak and M. Jurek, based on "statistical data for the period from 2004 to 2024 provided by the Main Police Directorate of Poland, and variables related to the total number of preliminary investigations initiated by the police, data on the number of registered foreigners suspected of committing a specific criminal offense, analyze categories of prohibited acts, such as crimes against property, communications security, life and health and drug-related crimes, and identify areas requiring action, aimed at a more thorough study of the problem of crime among foreigners and the implementation of further projects aimed at for improving the level of security in the area under discussion" [27, p. 491].

Kim J.-G. reveals that "the recognition of foreign migrants as potential criminals is influenced by such factors as economic satisfaction, political inclinations, competitive consciousness, contacts with migrants, dominant class consciousness and ethnic identity" [28, p. 70].

J. Mansel and G. Albrecht compare the rates of police registration as suspects and subsequent conviction by the courts for migrants versus members of the indigenous population. The analysis draws on data provided by the Land Offices of Criminal Investigation and the Land Statistical Offices across thirteen federal states of Germany. "Taking into account the distribution by age and gender, it is found that for various groups of migrants, the probability of involvement in the police and courts in some cases is more than three times higher than for the German population, one of the reasons for the higher rates among migrants is that their daily lives are regulated by the Law on Foreign Citizens, which does not matter to German citizens" [29, p. 707].

Thus, aggressive behavior of convicted migrants is a consequence of the combined impact of two groups of factors. The legal and organizational characteristics of their status create a stable external environment of legal uncertainty, restrictions and frustration. These external conditions actualize internal psychological and criminological mechanisms: an identity crisis, forced consolidation into aggressive community groups, and the instrumental use of violence to adapt to a prison subculture. A comprehensive strategy is needed

to prevent such behavior. This should include humanizing and defining the legal status of foreign prisoners, eliminating organizational barriers, and creating targeted psychological correction programs that account for cultural and linguistic differences.

The conducted research allows for a comprehensive analysis of psychological and criminal law determinants of aggressive behavior of convicted migrants in places of detention. The science of criminal law and criminology (I.I. Glotov, A.M. Zyukov, K.I. Yurova, A.A. Sedova, G.V. Lukyanova, E.A. Fedorova, T.S. Khvan) possesses a significant amount of data characterizing external, socio-legal factors of aggressive behavior of convicted migrants in places of detention: criminological portrait, crime statistics and structure, characteristics of the legal status associated with extradition and expulsion.

At the same time, there is a shortage of empirical research and theoretical models in the field of legal and penitentiary psychology that explain the intrapersonal and situational mechanisms of aggressive behavior of convicted migrants in the specific conditions of the penitentiary system. Existing works are often fragmentary and do not provide a holistic understanding of how the cultural, linguistic, and socio-psychological characteristics of convicted migrants interact with factors of deprivation and the subculture of places of detention, generating aggressive behavioral patterns. In this regard, it is required to conduct a comprehensive study in order to determine psychological and criminal-legal characteristics of convicted migrants that determine aggressive behavior in places of detention.

#### *Methods*

When conducting the empirical study of psychological and criminal law characteristics of convicted migrants in places of detention, we analyzed personal files, questionnaires, and interviews, and conducted testing on the basis of the State-Trait Anxiety Inventory (Ch. Spielberg).

The analysis of personal files of convicted migrants makes it possible to determine their criminal-legal characteristics: length of the time served, nature of the crimes committed, availability of preventive records, number of incentives, penalties, and place of work in the industrial area of the correctional institution.

Anonymous questionnaires and semi-structured interviews were used to study a socio-psychological status of convicted migrants in the informal structure of the correctional institution. Since the official documents contained in the personal files of convicted migrants have only formal characteristics, and belonging to a particular subcultural stratum is a latent factor, the use of survey methods made it possible to differentiate respondents based on their value orientations and behavioral patterns.

The typology was based on criteria of attitude to legitimate demands of the administration and adherence to norms of the prison subculture. This allowed us to identify three strata corresponding to the traditional penitentiary hierarchy, but in scientifically correct terminology.

The prosocial stratum consists of convicts who are focused on cooperation with the administration in places of detention and on compliance with the Internal regulations of correctional institutions. The neutral-passive stratum covers convicts who formally comply with regime requirements, but distance themselves from employees of the penal system, as well as from the active criminal environment. The oppositional subcultural stratum consists of convicts who share values of the criminal environment, oppose the administration of correctional institutions and disseminate a prison ideology among convicts.

STAI was designed to diagnose behavior in conflict situations, which made it possible to identify the propensity for aggressive behavior of convicted migrants in places of detention. A set of mathematical statistics methods was applied to process the results. At the first stage, the Shapiro–Wilk test was used to verify the normality of the empirical data distribution. It was found that the distribution of indicators on all four scales (anxiety, aggressiveness, frustration, rigidity) statistically significantly different from normal ( $p < 0.05$ ). In this regard, nonparametric descriptive statistics such as median (Me) and interquartile range (Q1–Q3) were used to describe the central trend and the spread of values.

To visually represent the distributions obtained, we selected a span diagram (“box-and-whisker”), which allows us to simultaneously reflect the median, interquartile range (25–75 percentiles), sample size (minimum and maxi-

imum values excluding outliers) and possible extreme values (outliers). This visualization method is the most appropriate for abnormal distribution and meets modern requirements for data representation in psychological research.

### *Results*

The research covered 95 convicted migrants in the correctional facility of the general regime of the Federal Penitentiary Service of Russia in the Ryazan Oblast, including 12 persons held in the penal settlement.

A total of 363 convicts were serving their sentences in this correctional institution at the time of the study, 24 of whom – in the penal settlement site. At the same time, of the total number of convicts serving their sentences, migrants account for 26% and of the total number of convicts held in the penal settlement convicted migrants comprise 50%.

In order to forecast escalation of aggressive behavior in conflict situations, the convicted migrants were interviewed with the help of the State-Trait Anxiety Inventory (Ch. Spielberg).

Verification of the normality of the distribution using the Shapiro–Wilk test showed that the results on all four scales of the methodology deviated significantly from the normal law (significance level  $< 0.05$ ). This circumstance determined the visualization method for visual representation of the results of values on the scales of “Anxiety”, “Aggressiveness”, “Frustration”, “Rigidity”. Span diagrams, better known as “box-and-whisker”, were used, where the center line indicates the median (Me), boundaries of the “box” correspond to the 25th and 75th percentiles (Q1–Q3), and the “whiskers” show the overall spread of values, with the exception of outliers that are outside them as separate dots. The use of this graphical method allows to take into account the heterogeneity of the sample and to visually highlight those extreme values that are of the greatest interest from the point of view of forecasting aggressive manifestations of convicted migrants in places of detention.

On the “Aggressiveness” scale, the median value is 20 points, the total range of values is determined from 10 to 40 points, the interquartile range (Q1–Q3) ranges from 14 to 33 points, which indicates a significant variability among convicted migrants in places of detention. It is noteworthy that there are no statistical outliers

on this scale, since all the results fit within the boundaries of the “whiskers”. So, despite the wide variability, there are no extremely high or, conversely, extremely low values that stand out from the overall picture.

Inclination to aggressive behavior is relatively evenly distributed in the sample, but the width of the interquartile range (19 points) is noteworthy. It points to the significant heterogeneity of convicted migrants in places of detention: the level of aggression varies from moderate to quite high. This suggests that aggressive potential is more or less inherent in many representatives of this category of convicts, but its implementation depends on situational factors and individual psychological characteristics.

The revealed level of aggressiveness (above average in the majority of convicted migrants) may create prerequisites for their conflict behavior in places of detention. Possible forms of its manifestation are malevolence, egocentrism, and an aggressive manner of self-affirmation. It may hinder convicts’ adaptation and provoke tension in relations with employees of the penitentiary system. However, it should be emphasized that specific behavioral patterns depend on a variety of situational variables and require further study and refinement in the course of additional research.

On the “Rigidity” scale, the median value is 22 points, the total range of values is determined from 10 to 40 points, the interquartile range (Q1–Q3) ranges from 16 to 27 points, which indicates a certain variability among convicted migrants in places of detention. There are no statistical outliers, as well as on the “Aggressiveness” scale. Therefore, despite the presence in the sample of convicted migrants in places of detention with both flexibility of thinking and marked rigidity, extreme values that stand out from the overall picture are not recorded. Rigidity as a personality trait may hinder adaptation to new conditions and reinforce affective experiences, which inevitably increases conflict potential, especially when combined with high frustration.

In relation to convicted migrants, this can be expressed in a slow restructuring of behavior, a wary attitude towards innovations, and difficulties in communication with convicts of other nationalities or faiths. Rigidity may force convicted migrants join closed religion or nationality-based groups (jamaats), where traditional

customs and the authority of religious leaders begin to prevail over legitimate requirements of the administration of correctional institutions. Such a discrepancy between informal attitudes and official norms often leads to disciplinary offenses and, as a result, to the application of penalties provided for by the Penal Code of the Russian Federation.

On the “Anxiety” scale, the median value for convicted migrants in places of detention is 15 points, the total range of values is determined from 10 to 27 points, the interquartile range (Q1–Q3) ranges from 13 to 16 points. The narrowness of the interquartile range indicates that the majority of respondents (50% of the sample) demonstrate a similar profile characterized by a moderate level of anxiety, which indicates a high degree of homogeneity of the group in this parameter.

However, upon closer examination, two polar subgroups are found, as indicated by the general spread of values and the presence of numerous statistical outliers. On the one hand, respondents with minimal scores (10 points) are recorded, which may reflect either the low sensitivity of convicted migrants in places of detention to stress, or the effect of their psychological defense mechanisms. On the other hand, a group with extremely high anxiety (23–27 points) is identified, which is clearly visible on the scale diagram in the form of individual spots. From a prognostic point of view, it is these convicted migrants in places of detention who constitute a risk group, since in the conditions of the frustrating environment of the correctional institution, their increased anxiety can transform into aggressive reactions.

On the “Frustration” scale, the median value is 14 points, the total range of values is determined from 10 to 30 points, the interquartile range (Q1–Q3) is very narrow – from 13 to 15 points. Special attention should be paid to the conclusion that this is the lowest median indicator among all the scales studied, and the narrowness of the interquartile range indicates a high degree of homogeneity of the majority of respondents. It can be argued that the majority of convicted migrants in places of detention show almost the same, moderate level of frustration.

Closer examination indicates a paradoxical picture: despite the homogeneity of the main group, the overall range of values and the abundance of statistical outliers in the upper part of

the distribution indicate the existence of a significant subgroup of convicted migrants with extremely high frustration (values from 25 to 30 points). From a prognostic point of view, this group is in the state of chronic dissatisfaction and emotional stress and represents the main source of potential conflicts and disorganization of the regime, because, according to psychological mechanisms, frustration most often triggers aggressive reactions.

In practical terms, convicted migrants in places of detention are likely to show low labor activity, lack of desire for achievement, which can provoke conflict situations with foremen, other convicts and employees of labor adaptation centers for convicts. As for the group with extremely high scores, on the contrary, they experience chronic frustration and tension, which in isolation creates high risks of affective breakdowns and aggressive actions.

The analyzed results of the questionnaire, survey, and personal file data of convicted migrants reveal their criminal-legal characteristics.

So, 44% of the convicted migrants committed crimes in the field of economic activity, 26% – drug trafficking, 19% – crimes against sexual integrity, 10% – crimes related to intentional infliction of serious harm to health, 3% – illegal crossing of the state border, 1% – violation of traffic rules (Figure 1). Consequently, by committing crimes, the convicted migrants pursued selfish motives and sought to extract material benefits, which indicates the fundamental desire of this category of convicts to improve their financial situation in an illegal way, unwillingness to improve financial well-being through legitimate employment.

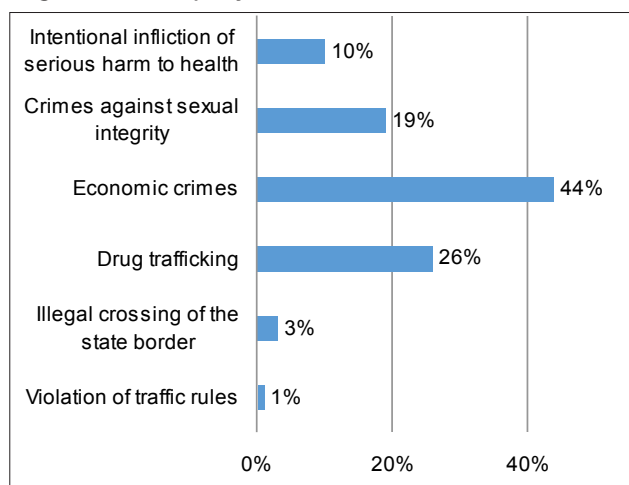


Figure 1. Crimes committed by convicted migrants

So, 3% of the convicted migrants are serving a sentence of up to 1 year for the crimes committed, 35% – up to 3 years, 43% – up to 5 years, 9% – up to 7 years, 4% – up to 10 years, and 5% – up to 20 years (Figure 2). Thus, the convicted migrants serve sentences of up to five years, which indicates low and moderate severity of the crimes committed. However, 18% are serving sentences of more than 7 years, which is a fairly high percentage of serious and especially serious crimes.

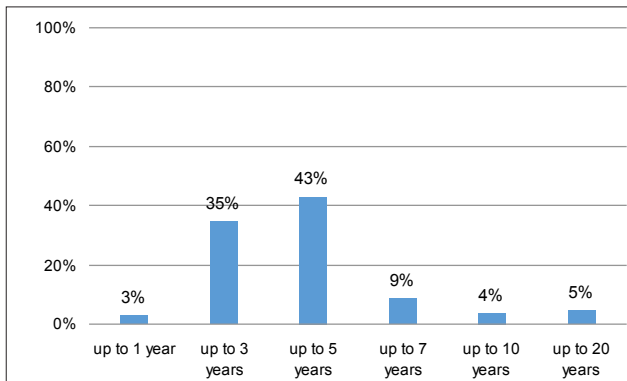


Figure 2. Terms of serving sentences of convicted migrants

The majority of convicted migrants (51%) have no incentives, 42% – up to 5 incentives, 5% – up to 10, and 2% – up to 20 (Figure 3). In most cases, convicts receive incentives for conscientious attitude to work, compliance with production standards, and active participation in creative and sports events.

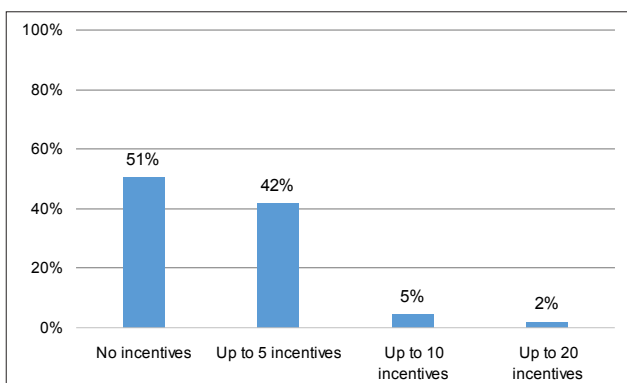


Figure 3. Number of incentives among convicted migrants

The majority of convicted migrants have no penalties (41%), 28% – up to 5 penalties, 19% – up to 10 penalties, 7% – up to 20, and 4% – up to 30 (Figure 4).

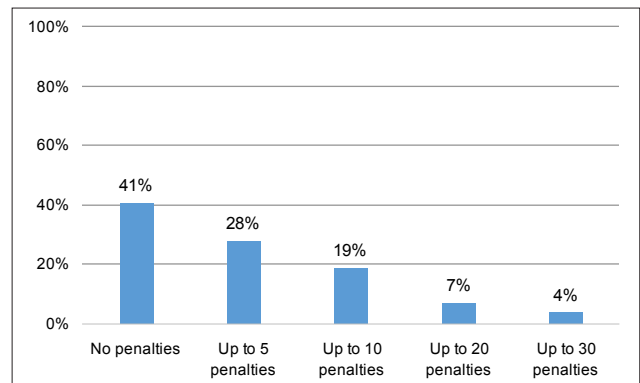


Figure 4. Number of penalties imposed on convicted migrants

Convicts in correctional institutions are most often brought to disciplinary responsibility for violating the regime of serving their sentences and internal regulations and refusing to work.

Of the 95 convicted migrants, 35% are on the preventive register: 13% are inclined to encroaching on sexual freedom and sexual integrity, 8% – to committing suicide and self-harm, 5% – to organizing or actively participating in gambling for the purpose of obtaining material or other benefits, 2% – to systematically violating internal regulations; to escaping; to attacking representatives of the administration and other law enforcement officers; and 1% – to studying, propagandizing, professing or spreading the extremist ideology; to committing terrorism and extremism-related crimes; and to committing arson attacks (Figure 5). Upon admission to places of detention of convicted migrants for crimes against sexual freedom, the staff initiates their placement on the preventive register in accordance with the incriminated article of the Criminal Code of the Russian Federation.

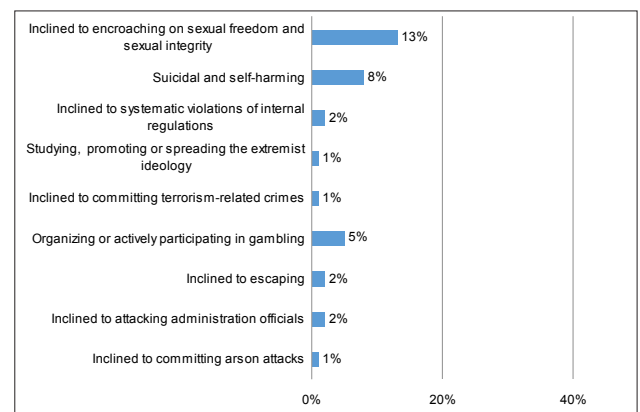


Figure 5. Number of convicted migrants on the preventive register

The survey and subsequent interviews made it possible to distribute convicted migrants according to types of their integration into the social structure of the correctional institution. In places of detention, the dominant stratum of convicted migrants is the neutral-passive stratum (82%). This group includes convicts who formally comply with regime requirements, strive to avoid conflict situations and take a wait-and-see attitude. In terms of informal stratification, they correspond to the “labor segment” – convicts employed in production and not involved in intergroup conflicts. Their behavior is characterized by a lack of both active loyalty and open opposition.

Besides, 13% of the convicted migrants, who make up the prosocial stratum, demonstrate conscious acceptance and compliance with the Internal regulations of correctional institutions and maintain contact with their administration. In the subcultural discourse, the category of “activists” is more often subjected to pressure from the oppositional part of the convicts.

The oppositional subcultural stratum (5%) is small, but the most criminologically significant, consisting of representatives of the prison subculture. Its representatives not only counteract legitimate demands of the correctional facility administration, but also try to spread the criminal ideology to other categories of convicts, provoking disorganization of the regime of serving sentences (Figure 6).

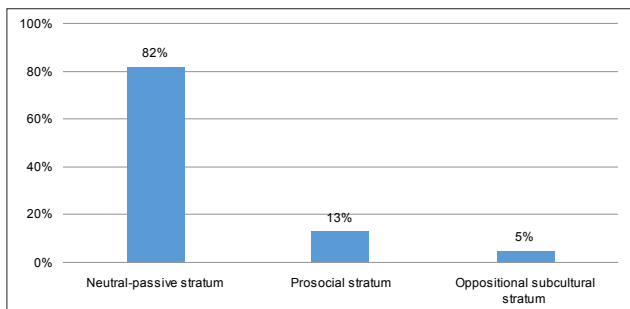


Figure 6. Subcultural stratification of convicted migrants in places of detention

So, 46% of the convicted migrants are working in a sewing workshop, 22% – in a metalworking workshop, 8% – in a welding workshop, 8% – as a custodian, 6% – in a woodworking workshop (Figure 7). Most are employed in the industrial zone of a correctional institution in production that does not require technical education.

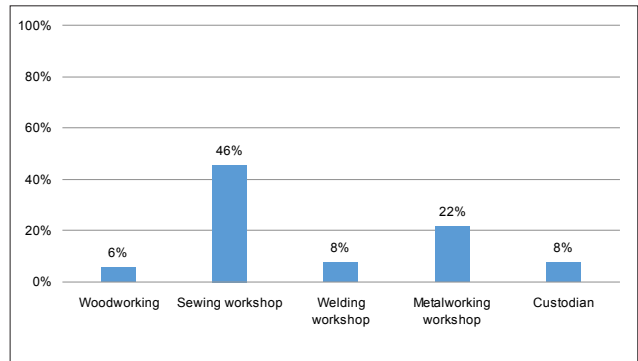


Figure 7. Places of work of convicted migrants in a correctional institution

Thus, the empirical study made it possible to compile a comprehensive description of convicted migrants in places of detention, including both psychological and criminal-legal characteristics that determine their aggressive behavior.

Among the psychological characteristics observed, rigidity (Me=22) and aggressiveness (Me=20) predominate in convicted migrants, accompanied by reduced levels of anxiety (Me=15) and frustration (Me=14).

At first glance, this combination looks paradoxical, but justified in terms of the nature of instrumental aggression in isolation. Aggression is not so much an emotional reaction as a tool, a means of survival, a way to gain a foothold in the informal hierarchy and maintain one’s status. The key point is the presence of outliers on the scales of anxiety and frustration, which identify a risk group with an extreme level of distress. In terms of forecasting, convicted migrants in places of detention with these characteristics require the primary attention of prison psychologists.

We identify the following criminal-legal characteristics of convicted migrants: length of the time served (mostly up to 5 years), nature of the crimes committed (mercenary motivation), being on the preventive register (35%), number of incentives and penalties (59% have penalties). This hinders their integration into the official system of relations. The socio-psychological imprint of this situation is subcultural stratification: the absolute majority (82%) takes a neutral and passive position, formally observing the rules, but not accepting them internally. And only a very small group (5%) openly opposes the administration of correctional institutions, being a carrier of the criminal subculture. The

most criminologically significant, in our opinion, is the combination of belonging to the oppositional stratum and extremely high rates of distress, recorded on the scales of anxiety and frustration.

#### *Discussion*

The conducted research made it possible to empirically verify and concretize the theoretical model according to which the aggressive behavior of convicted migrants in places of detention is determined by a complex of psychological and criminal-legal characteristics. The data obtained generally confirm the key thesis about the formation of a specific pattern of aggressive behavior in this category of people, but they make important clarifications in understanding its psychological mechanisms, requiring comparison with existing scientific views.

1. One of the key findings is that the majority of convicted migrants exhibit moderate levels of aggressiveness ( $Me = 20$ ) and rigidity ( $Me = 22$ ), coupled with notably reduced indicators of anxiety ( $Me = 15$ ) and frustration ( $Me = 14$ ). At first glance, this contradicts the idea of I.A. Sementsova and T.S. Khvan, who associate aggression in isolation with frustration or high anxiety. A comprehensive explanation is offered by A. M. Zyukov and S. N. Minsafina in their respective works. So, A.M. Zyukov emphasizes that “representatives of ethnic groups more often rely on traditional ideas rather than formal norms” [4]. S.N. Minsafina underlines that “a lack of legal protection mechanisms pushes migrants to informal structures where loyalty requires a demonstration of aggression” [14]. In this way, aggression does not act as an affective reaction to stress, but as a socially approved instrumental skill within the group for conflict resolution and status maintenance. And the low anxiety of most convicted migrants in places of detention probably indicates not the absence of stress, but the activation of psychological defenses and reliance on habitual, culturally conditioned behaviors. This, in turn, is consistent with the concept of “double marginalization” (T.S. Khvan, I.N. Arkhiptsev), leading to alienation and the formation of their own subcultural norms.

2. Understanding the criminal-legal profile of convicted migrants within detention settings is essential for developing a more accurate interpretation of their behavior. Formally, the ma-

majority of respondents comply with the regime (82% convicts in the neutral-passive stratum), but disciplinary practice suggests the opposite: 59% have penalties, and 51% have no incentives. External normality is combined here with an accumulated disciplinary background and a lack of motivation to re-socialize (only 13% entered the prosocial stratum). This picture fully fits into the concept of “double marginalization” (T.S. Khvan, I. N. Arkhiptsev), i.e. convicted migrants in places of detention find themselves alienated from both the society as a whole and the official value system of the correctional institution. The aggressive potential identified through the methodology is primarily manifested not in open conflicts with penal system staff – which occur in only 5 % of the opposition stratum – but rather within their own community groups. It serves as a mechanism for regulating social relations and reflects a latent readiness for self-protection. This finding corroborates R. E. Mammadova’s conclusions regarding antisociality and alienation as fundamental psychological characteristics.

3. The data obtained on the predominance of instrumental aggression are consistent with the conclusions of S.N. Minsafina that “aggressive behavior becomes a leverage in informal relationships” [14]. However, they seem to contradict the works that emphasize the role of high stress and frustration (I.A. Sementsova, T.S. Khvan). This contradiction can be resolved by the assumption that chronic, unbearable stress of convicted migrants in places of detention does not lead to the increase in situational anxiety, but to the mobilization of powerful psychological defenses (denial, displacement) and reliance on rigid, familiar behavioral stereotypes, which is recorded with the help of the State-Trait Anxiety Inventory (Ch. Spielberg).

4. Theoretical significance of the study lies in the empirical substantiation of how exactly psychological properties (aggressiveness, rigidity, anxiety, and frustration) and criminal-legal characteristics (terms, type of crime, disciplinary practice, and subcultural status) of convicted migrants in places of detention correlate. The revealed structure of determinants makes it possible to clarify the existing models of aggressive behavior in penitentiary psychology: the emphasis shifts from situational affective states to stable personality traits and their interaction

with socio-environmental factors. This creates the basis for both further research and the development of targeted prevention programs.

5. The results of theoretical and empirical research make it possible to form practical recommendations for working with convicted migrants in places of detention. Employees of the psychological service of the penitentiary system should take into account that standard methods aimed at reducing anxiety may be ineffective for this category of convicts. It is essential to shift the focus towards implementing targeted training programs for convicted migrants, aimed at developing social skills, cognitive flexibility, and legitimate strategies for achieving social status. Additionally, the use of projective and behavioral diagnostic methods should be prioritized to assess aggressive behavior in detention settings. To improve the social integration of convicted migrants, the educational work department should prioritize individual motivational work targeting rigidity and alienation. This approach aims to shift their passive-neutral stance in detention facilities. Concurrently, the operational and security departments should be aware that outward calmness may conceal significant aggression potential. Therefore, they should focus on detecting non-verbal signals and monitoring group interactions as early warning indicators.

#### *Conclusion*

This theoretical study reveals a research imbalance: although criminological analysis of aggression among convicted migrants in custody is well established, legal psychology lacks holistic models explaining the psychological mechanisms of their aggression in isolation. The present work fills this gap by proposing an integrative model, with psychological factors (cultural isolation, identity crisis) being the primary determinants and specific criminal-legal characteristics of the status (uncertainty, threat of extradition) being the secondary catalyst.

The empirical study not only confirmed key theoretical provisions but also revealed a paradoxical psychological profile among convicted migrants in detention facilities. He is characterized by a combination of high latent aggressiveness and behavioral rigidity with outwardly low anxiety and frustration, which refutes simplified interpretations of aggression as a consequence of stress. Aggression here appears not

as an affective outburst, but as an instrumental, socially sanctioned way of maintaining status and protection within a group in conditions of "double marginalization".

Based on the study results, a criminal psychological portrait of the majority of convicted migrants in places of detention is compiled. They are characterized by sentences of up to 5 years, selfish motivation, formal observance of the regime, work in production, and a lack of pronounced disciplinary activity.

However, the determinants of aggressive behavior are not these external signs themselves, but stable personality traits and socio-psychological mechanisms identified during the diagnosis.

Instrumental aggression in isolation becomes a way of regulating intra-group relations, which is consistent with the conclusions of A.M. Zyukov and S.N. Minsafina. Rigidity impedes adaptation and leads to fixation on affective experiences. Paradoxically, while most individuals exhibit low levels of anxiety and frustration, there are notable outliers on these scales. These outliers identify a high-risk group: individuals whose underlying distress may manifest as affective aggressive reactions.

Belonging to the oppositional subcultural stratum is a key socio-psychological determinant. Its representatives are bearers of the criminal ideology that opposes the administration; presumably, they correlate with outbursts of anxiety and frustration and are the main source of disorganization of the regime.

The findings are largely consistent with the conclusions of previous researchers (I. N. Arkhitektseva, I. S. Ganishina, A. M. Zyukov, R. E. Mamadov, S. N. Minsafina, T. S. Khvan et al.). However, the criminal-psychological portrait is further enriched by previously under-examined characteristics, including: attitudes towards administrative requirements (mediated by subcultural stratification); categories of preventive register; disciplinary practices; place of work assignment; a specific combination of rigidity and aggressiveness alongside reduced anxiety and frustration, observed in the majority of convicted migrants held in detention facilities. The results can be used to develop programs for preventing aggressive behavior and providing targeted psychological support for convicted migrants in correctional institutions.

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