

## **Criteria for the Criminal's Selection of the Victim: A study in Criminology and Victimology**

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### **Abstract**

*The process of selecting a criminal for his victim is subject to specific criteria, some related to the criminal and some related to the victim, determining these criteria leads to knowledge, which gives the competent authorities precedence over the criminal, which helps to know how the criminal thinks and contributes to the fight against crime. This paper refers to the importance of the criteria set by the criminal during his selection of the victim, during the stages of the crime, starting from the stage of preparation for the crime to the stage of carrying out the crime, and the paper also tries to delve into the psychology of the criminal, and study the factors that nominate a person to be a victim more than others, and the fact of the role of chance in a person falling victim to the crime, and the behaviours that push the person to be an ideal victim. This paper presents the main criteria which the criminal chooses his victim, which leads to the identification of the features of the potential victim, through digging in the Criminology, criminal psychology and victimology. The results have exposed the main criteria which the criminal based his choice for the victim on it, through the stages of crime, more legal protections must be established for certain categories of victims, and these protections should be included in laws.*

**Keywords:** *Victim, Selection, Criteria, Provocative Criminal, Victimology.*

### **1. Introduction**

The criminal system undertakes both substantively (the Penal Code) and procedurally (the Criminal Procedure Code), and with all its agencies working to implement it, is to fight the criminal phenomenon, with the aim of preventing it and mitigating its effects. Despite this, the criminal system is still unable to achieve its goal. Due to the gaps, defects, and deficiencies in the system in some aspects of the criminal phenomenon, perhaps the area in which the defects and shortcomings appear the most is related to the victim of the crime, as he is the neglected aspect of the criminal phenomenon even though he is the one on whom the crime affects the most.

Perhaps the Italian positive law school had a role in changing the form of the criminal system, from interest in crime as an abstract behaviour since ancient criminal system (El Shaarawy, 2019) to interest in the offender and the factors associated with him, so the personality of the offender became the focus of attention of those in charge of implementing the provisions of the criminal law (Mudminnow & Michael Ang, 2011) then the attention of researchers turned towards the end of the first half and the beginning of the second half of the twentieth century to study the aspects related to the crime victim and his role in the criminal phenomenon, these were indications of the emergence of a new science of forensic science, Victimology, this science has begun to develop, moving

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from being considered a science subordinate to criminology, to considering it an independent science in itself, its studies have developed from examining the role of the victim in the crime then examining his rights and compensation for the assault on him (Abdel Fattah 2000).

Studies conducted by those working in this science resulted in new results that removed much of the ambiguity in the cycle of crime, the criminal and the victim, and revealed many shortcomings in the criminal system, which will only begin by paying attention to an important party in the criminal phenomenon, namely the victim of the crime, and studying everything related to it. Among the circumstances, factors that led to or contributed to his becoming a victim of crime, and one of the most important of these precise issues is how the offender chooses his victim, the considerations that the offender places in choosing this victim. Therefore, based on these criteria, is it possible to draw a schematic picture of crime victims according to each type of crime, could it help developing a clear picture about the ideal victim (Lotta, 2014).

This paper has the intention of raising a major problem which is what are the criteria on which the criminal chooses his victim?

Discussing and facing a sub problem such as an individual becoming a victim of crime a coincidence or a decision taken by the criminal, and this victim could be replaceable by someone else. The paper will go inside the mind of criminal and trying to figure out his criteria of selecting the victim while determination and preparation of committed a crime.

Despite the difficulties that appear from trying to dive into the mentality of the criminal and the different circumstances in each crime, including the personality of the victim, this paper has every intention to research in criminology and victimology, in an attempt to draw approximate image of how the criminal thinks and chooses his victim in the different stages of the crime, by trying to present possible scenarios of criminal situations between the criminal and the victim and somehow trying to learn more about the inevitability of becoming a victim of crime based on the criteria of the offender.

This paper will follow descriptive analytical approach, where it could describe the behaviour of the criminal and the victim, and analyse all the results that emerge from it within the framework of the research topic.

Framework: This paper will present in an introductory section which it discusses some concepts and data that pave the way for the topics and prepare the reader's mind. First section will discuss the criminal's choice of his victim between chance and decision, second section the potential replaceable victim and the chosen victim who cannot be replaced by others, last section will define the criteria upon which the criminal bases his choice of his victim during the stages of thinking and preparing for the crime

### Introductory Requirement

The scientific study of the criminal phenomenon remained incomplete due to the neglect of the victim, who represents the third element in it next to the criminal and the crime, until a new branch of criminal science emerged concerned with the scientific study of the victim of crime, which is victimology (Karmen, 1989), At the beginning it is necessary to clarify what is meant by the legal term "victim" and put it in its correct context according to the criminal concept, since as a general principle the legislator is not concerned with setting definitions, such as the term crime or anything else, so this task is entrusted to jurisprudence and the judiciary. Therefore, most criminal laws do not define the term "Victim of crime" This is either due to the very clarity of the term, or to its extreme ambiguity and the objections raised by the definition (Quiney, 1974).

Perhaps some systems in the past did not care to define the term victim because they did not give weight to the distinction between the crime victim and the civil plaintiff.

However, in contrast to this legislative approach, some legislation provided for a definition of the crime victim, including the majority of Anglo-American legislation regarding compensation for crime victims, from public funds define the victim in a way that closely matches the criminal concept of it, as this legislation generally stipulates that the victim of a crime is that person who has suffered personal injury or been killed as a result of an act. There is also another trend that expands the concept of the victim in Anglo-American laws, and it becomes clear by looking at the legislation included in the second trend that it did not stop at the true meaning of the term "victim" as indicated by the criminal law, but rather it went further than that. It considered people who were not in fact victims as well, and an example of this is what was stipulated in California law when it considered the relatives who are supported by the injured victim to be in the rank of victims while in reality they are just people who were harmed by the crime occurring on their family victim of the crime, and perhaps this trend is justified if it is consider these are laws related to compensation for victims of crime (Robert J, 2006) , therefore, the expansion of the definition of the victim of crime is in line with the legislative policy in setting the law

A definition of the victim of the crime was also given when the United Nations General Assembly approved on December 11, 1985, the Milan Declaration on "Basic Principles for Providing Justice for Victims of Crime and Abuse of Power." The Milan Declaration included a definition of victims of crime, as it states that "the term victims mean Persons who have suffered individual or collective harm, including physical or mental harm, psychological suffering, economic loss or deprivation that constitutes a violation of the criminal laws in force in Member States, including laws prohibiting criminal abuse of power."( Seventh United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention 1986) .

A person may be considered a victim under this Declaration, regardless of whether or not the criminal has been identified, apprehended and declared guilty, and the term victim includes, as appropriate, the victim's family or dependents as well as persons who have suffered harm as a result of intervention to assist victims in their distress or to prevent. This declaration also adds that the provisions contained therein apply to everyone without discrimination, such as discrimination on grounds of race, colour, sex, age, language, religion, nationality, political opinion or other cultural belief or practice, property, birth or family status, ethnic or social origin, and disability (Seventh United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention, 1986)

#### 1- The criminal's choice of the victim between chance and decision

One of the main goals of victimology research is to determine whether the risk of becoming a victim is distributed among people in equal proportions, or whether some of them are more likely to become a victim of crime. If it assumes - theoretically - that crimes are distributed in a purely random and equal manner, it will appear that reality falsifies this theory, as there are certain individuals are more likely to become victims of crime than others. In a quick look at the conditions of crime in society, in general the criminals choose their victims after thinking and planning. Whoever commits a theft crime will undoubtedly think about choosing a wealthy victim who knows that he has an amount of money to meet the criminal's need. In addition to this factor, he will try to complete his crime with the least amount of risk. The wealthy old woman who lives alone in a residence in a relatively quiet area is a suitable target for the criminal. Therefore, choice plays a major role for the offender. If the offender thought differently and did not consider what he would get and how he would get it with the least possible risks, considering him to be an abnormal person. What is normal here is not measured by the general public, but rather by the criminals who choose their victims randomly, but wondering whether chance could play a starring role here, leading the victim to the criminal without the latter choosing.

Some victims seek the crime directly as a result of their behaviour or the presence of a special characteristic in them, and others fall victim to the crime as a result of bad luck or a coincidence that brought them together with the criminal, but were those who fell victims of the crime by chance, was this fallness a pure coincidence and therefore the victim had no role in the crime occurring against him, or Are there other factors that intervened besides chance, and supported the role of chance? This does not deny that the victim played a role in the crime, and what is clear from the matter is that the ways to combat crime in the second hypothesis are stronger and more successful than the first hypothesis.

#### 1-1 The legal implications of serendipity in an individual's victimization

It is common for normal offenders that the criminal among them chooses the victim after thinking, and prepares to attack the right of that potential victim. He draws up his plan and the time of the crime and works to prepare the necessary means for the crime in a way that ensures that he obtains his goals with the least possible losses and risks. In this type of crime, however, this is not what all criminals do. The criminal may be in a stable state and under its influence he is forced to commit his crime. There may be a person who was led by his destiny to the space in which the criminal is present with his raging fire, so the crime occurs by assaulting the victim without fault. He said that there are crimes that, by their nature, do not require the choice of the victim, including unintentional crimes. The person who throws a vase of flowers from the window into the street cannot imagine that he has chosen his victim, because the crime did not contain the premeditated element. It was only chance and bad luck that led the victim to this place. This also applies to many types of traffic accidents, which are usually due to mistakes on the part of the victim, such as a passer-by crossing the road without noticing the arrival of a speeding car, causing an accident in which he becomes a victim (Behnam, 1966) Where the fault is considered to be on the part of the victim even if it is proven that the main fault was on the part of the criminal, such as if he was driving the car while drunk, and the role of pure coincidence is also evident in terrorist crimes. The criminals of terrorist crimes aim to create a state of panic among people to achieve their goals (Saleem & Malik, 2023), This panic created by terrorist crimes may be one of the most important goals of the criminal, and despite this intentional panic, intentional harm, the victim here is not intentional for himself (L Jehel, C Duchet, 2001). so it is characterized by randomness, like someone throwing a bomb in a bus. A public square, and passers-by are killed and wounded. These victims are innocent victims who were led by fate to this place, and they cannot have played a role in the crime committed against them. However, despite the randomness of terrorist crimes in most cases (Dubarah, 1990) a terrorist crime may be committed against specific victims such as assassination incidents for political, racial, or sectarian reasons (Bishara, 2017). Accordingly, it could say that chance alone led to this group of victims becoming victims. It is correct to say here that chance has a partial role in the criminal choosing his victim in his capacity and not in person, because this characteristic is present in many people, and therefore it is coincidence that often determines the victim. On his person and his introduction to the offender, and just as coincidence has a fundamental role in some individuals being victims of crimes, coincidence may have an incidental role in some other crimes.

#### 1-2 The legal significance of incidental chance in an individual's victimization

At a passing glance, it may seem in some cases that coincidence has a major role in leading a person to become a victim of crime, but examining this coincidence may reveal to us its occasional role. Coincidence may play its role in people meeting in some places and in certain situations, but what happens after that? These events are the subsequent development of this coincidence, as well as the positions they take towards each other, which cannot be attributed to chance alone, but to many internal and external factors specific to the individuals in the meeting. The external factors that may stimulate criminal tendencies or weaken the barriers that prevent one from falling into crime are

often related to the stimuli surrounding the offender, and perhaps the most important stimuli surrounding the offender is the personality of the victim. Kinberg says in this regard that if the combination of certain personal factors with some external circumstances is mostly governed by chance, then this accidental meeting does not necessarily generate criminal behaviour, but rather the degree of mixing between the individual circumstances of the potential offender and the stimuli that appeared in the external environment. The most important of these are the stimuli surrounding the victim

It is likely that they are the ones on which this effect depends. If this harmony between them is absent, then their combination has no value, even if the correspondence between the two types of circumstances seems appropriate for the occurrence of the crime according to the course of events, and according to the experiences gained from observing other cases whose persons were present in similar circumstances (Kinberg, 1963). The criminal whose sexual instinct insists on him and tries to satisfy it by desiring the women he encounters on the street about themselves, and ends up focusing on one of them and luring her to where he can rape her, does not choose his victim by mere coincidence, as the accidental meeting between the two parties in the moments preceding the crime is not enough for it to occur. But factors related to the victim may have contributed to it. It may be due to the fact that she was walking an unsafe path alone, or that she was wearing clothes that highlighted her charms and responded to the criminal's invitation to her. This applies to the criminal who did not come to the idea of the crime, but rather it came to his mind after his meeting with the potential victim (Amuda, 2021). Ezzat Abdel Fattah provided an example of this perception from a real-life case where an elderly woman was trying to cross the street to her house on the opposite side without succeeding in crossing due to the speed of cars and the crowded street, so a passerby helped her cross the street, who happened to be close to her. The elderly woman was impressed by the chivalry of the one who helped her, so she offered him to accompany her to her house so that she could offer him a cup of coffee in gratitude for his kindness. He accepted her offer, and as soon as he entered the door of her apartment, the guest realized that his hostess was of a certain degree of wealth. She had shown him her house and learned that she lived there alone, so his mind had the idea of killing her and seizing whatever valuables he could carry (Abdel Fattah, 2004) perhaps this example shows us that the accidental meeting between the criminal and the victim here is not responsible for the occurrence of the crime. The external circumstances here play a marginal role, and the main role that led to the woman falling victim to the crime here. The circumstances that relate to her are that she is an elderly woman who lives alone and her condition. The economic situation is that she is wealthy, in addition to her behaviour of inviting a stranger to her home that she knows nothing about except that he helped her cross the road (Abdel Fattah, 2004).

To summarise: If an individual becomes a victim of a crime, it cannot in all cases be attributed to mere coincidence, but it is often governed by circumstances related to the victim that make him a suitable target for the criminal, whether they are circumstances specific to the victim or the behaviour of the latter, and all that can be said is that Coincidence's role here is limited to bringing the criminal and potential victim together in one place at the moment the crime was committed. It appears that the victim's lifestyle and behaviour played a prominent role in falling victim to the crime (Cook, 1986).

## 2- The potential replaceable victim and the non-replaceable selected victim.

If it is concluded that there must be standards and criteria based on which criminals resort to identifying their victims, then these standards have theoretical and practical importance, the choice of the victim as a target constitutes an important aspect of the phenomenon of an individual becoming a victim of crime. Studying it can provide the opportunity to know how are some people more likely to be victims than others? Why do some people fall victim to crime more than others? Why do some of these victims fall victim to crime again and sometimes? Research into this issue may help to understand the

various risks of falling victim to crime, and to understand the factors that lead to repeatedly falling victim to crime and the knowledge that can be accessed through studying the selection processes carried out by offenders and the criteria and standards upon which the selection is based is not without benefit in the field of developing plans and policies that aim to prevent the risks of becoming a victim of crime and protect people exposed to it who can be considered potential victims ( Abdel Fattah, 1991).

It is clear that there are two types of potential victims: the specific victim who cannot be replaced by other victims, and the victim who is chosen, meaning that she was not the only option for the criminal, but he was chosen from among several possible people, and this victim could have been someone other than him. Meaning that he can be replaced by other victims, and it will be presented as follows ( Abdel Fattah, 1991).

#### 2-1 The substitutability of a potential victim

It is the category of victims in which the criminal can select his victim from a wide field of many choices, and draws up his plan with the aim of obtaining his goal with the least possible risk. The criminal who aims to steal chooses a person as a potential victim, from among the easiest and wealthiest people, and that the circumstances of the victim ensure that he leaves with his spoils unscathed, and this is the specific, replaceable victim. However, if the criminal goes out for the purpose of stealing, without specifying his victim, and then finds someone taking a large sum of money out of his pocket, then this person becomes a potential victim who cannot be replaced by others, because of his behaviour that made him distinctive to the criminal. Perhaps what is most striking is that Money crimes are often committed against replaceable victims, but this theory is not absolute. Among money crimes, such as theft or fraud, the idea appears in the mind of the criminal that a specific opportunity appears that is appropriate to take advantage of, at a time when the criminal had not previously planned to commit his crime. In this case, the victim is not replaceable, given that the idea of the crime was created by the victim himself, as he was the one who inspired it.

Indeed, some money crimes require the existence of a previous relationship between the criminal and the victim, as is the case in the crime of breach of trust. When this crime comes to the mind of the criminal, its victim is none other than the person who delivered the money to the criminal in trust. The victim here is a specific, non-replaceable person, and the meaning of this is because, in the same type of crime, victims may be specific and irreplaceable in certain circumstances, while they may be selected and replaceable in other circumstance (Abdel Fattah, 1991).

A typical example of this is the rape that female travellers may be exposed to when traveling on the highway. The criminal who searches for his target among those does not target a specific victim, but rather commits his crime against whomever he encounters, and he may have several targets in front of him, and he chooses a target or victim. Of them, one of them may appear before him and he sees her as more suitable for committing his crime, and therefore the victim in this scenario is chosen and replaceable.

However, the situation is different for the driver who is stopped by a female passenger on the highway and agrees to take her, without the idea of committing the crime of rape having previously occurred to him, but it arises in his mind as a result of her simple behaviour with him or the way she travels without the victim intending to this enables him to establish a relationship with her. If the driver thinks about committing his crime and decides to do so, either voluntarily or unwillingly, then the victim here in this case is the one who inspired him with the idea of the crime and not anyone else, which negates the statement that she is a victim who can be replaced in the case. This circumstance, because the crime in this specific situation is unimaginable to have occurred except against this traveller ( Abdel Fattah, 1991). The victim's personality and behavior play a role in determining whether he is replaceable or non-replaceable. The provocative, or reckless victim is each a specific victim who cannot be replaced by others, given that

these characteristics push the criminal to commit his crime against him alone. The idea of the crime is linked in the mind of the criminal to the person who issued the provocation or seemed reckless to him. While it is noted that the concepts of attractiveness, vulnerability to assault, and neglect are linked to replaceable victims, given that these characteristics attract the attention of the offender and make him choose his victim from among them. The victim's lifestyle and nature are among the factors that most attract the offender to commit his crime. The potential victim, who gambles and drinks alcohol, is one of the most ideal victims. To commit the crime of theft, he can be replaced by someone else if his behavior and lifestyle change (Meier, 1993).

#### 2-2: The uniqueness of an irreplaceable victim

The offender here directs his criminal behavior against a specific person who is not replaceable, and the scope of choice here for the offender is limited. He either chooses to commit the crime or not to commit it. As for the scope of his choosing and identifying the victim, there is no room for any choice, as the intensity of the criminal conflict escalates in him. That victim alone represents the target of the criminal. In emotional homicide crimes, the criminal has become fed up with the presence of a person who represents annoyance, anxiety, threat, or blackmail to him, so that getting rid of him is the ideal solution to get rid of those negative feelings caused by the targeted victim towards the criminal, and there is no option for the criminal to choose another victim. A wife who betrays her husband, the husband will be a victim who cannot be replaced by anyone else, so killing him is the ideal solutions to get rid of him (Abdel Fattah, 1965) and also she is unreplaceable victim if her betrays discovered by her husband, she will be a potential victim.

Perhaps in most premeditated murders, the criminal is motivated by strong emotions and negative feelings towards a person, such as feelings of hatred, envy, revenge, or a feeling of pity towards someone sometimes, such as someone who kills a loved one who is afflicted with a disease that cannot be cured in order to spare him his pain, which is killing out of compassion or mercy, or killing out of honor. Other times, it is widespread in Arab and Islamic countries in general, and the penal laws stipulate this crime, to the point that most of them reduce the punishment for the criminal (Abu Odeh, 2010), and in murder crimes committed to hide illegal behavior, such as to avoid detection of a previous crime or to avoid arrest or get rid of a blackmailer. The criminal is blackmailed so that he does not disclose a crime of which he is aware. The person who is informed of or learns about the illegal behavior, or who seeks to prevent the criminal from carrying it out, or who tries to catch him, is possible to be a victim in this type of murder, and the victim's person here is specific, as murder may be committed with the motive of obtaining financial gain, such as murder in order to rush the inheritance or to change the direction of the inheritance, but the focus is on the expected inheritor or the one who withholds the inheritance from the criminal, as he is a victim who cannot be replaced by anyone else. Likewise, murders committed with the intention of obtaining life insurance amounts, the person whose life is insured cannot be replaced by someone else, is the one who can be killed until the killer obtains that money (Abdel Fattah, 1994) also, the victim of hate crimes due to racism or religion is also a victim that cannot be replaced by another, as the criminal's motive and desire to get rid of this victim and not others revolves around his motives towards the victim (Morsch, 1973). And another crime that the Statistics have shown an increase in the recent period, which is domestic violence crimes. In that crimes the husband who abuses his wife, the father who beats his children, and the boyfriend who abuses his girlfriend are all irreplaceable victims. They are themselves targeted (Amuda & Alghanmi, 2024).

### 3- The criteria underpinning the offender's selection of a victim in pre-offense contemplation and preparation.

The crime begins with an idea that comes to the criminal's mind and insists on him, until it finds stability in his mind and you find from it what supports this stability in terms of design. This idea may be connected to the person of the victim, it can be said that the latter is the one who generated this idea in the criminal's mind by his presence, and from here obviously it is difficult trying to separate the idea of the crime from the choice of the victim, as one generates the other. It appears that the criminal, before having the idea of the crime, had a previous relationship with someone, under certain circumstances, this relationship turns into a criminal relationship. This relationship becomes a major motivation and factor in generating the idea of the crime in the mind of the offender. The idea of the crime here is born linked to the person of the victim. It is also possible that the offender's choice of his victim during the thinking stage may be due to the existence of a previous relationship between them that contributed. In preparing the idea of the crime in the mind of the criminal while thinking about the crime, and if the criminal finishes thinking about the crime and sets it as his goal, but the idea of the crime was not born associated with a specific person, then his preparation for the crime and the process of choosing the victim can go in two directions. The first: he chooses a person from among several specific people, such as Amr, Sami or, or he tends to choose his victim from among specific people, but according to their characteristics, such as bank customers, tourists, taxi drivers, wealthy widows, etc (Abdel Fattah, 2004)

#### 3-1 Elements influencing the offender's victim selection in the pre-crime cognitive Stage

These elements are based on two assumptions as follows:

first: The idea of the crime is linked to a victim who has a previous relationship with the criminal

This hypothesis is based on the existence of a person who seeks to achieve his goal through crime, either because the legitimate means did not achieve his goals, so he turned to crime, or he did not use the legitimate means so dealing with a person with a criminal tendency, who sees in crime his desired path to himself. When he decides that crime is his way to reach his goal, he usually begins a mental process in which he reviews his previous relationships in search of a victim for the crime he is thinking about (Ezzat Abdel Fattah, 2004).

an example of this is a maid who is exhausted of ways to obtain money to meet an urgent need of hers, so she turns her memory to her previous employers for whom she worked before, and it comes to her mind that her previous employer was rich, so her thinking reaching that employee, the targeted victim, will prompt her thoughts to attempt to steal. This lady, since the maid has a previous relationship with this lady as her employer, and she also knows the house and its entrances, and knows its customs, which enables her to steal it, here the idea of the crime was born in the maid's mind first, and it was followed by the appearance of the wealthy servant, with whom she had a previous work relationship, in her mind.

second: the idea of the crime being linked to a victim sparked this idea in the criminal. It sometimes happens that the process of selecting the victim takes place at the same time in which the idea of the crime germinated in the mind of the criminal, without the criminal seeking to arrange this situation that would help him achieve his criminal goal. However, it happens that the victim and her appearance in the same space with the criminal created a harmony and connection such that the presence the victim created the appropriate occasion to commit the crime, and this appears clear in the case of someone who assaults others when he notices that he is carrying a large amount of cash, especially if the state of drunkenness appears evident on the victim. The criminal here did not think about committing the crime until after he met the victim and estimated that the state of



drunkenness was evident. His apparent intoxication will make his resistance weak, which will make it easier for the criminal to seize the victim's money. The victim's weakness due to his state of drunkenness or weakness in general ensures that he will not resist (Cook, 1986). It appears here that the criminal did not come up with the idea of the crime and prepare for it, but rather the circumstances came together to suggest the idea of the crime, in terms of time and place. The entire crime was the result of moments, including the choice of the victim and the circumstances that he found appropriate for the success of his crime. In reality, the case of the criminal who thinks and plans the crime and chooses the victim, and the condition of the criminal who did not think about the crime in advance, but rather the condition in which the victim was and the appropriate circumstances to create the idea of the crime and carry it out successfully, draw attention to examining the underlying factors or surrounding some people, which expose them to the risk of becoming a victim of the crime, and which make them like a magnet that attracts pieces of iron for the potential criminal, by studying the factors that lead to some individuals being vulnerable to crime, which enables ways and measures to be taken to protect people who are willing to be victims of crime, and what measures can be put in place to reduce those conditions that generate the risk of becoming victims of crime.

### 3-2 considerations in the offender's victim selection during the crime preparation stage

The criminal in this hypothesis may have set the crime as a way to reach his goal, but this idea was not born linked to a specific person, trying to draw a clear picture of this idea, this criminal situation will be presented to clarify the image, as this potential criminal is urgently needed for money, so he searches for all possible means to obtain it, and then if he has become aware of the ways to obtain this money through legitimate means, his mind turns to crime as one of the means that might provide him with the money he wants, so he weighs it with the other options he has, so he makes the crime more likely and helps in that if this potential offender is in the stage of thinking about the crime has latent or apparent criminal tendencies, and is determined to commit the crime, and here at this moment it can be said that the potential criminal has settled the idea of the crime in his mind, and thus the stage of thinking has ended, thus beginning the stage of preparing for the crime. In principle, his choice falls on a person who is fit to be a victim. For his crime, it is logical for the potential criminal to begin searching in his mind for the nominated victim from among his circle of acquaintances, such as his relatives, friends, or colleagues at work. If he does not find what he is looking for in these, he may search for his victim in another person whom he does not know himself, but rather this victim may have him. Likely is an adjective that caught the attention of a potential offender. Therefore, the victim selection process will take one of two directions: The first: It is the selection from among a circle of specific people known to the criminal, each individually. The second is the selection from among potential people as a victim of the crime, not on their own merits, but rather on the basis of the character or profession of one of them.

The selection process takes place from among the circle of acquaintances of the potential criminal. According to the natural context of things, he begins to search within the folds of his mind for a suitable person to be his victim from among the circle of his acquaintances. This is because he will find it easier to choose a victim whom he knows and knows his customs and circumstances well, and this circle of his acquaintances may include his relatives. His friends, neighbors, colleagues at work, or people he worked for or lived with, or people with whom he was connected (MacDonald, 1961) even if it was fleeting, such as those on transportation or at the dentist, so he begins searching among these people for someone who will be his victim and match what he aims to achieve. His crime, if his goal was money, he will choose the one who is easiest off and the least cautious until his crime succeeds. It is not required that the potential criminal choose his future victim based on the fact that this victim is the easiest to carry out his criminal plan. The difficulty of carrying out the crime does not deter him. What is more important than

that is that the success rate of this crime is higher than others, even if he has to exert more effort than others (MacDonald, 1961) Or it may be very far from the victim's place of residence, as the distance of the place may be in favor of the criminal as evidence denying that he is the criminal of the crime. Perhaps the most illustrative example of a victim being chosen by the criminal from among his circle of acquaintances is what was mentioned in several examples referred to by Dr. Ezzat Abdel Fattah from the criminal justice files in Austria. One of these examples was that the criminal had a long criminal record, as he committed many crimes, the most recent of which was a theft crime, for which he spent three years in prison, and upon his release from prison, he began wandering the streets of Vienna destitute, and ended up obtaining money through theft. When he decided to do so, he began searching in his mind for the most suitable people to carry out his criminal plan, so he remembered an old woman over seventy years old used to visit a farm where he worked to buy milk. He knew that she owned a vineyard and lands from which she received rents. He estimated that she must be saving a huge amount of money, and once he was determined to choose her as his victim, especially since he knew about her circumstances. that she lived alone, and in the evening he sneaked up to her on the farm, where he spent the night in a cellar to store wine, and in the morning when the lady was leaving the door of her house, he approached her, hoping that she would hear him in his request, and he sought her entreaty and was able to persuade her to let him into the house, but he was unable to do so. However, he grabbed her neck with his hands, leaving her as nothing but a lifeless body. He seized the money and belongings he found and returned to Vienna ( Abdel Fattah, 2004).

Second: The selection process that takes place from among people defined by their characteristics or profession, it sometimes happens that when the idea of a crime is firmly established in his mind and he resolves to commit it, he may not be specific to the victim himself, but rather he may plans to kidnap one of the girls from a nearby school in order to rape her ( Humphrey, 1987) , and in the crime of theft, he may plans to rob a bank customer, or steal One of the taxi drivers (Abdel Fattah, 2004 , here the person of the victim is not specified by his capacity or profession, and the person of the victim may not be determined at the time of choice, but rather at the time of carrying out the crime. What is noted in the matter is that the criminal's choice of the victim may be from among his circle of acquaintances, which makes the existence of a previous relationship between the criminal and the victim. As for the choice that the criminal makes of the victim, it is not specific to himself, but rather is determined by the criminal according to a quality or profession, it does not require the establishment of any kind of previous relationship. as it has been mentioned that the criminal only determines the characteristic or profession required in his victim to some extent, such as if his choice of his victim in a theft crime committed by people who have money by virtue of their profession. The victim's identity is determined at the time the crime is committed. Also, the profession of taxi drivers has received a large share of the attention of criminals, as he is a suitable person to be a victim of theft, and crimes of assault on taxi drivers abound during the night and in extreme areas, where the criminal knows that he will find with the taxi driver a large amount of money due to his work, so he seizes this opportunity and asks the driver taking him to a remote place and assaults him, robs his money, and often seizes the car. This make taxi drivers a target group.

4-The conclusion: The factors on which the criminal bases his choice of the victim, and how does he choose them? Did the criminal commit his crime against a victim who crossed his path by chance? Or is it a decision based on several considerations, arranged by the criminal in his mind, and based on these considerations he determined his significant priorities, just as the victim sometimes participates through his behaviour in planting the idea of the crime in the criminal's mind, and even as if he is paving the way for the criminal to commit his crime, and some victims cannot be replaced. By others, they are intended only, and some of them can be replaced by others. Perhaps one of the most difficult moments is determining the moment in which the psychological interaction

occurs in the criminal's psyche. This interaction leads, through several factors, to the crime. Among the factors is a behaviour that the victim may undertake, or a profession that makes him vulnerable and an ideal candidate in the crime (Duggan, 2018). This is the time to be a victim.

It seems that coincidence plays a partial role in the criminal's choice of the victim. Such a choice is dictated by the capacity of the victim rather than the person of the victim. This is because the trait is available in many people, and therefore coincidence is what often determines the victim by his person and introduces him to the criminal. And if the combination of certain personal factors with some external circumstances is mostly a matter governed by chance, then this accidental meeting does not necessarily generate criminal behaviour, but rather the degree of mixing between the individual circumstances of the potential offender and the stimuli that appeared in his external environment, the most important of which are the stimuli. What surrounds the potential victim is what this effect depends on. In the absence of this harmony then their combination is worthless, even if the encounter between the two types of circumstances seems appropriate for the crime to occur according to the course of events. The victim's personality, behaviour, and lifestyle have a role in determining whether he is replaceable or non-replaceable. The provocateur or reckless victim is each a specific victim who cannot be replaced by others, given that these characteristics push the criminal to commit his crime against him alone. The idea of the crime is linked in the mind of the criminal to the person who issued the provocation or seemed reckless to him. While it is noted that the concepts of attractiveness, vulnerability to assault, and neglect are associated with replaceable victims, on the basis these characteristics attracts the criminal to choose his victim from among them.

Sometimes the process of selecting the victim takes place at the same time that the idea of the crime germinated in the mind of the criminal, because of the victim behaviour such as drunkenness. Despite the randomness of terrorist crimes in most cases, a terrorist crime may be committed against specific victims, such as assassination incidents, for political, racial, or sectarian reasons.

This paper has some recommendation the knowledge that can be obtained through studying the selection processes carried out by offenders and the criteria and standards on which the selection is based is not without benefit in the field of developing plans and policies aimed at preventing the risk of becoming victims of crime and protecting persons exposed to it who may be considered potential victims. It is necessary to build up a general theory for the victim to emphasise his role in crime. It is very important considering some categories of potential victims with certain professions, such as money changers and taxi drivers, as people most at risk of crime, which is something the criminal system should pay attention to. Considering some categories of victims, such as the wealthy elderly, the weak-minded, and drug and alcohol users, which requires developing legislative and societal policies and plans to protect them. It is necessary to consider the attractive, neglectful and provocative role of the victim, and to admit for the criminal of the crime as less criminally dangerous, which is reflected in the criminal's penal policy. In some crimes in which the victim has a role, victim should undergo a psychological study by specialists during investigations and trials in order to determine his true role and prevent him from becoming a victim again.

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