

Tasks of internal affairs bodies in the prevention of corruption offenses

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Abstract: In this article, the author thoroughly examines the opinions of legal scholars on the tasks of internal affairs bodies in preventing corruption offenses and develops proposals and recommendations.

Keywords: Internal affairs, public safety, maintaining public order, legitimate interests.

Introduction: Today, the foundation of the large-scale reforms being implemented in our country is ensuring human rights, freedoms, and legitimate interests, maintaining public order and ensuring public safety, as well as preventing offenses. In this direction, the prevention of corruption offenses and the fight against them are of particular importance.

Specifically, the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev, in his address to the Oliy Majlis, emphasized that..."corruption in our society, in its various forms, is hindering our development," "Unless all segments of the population and the best specialists are involved in the fight against corruption, unless all members of our society are, so to speak, 'vaccinated with integrity,' we will not be able to achieve the high goals we have set for ourselves. We must transition from combating the consequences of corruption to its early prevention"[1].

It can be said that corruption poses a serious threat to the social, economic, and political stability of any state, the foundations of national statehood, and also serves as a basis for a decrease in the trust of individuals and legal entities in social justice, the rule of law, and state bodies in the country. For this reason, the continuous prevention and fight against corruption offenses in our country is one of the main branches of large-scale reforms being carried out, in particular, judicial and legal reforms.

It should be noted that the word "corruption" comes from the Latin word "corruptio," which means "to buy," "bribe"[2]. Also, "corruption" in Russian means

"bribery, betrayal of officials, political figures"[3], in Slavic languages - "bribe," in Serbo-Croatian - the predicate "corrumpirati" means "bribery, bribery," and in Czech - the adjective "korrupnesku" means "selling, treacherous"[4].

In particular, the Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan "On Combating Corruption" states that "corruption is the unlawful use by a person of their official or service position for the purpose of obtaining material or intangible benefits in personal interests or the interests of other persons, as well as the unlawful provision of such benefits," and the United Nations Convention against Corruption, adopted on October 31, 2003, defines it as "corruption is the abuse of state power for personal gain."

The concept of "corruption" has been given several definitions by scientists. For example, according to B.I. Ismailov, corruption is a crime related to the use of official position for personal purposes. Corruption, in most cases, is understood as the receipt of bribes from citizens, the acquisition of illegal monetary income by government officials for personal gain in order to enrich themselves [7].

K.R. Abdurasulova defines corruption as "a set of socially dangerous acts (for which liability is provided for by the relevant articles of the Criminal Code of the Republic of Uzbekistan) committed by persons performing tasks of state importance and equivalent to them, using their official powers or related opportunities, for mercenary purposes or other personal interests"[8]. Another foreign source notes

that "corruption, its scale, characteristics, and growth rates are a product of the country's political, social, and economic problems"[9].

It can be said that today in our country, appropriate measures are being implemented aimed at preventing and combating corruption offenses, and these measures are of particular importance, primarily because they are aimed not at preventing and eliminating corruption cases, but at preventing the emergence of factors that allow for the implementation of corrupt actions.

In addition, a solid legal framework has been formed in our country, based on the Constitution, aimed at preventing and combating corruption offenses, carrying out democratic reforms in all spheres of state building and administration, and maintaining security and stability. In particular, in recent years, important organizational and legal reforms have been carried out in our country in the field of prevention and combating corruption, which can be seen in the implementation of systemic measures aimed at increasing the legal awareness and legal culture of the population and forming an intolerant attitude towards corruption in our society. For example, the Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan "On Combating Corruption"[10] of January 3, 2017, the Resolution of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan "On Measures for the Implementation of the Provisions of the Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan "On Combating Corruption"[11] of February 2, 2017, and the Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan "On Measures for Further Improvement of the System of Combating Corruption in the Republic of Uzbekistan"[12] of May 27, 2019, as well as the creation of committees on "Anti-Corruption and Judicial-Legal Issues" in the chambers of the Oliy Majlis of the Republic of Uzbekistan, should be noted.

At the same time, in order to create a favorable business environment in the country, increase the effectiveness of the fight against corruption, enhance the positive authority of our country in the international arena, and also based on the tasks defined in the Action Strategy for five priority areas of development of the Republic of Uzbekistan in 2017-2021, the "State Program for Combating Corruption for 2019-2020" was approved in Appendix No. 1 to the Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan "On Measures for Further Improvement of the Anti-Corruption System in the Republic of Uzbekistan," and the updated composition of the Republican Interdepartmental Commission on Combating Corruption was approved in Appendix No. 2.

In the Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan dated September 11, 2023 No. UP-158 "On

the Strategy "Uzbekistan - 2030"[14] one of the goals of the Strategy "Uzbekistan - 2030" is defined as the accelerated continuation of work to increase the effectiveness of the system for eliminating corruption factors and the formation of an intolerant attitude towards corruption in society. In particular, it is advisable to note that as a result of these reforms, the openness of the activities of state authorities and administration is ensured, mechanisms for ensuring public and parliamentary control are being improved, the rights and legitimate interests of individuals are being protected, and the legal framework for the activities of law enforcement and judicial bodies is being reformed.

It can be said that corruption negatively affects the life of any state and society and hinders the proper fulfillment of the state's social, economic, and political functions. Therefore, we must assess corruption as a threat to our national security.

In particular, the Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan "On Combating Corruption"[15] specifies the bodies and organizations carrying out and participating in anti-corruption activities in our country, one of which is the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Uzbekistan. In particular, the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Uzbekistan, within its competence in accordance with the law:

- participate in the development and implementation of state and other programs in the field of combating corruption;
- carries out operational-search activities, pre-investigation checks, inquiry and preliminary investigation of corruption-related crimes;
- collects and analyzes information on the state of corruption and the results of the fight against corruption, provides the necessary information to the relevant state bodies;
- considers appeals of individuals and legal entities regarding facts of corruption and takes measures to restore their violated rights and protect their legitimate interests;
- participates in activities for legal advocacy among the population, aimed at raising legal awareness, legal culture in society, and strengthening legality;
- ensures the maintenance of records and analysis of statistical data on corruption offenses;
- develops and implements measures to ensure the timely prevention, detection and suppression of corruption offenses, elimination of their consequences, as well as the causes and conditions contributing to them;
- interacts with other bodies and organizations carrying

out and participating in anti-corruption activities;
- carries out international cooperation in the field of combating corruption.

It should be noted that in recent years, internal affairs bodies have also been carrying out systematic work to prevent and combat corruption offenses in our country. In particular, they regularly carry out legal awareness-raising work on the formation of a culture of preventing and combating corruption in society. The reason is that the level of legal awareness and legal culture of citizens plays an important role in preventing and combating corruption offenses. In other words, by raising legal awareness and legal culture in society, it is possible to increase the social activity of citizens, improve the system of legal education and upbringing, and achieve a respectful attitude of all state bodies, officials, and citizens to the law, which forms the basis for preventing corruption offenses. In particular, if we look at world practice, it is natural that if in a certain state corruption offenses between its bodies and officials increase and develop, if strict measures are not taken against these cases in a timely manner, no matter how powerful this state may be, no matter how much underground and surface resources it has, its result will be not only an economic, but also a political crisis. That is, corruption offenses, as a rule, undermine public trust in government bodies, negatively affect the economic growth of the state, impede social justice between individuals in the social life of society, and lead to the disruption of the spiritual environment in public life.

It should be noted that, according to current regulatory legal acts, one of the main tasks of internal affairs bodies is the further improvement of the prevention and combating of corruption offenses, and it is advisable for them to constantly implement the following measures in these processes:

firstly, a systematic analysis of the causes and conditions for the emergence of corruption offenses;

secondly, the development of measures to identify the causes and conditions for the commission of corruption offenses and ensure the prevention of these types of offenses;

thirdly, constantly carrying out preventive work among the population, the general public, and government bodies to prevent and combat corruption offenses, that is, increasing their legal awareness and legal culture;

Fourthly, in order to strengthen an intolerant attitude towards corruption in society, conduct, on a regular basis, in cooperation with civil society institutions and the mass media, awareness-raising and promotional work on combating corruption through briefings,

internet conferences, and television programs in the mass media and internet resources.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, it can be said that it is necessary to identify the causes and conditions that contribute to corruption offenses in every sphere of social life of our society and ensure that the elimination of these cases by the roots is an important task of the first leaders of these areas, to pay special attention to cooperation with the general public in the prevention of corruption offenses, to strengthen the fight against these offenses, and to implement preventive measures with strict intolerance to any offenses in this area. This requires the improvement of legislation, the implementation of comprehensive measures to prevent corruption, the further democratization and liberalization of our work, the formation of reliable mechanisms for protecting human rights and freedoms, and serves the further development of a democratic state governed by the rule of law and a strong civil society in Uzbekistan by ensuring cooperation, transparency, and openness between the people, business entities, and government bodies.

It is also advisable for internal affairs bodies to develop measures aimed at increasing the legal awareness and legal culture of citizens in state bodies, public organizations, and all other spheres in the prevention of corruption offenses, to constantly implement measures to form an intolerant attitude towards corruption and educate the younger generation in the spirit of observance of the law, and in order to determine the effectiveness of these measures, it is advisable to compile statistical data on each sphere and conduct anonymous surveys, and based on their results, systematically carry out promotional work to prevent corruption offenses in all spheres.

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