



THE ROLE AND IMPORTANCE OF INTERNAL AFFAIRS BODIES IN PREVENTING CORRUPTION-RELATED OFFENSES

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Abstract: The article is devoted to the role and significance of the internal affairs bodies of the Republic of Uzbekistan in the prevention of corruption offenses. It will consider the main tasks of internal affairs bodies in combating corruption, the legal basis of their activities, and practical measures. It also analyzes the negative impact of corruption on society, modern methods of its prevention, and the interaction of internal affairs bodies with other government agencies. The article presents proposals and recommendations for increasing the effectiveness of the fight against corruption.

Keywords: corruption, internal affairs bodies, offenses, anti-corruption, prevention, legal framework, public administration, public safety, cooperation, effectiveness.

In our country, reforms aimed at protecting human rights, freedoms, and legitimate interests, raising legal awareness and legal culture, and strengthening legality are being consistently implemented. However, today there are also offenses that are one of the main threats to building a democratic state governed by the rule of law and a free civil society in our society, among which offenses related to corruption are of particular importance.

Indeed, corruption-related offenses hinder the implementation of fundamental reforms in all spheres of state and public life, lead to violations of human rights, freedoms, and legitimate interests, undermine the normal functioning and mechanism of all public institutions, create distrust in society towards state power, and pose a threat to the security of the country. It also negatively affects the social, political, and financial-economic life of the country, reducing the effectiveness of public administration and entrepreneurship, worsening the investment climate, and creating social inequality.

It should be noted that the fight against corruption, which is the decline of the future of the state and society, is one of the urgent problems not only in our country, but also at the international level. In other words, corruption poses a serious threat to the foundations of national statehood, political and economic stability of any country, weakens citizens' trust in social justice, the rule of law, and state bodies. Therefore, combating corruption and continuing this activity on an ongoing basis remains one of the important directions of the reforms being carried out in our country, in particular, judicial and legal reforms. In particular, in the Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan dated January 28, 2022 No. UP-60 "On the Development Strategy of New Uzbekistan for 2022-2026"[1] "Elimination of corruption factors in the civil service, recruitment of personnel on a competitive basis and improvement of the legal framework for assessing the effectiveness of their activities; Creation of effective mechanisms for preventing conflicts of interest in public service, ensuring openness and expanding public participation in activities to combat corruption; Implementation of modern information technologies, including artificial intelligence, in the fight against corruption; Establishing cooperation with civil society institutions in the fight against corruption, supporting public control; Strengthening systemic preventive measures in anti-corruption practice; Implementation of a system of continuous improvement of the knowledge of the population and civil servants in the field of combating corruption; Ensuring the development of regulatory legal acts based on the principle of "corruption-free legislation."

It should be noted 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[2]. The lexical meaning of corruption comes from the Latin word "corruptio," which means "to buy," "bribe"[3].

According to K.R. Abdurasulova, "Corruption is the totality 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 and equivalent to them tasks of state importance, using their official powers or related opportunities, for mercenary or other personal gain"[4].

It is no exaggeration to say that the United Nations Convention against Corruption provides the shortest, but most comprehensive definition of corruption, namely: "Corruption is the abuse of state power for personal gain"[5]. For example, in Slavic languages, "corruption" is understood as a bribe. The predicate "corrumpirati" is translated in Serbo-Croatian as "bribery, bribery." The adjective "corrupenescu" in the Czech language means "seller, traitor"[6]. "Corruption" in Russian means bribery, betrayal of officials, political figures[7].

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 by state officials for personal gain, obtaining illegal monetary income in order to accumulate wealth.[8] According to some scholars, "corruption, its scale, characteristics, and growth rates are a product of the country's political, social, and economic problems"[9].

It should be noted that today, it is no exaggeration to say that a solid legal framework and systematic practice aimed at preventing corruption offenses have been formed in the world. For example, the adoption of the United Nations Economic and Social Council Resolution on Combating Corruption (1995), the International Code of Ethics for Public Officials (1996), the Declaration on Combating Corruption and Bribery in International Commercial Organizations (1997), the Convention on Combating Interethnic Organized Crime (2000), the Convention against Corruption adopted by the United Nations General Assembly (2008), and other international documents serves as an important factor in combating this vice. In particular, the Convention against Corruption, adopted by the United Nations General Assembly, is one of the most important international documents in the field of combating corruption and has been ratified by more than 130 countries of the world. This document reveals the essence of corruption offenses and defines measures to combat them.

Today, a number of comprehensive measures aimed at combating corruption offenses are being consistently and purposefully implemented in our republic. They are noteworthy not only for the prevention and elimination of corruption, but also for their focus on preventing the emergence of corruption or factors contributing to it. At the same time, a solid regulatory 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 governance, and maintaining security and stability.

Over the past eight years, significant organizational and legal reforms have been carried out in the Republic in the field of combating corruption. Systemic measures have been taken aimed at increasing the legal awareness and legal culture of the population, forming an intolerant attitude towards corruption in society. In particular, the Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan "On Combating Corruption"[10], the Resolution of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan dated February 2, 2017 "On Measures for the Implementation of the Provisions of the Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan "On Combating Corruption""[11] and the Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan dated May 27, 2019 "On Measures for Further Improvement of the System of Combating Corruption in the Republic of Uzbekistan"[12], as

well as the creation of a Committee on Combating Corruption and Judicial and Legal Issues in the Chambers of the Oliy Majlis of the Republic of Uzbekistan^[13] should be especially noted.

At the same time, in order to increase the effectiveness of the fight against corruption, create a favorable business environment in the country, enhance the positive authority of our country in the international arena, and also based on the tasks defined [in the](#) Action Strategy on five priority areas of development of the Republic of Uzbekistan in 2017-2021 ^[1], 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 particular, within the framework of the implementation of these reforms, it is necessary to note the improvement of the mechanisms for ensuring the protection of the rights and interests of citizens, the openness of the activities of state authorities and administration, public and parliamentary control, as well as the reformation of the legal framework for the activities of law enforcement and judicial bodies.

Since they negatively affect the life of any state and society, resist the proper performance of the state's social, economic, and political functions, corruption-related offenses are considered a threat to our national security. The bodies and organizations that prevent and combat these threats, i.e., carry out and participate in anti-corruption activities, are specified in the Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan "On Combating Corruption," and one of these bodies is the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

According to the Law, the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Uzbekistan, within its competence:

- participates 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 relevant state bodies with the necessary information;
- 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 legal advocacy activities aimed at raising legal awareness, legal culture, and strengthening legality in society among the population;
- ensures the accounting 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.

Also, in accordance with the Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan dated May 6, 2019 The State Program for Combating Corruption for 2019-2020, approved by the Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan dated May 27, 2019 No. UP-5729, and the "Plan of Measures to Combat Corruption, Increase the Legal Awareness and Legal Culture of the Population, Form an Intolerant Attitude towards Corruption in Society," as well as the "Plan of Measures to Combat Corruption, Form an Active Worldview and a Strong Civic Perspective among Youth" and the "Roadmap" for the implementation of the recommendations of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, approved by the Chairman of the Republican Interdepartmental Commission on Combating Corruption

on July 31, 2019, have been developed. In particular, legal advocacy work is regularly carried out in society to form an anti-corruption culture.

Along with the positive work carried out by the internal affairs bodies to combat this type of offense and its early prevention, it is also worth noting that there are some shortcomings, and there is still much practical work to be done.

In this regard, we consider it expedient for the internal affairs bodies to regularly carry out the following work to prevent and combat corruption offenses:

- ensuring the prevention of corruption with a systematic analysis of the causes of its occurrence;
- development of measures to identify corruption offenses, the causes and conditions for their commission **and ensure the prevention of such offenses;**
- regular monitoring of the prevention and elimination of conflicts of interest;
- constantly carry out work on the prevention of corruption offenses in government bodies;
- development of proposals for improving legislation and law enforcement practice in the field of combating corruption based on the study of the experience of advanced foreign countries.

At the same time, based on the requirements of the time, the elimination of the causes and conditions contributing to corruption offenses in every sphere should be the primary task of the heads of state bodies and organizations, and in the prevention of offenses in this area, it is necessary to pay special attention to activities in cooperation with the general public, to accumulate great wealth through criminal means, to strengthen the fight against injustice, and to implement preventive measures with a sharp intolerance to any offenses.

In conclusion, it should be noted that the prevention and fight against corruption requires the formation of reliable mechanisms for protecting human rights and freedoms, the implementation of comprehensive measures to prevent corruption, the improvement of legislation, and the further democratization and liberalization of our work.

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