



REFORMS AIMED AT INCREASING THE EFFICIENCY OF THE INVESTIGATIVE SYSTEM OF THE INTERNAL AFFAIRS BODIES

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Abstract. This article analyzes reforms aimed at enhancing the efficiency of the investigative system of the internal affairs bodies of the Republic of Uzbekistan. Particular attention is given to amendments introduced into criminal procedural legislation, including issues of territorial jurisdiction and the organization of investigative teams. The study also examines the impact of ongoing reforms on international ranking indicators and their compliance with global standards. Based on the findings, scientific and practical proposals are developed for the further improvement of the investigative system.

Keywords: investigation, internal affairs bodies, investigative system, investigative activity, efficiency, reforms, criminal procedural legislation, international rankings.

Introduction

In New Uzbekistan, the democratization of the judicial and legal system and the reliable protection of human rights have become priority areas of state policy. The large-scale reforms being implemented in our country necessitate aligning the activities of investigative bodies with international standards, in particular with the requirements of the *Rule of Law Index*.

At present, certain outdated provisions of criminal procedural legislation continue to affect, to some extent, the quality and promptness of investigations, thereby requiring comprehensive scholarly research in this field.

An analysis of the relevant provisions of the Criminal Procedure Code of the Republic of Uzbekistan (hereinafter referred to as the CPC) demonstrates that a number of systemic problems exist within the framework of preliminary investigation, which negatively impact investigative efficiency.

First, pursuant to Article 346 of the CPC, a criminal case shall fall under the jurisdiction of the investigative authority at the place where the crime was committed [1]. However, in practice, determining territorial jurisdiction has become increasingly complicated in cases involving transnational crimes, cyberattacks, and organized criminal activity. As B.X. Pulatov notes, "*Modern crime does not recognize geographical boundaries; therefore, the rules governing territorial jurisdiction must be reconsidered*" [2].

Second, Articles 354–357 of the CPC regulate the procedure governing the activities of investigative groups. Nevertheless, in practice, difficulties arise with regard to the allocation of duties among group members, the exchange of information, and the determination of responsibility.

Third, electronic document management has not yet been fully implemented within the investigative process. The transfer of cases from one investigator to another (Article 348) and the execution of investigative instructions (Article 347) continue to rely on paper-based documentation. This, in turn, leads to delays in investigative timeframes.

Fourth, Article 349 of the CPC provides for public participation in the preliminary investigation process. However, in practice, this provision is often implemented merely formally. Public associations and citizens are not actively involved in the detection and disclosure of crimes.

In support of this position, it should be noted that both Uzbek and foreign scholars have expressed various academic viewpoints regarding the enhancement of investigative system efficiency.

In particular, Academician X.B. Boboyev places special emphasis on the issue of improving investigators' professional qualifications. He argues that *"an investigator must possess thorough knowledge of modern technologies, particularly methods for the collection and analysis of digital evidence."* This position is widely recognized in international practice, and many states have introduced specialized training programs for investigators [3].

The Russian scholar A.V. Smirnov analyzes the issue of enhancing the effectiveness of prosecutorial supervision within the investigative system and concludes that *"prosecutorial oversight should be proactive rather than reactive."* In other words, the prosecutor should not merely respond after a legal violation has occurred, but should exercise continuous supervision aimed at preventing such violations in advance [4].

The Kazakh scholar K.J. Baltabayev proposes the introduction of the principle of *universal jurisdiction* in addressing issues of territorial competence. In his view, *"in cases of cyberattacks and transnational crimes, territorial boundaries diminish investigative effectiveness"* [5].

German Professor Claus Roxin approaches investigative time limits from the standpoint of safeguarding individual rights in criminal proceedings. He maintains that *"prolonged investigations pose a threat to the rights of the accused and contradict the principle of a fair trial."* This position is grounded in Article 6 of the European Convention on Human Rights [6].

In this regard, we consider that studying the experience of foreign states in enhancing the efficiency of investigative systems has significant practical importance.

German Experience. In the Federal Republic of Germany, the activities of investigative authorities are highly digitalized. Since 2018, the "Electronic Criminal Case File" (*Elektronische Akte*) system has been implemented across all federal states. Through this system, information exchange between investigators and prosecutors is carried out in an online format. As a result, investigative timeframes have been reduced by an average of approximately 30 percent.

United States Experience. In the United States, the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) has introduced a centralized system known as the "Case Management System." This system enables investigators to exchange information in real time with their counterparts across different states. In addition, the institution of "joint investigation teams" is well developed in the United States, demonstrating high effectiveness in the investigation of complex and multi-jurisdictional cases [7].

South Korean Experience. Within the framework of the "Smart Prosecution" initiative in the Republic of Korea, artificial intelligence technologies have been widely integrated into the investigative process. AI systems are utilized for evidence analysis, verification of witness

statements, and crime statistics forecasting. As a result, investigative efficiency has increased by approximately 40 percent, and crime detection rates have improved significantly [8].

Kazakhstan's Experience. In 2015, the Republic of Kazakhstan adopted a new Criminal Procedure Code, which optimized investigation time limits. Furthermore, the automated system "E-Criminal Case" (*E-ugolovnoe delo*) was introduced. Through this system, criminal cases are conducted in electronic format, which has significantly enhanced investigative efficiency.

Based on the foregoing considerations and the results of the conducted research, the following scientific and practical proposals are put forward:

1. Amendment to Article 346 of the CPC

It is proposed to improve Article 346 of the Criminal Procedure Code (CPC). In order to enhance the effectiveness of combating modern cyber threats, it is necessary to introduce the rule of "digital territoriality" into Article 346 of the CPC. It is advisable to supplement the Article with the following provision:

"With regard to crimes committed through the use of information and communication technologies, investigative jurisdiction shall be determined based on the location where the criminal consequences occurred or the permanent residence (place of stay) of the victim."

2. Introduction of a New Article 347¹ to the CPC

In order to reduce bureaucratic procedures in the circulation of procedural documents, it is proposed to introduce Article 347¹ entitled "Electronic Document Exchange in the Investigation Process." This provision would establish the legal framework for transmitting and executing investigative instructions and procedural decisions through secure electronic systems (E-case platforms).

3. Amendment to Article 354 of the CPC

To strengthen interagency cooperation in the investigation of serious and especially serious crimes, it is proposed to supplement Article 354 of the CPC with the following provision:

"In complex criminal cases, investigative-operational groups may, with the consent of the prosecutor, include officers of bodies carrying out operational-search activities and grant them authority to perform specific investigative actions."

4. Improvement of Article 349 of the CPC

In order to ensure transparency in investigative activities, Article 349 of the CPC should reflect the institution of "public oversight." In socially significant criminal cases, and without disclosing investigative secrecy, it would be appropriate to grant representatives of citizens' self-governing bodies (mahalla assemblies) and other public representatives the right to monitor the legality of the process.

5. Improvement of the Investigator Training System

It is proposed to restore the specialization "Investigative Activity" at the Academy of the Ministry of Internal Affairs and to introduce specialized modules into the curriculum, such as "Digital Forensics," "Cyber Investigation Tactics," and "International Criminal Legal Assistance." This would contribute to the development of not only legal competencies but also IT skills among inquiry officers and investigators.

The results of the conducted research demonstrate that reforms aimed at improving the efficiency of the investigative system of the internal affairs bodies of the Republic of Uzbekistan are being implemented consistently and systematically. Amendments introduced into the

relevant provisions of the Criminal Procedure Code represent significant steps toward simplifying investigative procedures, safeguarding the rights of suspects and accused persons, and aligning national legislation with international standards.

The study of foreign experience confirms that the introduction of digital technologies, the enhancement of investigators' professional qualifications, and the strengthening of international cooperation are of crucial importance in improving investigative efficiency. Efforts undertaken in these directions will contribute to further strengthening Uzbekistan's position in international rankings.

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