

Police Corruption in Kazakhstan: The Preliminary Results of the Study

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Abstract

This article presents the results of studies on the preventive and operational measures used to combat the police corruption in Kazakhstan on the background of the similar measures used by the police in the CIS and western countries. It analyzes the frequency and evaluation of the applied anti-corruption measures and efficiency of fighting corruption in the Kazakh police in accordance to the international reports.

Keywords: corruption in Kazakhstan, police corruption, the fight against corruption, anti-corruption measures

1. Introduction

In recent years, the issue of corruption is in the focus of society as a whole, as well as politicians, scientists and law enforcers. Today this is a serious international problem requiring a joint international approach and certain global anti-corruption instruments. Challenges issued by corruption, “undermine democratic institutions, ethical values and justice, inflict damage to the sustainable development and the rule of law” (UN General Assembly resolution, A/RES/62/202). At the present stage of socio-economic development of Kazakhstan, fighting corruption is one of the most important strategic goals of economic and political development of the country.

In Kazakhstan, the anti-corruption fight is a long time battle, which in many respects, in our opinion, is the legacy of the Soviet era. However, objectively speaking, the significant results have been achieved only at the household level and the activity in combating the elite level corruption has increased, but the systemic corruption continues to flourish (Bogdanov, 2012).

It is generally accepted that corruption is a universal phenomenon, that has the greatest scope in developing countries or countries with economies in transition, and it may seem that this phenomenon is primarily associated with poverty (Rubinsky, 2010). Kazakhstan is not an exception. Among 102 countries surveyed by the international ten-point index of the business representatives’ corruption perception, it is ranked at 25th place from the end with 6.3 points. One of the few Central Asian countries, Kazakhstan, has acquired its independence in 1991, and in the transition period adopted the new features of a corrupt state with a large share of the shadow economy. Kazakhstan remains mostly producing country with a high level of corruption, which prevents the development of small and medium-sized businesses, contributes to the plundering of natural resources, and to the investments unprofitable for the national economy. Kazakhstan’s rating in the Transparency International (TI) annual reports varies at the lowest positions. Currently, with 2.8 points, Kazakhstan is ranked as 133 out of 176 countries with a relatively low ranking among the countries in Central Asia, but better than any of them. TI experts say that corruption is particularly prevalent in the judiciary, police, customs, land registration, licensing and construction (Investment Climate Statement–Kazakhstan, 2013).

Bribe has firmly established in the vault of the contemporary life unspoken rules. Society no longer condemns it. The ability to use it meets approval, admiration and even envy of others. Corruption has become the business of the state and at international level, whose turnover exceeds oil revenues and profits of drug traffickers. At last count, 30 to 50 percent of the population’s income is spent on bribes, and their volume is greater than the size of the state budget. Virtually “the corruption itself created our modern society, rallied and tied with mutual responsibility of the government officials, politicians, public figures, oligarchs and ordinary businessmen, left the whole “uluses” at their mercy and sustenance, became the basis of their worldview, ideology and the goal of life”—claim journalists

