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Media interaction with law enforcement agencies as a factor in promoting crime prevention in the information sphere

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The article considers the main aspects of cooperation between the media and law enforcement agencies of Ukraine in the prevention of crime in the information sphere. It has been noted that the current level of cooperation between law enforcement officials and media professionals in the prevention of crime in the information sphere cannot be described as high. The author's definitions of interaction between law enforcement agencies and the media are presented, which means «a form of communication between the press services of law enforcement agencies and representatives of the media, by means of which they mutually complement each other and create conditions for the successful functioning of both sides». Attention is drawn to the shortcomings of this interaction, namely, the insufficient legal and regulatory framework, in particular with regard to the clear regulation of these relations; non-operational law enforcement agencies in disseminating information about their activities, incompetence of representatives of press services. Directions for improving the interaction of the law enforcement body with the media are proposed, namely: coverage of the activities of law enforcement agencies, in particular the progress of investigation of criminal offences committed in the information sphere; Accreditation of journalists to law enforcement agencies; Joint charitable actions; Joint issues of columns, joint television and radio programs; conducting «straight lines» and «direct ethers»; carrying out «round tables» on to problems of fight against crime in the information sphere, ensuring public and personal security of citizens; Holding meetings of police officers with editorial teams during which various aspects of the activities of law enforcement agencies, practice of application of laws, problems of police activities are considered. Current common problems of cooperation between law enforcement agencies and the media have been identified, such as: insufficient legal and regulatory framework, in particular, in terms of clear regulation of interaction between law enforcement agencies and the media; Organizational gaps in interaction with the media (there is no well-established practice of authorities

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This work is directly related to scientific research of the Department of criminal law and criminology of the Educational and scientific institute of law of the University of the State fiscal service of Ukraine, carried out within the framework of the research topic «Theoretical and applied problems of combating crime by criminal law and criminal enforcement means» (DR 0116U003304), and with scientific research of department of criminal and criminal procedural law of faculty of legal sciences of the National university «Kyiv-Mohyla academy» within a research subject «Current problems of criminal, criminal procedural law and criminalistics at the present stage of development of the state» (protocol № 11 (18-19) of November 19, 2018).

responding to publications) insufficient access of journalists to the leadership of law enforcement agencies (it is almost impossible to obtain the necessary comment for the media urgently); non-operational law enforcement agencies in disseminating information about their events (comments on topical topics sometimes appear late in the press services). It is proposed to address the problem of inefficient cooperation between the above-mentioned agencies, such as: the conduct of appropriate exercises by representatives of law enforcement agencies, have been partially implemented, but only in the activities of one law enforcement agency – the police. This should be introduced in all law enforcement agencies. Measures have been proposed to improve the interaction of law enforcement agencies with the media, such as the creation and adoption of a legal and regulatory act that would regulate mutually beneficial provisions of the activities of law enforcement agencies and media workers in the prevention of crime, especially those committed in the information sphere; cooperation of law enforcement agencies it has to be carried out with those journalists who are understood in the sphere of law that minimizes cases of the wrong interpretation of legal terms and the events connected with it and also distortions of the corresponding facts. Recommendations on interaction with the media are presented, such as: openness and transparency of law enforcement agencies in a modern democratic society; The need to involve experts, both international and national; The need to engage society in discussions and influence on certain issues; Involving direct performers in communication with journalists; To increase their professionalism to journalists and the media.

Key words: law enforcement agencies; mass media; information technology; criminal offence; cybercrime; prevention; interaction.

Introduction

The Constitution of Ukraine establishes the State as a democratic, social and legal State. That is why the important task of society and the main principle of the Basic Law is... «Human being, his life and health, honor and dignity, inviolability is the highest social value» [1].

One important element in the realization of a citizen's right to information is the right of access to public information. This right is an element of the right to information and cannot be equated. The right to information is broader, consists of a range of powers, and consists of freedom of speech and the right to collect, store and disseminate information while the right to access public information to obtain information. Today, the legal guarantee of the right of individuals and citizens to access to public information is an important guarantee of the building of a democratic society.

The right to free access to information, freedom of speech, thought and information about the activities of State bodies is one of the most important human rights that is possible in a democratic society. The media (hereinafter referred to as the media) plays a central role in the realization of these rights and, in cooperation with State bodies, have access to relevant information and the opportunity to communicate it to everyone. The further development of democracy and the promotion of the rights and freedoms of citizens are inextricably linked to the improvement of the efficiency of State bodies [2].

The introduction of modern information technologies in all spheres of society, the rapid development of information

and telecommunication technologies through the use of the global Internet and the simplification of access to it by a wide range of users have led to the spread of high-tech crimes - crimes related to the use of high information technologies. The need to create an effective cyber security system for Ukraine took place after some events of 2014. The media were used for intensive, multichannel propaganda and to convince the world community of the points of view proposed by other State political leadership aimed at weakening the control of central power, creating problems of an economic nature and in the sphere of State security. Information warfare (a set of activities carried out continuously by governmental and non-governmental organizations in the information space of other countries and international organizations aimed at obtaining strategic political preferences by demoralizing or misleading the enemy and countering the activities of the other side) Includes not only military actions and information and psychological operations, but also cyber-attacks (use, distortion, substitution or destruction of information contained in databases of computers, other technical and related facilities and equipment, information networks, reduction of efficiency of operation or failure of computers and computer networks themselves, are aimed at achieving one or a set of the following objectives: violation of confidentiality, integrity, availability of electronic information resources processed (transferred, stored) in communication and/or technological systems, obtaining unauthorized access to such resources, violation of security, stable, reliable and standard mode of functioning of communications of them and/or technological systems; use

of the communication system, its resources and means of electronic communications of other cyber-defense facilities) [3].

It should be noted that it is very often the law enforcement agencies that interact with the media and their appeal is related to the need to assist in the detection, investigation and prevention of criminal offences, in particular criminal acts in the information sphere, namely, the identification of witnesses and victims, the receipt of data on the circumstances of the criminal offence committed, the identification and search for the offender, the detection of stolen and traces of a criminal offence.

In our view, the interaction of these bodies should be understood as «a form of communication between the press services of law enforcement agencies and representatives of the media, by means of which they mutually complement each other and create conditions for the successful functioning of both sides».

The interaction of law enforcement agencies with the media enables them to use their own intellectual and material resources more efficiently and rationally in the course of their activities; to optimize solutions to investigative and operational and search tasks; improve the effectiveness of procedural, search, legal and preventive measures; to form an adequate public opinion on the work of law enforcement agencies [4].

The use of media space by law enforcement agencies contributes to the strengthening of the rule of law in the State and is aimed at increasing the legal culture of the population and respect for the law and the activities of law enforcement agencies.

Thus, according to the statistics of the Prosecutor General's Office of Ukraine for 2019, prosecutors of Ukraine made 60,089 speeches in the media, including 6,277 in print, 9,962 in electronic media, 10,023 in news agencies, and on the Internet – 33,544, 52 speeches in foreign mass media accredited in Ukraine. In just 3 months of 2020, prosecutors of Ukraine made 15,864 appearances in the media, including 1,568 in print media, 2,163 in electronic media, 3,018 in news agencies, 9,047 on the Internet, and in accredited ones in Ukraine. foreign media – 15 speeches. It should be noted that these figures are 19% higher than in the previous three years [5].

With regard to this, it is worth noting that the cooperation of law enforcement agencies and the media in preventing crime in the information sphere is characterized by a lack of legal and regulatory framework, in particular with regard to the clear regulation of these relations; Failure of law enforcement agencies to disseminate information about their activities, incompetence of representatives of press services and the like.

Thus, the problem of the interaction of these bodies in preventing crime in the field of information is not yet sufficiently developed in the science of criminal law and criminology. The above conditions the selection of the topic of study and indicates its relevance.

Theoretical foundations of research

The possibilities of using mass media as a factor in promoting crime prevention in the information sphere were

considered by many scientists: M. T. Andriychuk, T. S. Andriychuk, V. D. Bernaz, A. V. Vinakov, V. V. Vlasjuk, I. A. Grabaziy, A. O. Medvedchuk, V. V. Nosov, O. D. Oliynyk, D. M. Tichina, V. V. Topchiy, S. L. Kharchenko and others.

Goals of article

The study is based on the consideration of theoretical provisions of cooperation between law enforcement agencies and the media in the prevention of crime in the information sphere and the development of theoretical and practical recommendations on this issue.

Statement of the main material

Considering practical activities of media, they face need of interaction with law enforcement agencies when covering mass public actions more often as protest (for example, meetings, meetings, demonstrations, etc.), and festive (for example, the celebrations of public holidays) and also certain extraordinary events (accidents, accidents, natural disasters, etc.).

At the same time, a reasonable alignment of interests remains important, which would not impede the professional responsibilities of both law enforcement agencies and the media, and would benefit both sides. In addition, relations between law enforcement agencies and the media are important for obtaining and disseminating reliable information from official rather than alternative sources (unofficial data, comments from outsiders, etc.).

It should be noted that the normative and legal acts of Ukraine, as well as the norms of international law, establish certain restrictions on the circulation of relevant information during the pre-trial investigation. This is primarily about the secrecy of the pre-trial investigation [6]. However, in practice, in order to prevent crime in Ukraine more effectively, in particular crime in the information sphere, law enforcement agencies actively cooperate with the media. On the basis of the analysis of scientific works and legislation, we will try to highlight the directions of such cooperation.

One such area of cooperation is the coverage of the activities of law enforcement agencies, in particular the investigation of criminal offences committed in the information sphere.

Broadcasting information on law enforcement activities through television contributes to the realization of the concept of social information, which includes three main areas: educational (distributes messages that are the ground of useful information), cognitive (forms an idea of the body of knowledge based on the obtained logical and pragmatic information) and predictive (distributes information, forms an idea of the future, a probable assessment of the future). TV programs inform viewers of a wide range of conflicting views, giving them the opportunity to choose. Television programs about the militia contribute to creating a background of life and business activity, expanding the outlook, forming preferences, changing habits; Bringing society together around pressing issues and interests; To involve in the discussion of urgent social needs, in particular,

the activities of the police, to educate the views, humanistic positions of each member of society and to create prompt feedback with a multi-million-dollar audience, to form a social consciousness, to promote the comprehensive and harmonious development of society. Television can become a public rostrum and a place from which the authorities can report to the people, explain their policies and mobilize their supporters.

Law enforcement agencies must provide the media with information on their activities to identify criminals, disclose criminal offences, and society has the right to receive this information in order to ensure its own security and prevent criminal acts. At the same time, both the police and the media, in accordance with the legislation, carefully determine the amount of information, it is reported, in order to provide information that has a public interest, and not to release those that constitute the secret of the pre-trial investigation.

It should be stressed that in cases of interaction between the media and law enforcement agencies in the prevention of crime in general, the role of press services becomes particularly important. We will agree with the opinion of M.T. Andriychuk, and T.S. Andriychuk, who are the main function in such cases – coordination of law enforcement agencies and journalists to allow police officers to ensure the safety of citizens and journalists, and representatives of the media to perform editorial tasks qualitatively [7].

In order to establish effective cooperation between the media and law enforcement agencies since 2017 in the General Directorate of the National Police in the city. Kiev has earned a police station of preventive communication, formed specifically for work during mass events of political, sports, entertainment, cultural and mass direction. Such police officers try to prevent any conflict situations, to explain the actions of the police and to stop aggressive citizens by non-violent methods before committing criminal offences;

Although journalists are opposed to such innovations, the press services believe that they do not live up to their expectations. In particular, journalist A. Eltsov assures that the media references of the press services are «a partial deprivation of the right to information and a likely way to hide it» [8]. According to the journalist, the events should be covered by direct representatives of law enforcement agencies, who can make the conversation «alive and provide all necessary information».

In turn, representatives of law enforcement agencies focus on the problem of incompetence of some journalists. In particular, note the large number of requests for such public information, could easily be found independently in open sources. However, the press service spent time providing information in accordance with the requirements of the current legislation. In the future, it is necessary to study this problem thoroughly and propose effective solutions. [9].

Despite the active participation of law enforcement officials in informing society about the activities of law enforcement agencies, it should be noted that there is a need to move away from the practice of increasing the number of statements in the media. It is worth paying attention to the expansion of forms of participation in events of a media nature and the improvement of their quality. This applies primarily to timely, objective and full public information on

high-profile cases and measures taken by law enforcement agencies. It is important to provide information on law enforcement activities, particularly on the results that have effectively contributed to the restoration or strengthening of the rule of law. Critical publications and reports of law enforcement activities should be responded to promptly. It should be borne in mind that the vast majority of the population draws information from television and radio broadcasts.

All the above indicates not only gaps in the legislative regulation of relations between the media and law enforcement agencies, but also the organizational aspect of such interaction.

The areas of cooperation between law enforcement agencies and the media in the process of preventing crime in the information sphere include the accreditation of journalists to law enforcement agencies. In accordance with the legislation on print media, the Ministry of Internal Affairs has the right to conduct accreditation of journalists in order to intensify the interaction of law enforcement agencies with the media, legal education of citizens of Ukraine, formation of a balanced public opinion on the activities of the militia to ensure proper public order and fight crime. Accredited journalists have the right to pass and stay freely in the territory and offices of the Ministry of Internal Affairs and the National Police, provided that an accreditation card is available daily from 9.00 to 20.00 hours, except for Saturday and Sunday. The media can accredited their journalists to the police for its agreement. The coverage of such events has a positive impact on the public, which forms the best image of law enforcement agencies.

The areas of cooperation between law enforcement agencies and the media in the prevention of crime in the information sphere include the holding of joint charitable actions. Such activities make it possible to draw public attention to the problems of law enforcement, prevention of offences, to attract additional funds for the financing of law enforcement agencies, prevention programs and the like.

Joint issues of columns, joint television and radio programs for the work of law enforcement agencies are a particularly important area of cooperation between law enforcement agencies and the media in the prevention of crime in the information sphere. Today, radio broadcasting is the most ubiquitous, most permeable media, since the medium of information in radio broadcasting is only sound, transmitted over any distance and perceived immediately, practically at the moment of transmission of the signal from the transmitting device. Radio broadcasting requires minimal technical equipment for its perception, modern solution technologies make listening to radio programs as convenient as possible. Radio at full power relies on the power of the said word, the absence of a video guide does not distract the attention of the recipient and allows to fully focus on the content of sound information and activates the imagination of the listener, who independently creates in his consciousness images accompanying the sound message. Broadcasting for the first time allowed to submit information about the event at the moment of the event itself. Radio is actively used to inform the public about law enforcement agencies.

Conducting «straight lines» and «live ethers» is very important in the work of the police. Heads of services, units

of the internal affairs department speak on issues of law enforcement, tell about the discovery of crimes, which received a great public resonance, answer questions of citizens directly in the editorial offices of newspapers. These materials are subsequently published. «Live» is broadcast with the participation of representatives of the internal affairs department.

Also carrying out «round tables» on to problems of fight against crime practices in the information sphere, ensuring public and personal security of citizens today. Police officers, representatives of citizens' associations, leading specialists, scientists and the like are invited to discuss these problems. In the future, the materials are covered in the media. Another form of this form of cooperation is the holding of meetings between police officers and editorial teams during which various aspects of the activities of law enforcement agencies, the practice of applying laws and the problems of police activities are considered. Publications are prepared on the basis of the materials of the meetings.

Results

Now the cooperation of representatives of law enforcement agencies with the media in modern conditions also leaves much to be desired. The most common problems of law enforcement and media interaction are:

1. Insufficient legal and regulatory framework, in particular, in terms of clear regulation of cooperation between law enforcement agencies and the media.
2. Organizational gaps in interaction with the media (there is no well-established practice of authorities responding to publications).
3. Insufficient access of journalists to the leadership of law enforcement agencies (it is almost impossible to get the necessary comment for the media urgently).
4. Non-operational law enforcement agencies in disseminating information about their events (comments on topical topics sometimes appear in press services late).

In our opinion, one of the ways to overcome this problem can be to conduct appropriate exercises of law enforcement officials, partially implemented. For example, for almost six months representatives of the leading police level sit behind conditional "desks" and teach the basics of cooperation with the media masses.

A joint project of the Ministry of Internal Affairs and the OSCE Project Coordinator in Ukraine «Further assistance to improve the practice of interaction between law enforcement agencies and media workers» has been launched in Ukraine [10].

Consequently, the need to reform the legislation on the relations of law enforcement agencies with the media, which will include a mechanism for their cooperation and minimize the material and other costs of effective interaction, is a very important step that will guarantee the effective functioning of these bodies.

Ukraine first of all needs to develop an effective information policy aimed at informing citizens and ensuring their understanding of the causes of criminal offences in the information sphere – increasing media literacy (Ability to resist attempts to manipulate themselves through information flows) and trust in the state and other

components that will help to build a system of protection of each person from the negative impact of this type of crime [11].

In order to improve the above-mentioned interaction, we believe that the following activities should be carried out:

1) creation and adoption of a legal and regulatory act, which would regulate mutually beneficial provisions of the activities of law enforcement agencies and media workers in the prevention of crime, especially those committed in the information sphere. In this regard, we note that in 1994 Ukraine adopted the Instruction «On Cooperation between Law Enforcement and Other State Bodies of Ukraine in the Fight against Crime», but in 2014 lost force. At the same time, the adoption of such a legal act is important in the light of modern reform processes in Ukraine.

2) cooperation of law enforcement agencies it has to be carried out with those journalists who are understood in the sphere of law that minimizes cases of the wrong interpretation of legal terms and the events connected with it and also distortions of the corresponding facts.

Thus, we can summarize and give recommendations on interaction with the media:

1. The openness and transparency of law enforcement agencies in a modern democratic society is a process that is inseparable from the establishment of high-quality communication with the media.
2. It is necessary to involve experts both international and national, including from the business environment, because effective activities have adequate coverage in the media. Brand style, recognition, quality of work with social networks should approach business standards.
3. It is necessary to involve society in the discussion or even influence on certain issues. For example, the colours and their combinations of new cars for the police were elected in conjunction with the community, prompting approval and a sense of involvement from the community.
4. It is not necessary to be afraid to involve direct performers of work in communication with journalists.
5. Journalists, the media should also increase their professionalism.

Discussions

Directions for solving this issue are proposed, the implementation of which will make it possible to make more effective the interaction of law enforcement agencies with the media in the prevention of crime in the information sphere, which in turn will improve the system of crime prevention in the information sphere. In particular, it is proposed to adopt a legal and regulatory act regulating mutually beneficial provisions of the activities of law enforcement agencies and media workers in the prevention of crime, especially those committed in the information sphere.

Conclusions

During scientific research, we have highlighted the areas of cooperation between law enforcement agencies and the media in the prevention of crime in the information sphere:

- 1) coverage of the state of detection, investigation and prevention of crime in the information sphere;
- 2) carrying out joint charitable actions;
- 3) accreditation of journalists to law enforcement agencies;
- 4) general issues of columns, joint television and radio programs for the work of law enforcement agencies.

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