

SYSTEM OF STATE BODIES AND THEIR POWERS IN COMBATING THE ILLEGAL TRAFFIC IN SPECIAL CATEGORIES OF STRONG-ACTING SUBSTANCES

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Abstract: *This article provides a comprehensive scientific analysis of the system of state bodies and their powers in combating the illegal trafficking of special categories of potent substances in the Republic of Uzbekistan. The study examines the legal framework governing this sphere, including constitutional provisions, criminal and administrative legislation, as well as sectoral regulatory acts. Particular attention is paid to the role and functions of key state institutions such as internal affairs bodies, the prosecutor's office, customs authorities, the State Security Service, and healthcare institutions. The article highlights the importance of prosecutorial supervision in ensuring the rule of law and legality in the activities of law enforcement agencies. It also emphasizes the significance of operational-search activities in detecting and preventing crimes related to potent substances, which are often committed covertly and involve organized and transnational criminal networks. Furthermore, the research underlines the necessity of effective inter-agency cooperation, coordination mechanisms, and information exchange among competent authorities. International experience is also analyzed to demonstrate the importance of establishing specialized coordination centers and strengthening cross-border cooperation. The author concludes that improving the legal framework, ensuring clear distribution of powers, enhancing institutional coordination, and strengthening prosecutorial oversight are essential factors for increasing the effectiveness of combating illicit trafficking in potent substances and ensuring public safety and public health. Currently, in the world and in our country, the illegal circulation of certain categories of potent substances is one of the factors posing a serious threat to public safety, public health, and the law enforcement system; the illegal production, storage, transportation, and distribution of such substances are inextricably linked to other types of crime, especially the development of organized crime and transnational crime. Keywords: illegal trafficking, potent substances, state bodies, law enforcement, prosecutor's supervision, public safety, public health, organized crime, transnational crime, customs control, operational-search activities, inter-agency cooperation, legal framework, crime prevention, Uzbekistan President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev called drug crime a new global threat to all of humanity and emphasized the need to strengthen effective legal mechanisms to combat this evil. According to the president, "it is time to introduce into our national legislation norms aimed at preventing such threats, ruthlessly combating them,*

and eradicating such a vice at its root" (i.e., the need to strengthen the fight against crimes related to the illicit trafficking of a special category of potent substances).

Shavkat Mirziyoyev also aims to implement a comprehensive national program and effective legal measures to eradicate illicit drug trafficking in the country, protect the health of youth, and protect the gene pool of society as a whole from drug addiction. At government meetings, the head of state emphasized the scale of this threat and outlined tasks to strengthen the digitalization of prosecutorial oversight to reduce such crimes, identify them, and prevent them.

In the Republic of Uzbekistan, a number of laws and regulatory legal acts have been adopted to ensure the rule of law in this field, to combat and prevent the illicit trafficking of certain categories of potent substances; at the same time, effective prosecutorial supervision over the execution of laws in this field is of great importance.

The prosecutor's office is one of the main state bodies exercising control over the execution of laws, and through its activities, it serves to identify, suppress, and prevent offenses related to the illegal turnover of certain categories of potent substances. However, in practice, there are certain problems and organizational legal shortcomings in the implementation of prosecutorial supervision in this area.

In this regard, the scientific study of prosecutorial supervision over the enforcement of laws concerning the illicit trafficking of certain categories of potent substances, and the development of methods for its improvement, is a pressing scientific objective.

Combating the illicit trafficking of certain categories of potent substances is one of the state's key priorities, aimed at ensuring public safety, protecting public health, and preventing crime.

Achieving effective results in this area is directly dependent on the coordinated implementation of activities among state bodies. Therefore, a scientific analysis of the system of state bodies involved in combating the illicit trafficking of certain categories of potent substances, as well as their powers and responsibilities, is of significant importance.

In the Republic of Uzbekistan, the fight against the illicit trafficking of certain categories of potent substances is regulated at the state policy level. The legal framework for the activities of state bodies in this area is defined by the Constitution, norms of criminal and administrative law, as well as specialized sectoral regulations. State policy in this sphere primarily aims to prevent the illicit circulation of these substances, suppress their spread, and bring individuals who have committed such crimes to justice¹.

The system of state bodies involved in combating the illicit trafficking of certain categories of potent substances is comprehensive and includes several authorized bodies. This system includes law enforcement agencies, regulatory bodies, authorized institutions in the field of medicine and pharmaceuticals, and other government agencies. Cooperation

¹ Resolution No. 818 of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan dated September 27, 2019, "On the Regulation of the Circulation of Potent Substances."

and a clear distribution of duties between these bodies are essential factors in ensuring the effectiveness of activities in this field.

Law enforcement agencies play a central role in combating the illicit trafficking of specific categories of potent substances. These agencies primarily include internal affairs bodies. In this domain, internal affairs bodies are tasked with identifying, preventing, uncovering, and investigating crimes. They are also empowered to conduct operational-search activities, identify individuals involved in illicit trafficking, and expose criminal groups.

Criminologists assert that operational-search activities are of great importance in solving crimes related to specific categories of potent substances. This is because these crimes are often committed covertly and are difficult to detect using conventional methods. Therefore, internal affairs bodies widely employ special operations, control measures, and preventive actions².

The prosecutor's office also plays a significant role in combating the illicit trafficking of certain categories of potent substances. The prosecutor's office supervises the enforcement of laws in this area. It holds the authority to verify compliance with legal requirements by law enforcement agencies, oversee the legality of investigative actions in criminal cases, and uphold the state prosecution in court.

According to legal scholars, the prosecutorial supervision in this field is a crucial element of the crime prevention system. One of the primary tasks of the prosecutor's office is to ensure the rule of law and prevent legal violations in the activities of state bodies³.

Customs authorities play a crucial role in combating the illicit trafficking of specific categories of potent substances. This is because a significant portion of these substances may be smuggled into or out of the country across the state border. Customs authorities are empowered to control the movement of goods and substances across the state border, inspect suspicious cargo, and detect instances of smuggling.

Additionally, the State Security Service is also actively involved in this field. This agency primarily implements measures aimed at identifying and dismantling organized and transnational crime groups. The involvement of the State Security Service is of great importance, as the illicit trafficking of these potent substances is often linked to international criminal networks.

Furthermore, healthcare authorities also carry out important functions in this area. Institutions within the healthcare system participate in overseeing the production, storage, and distribution of pharmaceutical products. They perform tasks such as regulating the circulation of medicinal drugs, as well as licensing and monitoring the activities of pharmacies. This serves to prevent specific categories of potent substances from entering illegal circulation.

² Dolgova A.I. Criminology. – Moscow: Norma, 2018.

³ Rustambaev M.Kh. Criminal Law. General part. - Tashkent: TSUL Publishing House, 2020.

As noted in scholarly literature, ensuring cooperation among government agencies in this field is of particular importance. This is because the illicit trafficking of certain categories of potent substances often involves complex processes that fall within the purview of several state bodies. Therefore, improving the mechanisms for inter-agency information exchange, joint operations, and activity coordination is a key objective⁴.

International experience also shows that cooperation among state bodies in this field is of great importance. In many countries, special inter-agency commissions or coordination centers have been established to combat the illicit trafficking of specific categories of potent substances. Such structures serve to coordinate the activities of various state bodies, facilitate information exchange, and organize joint initiatives.

Furthermore, international cooperation in this area is also crucial. This is because the illicit trafficking of specific categories of potent substances often has a transnational character. For this reason, mechanisms for information exchange, conducting joint operations, and providing legal assistance among states play a significant role.

In conclusion, the system of state bodies for combating the illicit trafficking of specific categories of potent substances has a multi-level and complex structure. This system includes law enforcement agencies, regulatory bodies, healthcare institutions, and other competent authorities. Each of them participates in combating these crimes within the scope of their jurisdiction. Effective cooperation among state bodies, a clear distribution of powers, and the improvement of legislation all serve to increase the effectiveness of activities in this field.

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⁴ UNODC. Drug Control and Crime Prevention Strategy. – Vienna, 2021.