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INCITEMENT TO SUICIDE WITH THE INTERNET: CRIMINAL LIABILITY IN UKRAINE

Ukraine is among the top ten countries with the highest suicide rate. The ratio of suicides and murders is about one to twenty. Meanwhile in Ukraine only four sentences were imposed for incitement to suicide from 2010 to 2015, i.e. less than one sentence per year [1]. As a rule, law enforcement agencies stopped proceedings in suicide cases without finding traces of violence on the bodies of the dead persons. In practice, in the case of a person's death, the version of suicide is not properly investigated or ignored in general. Moreover, in today's legal realities, Ukrainian law and practice of law enforcement turned out to be helpless ("unarmed") before a new method of suicide i.e. suicide with the use of the Internet.

Due to the high latency of suicide attempts and the absence of norms in the Criminal Code of Ukraine (hereinafter - the Criminal Code of Ukraine) [1] until February 8, 2018, which gave the possibility of prosecuting suicide through social networks and the Internet, to assess the real the situation and the state of the problem had been rather difficult before .

The inability of Ukrainian legislation and law enforcement officers to withstand the tendencies of growing crime in the Internet network and the emergence of a new method of suicide show both the terrible consequences that our society has suffered from the spread of social networks, the so-called "death groups".

So the number of children suicides has recently increased in Ukraine. For example, nearly 50 children committed suicide in 2015. The amount of boys among them was twice as many as girls. The Commissioner for Ukraine's Children's Rights Mykola Kuleb related this to the development of "death groups" in the most popular social networks, VKontakte, Facebook, Twitter and Instagram [5].

It should be noted that at the end of December 2017, the Investigation Department of the National Police in Ukraine reported the discovery of almost 1,000 "death groups", of which 600 had already been blocked, and the prevention of 10 suicide attempts. In general, there were almost 35 thousand signatories from Ukraine in these public associations. On February 8, 2018, the Parliament of Ukraine adopted the Law of Ukraine "On Amendments to Article 120 of the Criminal Code of Ukraine on the Establishment of Criminal Responsibility for the Assistance to Suicide" [3], which was intended to establish criminal liability for any assistance to a person in committing suicide or attempted suicide.

The impassable placement of information in the networks that not only provokes children to deprive oneself of life, but also the popularization of this information in social networks and the Internet is one of the most important causes of children suicides. Therefore, criminally punishable should be both the deployment of public suicide networks and its popularization.

Consequently, taking into account the global tendency to increase the crime rate on the Internet and the emergence of a new method of suicide, it is necessary to make timely changes to the criminal law that will meet the current challenges of the perpetrators. The current Criminal Code of Ukraine attempted to criminalize acts of suicide or assassination by using social networks and the Internet. However, we believe that more effective and sufficient in counteracting and combating these crimes will be a tendency, in which, in legislation and in law-enforcement practice, they will be perceived not only as crimes against human life and health, but above all, as computer crimes. Actually, keeping this in mind the reform of criminal legislation and the practice of its application in Ukraine should be implemented.

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STABILITY OF FINANCIAL LEGISLATION IN UKRAINE

Why stability of financial legislation is so vital in Ukraine?

First of all, stability and predictability of financial legislation is a fundamental part of “what people mean by the Rule of Law [7]. In the absence of stability and predictability in law, citizens have difficulty managing their affairs effectively.

What about stability in current tax law and budget law ?

In accordance with the Constitution of Ukraine, the State Budget of Ukraine and the budget system of Ukraine; the system of taxation, taxes and levies; the principles of the formation and operation of financial, monetary, credit, and investment markets; the status of the national currency and the status of foreign currencies on the territory of Ukraine; the procedure for the formation and settlement of state domestic and foreign debt; and the procedure connected with the issue and circulation of state securities, and their types and forms shall be established exclusively by laws of Ukraine [1].