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## **RULE OF LAW AS A PRINCIPLE OF CORRUPTION FIGHTING**

Nowadays one of the most actual problems in Ukraine which worries both ordinary citizens and the country's political leadership is corruption.

Sociological research shows that the citizens of our country do not believe in the possibility of eliminating corruption from our society.

In general, the rule of law is a fundamental principle that foreshadows for the equality of everyone before the law and the inevitability of punishment for its violation and covers virtually all aspects of life of Ukrainian citizens: from personal security, property rights and conflict resolution, which determines its special importance as a basis sustainable development of society and an effective means of combating corruption [1, c. 130]. In this sense, it must be recognized that in a state governed by the rule of law, there can be no other means of combating corruption than legal ones. As a result, those means of combating corruption that may be effective, but are contrary to the constitutional principles of the functioning of the state and society, should be considered unacceptable [2].

The rule of law as a principle of combating corruption necessarily requires the creation of a strong and independent system of justice as the main means by which its implementation is ensured, the transfer from the level of "de jure" to the level of "de facto".

The spread of corruption is the reason for the lack of the rule of law. The experience of the countries of the world shows that the implementation of the rule of law in public life is impeded by corrupt judges, lawyers, prosecutors, police, investigators, etc.

It is important to note that corruption weakens the accountability structure responsible for the protection of the rule of law and contributes to a culture of lawlessness. The most laws are not obeyed successively and as result of it many illegal actions are not punished.

There is no doubt that corruption can be defeated with a powerful state where all democratic rules and principles are observed. But this fact needs clarification.

Firstly, democracy unlike authoritarian orders is based on the restriction of political power which as a result cannot become a self-sufficient political force.

Secondly, democracy needs such adequate legal forms that will not allow the emergence of a regime of permissiveness, power of the crowd, or an authoritarian (totalitarian) regime.

Thirdly, the democracy regime takes care about human rights and freedoms. This means that the strength of the state in the fight against corruption can be ensured only in the conditions of real rule of law. And this requires the efforts of the whole society. In my opinion such counteraction will be ineffective without the participation of citizens. According to D.O. Vovk and D.S. Boychuk opinions, the rule of law requires from the state not only "fair play", but enough strength to force any subject to play fair

too. Unfortunately, the our state power is too weak and can't influence on the activities of oligarchs and corrupted politicians.

Of course, the problem of corruption should not be silenced, but at the same time we should show positive examples: honest officials and judges, cases where corruption has been overcome by simplifying regulation or increasing transparency. People should understand that everyone will be held responsible for their illegal actions and it doesn't matter what position he or she holds.

In view of the above, I want to point out some ways to solve this problem. In my opinion, this is not an easy task, but we are able to do it in the following steps:

- 1) the formation of anti-corruption culture in society;
- 2) the establishment of an independent and impartial judiciary, the implementation of measures to strengthen the integrity and prevent corruption of judges without compromising their independence in order to ensure a fair decision of the case.

Of course, it is not a complete list of measures we should do. It corruption combating is long process and we can't solve this problem immediately.

Hegel emphasized: "The state exists for man, not man for the state". And to ensure such a state is possible only in the conditions of the rule of law and the eradication of any manifestations of corruption in society.

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