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THE “FOOTPRINT PATTERN” OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING

The article is devoted to particularities of investigations of human trafficking cases. The content of one of the main elements of criminal characteristics of such kind of crimes – “footprint pattern” – was identified and disclosed.

The author notes that in the environment of transformations in the society the studies of the human rights and freedoms, and the enforcement and improvement thereof, have gained special urgency. At the end of the 20th century independent Ukraine have acutely encountered the most painful of the problems in the contemporary world, the “white slavery” crime. It should be noted that human trafficking is ranked third by its profitability after drug trafficking and arms smuggling.

As far as the main victims of human trafficking are women and girls, this notion is mainly viewed as “women trafficking” or “sexual trafficking”. But any person may become victim of such crime, irrelevantly of gender or age. The urgency of the research issue is conditioned by the needs of the practice of combating crime and forensic science in comprehensive study and solving problems connected with the methods of investigation of human trafficking. The importance of scientific research of this subject is caused by the fact that the research of the subject will allow to suggest methods for combating this group of crimes

which would be relevant to current level of scientific development.

It is proven in the article that the forensic characteristics of human trafficking is a system of data (information) on forensically significant characteristics of human trafficking which represents the consistent connections between them and serves for formation and verification of investigative leads in investigation of such crimes.

The content of forensic characteristics of crimes should include only essential, forensically significant, typical, interdependent attributes of crime conditioned by practical necessity. That’s why, in our opinion, the forensic characteristics of human trafficking should include the following elements: a) ways of human trafficking; b) “footprint pattern” of human trafficking; c) information on the identity of a criminal; d) information on the identity of a victim.

The “footprint pattern” of human trafficking is a complex of abstracted information on typical tangible and ideal tracks, the attributes, environment of committing of such crimes which are indicative for specific ways of human trafficking and being in correlated interdependence with the identity of a criminal and the identity of a female victim.

It is practical to study the typical “footprint patterns” of human trafficking with classification thereof by ways of

recruitment of victims and ways of trafficking them through the state borders of Ukraine. Generalization of judicial and investigation practices shows that the ways of recruitment and the way of trafficking them through the state border condition very versatile interrelations with the activities of trades and reflect the tracks of contacts with objects surrounding them.

The analysis of the “footprint pattern” of human trafficking contributes to identification of correlation interrelations of such element with other structural elements of the forensic characteristics of the researched crimes. In consideration of that, the “footprint pattern” enables to form leads of the ways of human trafficking, as well as the leads about the persons committing such crime.