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A Case Study

Can a “Lone wolf” quasi-investigative journalist substitute low functionality of the law enforcing system?

Abstract

The present article is a discussion of a relatively unusual case study, in which a quasi-investigative journalist – working in an entirely independent capacity, sans institutional or financial backing – succeeded in uncovering and foiling an international money laundering attempt of great magnitude. This unique story, which is an exposure of the framework of quasi-corruption by quasi-investigative journalism, is of extreme significance because it reveals the existence of a fair legal framework for tackling money-laundering operations in the European Union (EU). In this particular instance, local police and prosecutors were unable to take proper action against the perpetrator of illegal activity, as the case did not fulfill conditions of local legislation. The present study thus draws attention to the weakness of anti-corruption and Anti-money laundering (AML) systems that are in operation in Slovakia, and possibly, in other EU countries that share identical AML legislation. In addition, the case study makes invaluable contributions in the domain of media research, by providing evidence that a non-affiliated journalist can also be a great asset to society. Exorbitant and compulsory membership of journalists in the journalistic associations of many countries, often limits the functionality of journalists in a society (a finding that is backed by research). Furthermore, analysis of media coverage of this case, shows a good amount of heterogeneity, but low coverage, which indicates poor media understanding of the social implications of the detection of such criminal issues, across both the Czech Republic and Slovakia.

Key words: money laundering, investigative journalism, Slovakia, Hong Kong