The first criminal case against the human rights defender

The non-governmental organization for human rights protection of "Veles" was registered on **13.02.2014** under my leadership. It has chosen to target on fighting against corruption, not in a declarative and global sense of the word, but specifically revealing and highlighting specific facts and names. This caused to "dissatisfaction" of the Office of the Prosecutor General in the Republic of Armenia in as far as in almost all scandalous cases of the corruption we revealed employees of the Office had direct involvement.

From **10.03.2014** to **10.04.2014**, based on the applications of the citizens who applied to our organization for legal support, a number of criminal cases were instituted against Hovhannes Pavel Yeritsyan, the former head of the General Department of the Civil Aviation of Armenia, and the groupings he led involved in the shadow turnover of money of millions of dollars.

On **01.05.2014**, based on the complaint to the police submitted by the very H. Yeritsyan, criminal case number 13142214 was instituted against me, based on a false accusation by H. Yeritsyan which read as if I were a member of the "Kazakh mafia" and was engaged in extortion. I had been suffering all methods of psychological pressure and threats for about eight months. Under the high patronage of the Prosecutor's Office, H. Yeritsyan came to face-to-face meetings with me even flaunting a gun, which "Putin himself had gifted him". After eight months the criminal charge trumped-up by the Prosecutor's Office collapsed in the direct meaning of the word; yet H. Yeritsyan did not incur any punishment for the false delation and perjury. As the prosecutor formulation, "he did not realize his actions the moment he was submitting the appeal and giving his testimonies". Yet, after the eight months, as soon as the criminal proceedings had been terminated, the not-realizing-his-actions H. Yeritsyan submitted an appeal to the court against the next prey of his, D. Stepanyan, demanding the latter to pay \$1.000.000 American dollars to him, which he had lent him ???. It is worth mentioning that, as of Yeritsyan's testimony, a part of the money was a certain KGB colonel's. In fact, Yeritsyan's Consciousness recovered within the frames of common financial interests with KGB and the Prosecutor's Office.

The second criminal case against the human rights defender

In spite of all persecutions and pressure (an attempt to fire the NGO's office site, drugs thrown in the car, threats of physical retribution, etc.) the organization went on with the efforts of discovering facts of corruption and money laundering. We revealed and highlighted financial frauds, among which was also the one connected with the Panama offshore cases in which Suren Osipov, the former Prosecutor General of Armenia, his family and close relations, as well as employees of the Prosecutor's Office of Armenia and Russian businessmen were involved. Thus, in parallel the in-turn criminal case against me was made up. On **17.08.2015** criminal case number 14149815 was instituted on grounds of fraud. While the statement, on grounds of which criminal case number 13142214 was instituted, was signed by H. Yeritsyan - the one who had not realised his actions, this time the statement was not sighed by the one who had submitted the very application; accordingly his/her personality was not defined. The Investigative Committee of Armenia was not white-handed in it, of course.

Criminal case number 14149815 "was investigated" for more than 14 months, and no one "paid attention" to the trickery. A criminal case was initiated grounding that I had sold other's property. In fact, the only meaningful evidence for the mentioned criminal case were three letters of attorney confirmed by the notary's office which I had submitted during the inquiry and investigation, but which were intentionally stolen from the case file in order to create an illusion of a crime as if committed by me and to use it as a tool for pressure against me.

- 1. At the beginning of July 2015, I voiced my concerns in the presence of A. Davtyan, the prosecutor of Yerevan (currently the Prosecutor General of Armenia) about the fact that the family of the former Prosecutor General of Armenia, S. Osipov, had performed illegal actions, such as extortion of money and property in rather large amounts.
- 2. On 05.08.2015, the non-governmental organization "Veles" sent a letter to the representative of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Russian Federation in Armenia on possible criminal activity of Russian citizens and the family of the former Prosecutor General of Armenia (the citizen of the Russian Federation).
- **3. On 03.09.2015,** the "Veles" NGO submitted an appeal to the police against the son of the former Prosecutor General of Armenia on extortion of the sum of \$5.000.0000 USD.

- 4. On 15.09.2015, criminal case number 13811015 was instituted on the basis of the article on extortion against the family of the former Prosecutor General of Armenia about obtaining a sum of \$5.000.000 USD.
- **5. On 28.09.2015,** within the frames of criminal case number 13811015, I submitted a solicitation on putting the property of the prosecutor's family under arrest. The solicitation was declined reasoning that the Criminal Procedure Code of Armenia prohibits putting the property of a witness under arrest.

- On 15.07.2015, an appeal from an 80-yearold citizen of Canada A. Meras was received on behalf of A. Karapetyan, the Head of the Police of Yerevan (who is popular of his atrocities both during the "Electric Yerevan" and "Sasna Tsrer" protests) which said as if M. Poghosyan extorted her property.
- On 17.08.2015, a criminal proceeding on grounds of extortion was instituted against
 M. Poghosyan, the head of "Veles" NGO.

- 3. On 15.09.2015, I was invited to the Criminal Investigation Department of Arabkir Community where I witnessed that the investigator and the advocate were making a report to someone on the phone by snatching the receiver away from each other's hand, and one said the following: "The hen has come; all will do how it is agreed upon ...". I immediately wrote about that the Prosecutor General telling him about the exact time of the phone talk and the investigator's telephone number, asking him to find out the customers of the case (with no results).
- 4. On 17.09.2015, attempts to hold a night rummage in the apartment of a bidder, of mine, in another address of her residence, with no witnesses and no eyewitnesses, and with threats.
- **5.** On 30.09.2015, there was a decision on criminal case number 14149815 on putting the property of a bona fide purchaser, who was also the witness, under arrest. In that case the Code of Criminal Procedure of Armenia would permit putting the property of the witness under arrest. Use of double standards.

- 6. On 30.11.2015, the investigator of criminal case number 13811015 acquainted the son of the former Prosecutor General of Armenia Osipov with the investigation materials thus violating the investigation privacy. As soon as they had got acquainted with all the materials and evidences, they appealed the court with the request of invalidation of the decision of instituting a criminal proceeding.
- 7. On 26.01.2016, after the press was engaged in the case and it was widely publisized, the former prosecutor's family lost the court case and the decision on the institution of the proceedings on the criminal case was declared to be legal.
- 8. On 18.07.2016, by the efforts of our organization and through an intersession and testimonies a commodity expertise established for the property obtained through criminal measures by the prosecutor's family.
- **9. On 19.07.2016,** an appeal on a crime by the "Veles" organization was submitted to the Prosecutor General of Armenia on an illegal institution of the case and unlawful persecutions of the human rights defender, as well as on the application of double standards and possible corruption risks in the investigation bodies of Armenia.
- **10. On 23.07.2016,** M. Poghosyan revealed the schemes of the money laundering by Russian investors in cooperation with the family of the former prosecutor of Armenia Osipov, and she presented money orders and other testimonies related to financial off-shore machinations to the investigator.
- **11.** On 10.10.2016, initiated by M. Poghosyan and A. Sakunts, a press conference on Russian criminal money laundering through the Russian bank of VTB was held, during which they voiced specific names of some high-ranking officials of the Prosecutor's

6. On 19.10.2015, cessation of the criminal case number 14149815 against M. Poghosyan.

7. On 02.02.2016, cessation of the criminal case against the right defender was reinstituted by the decision of the Court of Arabkir.

8-9-10. **On 28.07.2016,** M. Poghosyan was attracted in the case as a fraud defendant on the basis of Article 178, part 3 of the Code of Criminal Procedure of Armenia. Use of suppression measures – a house arrest.

11. On 26.11.2016, the accusation brought against M. Poghosyan was changed into the theft in especially large amounts grounded on Article 179 of the Criminal Code of Armenia.

Office of Armenia, about a great number of interviews and articles on financial machinations of the prosecutor's family, other employees of the Prosecutor's Office, and Russian businessmen, as well as on embezzlements of money in especially large amounts.

12. On 20.12.2016, the investigation of criminal case number 13811015 was ceased due to the lack of any corpus delicti in the actions of the Osipov family, the Russian businessmen, the VTB Bank and other officials.

12. *On 20.12.2016,* the materials of criminal case number 14149815, together with the confirmation of the indictment on accusation against M. Poghosyan were sent to the Court of Arabkir.