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LEGISLATIVE INNOVATIONS IN CRIMINAL LEGAL  
PROTECTION OF HOUSING AND COMMUNAL SERVICES  
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Beyond any doubt that the proper and effective protection of objects of housing and communal services from illegal activities is rather acute for Ukraine, thereby the structure of crime is characterized by a high level of infringement of property. That is why special attention in the establishment of effective legal protection of objects of housing and communal services is paid to the Criminal Law. Accordingly, 13 January 2011 the Criminal Code of Ukraine (the CCU) was supplemented by Article 270-1 designed to regulate responsibility for deliberate destruction or damage to housing and communal services objects. The accepted norm is, definitely, poses both theoretical and practical interest.

It is also important to note that it is of peculiar importance nowadays criminal legal protection of relations arising in the sphere of housing and communal services. After all, housing and utilities sector is among the important social sectors and called to ensure decent conditions of human life, creation of normal, healthy, safe conditions for human activities. However, in recent years, cases of premeditated destruction of housing and communal services object, which has become the root cause of our study.

The analysis of corpus delicti provided for in the dispositions of Article 270-1 of the CCU showed that the process of regulation by the criminal legislation of liability for deliberate destruction or damage of objects of housing and communal services has flaws, and

requires further research, elaboration and introduction of scientifically justified amendments to the CCU.

The author have suggested a number of legal novelties:

- to remove the norm on criminal responsibility for intentional destruction or damage of housing and communal services objects from section IX «Crimes against public security» of the special part of the CCU, which is now provided by Article 270-1, and to include it to Section VI «Crimes against property» of the Special Part of the CCU, envisaging responsibility for such actions in new Article 194-2 of the CCU;

- to enlarge a list of crimes enshrined in Article 22, part 2 of the CCU, at the account of reference to Paragraphs 3 and 4 of the proposed by the author Article 194-2 of the CCU;

- to extend qualifying signs of the considered corpus delicti (Article 194-2 of the CCU) with a reference of the crime to be committed on preliminary arrangement by group of persons, and the need to consider as a repetition not just the preliminary deliberate destruction or damage to objects of housing and communal services, but also the crimes, the corpus delicti of which are provided by in the dispositions of Articles 194, 194-1, 347, 347-1, 352, 378, 399, 411 of the CCU;

- initiated a new model of legislative construction of Article 194-2 of the CCU and suggested to abandon the derived consequences of deliberate destruction or damage to object of housing and communal services, if it resulted or could have resulted in impossibility to use, disruption of normal functioning of objects of housing and communal services.

The lack of proper consideration of disputes on criminal responsibility for intentional destruction or damage to objects of housing and communal services in the doctrine of criminal law requires further improvement of criminal legal framework by making specific, evidence-based proposals.