MASTER STUDIES

THEME:

PROBATION OF CONVICTED PEOPLE IN KOSOVO,
DURING 2002-2010

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Prishtinë, 2013
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Introduction
Probation of convicted people is a penological measure which helps the prisoner in his rehabilitation before suffering the whole prison sentence. Institute of probation is relatively old and is known almost by all the legislations of modern states. To be released on bail the convicted person must first have suffered more than half of the sentence or three-quarters of the sentence, after which the convict has the right to apply for probation. The prisoner and his social behavior towards other prisoners, internal order and penitentiary personnel must prove that in the future will not commit any criminal offense, will behave correctly, keep the positive legal norms, namely the re-integration into society.

The commission or a special panel decides for allowing the probation, composed by one professional judge and two lay judges who are knowledgeable in the field of penology,
criminology, psychiatry, pedagogy, sociology etc. The benefit of probation is that the imposed sentence upon a prisoner is difficult to be known exactly until the expiration of the penalty period the person will improve his behavior, and therefore the probation it gives them the opportunity to be rehabilitated before the deadline, and facilitates the penitentiary personnel work because of the over population of prisons and the lower cost of expenses that weighs the respective state budget.

The person on probation has obligations or liabilities to be followed during a certain time period. Failure to meet these obligations result in revocation of probation which may be mandatory and optional. The probation system has been well regulated in the former Yugoslavia, namely KSA of Kosovo, and later in the Interim Administration of the United Nations but also with the legislation of the Republic of Kosovo, we can freely say that our country has a healthy legal basis for the operation of this system. How does this system works I will try to unfold in the making of this theme.
Conclusion

In this paper of master thesis I have tried to explain the importance of the probation system. I think it's an important matter of time and humanitarian as well, which is provided and applied in almost all the legislations of contemporary societies countries. The penalty of imprisonment of people who contravene the law is justified only in terms of public safety, crime prevention and preparation for reintegration into society (rules of the Tokyo 1990). Even to us the probation system is regulated under the criminal laws of the Republic of Kosovo, as the Criminal Code, the Law on Execution of Criminal Sanctions, Justice code for Juveniles, orders that regulate the work of this institution and is in accordance with international conventions and rules, such as those of Tokyo and the European Commission.

For probation while serving their prison sentence three things are important to be taken into account: 1. The attitude of the convicted person to the committed offense (admits, repents, vows that he will never commit any criminal offense) 2. his behavior in the penitentiary center as against personnel of the institution as well as to other prisoners, the success of fluency of socialization or re-socialization process. 3. Prospects for the post socialization period (after being released from prison and suffering of the rest in freedom).

In addition to these criteria which are mainly based on the Panel's work for probation it is important to note that the acquisition of the right of probation, preliminarily must be met the certain legal conditions foreseen by the KPK provisions (Article 80 ). The convicted people who have held half of their sentence, 2/3 can be released on bail; convicted people who have served three-quarters ¾ of the long-term imprisonment can be released on bail, juveniles and convicted people who have served one-third (1/3) of the sentence of imprisonment, may exceptionally be released on bail in exceptional circumstances.

Like any system, even probation has its advantages and disadvantages. One of the advantages of probation of convicted people is a kind of correction of a court decision, and the continued retention would have negative effects on the socialization process. But if probation is revoked for violation of conditions or committing any criminal offense, the person on probation returns to serving the punishment prescribed by the court decision and can be judged for the new performed work. Probation of the convicted people helps a lot in the depopulation of prisons and saves the state budget, the cost for a single prisoner for a residence days in jail costs from € 24-27 per day, which burdens the state budget. Regarding disadvantages, probation is also a kind of ticket for the convicted person to be released earlier in freedom and to perform or terminate any criminal offense while serving the rest in freedom.

During this research, in terms of the probation institute, I consider these important proposals:

- It would be necessary for relevant authorities, with the assistance of international organizations, to make efforts that our country is a signatory to the European Convention on the Supervision of offenders for the convicted people on probation, dated 30. IX. 1964, given the fact that a large
number of our citizens live and work in a foreign country, in this case the Probation Service can not perform the supervision of persons on probation abroad.

In cases of more serious and specific offenses would be better that the Panel for Probation to contact with people who have applied for probation so that making the decision to be as meritorious as possible.

In assessing the conditions for probation to have more individual and objective approach to convicted persons who apply for probation by the penitentiary centers staff, Probation Panel and Probation Service, avoiding generalizations and the routine.

The Panel is composed mainly of professional people who have knowledge in the fields of social, educational and legal assistance, preferably with experience of socialization, resettlement and postpenal support of people on probation.

I think that the proper assessment and management during probation would contribute to reducing recidivism opportunities.

The low economic development in Kosovo does not provide more opportunities of employments to people on probation as a measure of resettlement support. We hope that this weakness will be eliminated in the future.

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