
THE PRESS IN UZBEKISTAN: INDEPENDENCE AND PROSPECTS

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Annotation

The article talks about the press, the policy carried out by the state for the development of the press in Uzbekistan during the years of independence and its results.

Key words: Periodicals, press, , newspaper, magazine, mass media; democratic values.

The press, as a sharp and effective tool of social consciousness, has a permanent and active influence on the society of individuals, shapes public opinion, and is a powerful ideological factor in instilling certain views into the public mind. The press covers various aspects of society¹.

Thanks to independence, a completely new phase of democratic development has begun in the development of the press of Uzbekistan. Now, organizations, parties, associations, some communities, citizens also have the right to establish press publications. An opportunity was created to ensure the freedom of the press in the country.

It should be noted that the number of mass media in our country has increased by almost 30 percent compared to 2016, reaching 1962, and the number of Internet publications in the national information space has almost doubled in the last 6 years and has increased to 677.

"As a result, the sources of information of state and non-state organizations are increasing, there are great opportunities to communicate directly with the population, to respond quickly to the problems that people are thinking about, and to come up with an open, impartial and critical opinion on various topics," it is not without reason that it is said.²

In Uzbekistan, many laws, decrees and decisions were adopted in order to develop the national press and to support publications with a new spirit after independence. Due to this, in the first years of independence, there was an increase in the number of press publications and the emergence of new ones. In these processes, the protection and encouragement of press and media workers by the state is of particular importance.

In accordance with the Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan "On establishing the day of press and mass media workers", in recognition of their services in promoting the ideas of independence of the press and mass media, building a new democratic society, and

¹ Encyclopedia of the Republic of Uzbekistan. -T., 1997.-P. 279

² Shavkat Mirziyoev's greeting to the press and mass media workers. https://uza.uz/uz/posts/matbuot-va-ommaviy-axborot-vositalari-xodimlariga_385149

educating the population in the spirit of loyalty to the Motherland, 27 June was marked as the day of press and mass media workers³.

According to the decree of the President of August 25, 1993, the "Fund supporting the press of the Republic of Uzbekistan" was established⁴. The fund was established in order to help newspapers and magazines to solve issues related to improving their activities, publishing and distributing periodicals, as well as strengthening the social protection of journalists in the context of the transition to market relations. According to the decree, 1 billion soums from the reserve of the Cabinet of Ministers were allocated to the fund in order to strengthen the financial and material technical base of the republican periodicals. This, in turn, paved the way for encouraging press workers and providing them with comprehensive support.

It is the task of mass media to convey the life of our society and the events happening in our country to the people⁵. Socio-political fund for the democratization and support of mass media of the Republic of Uzbekistan in order to create conditions for the normal functioning of mass media, to solve financial and technical issues related to their publication and distribution, and to provide practical support for creators to actively participate in the democratic process was established (August 30, 1996). This foundation is an independent, self-governing, non-governmental organization of media representatives⁶.

In the following years, an open space was created to ensure freedom of speech and press in Uzbekistan. Various barriers to using this opportunity: administrative, informal restrictions have been almost removed. The necessary legal framework has been created and improved so that everyone in the society can freely express their opinions, appeals and objections, proposals and complaints. The Internet, its social networks, portals, newspapers and magazines, TV and radio, in short, covered all means of information transmission, online and offline, traditional and non-traditional instruments. Accordingly, the guarantees of freedom of speech and information, freedom of journalistic activities were fundamentally strengthened, and appropriate measures of responsibility against those who violated or opposed such rights were strengthened⁷.

In short, in the years of independence, structural reforms in the press sector were carried out rapidly. The Press Support Fund of the Republic of Uzbekistan and the Social-Political Fund for Democratization and Support of the Mass Media of the Republic of Uzbekistan, which were created in the most difficult times, played an important role in keeping the press and mass media on their feet.

³ Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan dated June 24, 1993 "On establishing the day of the press and media workers". Bulletin of the Supreme Council of the Republic of Uzbekistan, 1993, No. 7, Article 276.

⁴ Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan dated August 25, 1993 "On the establishment of a fund supporting the press of the Republic of Uzbekistan". Bulletin of the Supreme Council of the Republic of Uzbekistan, 1993, No. 8, Article 307.

⁵ Rahmatullayev T. Matbuot va demokratiya. T.2002. –B 7.

⁶ Encyclopedia of the Republic of Uzbekistan. -T., 1997.-P. 280

⁷ O'tkir Raxmat. Matbuot hayot ko'zgusi. Xalq so'zi. 2020 yil 24 iyun.

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