Role of Modern Technologies monitoring the import and export of articles in preventing the customs offenses

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Abstract

Customs offenses are among the offenses which are incessantly increasing and the committers of this kind of offenses nowadays by making use of all the amenities such as information and communications technology turn to commit these significant crimes and leave destructive effects on society. Preventing the customs offenses by an optimal use of all the modern technologies which are compatible with universal standards is an inevitable issue. The role of modern technologies in the customs office reflects itself more transparently when we get aware that the aforesaid technologies in various executive sections of the customs office such as passengers’ inspection halls, exit doors, and the commercial and judicial warehouses and so forth are applicable and practically make the requirements of committing the customs offenses difficult. This essay tries to illustrate to some extent the role of modern technologies in preventing the customs offenses.

Keywords: prevention, customs offenses, modern technologies, import and export of articles.
1-Introduction

Human during its lifetime has always tried to go through the path of its growth and development with high speed and more ease by discovering or inventing efficient instruments. Exploiting the technical mechanisms or procedures and the information and communications technology (ICT) in corridors of importing and exporting articles in the customs office will undoubtedly be able to root out lots of customs offenses. From a distant past customs office and other organizations have intensely been dependent on the physical controlling and the paper documents. Noting the former customs affairs code the systems and tacks are being directed towards in which the whole articles and the relevant documents get checked and also become rechecked and make it certain that nothing gets out of customs office without reason. But at the same time lots of offenses take place which are originating from paper documents and the physical controls without any dependence on the modern technologies which are sometimes unexplorable and are the result of collusion of individuals with each other. Replacement of traditional methods by an strategic view and the possibility of intervention of customs office in advance of the time of arrival of articles until after the release of goods for transferring the risk to the same merchant is an inevitable necessity. Aside from the root and the how of the role of modern technologies which control the import and export of articles in preventing the customs affairs offenses (i.e. basic customs offenses) and the result and end of it (i.e. its purpose and necessity) here some basic questions arise which answering them in general clarifies the role of modern technologies which monitoring the import and export of articles in preventing the crime.

What’s the role of x-ray in preventing crimes? What is the influence of gamma ray in preventing the customs offenses?

What are the roles of electronic inputs or entrance gates in preventing the crimes in this domain? Thus, the content of the present essay will be scrutinized in four sections of x-ray, Gamma ray, closed circuit cameras, and the electronic inputs and at last the results of the research will be presented.

2-Role of x-ray in preventing the customs affairs offenses

The purpose of exercising the above-mentioned preventions is complicating the commitment of crime throughout increasing the risk of committing it and decreasing the vulnerability of victims and as a result of it lessen the attractions of it; that is it is necessary to deprive the potential culprits of the opportunities to commit crimes and increase the risks and the harms out of committing a crime since the wrongdoer usually carry out pre-investigation researches on committing a crime and its probable privileges and harms and at last chooses between committing a crime or give it up. (Khanalipour and Vajarghah, 41: 1989) Mount the x-ray apparatus in the customs offices in Iran specifically in commercial customs offices and the travellers ‘customs offices and the entry and exit gates of articles such as exit gates are very effective and worthwhile sine with a minimal amount of manpower and merely by means of such devices the amount of committing customs offenses such as dislocation and export of articles with various tariffs, separation of expensive and small-sized articles amidst the bulky articles and so forth reach a minimum amount. X-ray inspection equipment is one of the instruments that by implementing some methods, systems, and the scientific and professional techniques such as risk management to decrease the amount of smuggling which is accounted for as one of the key
customs offenses leave an specific impact and the statistics of discoveries made by means of x-ray apparatus such as automobile indicate that the costs which are devoted to equip the customs offices with these machines causes the prevention of customs offenses and as a result leads to the return on exported investments and capitals. (Beheshtian, 28: 2008) On the other hand by considering the geographical situation of Iran which is situated on the drug transit route and the issue that drug traffickers everyday make use of new embedding methods to carry out a more precise and fast inspections of cargoes imported and exported across the country which their volume is increasing incessantly modern and developed inspection equipment such as x-ray inspection instruments whether inspection equipment for cargo containers, pallet-type inspection equipment, baggage-type x-ray inspection equipment, inspection gates, drug-sensitive detectors, explosive detection devices, endoscopy equipment, and so forth can be effective in preventing several customs offenses; although the container-type x-ray inspection equipment by exploiting the developed and mixing the electronic and mechanical systems to increase the risk of smuggling, opening up of the doors of containers carrying goods in the moment of inspection, facilitating the control and inspection of cargoes specifically in the foreign transit section and imports and also preventing the establishment or creation of tunnels in the containers carrying goods and embedding things within the body of containers which are impossible to being used by physical inspection are being used. By saving the time of control and inspection, saving the application of man power for controlling and inspection, time management, preventing the import of smuggled articles into the country and also preventing the export of smuggled articles abroad, increase the global credit and transit capacities, increase the tourism attraction, glorify the entered and exited tourists, increase the security of customs gates, strengthen the national economy, increase the psychic stress and conducting the risk management in an incessantly increasing manner, increasing the efficiency and the concentration power of assessors, increase the security standards for articles, interaction and cooperation with neighboring and coworking organizations, fuel fear for the smugglers and the lawbreakers and in case of existence of proper telecommunication grounds and information safety, it will be possible to scan the transit containers through using x-ray in the customs office of the source country and send to the destination country’s customs office and get certain about the occurrence or non-occurrence of the manipulation of goods that the whole above-mentioned items are looked at as the privileges of using x-ray in the field of preventing the custom offenses. (Beheshtian:ibid.).

Prevention is considered as possible by resorting to modern technologies such as x-ray in the articles 9, 11, and 12 of the new customs affairs code in a way that article nine has predicted to carry out the customs formalities and the custom controls by means of information and communications technologies and the article ten has predicted the subject of customs procedures and controls by means of methods such as risk management, ordered or random inspections, applying the modern equipment and methods of inspection, based on auditing and in the exceptional cases accompanying or protecting. (Customs Office of the Islamic Republic of Iran: 20: 2013).

Of course according to the formal announcement of the ruling assistant manager of the Customs office of the Islamic Republic of Iran if we want to equip only sixty customs offices out of the whole one hundred and sixty customs offices all over the country with modern facilities and
equipment for controlling and inspection we need sixty x-ray apparatus which each of them costs about fifty million Rials. (Beheshtian: 7: 2010).

3-Role of Gamma ray in preventing the custom affairs offenses

In general the society reacts against misdeed in the preventive and suppressing manners. Prevention means avoiding the shift of criminal minds to action or complicating its commitment until both the citizens receive support and the government invest less in the issue of suppressing and punishing. The more effective the prevention the less suppression and punishment are needed. In other words, as the failure of measures in the area of hygiene and health can contribute to the prevalence and outbreak of a contagious disease lack or failure of preemptive measures can bring with themselves the development of offensive or criminal behaviors and as a result bring with it the excessive intervention of the criminal judicial system. (Ebrahimi: 15: 2008) The necessity of preventing the custom offenses through using the Gamma ray has been hopefully predicted in the new code of customs affairs, the preventive and struggling political package for goods trafficking and the custom violations and the strategic document of the customs office of the Islamic Republic of Iran within a five-year term. Gamma ray machines contrary to the x-ray which exactly inspects the container-type, pallet-type and so on inspects the persons and individuals who commute the custom passageways more meticulously. Using this developed security apparatus specifically in the travellers’ customs offices, airport and land customs stations such as Khosravi frontier customs office in which everyday lots of passengers through this frontier line enter the country or exit it bears a considerable significance. Important international airports are mainly equipped with this developed detector which is an amalgam of electronic and mechanical systems and repeatedly several cases of embedding small-sized gold and jewelry and precious things have been observed in the belts of the entered and exited passengers and as a result of existing the precious computer fragments with high customs duties and tariffs and embedding cases inside the bodies of individuals which are only detectable by Gamma Ray machine not only approves of the significance of this modern and developed technology, but prevents the occurrence of similar custom offenses in future.

In other words installing and making use of a Gamma-based machine through complicating the commitment of crime, increasing the danger of capturing the felon, reducing the rewards that come from committing a crime, lead to the reduction of opportunities to commit a crime by crime prevention through environmental design (CPTED). In fact when in the destination customs offices Gamma Ray machine is being used, opportunities to commit custom offenses abates and the victims of the mentioned crimes reduces and this issue will happen by creating physical changes in the environment and on the other hand it provides the opportunity until in case of committing a crime the probability of identifying and arresting the committer augments. Moreover in the investigations on the physical assessment the accuracy and speed were by far lower than the time using the Gamma ray and in alignment with the confrontation of the custom assessors with passengers in many times traces of custom violations and collusion are observed in which using the Gamma-based machine can be effective in preventing such crimes. By considering that in the customs office the possibility of physical and body inspections of lots of entered and exited passengers in the international flights for the assessors is impossible, thus
installing such developed technology considerably reduces the custom offenses in this field and we can exploit the efficient custom man power in other entrance gates properly.

4-Role of closed-circuit cameras in preventing the customs affairs offenses

By the advent of approaches in preventing the crimes according to the situation (i.e. situational crime prevention), outdoor CCTV camera as a method for increasing the cost of crime and preventing the occurrence of them are noted. According to Rational Choice Theory the motivation of individuals by observing the CCTV camera and due to escaping from arrestment reduces. (Mohseni, 14:1999) since the wrongdoers in the event of committing a crime think of the danger of being arrested more than the intensity of punishment and since this camera augments the this danger installing it can influence the reduction of the rate of crime. CCTV cameras in the customs offices of Iran harshly increase the level of visibility of important and crime-rich regions such as commercial and judicial warehouses, inspection halls, exit doors, and the customs office arena. CCTV cameras in the customs offices are capable of preserving the pictures which are taken from warehouses and other customs sites for a long period and even track the staff with whom they are in contact.

Surveillance authorities monitor the whole affairs which dominate the customs office department which is under their directorship and this thing specifically in the customs offices in which the amount of entrance and exit of articles has a considerable amount lead to the prevention of the customs affairs offenses.

Accretion of installing the closed circuit cameras in the customs offices of the country causes that the level of supervision and visibility of significant custom sites such as commercial and judicial warehouses increase harshly and naturally individuals who intend at any rate to commit several custom offences feel safety to an acceptable amount and as a result change their mind about committing a crime. The noteworthy point is that the majority of people who settle in the crime-rich areas that customs office suburb are one of them agree with installing the closed circuit cameras since as the mentioned cameras get mounted due to the augmentation of the level of supervision or surveillance and visibility the sense of security increases significantly. Just as in a research which was carried out for the sake of increasing the security of individuals in the railway station %12 of the respondents referred to the necessity of installing the CCTV camera since the amount of visibility of these persons had augmented by means of these cameras.

Installation of environment CCTV camera in the customs offices causes that the lawbreakers become aware of the existence of closed circuit camera and the coverage of custom sites and places and in this way it creates prevention. This action can prevent the individuals from undue wandering around the custom sites and stores since lots of wrongdoers of custom offenses a few days before committing the crime go for investigating the site and the installation of these cameras can send this message that in the beginning inside the intended site is equipped with this technology and meanwhile in case of committing a custom crime of any kind the probability of their identification through environment CCTV cameras exists. Moreover, the application of environment cameras in the customs office places can not only provide the sufficient evidence to prove the crime of individuals in that site but can act as a deterrent factor for committing a crime.
outside and around the site. For instance, if a customs release agent which intends to violate the law be aware that the circumference of the relevant customs office is equipped with cameras by approaching the mentioned area and the circumference of the custom sites and stores for fear of being arrested and losing one’s personal dignity never puts his/her criminal thoughts into action. (Mohammadi;52: 2006) Installation of cc cameras in the customs office system due to the significance of the issue in terms of identifying the vulnerable places for the occurrence of custom crimes and preventing them is of great significance specifically in terms of practice their installation in the important and effective customs offices such as Shahid Rajayi Customs Office, customs Offices of Bandar Abbas, Tehran, Khuzistan, Bushehr and so on which take on a considerable volume of importing and exporting of cargoes have been able to play a key role in the actualization of crimes non-occurrence. Finally, it is worth noting that after the enforcement of the new custom affairs code and by considering the attention of the lawmaker to the modern technologies in the customs office making use of these technologies in the customs office has aggravated the usage of these technologies that closed circuit camera is one of them.

5-Conclusion

Concerning the role of modern technologies about monitoring the entrance and exit of articles in preventing the custom offenses the following points are deducible:
Firstly, Customs office is one of the key economic organizations of Iran which is considered as one of the main sources of state revenue as well.

Secondly, by considering the exclusive consigned roles of customs office which appear in the form of case such as import, export, transit, transient entrance and so forth it is followed by financial attractions and is always a fertile field for the custom violations and crimes in the customs offices of Iran.

Thirdly, the necessity of establishment and development of modern technologies monitoring the entrance and exit of articles in the customs offices of Iran is inevitable by considering the considerable quantitative and qualitative volume of the affairs which are consigned to this organization; besides, a bulk of the customs offenses have been occurred by means of paper documents and the physical controls take place without relying on the modern technologies which are often undiscoverable and is the result collusion of individuals with each other.

Fourth, preventing the custom offenses consists in making use of modern methods, modern technologies, and using the series of instruments and means which customs office has established for a better controlling of wrongdoing through omitting and/or restricting the physical controls and/or through practicing a proper management toward the physical environmental factors. And finally the necessity of establishing and developing the modern technologies for controlling the entrance and exit of articles in the customs office such as making an optimal use of x-ray machine, Gamma ray machine, and the closed circuit cameras by relying on the new customs affairs code paves the way for the preventing various kinds of custom offenses.
References


