

## **AT THE BORDER WITH SLOVAKIA, FIVE UKRAINIANS WERE DETAINED**

Border guards of the Chop Detachment have detained a group of offenders who were attempting to illegally cross the state border of Ukraine.

During a border patrol, the patrol unit of the "Palad Komarivtsi" division noticed the movement of several individuals towards the state border. The border guards immediately began pursuing the unknown individuals and dispatched additional border patrol units with search dogs to the specified area. As a result of the search efforts, law enforcement officers identified and apprehended four men, three of whom had Ukrainian citizen passports, while the fourth had no documents. He also claimed to be a Ukrainian citizen. All four individuals turned out to be residents of eastern regions of our country.

During further search operations, the border guards stopped another man. He also had no documents and claimed to be a Ukrainian citizen. Later, it was established that he was a local resident.

The offenders were taken to the border guard unit. The actions of all five individuals are considered to be signs of an offense under Article 204-1, of the Code of Ukraine on Administrative Offenses - "Illegal crossing or attempted illegal crossing of the state border of Ukraine." After identifying their identities and clarifying all circumstances, their cases will be handed over to the court.

## **BORDER GUARDS OF THE CHOP DETACHMENT DETAINED THREE INDIVIDUALS ATTEMPTING TO ILLEGALLY ENTER SLOVAKIA**

While performing their duties, the border patrol discovered on the outskirts of Uzhhorod, approximately 200 meters from the state border, a man with a woman and a newborn child who were trying to overcome a barrier fence.

Only the woman had identification documents. She presented a Ukrainian citizen passport to the law enforcement officers. The man also identified himself as a Ukrainian citizen and provided a certificate from the National Police in Lviv Region in place of his lost document. They were accompanied by their three-month-old daughter.

It turned out that the offenders had traveled to Zakarpattia by train from Kharkiv, where they had been living together, with the intention of crossing the border

outside of designated checkpoints. Their further plan was to reach Germany in hopes of better living conditions. They had planned their route using online maps.

Currently, the detainees have been placed in a special facility of the "Uzhhorod" border service unit. After clarifying all circumstances of the offense and establishing the man's identity, they will be held administratively liable under Part 2 of Article 204-1 of the Code of Ukraine on Administrative Offenses - "Illegal crossing or attempted illegal crossing of the state border of Ukraine.

### **CHOP DETACHMENT BORDER GUARDS DETAIN SEVEN MEN ATTEMPTING TO ILLEGALLY CROSS THE BORDER**

Military personnel of the Chop Border Guard Detachment have detained six Ukrainian citizens who were attempting to illegally enter Slovakia, as well as another compatriot who tried to leave for Hungary using forged documents.

Three offenders were detained at the so-called "green" border with Slovakia. All of them turned out to be young men of draft age. One of them was apprehended with the assistance of a service dog trained to search for individuals.

Four other Ukrainians intended to leave the country using forged documents. Three of them presented documents at the checkpoint, allegedly certifying their exemption from military service due to health conditions. One even presented a "Disabled from Childhood" certificate. However, during verification, law enforcement officers found that all these documents showed signs of forgery. The fourth man attempted to leave as a single parent raising a child. However, the court decision also turned out to be falsified.

All seven offenders will be held administratively liable under Part 1 of Article 204-1 of the Code of Ukraine on Administrative Offenses - "Illegal crossing or attempted illegal crossing of the state border of Ukraine." Subsequently, their cases will be referred to the court.

For those individuals who attempted to leave using forged documents, there are also indications of a criminal offense under Article 358 of the Criminal Code of Ukraine - "Forgery of documents, seals, stamps, or forms; sale or use of forged documents, seals, stamps." A notification regarding this has been sent to the

investigative department of the Uzhhorod Regional Police Directorate of the National Police in Zakarpattia Region.

## **GROUP OF ILLEGAL MIGRANTS DETAINED NEAR THE BORDER WITH SLOVAKIA IN ZAKARPATTIA**

A border patrol discovered the offenders during a patrol of a wooded area near the settlement of Onokivtsi. Four men of Asian appearance were heading towards the state border. They were orienting themselves using a mobile phone application.

The detainees had no identification documents on them. They claimed to be citizens of Sri Lanka.

The offenders were taken to the border guard unit. After establishing their identities, they will be held administratively liable for attempting to illegally cross the border. Their further fate will be determined by the court.

## **BORDER GUARDS IN ZAKARPATTIA LOCATE OFFENDER LOST IN THE MOUNTAINS AND SEEKING HELP**

Border guards of the Chop Detachment have detained a Ukrainian citizen near the village of Novoselitsya in Uzhhorod District, who intended to illegally enter Slovakia.

The 25-year-old man aimed to reach the border, relying on the navigator on his mobile phone. He set out on foot from the railway station following a pre-planned route. However, he lost his orientation and got lost in the mountains.

When the man realized he couldn't find his way out of the forest on his own, he called the emergency line 102. The operational service informed the border guards, and they immediately launched a search operation. Additional border patrol units with search dogs were involved in the efforts.

Using approximate information about the lost individual's location, he was found a few kilometers from the border. The man turned out to be a resident of Zaporizhzhia. He confessed that he had planned to reach any settlement in Slovakia and then decide where to go from there.

The man was provided with the necessary assistance. Currently, he is feeling well and is safe.

The offender was taken to the border guard unit to establish all the circumstances of the case and to prepare administrative-procedural documents. He will be held accountable before the court for the attempted illegal border crossing.

## **HARSH WEATHER AND SNOWSTORM DIDN'T DETER THE DETERMINED. BORDER GUARDS DID**

Five men attempting to cross the state border illegally were detained by the soldiers of the Chop Detachment during the night. Despite challenging weather conditions, the offenders dared to embark on a dangerous "journey" to reach EU countries.

Two of them were apprehended by the operational-search unit of the detachment along with the border patrol unit of the "Palad Komarivtsi" division. The unknown individuals were moving through fields towards the border with Slovakia. When they spotted the law enforcement officers, they tried to flee. Border guards had to fire several warning shots into the air to stop the offenders.

The detainees had Ukrainian citizen documents with them and turned out to be local residents.

Another three desperate individuals near the border with Hungary were apprehended by the border guards of the "Salovka" division. The locals informed them about the movement of foreigners towards the state border. A rapid response group with search dogs was immediately dispatched to the indicated area. The offenders were stopped about half a kilometer from the border. They also had documents and were citizens of Ukraine.

All apprehended individuals were taken to border guard units to prepare administrative-procedural documents. They will be held accountable for attempting illegal border crossing.

Moreover, the escapees, who failed to comply with legal demands of law enforcement officers, will also have to answer for committing an administrative offense under Article 185-10 of the Administrative Offenses Code.

Given the challenging weather conditions and frequent attempts of illegal border crossing, we urge citizens not to risk their lives and health in vain. Such attempts to cross the border can end fatally.

### **IN A 24-HOUR PERIOD, CHOP DETACHMENT BORDER GUARDS DETAIN NINE UKRAINIAN CITIZENS ATTEMPTING ILLEGAL CROSSING OF THE BORDER**

Four of them were attempting to reach Slovakia. The men tried to bypass border guards who were on duty near the settlement of Palad Komarivtsi in Uzhhorod District. However, the offenders were unable to hide from the law enforcement officers. The border patrol, in collaboration with the operational team, noticed the movement of the group and detained them half a kilometer from the state border.

The unknown individuals had Ukrainian passport documents with them. All four men turned out to be local residents. The youngest was 19, and the oldest was 30.

The remaining five individuals intended to enter Hungary outside of border crossing points. They were detained on the outskirts of the settlement of Solovka. A local resident informed the border guards about the presence of foreigners. A rapid response group was immediately dispatched to the reported area.

The offenders also turned out to be citizens of Ukraine, ranging in age from 18 to 39. During questioning, they admitted their intention to illegally cross the Ukrainian-Hungarian border.

The detainees were taken to border guard units to prepare administrative-procedural documents. They will be held accountable for attempting illegal state border crossing.

### **AT THE "MALY BEREZNY" BORDER CROSSING POINT, BORDER GUARDS DETAINED A 31-YEAR-OLD TRANSCARPATHIAN MAN WHO INTENDED TO ILLEGALLY CROSS THE UKRAINIAN-SLOVAK BORDER**

The perpetrator was identified when he got into a minibus, the passengers of which had already undergone all types of checks when exiting Ukraine. The man arrived at the border crossing point on foot and hoped to go unnoticed while sneaking into the vehicle heading to Slovakia. Border guards determined that this plan was developed in advance by the lawbreaker in collaboration with the driver.

They had met at a gas station before the crossing point and agreed on the plan of action. According to the scheme, the man was supposed to wait for the completion of the control procedures and then board the minibus along with other passengers.

A criminal-investigative group of the National Police was called to the scene. The driver and the "inventive" pseudo-passenger had to replace their trip to Slovakia with a "journey" to the local police department for explanation gathering and initial investigative actions.

Border guards sent a notification to the Uzhhorod district unit of the National Police about the detection of signs of a criminal offense in the actions of the Transcarpathian man, as provided by Article 336 of the Criminal Code of Ukraine "Evasion from Conscription During Mobilization".

Additionally, after establishing all circumstances, he will be held administratively responsible under Part 1 of Article 204-1 of the Code of Ukraine on Administrative Offenses "Illegal Crossing or Attempted Illegal Crossing of the State Border of Ukraine".

Regarding the actions of the driver, there are indications of a criminal offense as outlined in Article 332 of the Criminal Code of Ukraine "Illegal Transportation of Individuals Across the State Border of Ukraine".

## **AT THE BORDER WITH SLOVAKIA, NINE UKRAINIANS AND ONE RUSSIAN WERE DETAINED**

Soldiers of the Chop Border Unit thwarted attempts of illegal border crossing by two groups of Ukrainian citizens and detained a man without documents who claimed to be a citizen of the Russian Federation.

The first group, according to information from the operational-search unit of the unit, was detained on the evening of March 5 near the village of Palad-Komarivtsi in the Uzhhorod district. An additional patrol was dispatched to the area specified by the operatives, which during the search operations identified five unidentified individuals. Two of them had Ukrainian passports, while the remaining three had no documents but claimed to be Ukrainian citizens. All five were residents of Uzhhorod. They admitted their intention to reach Slovakia outside the official border crossing points.

The other four were detained at night by border guards from the "Novoselytsia" unit in cooperation with their Slovak colleagues. Around midnight, near the village of Kamyanytsia, the border patrol detained a man who managed to overcome the barrier fence and was moving towards Slovakia. During questioning, the offender confessed that he was traveling with three other people. Border guards initiated search operations, informed Slovak border guards, and provided them with the likely direction of movement. Subsequently, Slovak border guards informed their Ukrainian counterparts that they had managed to detain three Ukrainian citizens.

Another offender was discovered by the border patrol on the outskirts of the village of Onokivtsi in the Uzhhorod district. The man had no documents and claimed to be a citizen of Russia. The foreigner was administratively detained and brought to the border unit. After establishing the circumstances of the offense, he was held administratively responsible for violating the border regime.

The detained Ukrainian citizens were held accountable under Article 204-1 of the Code of Ukraine on Administrative Offenses for "Illegal crossing or attempted illegal crossing of the state border of Ukraine." Their fate will be decided by the court.

## **AT THE BORDER WITH SLOVAKIA, A GROUP OF ILLEGAL MIGRANTS AND SIX UKRAINIAN CITIZENS WERE DETAINED**

Border guards of the Chop Border Unit thwarted unlawful intentions of four foreigners and six Ukrainian citizens who were attempting to illegally cross from Ukraine into EU countries.

At midnight, border guards of the "Velykyi Bereznyi" unit received information from the operational-search unit about a possible attempt of illegal border crossing by a group of individuals. Additional border patrols and operatives were dispatched to the specified area. During the search operations, law enforcement officers detained four men of Asian appearance who were moving towards Slovakia. They had Turkish passports. Border guards established that the foreigners had arrived in Ukraine earlier this year through legal means, allegedly with the purpose of employment at a private enterprise in Kyiv region.

The detainees were brought to the border unit. After clarifying all circumstances of the offense, they will be held administratively responsible for attempting

to illegally cross the state border of Ukraine. The cases will be handed over to the court.

Also, near the border, border guards of the "Uzhhorod" unit detained three Ukrainians who were attempting to cross through fields into Slovakia. They were discovered about half a kilometer from the state border on the outskirts of Uzhhorod. All of them turned out to be of draft age and local residents.

The other three detainees attempted to cross the state border individually. They were intercepted in the dark hours of the day by border guards from the "Velykyi Bereznyi," "Uzhhorod," and "Solomonovo" units. The men had passports and were identified as residents of Kharkiv region, Dnipro, and Kyiv respectively.

Their actions are considered offenses, for which responsibility is outlined in part 1 of Article 204-1 of the Code of Ukraine on Administrative Offenses for "Illegal crossing or attempted illegal crossing of the state border of Ukraine." Their cases will also be forwarded to the court.

## **IN TRANSCARPATHIA, BORDER GUARDS EXPOSED THREE UKRAINIANS WITH FORGED DOCUMENTS**

During the past day, servicemen of the Chop Border Unit detained three Ukrainian citizens attempting to illegally enter EU countries. Two of them were headed to Hungary, while another was heading to Slovakia.

Specifically, at the "Tysa" checkpoint, a 37-year-old resident of Kropyvnytskyi presented documents at the control point purportedly indicating his status as a parent of multiple children. However, during the examination of the certification of being a member of a large family, border guards determined that it was forged. The man had to confess that he only had two children and the document was prepared for him for a monetary reward.

A 25-year-old Transcarpathian who was attempting to exit Ukraine through the same checkpoint presented a package of documents to the border patrol claiming to be for the accompaniment of an elderly person requiring constant external care. Upon studying the certificates, border guards discovered that these documents were also forged. Eventually, the offender revealed that he had purchased the documents through acquaintances for \$500 USD.



At the "Uzhhorod" checkpoint, a 42-year-old resident of Ivano-Frankivsk region attempted to leave Ukraine using a certificate from the State Military Commission stating his unsuitability for military service and a temporary military draft certificate. These documents also turned out to be counterfeit.

The men were denied passage across the border. Their actions are considered to have the signs of a criminal offense under Article 358 of the Criminal Code of Ukraine, "Forgery of documents, seals, stamps, and forms, the sale or use of counterfeit documents, seals, stamps." Corresponding notifications have been sent to the investigative department of the Uzhhorod Main Directorate of the National Police in Transcarpathian region.

### **TO TRAVEL TO SLOVAKIA, A TRANSKARPATIAN MAN INVENTED A WHOLE FAMILY, WHILE A TERNOPIL RESIDENT CLAIMED DISABILITY**

At the "Malyi Bereznyi" checkpoint, a thirty-year-old resident of Zakarpattia provided three birth certificates along with his passport for inspection. During their examination, the border patrol discovered that all three birth certificates were forged. Moreover, all of them were issued under the same number.

The man was not familiar with the birth dates of the supposed children or their mother, and later confessed that he didn't have a family of his own. In order to leave Ukraine, he bought fake documents from an acquaintance.

Another "resourceful" Ukrainian was exposed for deception at the "Uzhhorod" checkpoint. During border control, the man presented a pensioner's ID indicating a disability of the 2nd degree. It raised suspicions among inspectors due to discrepancies in the document format that did not match the standard. Further investigation by law enforcement confirmed their doubts.

In both cases, National Police officers were called to the scene. The offenders were denied exit from the country. Instead, they had to accompany the investigative team to the police departments to undergo initial investigative actions.

Both men will be held accountable for their actions. Their actions are considered to have the signs of a criminal offense under Article 358 of the Criminal Code of Ukraine, "Forgery of documents, seals, stamps, and forms, the sale or use of counterfeit documents, seals, stamps."

## **TEN OFFENDERS DETAINED AT THE BORDER WITH SLOVAKIA**

During the weekend, the soldiers of the Chop Detachment detained ten Ukrainian citizens who intended to illegally reach Slovakia. In two cases, the offenders were moving in groups, while others attempted to cross the border individually.

A group of five offenders was found in the area near the village of Palad Komarivtsi in the Uzhhorod district, just 700 meters from the state border. These men arrived at the village in a foreign-registered car and intended to continue on foot. During the document check, they couldn't explain the purpose of their presence near the border and later confessed to planning an illegal journey to Slovakia. The detainees had Ukrainian passport documents and were residents of Zakarpattia.

Another three were apprehended near the village of Onokivtsi. Two men from Sumy and Chernihiv regions were traveling together towards the border, while the third, a Transcarpathian, was moving alone. However, the "journeys" of each of them ended in the special premises of the "Onokivtsi" border detachment, where they were held for further investigation.

One more resident of Chernihiv region was detained near the village of Zabrid in the Uzhhorod district. Local residents informed the soldiers of the "Velykyi Berezniy" detachment about the appearance of an unknown person near the border. A response team was dispatched to the indicated location and detained the offender about half a kilometer from the state border.

The last offender was discovered during the inspection of a shuttle taxi by border patrol officers from the "Stuzhytsia" detachment. The man of draft age was traveling by bus closer to the border, intending to reach Slovakia through the woods.

All the detainees will be held accountable in accordance with Article 204-1 of the Code of Ukraine on Administrative Offenses for "Illegal crossing or attempted illegal crossing of the state border of Ukraine." The decisions in these cases will be made by the court.

## **TO TRAVEL ABROAD, A TRANSKARPATIAN "EXPANDED" HIS FAMILY**

Yesterday evening, the border guards of the Chop Detachment uncovered an attempt of illegal border crossing by a Ukrainian citizen of draft age. The man hoped to outsmart the border patrol by presenting forged documents.

A 58-year-old resident of Zakarpattia was heading to leave Ukraine through the "Tysa" checkpoint. Along with his passport, he submitted three birth certificates for children. However, during the inspection, border guards found that two of them were falsified. The document blanks, supposedly issued for twin daughters, exhibited multiple signs of forgery.

National Police officers were called to the scene. The offender was denied exit across the border. Instead, he had to accompany the investigative team to the police department for preliminary investigative actions.

The man will be held accountable for his actions. His actions are considered to have the signs of a criminal offense under Article 358 of the Criminal Code of Ukraine, "Forgery of documents, seals, stamps, and forms, the sale or use of counterfeit documents, seals, stamps."

## **GROUP OF LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS DETAINED DRIVER ATTEMPTING TO ILLEGALLY TRANSPORT A FELLOW COUNTRYMAN TO HUNGARY**

At the "Tysa" checkpoint, soldiers of the Chop Border Guard Detachment, in cooperation with employees of the State Bureau of Investigations, the Department of Strategic Investigations, and the Specialized Prosecutor's Office in the field of defense, thwarted an attempt of illegal border crossing by a conscript-aged Ukrainian citizen.

According to the plan, the individual was to cross the state border by hiding in the truck cabin while the vehicle was exiting Ukraine, evading border control. However, during the inspection of the vehicle, the border patrol discovered a person hiding behind a mattress.

Subsequently, it was determined that the driver, a 28-year-old Ukrainian citizen, had conspired to transport a compatriot to Hungary while evading border control. He demanded a reward of \$7,000 US dollars for this service.

The driver of the truck was detained under Article 208 of the Criminal Procedure Code in the course of a criminal investigation based on Part 3 of Article 368 of the Criminal Code of Ukraine, "Commercial bribery of a public official, legal entity of private law, regardless of the organizational and legal form," and Part 3 of Article 332 of the Criminal Code of Ukraine, "Illegal transfer of individuals across the state border."

## **NEAR UZHGOROD, BORDER GUARDS DETAINED A GROUP OF ILLEGAL MIGRANTS**

As part of the joint special border operation "West-2023," soldiers from the "Uzhgorod" unit, in collaboration with operatives from the Chop Detachment and cadets of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, apprehended two foreigners who intended to illegally enter Slovakia from Ukraine.

The foreigners were apprehended about a kilometer from the state border. They did not have identity documents on them but provided law enforcement with scanned copies of passports from Uganda. During questioning, both individuals confessed that their final destination was to be Germany.

The foreigners were detained administratively and taken to the "Onokivtsi" detention facility. After establishing the circumstances of the offense, they will be held administratively responsible under Part 2 of Article 204-1 of the Administrative Code of Ukraine, "Illegal crossing or attempted illegal crossing of the state border of Ukraine.

## **ON THE BORDER WITH SLOVAKIA, FOUR FOREIGNERS WERE DETAINED**

Soldiers of the Chop Border Guard Detachment detained a group of foreigners who were attempting to illegally reach Slovakia, and a few hours later, another individual who was traveling alone.

The border patrol, which also included cadets from the Ministry of Internal Affairs, discovered three unknown individuals of Asian appearance on the outskirts of Uzhgorod. Two of them had passport documents of Indian citizens, while the

third had a certificate from the State Migration Service of Ukraine indicating the loss of passport documents of an Iraqi citizen.

A few hours later, in the same direction, another individual attempting to cross the border illegally was apprehended. An operational officer of the detachment noticed the suspicious movement of this person towards Slovakia. In collaboration with a rapid response team sent from the "Uzhgorod" unit, the soldiers managed to detain the man 350 meters from the border. He did not have any documents and identified himself as a citizen of Nepal. During investigative procedures, law enforcement determined that this foreigner had previously attempted to illegally cross the border. In late January of this year, he was apprehended by the "Uzhgorod" unit while attempting to enter EU countries as part of a group.

To fully clarify the circumstances of the offense, the foreigners were taken to a border unit. After establishing their identities, they will be held responsible under Article 204-1 of the Administrative Code of Ukraine, "Illegal crossing or attempted illegal crossing of the state border of Ukraine." The cases of the foreigners will be handed over to the court.

### **IN TRANSCARPATHIA, BORDER GUARDS STOPPED FOUR "TRICKSTERS"**

Over the course of a day, soldiers of the Chop Border Guard Detachment thwarted unlawful actions by four of our compatriots who were attempting to illegally cross the state border. Three of them tried to bribe the border patrol, while another attempted to travel using forged documents.

For example, at the "Tysa" checkpoint, a 42-year-old Lviv resident, who was traveling by regular bus from Ukraine to Italy, presented documents along with his passport, purportedly certifying his disability. However, during verification procedures, the border guards determined that the presented certificate was forged and not issued by the relevant authority.

At the border with Slovakia, law enforcement officers were offered an unlawful bribe of \$500 US dollars for unhindered border crossing. A 29-year-old Transcarpathian was traveling through the "Maliy Bereznii" checkpoint with an elderly woman. He claimed that she was his grandmother and required constant care. Since he lacked documents to confirm their family relationship, he

attempted to "compensate" with a bribe. The border guards declined this offer and called the National Police to the scene.

At the "Tysa" checkpoint, two men without supporting documents attempted to use the "Green Corridor" system to exit the country. They decided to resolve the matter with the border patrol through bribery. One offered 1000 hryvnias, and the other - 500 hryvnias. The result was the same as in the previous case - a resolute refusal of the unlawful bribe and the summoning of an investigative-operational group.

In all cases of attempted bribery, the border guards forwarded notifications to the National Police regarding the detection of signs of offenses, the responsibility for which is stipulated by Article 369 of the Criminal Code of Ukraine, "Offer, promise, or provision of unlawful benefits to a public official."

The individual from Khmelnytskyi will also have to answer to the law. His actions constitute elements of an offense as defined by Article 358 of the Criminal Code of Ukraine, "Forgery of documents, seals, stamps, and forms, sale or use of counterfeit documents, seals, stamps, and forms."

## **AT THE BORDER WITH SLOVAKIA, TWO FORGERS WERE STOPPED FROM TRAVELING WITH FORGED DOCUMENTS**

At the "Uzhgorod" checkpoint, the border guards of the Chop Border Guard Detachment exposed an attempt of illegal border crossing by two draft-age men. Both of them hoped to outsmart law enforcement officers by presenting forged documents.

A thirty-three-year-old Transcarpathian, who was leaving Ukraine, presented a passport at the control point with markings indicating permanent residence in Italy. During the verification process, the border guards determined that the markings were forged. The man admitted that a third person living abroad had helped him place the fake stamps. This service cost the Transcarpathian \$3000 US dollars.

A few hours later, another resident of Zaporizhzhia arrived at the checkpoint with the intention of leaving Ukraine. During border control, the man provided documents certifying his unfitness for military service due to health reasons. These

documents raised doubts about their authenticity among the inspectors, which were subsequently confirmed during a thorough examination by law enforcement.

In both cases, National Police officers were called to the scene. The offenders were denied exit from the country. Instead, they had to accompany the investigative-operational group to the police department for preliminary investigative actions.

Both individuals will be held accountable for their actions. Their actions constitute elements of a criminal offense under Article 358 of the Criminal Code of Ukraine, "Forgery of documents, seals, stamps, and forms, sale or use of counterfeit documents, seals, stamps, and forms."

### **TO CROSS THE BORDER, A RESIDENT OF DNIPRO PRETENDED TO BE A VOLUNTEER**

Border guards of the Chop Border Guard Detachment exposed an attempt of illegal border crossing by a draft-age Ukrainian citizen who hoped to outsmart law enforcement officers.

While heading to leave Ukraine through the "Uzhgorod" checkpoint, a 24-year-old resident of Dnipro presented a volunteer identification and an assignment order from a charitable organization. The man claimed that he was headed to Poland and Bulgaria with a vehicle carrying humanitarian aid for one of the military units in Kyiv Oblast. During document verification, the border patrol discovered that both documents contained signs of forgery.

During verification procedures, the border guards determined that the charitable organization, supposedly represented by the man, had ceased its activities and had not issued any documents to him.

National Police officers were called to the scene. The offender was denied exit from the country. Instead, he had to accompany the investigative-operational group to the police department for preliminary investigative actions.

The individual will be held accountable for his actions. His actions constitute elements of a criminal offense under Article 358 of the Criminal Code of Ukraine, "Forgery of documents, seals, stamps, and forms, sale or use of counterfeit documents, seals, stamps, and forms."

## **IN TRANSCARPATHIA, BORDER GUARDS DETAINED A NIGERIAN AND TWO UKRAINIANS WHO WERE LEAVING WITH FORGED DOCUMENTS**

The Chop Border Guard Detachment thwarted three attempts of illegal border crossing. Offenders were detected at the "Chop (Druzhba)" and "Tysa" checkpoints on the border with Hungary, as well as at the "Maliy Berezniy" checkpoint on the border with Slovakia.

One of them was apprehended during document verification of train passengers on the "Chop – Zahony" route. The foreigner presented a foreign passport of a Nigerian citizen, which raised doubts about its authenticity among the border patrol. A more detailed examination by law enforcement revealed that the document was forged. The possessor of the passport, also a Nigerian citizen, admitted to the border guards that he had purchased it for \$3000 US dollars.

Two Ukrainian citizens, residents of Kyiv and Kharkiv Oblasts, also attempted to leave using forged documents. They hoped to cross the border by posing as individuals exempted from military registration due to health reasons. However, they failed to deceive the border guards, who promptly identified the forgeries.

Each of the individuals will be held accountable for their actions. After establishing all circumstances, they will be subject to administrative liability under Part 1 of Article 204-1 of the Administrative Code of Ukraine, "Illegal crossing or attempted illegal crossing of the state border of Ukraine."

Additionally, a notification has been sent to the Uzhhorod Regional Department of the National Police regarding the detection of three possible instances of a criminal offense under Article 358 of the Criminal Code of Ukraine, "Forgery of documents, seals, stamps, and forms, sale or use of counterfeit documents, seals, stamps, and forms."

## **FOUR UKRAINIANS TRIED TO CROSS THE BORDER THROUGH DECEPTION AND BRIBERY**

In Transcarpathia, four fellow countrymen attempted to resolve their border crossing issues with the help of bribes. However, their plan did not succeed, and now they will have to answer for their actions before the law.



Specifically, a 65-year-old driver of a Ukrainian-registered "Renault" car offered \$1000 US dollars to border guards at the "Tysa" checkpoint for unhindered border crossing. He expected that the bribe would allow his passenger to travel to Hungary despite having falsified documents. A 25-year-old resident of Khmelnytskyi provided a document stating that he was a volunteer according to an OVA (Operational Volunteer Association) order, and that he was traveling to donate an off-road vehicle for the needs of the Armed Forces of Ukraine. However, during document verification, border guards determined that the documents were forged.

Two more attempted to bribe border guards at the "Maliy Bereznyi" checkpoint. During passport control, law enforcement denied these individuals passage due to the lack of necessary documents permitting them to leave Ukraine during a state of war. Therefore, these offenders, both from Zakarpattia, hoped to change the border guards' decision with bribes of \$400 US dollars and 50 euros.

At the "Uzhgorod" checkpoint, a Zakarpattia resident attempted to insert \$300 US dollars into her husband's passport instead of providing documents confirming his legal departure abroad. As a result, problems for the couple increased. While her husband was denied passage, his wife had to provide explanations at the National Police department.

In all cases, border guards reported the detected signs of offenses to the respective district divisions of the National Police. The responsibility for these offenses is outlined in Article 369 of the Criminal Code of Ukraine, "Offer, promise, or provision of an undue advantage to an official." Additionally, the actions of the individual from Khmelnytskyi fall under the offense described in Article 358 of the Criminal Code of Ukraine, "Forgery of documents, seals, stamps, and forms, sale or use of counterfeit documents, seals, stamps, and forms."

## **OFFERS OF SIGNIFICANT BRIBES TO BORDER GUARDS FOR PERMISSION TO LEAVE UKRAINE WITHOUT REQUIRED DOCUMENTS**

A 45-year-old resident of Donetsk Oblast was heading to Slovakia through the "Uzhgorod" checkpoint. During document verification, the border patrol determined that his documents did not grant him the right to cross the border. When the inspector explained to our fellow countryman that she could not currently make a decision on his passage and specified the documents he

needed to provide for verification, he decided to take a different approach. In an attempt to change the inspector's decision, he offered her a bribe. The man once again handed over the documents to the inspector, but this time they contained \$1000 US dollars.

The inspector refused the unlawful proposition and reported the offense to the unit's leadership. National Police officers were called to the scene. The monetary funds were transferred to the investigative-operational group through a handover-receipt process. A notification was sent to the Uzhgorod Regional Department of the National Police regarding the possible detection of an offense outlined in Article 369 of the Criminal Code of Ukraine, "Offer, promise, or provision of an undue advantage to an official."

The bribe giver was denied passage across the border. Instead, he had to continue his journey under the escort of the investigative-operational group to the police district department.