

RESEARCH ARTICLE

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REASONS FOR NON-COMPLIANCE WITH POLICE REQUESTS: WHY DRIVERS ARE RELUCTANT TO STOP THEIR VEHICLES?

Abdullo Nasilloev

Senior lecturer of the department of the Academy of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, Uzbekistan

Abstract

This article explores the underlying reasons behind drivers' reluctance to comply with police officers' requests, focusing on common factors such as lack of proper documentation, driving under the influence, or possession of prohibited items. Through analysis of these behaviors, the piece examines societal and psychological factors contributing to non-compliance and discusses the importance of effective communication and public awareness to encourage lawful cooperation on the road.

KEYWORDS: Police compliance, driver behavior, traffic law enforcement, non-compliance reasons, public safety, lawful cooperation, road safety education.

INTRODUCTION

In the current complex and volatile global situation, we are all aware of the vital importance of ensuring national security and territorial integrity, as well as strengthening peace and solidarity in our society. In this regard, the systematic reforms implemented in recent years within the activities of the internal affairs bodies have led to effective results in creating a safe environment in all regions of the republic, preventing threats to peace and stability, and combating them. "For example, based on the decree (PF-6196) of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan, Sh.M. Mirziyoyev, adopted on March 26, 2021, aimed at raising the activities of internal affairs bodies in the field of ensuring public safety and combating crime to a qualitatively new level, an additional 2,800 staff positions have been established to ensure at least one preventive inspector operates in each existing neighborhood.

The purpose of these reforms, as stated by our President Sh.M. Mirziyoyev, is to 'satisfy our people by ensuring justice and the rule of law. Ensuring the rule of law in society is considered one of the essential duties of the state. When laws are created in any state, these laws guarantee certain rights for its citizens, as well as impose duties and obligations on them and others present there. The simultaneous application of such rights and obligations is also reflected in the newly revised Constitution of the Republic of Uzbekistan. For example, Articles 25 to 53 cover personal, political, economic, social, cultural, and environmental rights, while Articles 59 to 64 outline the duties of citizens. As noted by legal scholar M. Hakimjonov, adherence by citizens to the rules and regulations established in society, respect for the officials of state bodies and other organizations that

implement these norms, and the conscious understanding and execution of legal instructions and directives they provide are also manifestations of legal culture. The internal affairs bodies play a crucial role in ensuring state and societal security, maintaining public order, and strengthening the rule of law. It is mandatory for all citizens and officials to comply with the lawful demands of internal affairs personnel.

Failure of citizens to fulfill their obligations before state bodies, especially the internal affairs agencies, or resistance to their lawful activities may lead to administrative or criminal liability. As noted by M. Veselov and D. Volkov, the legal protection of internal affairs personnel in the performance of their duties is ensured through a series of organizational, material-technical, and legal measures enshrined in administrative and criminal law norms. In recent years, despite the efforts of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Uzbekistan to prevent violations of the lawful demands of internal affairs personnel through public awareness campaigns in collaboration with the media, the number of such violations has been increasing. According to statistics, there were 29,881 cases of non-compliance with lawful demands in 2020, 43,357 in 2021, 76,493 in 2022, and 89,420 in 2023. Furthermore, despite the penalties imposed, citizens committed 26,280 administrative violations repeatedly in 2023. The increase in such violations necessitates the strengthening of measures established by legislation and the application of more serious sanctions. The rise in instances of citizens failing to comply with the lawful demands of internal affairs personnel, particularly traffic patrol service inspectors, was notably highlighted by the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan, Sh.M. Mirziyoyev, during a video conference on road safety issues held on February 11, 2022.

Analysis of violations of the lawful demands of internal affairs personnel indicates that such violations are primarily manifested in the failure to stop vehicles. Typically, a violator continues to operate their vehicle without complying with the internal affairs officer's demand to stop due to the following reasons.

Firstly, there may be issues with the documents granting the driver the right to operate the vehicle. In such cases, the driver does not comply with the demand to stop the vehicle in order to conceal their shortcomings and avoid penalties;

Secondly, the driver is driving the vehicle while intoxicated. When a drunk driver sees an internal affairs officer, they attempt to hide their intoxication. Additionally, fearing that their driving rights will be revoked for a long period if their intoxication is discovered, they do not comply with the demand to stop the vehicle;

Thirdly, the presence of prohibited items in the driver's vehicle. In such cases, drivers do not comply with the demand to stop for fear of having prohibited items confiscated;

Fourthly, drivers may be on their way to work, school, or other urgent matters and, assuming that an interaction with a law enforcement officer will take up their time, may hesitate to stop their vehicle.

Based on the discussions, it's essential to implement a combination of educational and enforcement strategies. Here are some recommendations:

1. Public Awareness Campaigns: Educate drivers about the legal consequences of failing to comply with police requests and the dangers of driving under the influence. Employ various media platforms, social networks, and community initiatives to educate drivers on the importance of not driving under the influence and complying with police instructions. It is crucial to raise awareness about the consequences of violations and the penalties that follow.
2. Enhanced Training for Officers: Equip internal affairs personnel with the skills to handle encounters with intoxicated drivers effectively. Provide training sessions for police officers on how to effectively communicate with intoxicated drivers, explain legal requirements, and handle difficult situations. This enhances their professionalism and ability to manage challenging encounters.
3. Stricter Penalties: Consider revising laws to

impose harsher penalties for repeated violations of compliance with police demands. Review and strengthen laws by increasing fines, extending the duration of license suspensions for repeat offenders, and implementing additional penalties. This aims to hold drivers accountable more effectively.

These measures are aimed at enhancing road safety and reinforcing the rule of law within the community.

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