

CENTRAL ANTI-CORRUPTION BUREAU

<https://www.cba.gov.pl/en/news/243,Already-19-people-detained-from-the-criminal-group-of-VAT-fraud.html>
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Already 19 people detained from the criminal group of VAT fraud

Agents from the CBA's Regional Office in Łódź have detained another 3 persons in the investigation concerning issuing and using within the organized criminal group VAT invoices certifying untruth, depletion of liabilities of the State Treasury in virtue of tax on goods and services, and the legalization of cash proceeds from crime.

In Kielce and Swarzędz, the CBA agents arrested two businessmen - members of boards of companies in the textile and advertising industry and an intermediary in the trade of fictitious VAT invoices.

The amount of VAT fraud only by these people can amount to millions of zlotys.

Actions are ongoing. The CBA during the search secures documents, including invoices for fictitious services or trade, media and electronic data. Detained persons will be charged in the District Prosecutor's Office in Łódź.

The investigation began in June this year with a special operation of the CBA. The officers from the Regional Office of the CBA in Łódź got track on an entrepreneur who officially ran a number of commercial and construction companies, which as it turned out to have been set up for one purpose - to issue invoices. The businessman was detained red-handed by agents of the CBA in one of the Łódź restaurants - in the act of selling fictitious VAT invoices.

To this day, in this investigation supervised by the District Prosecutor's Office in Łódź - charges of participation in years 2014-2017 in an organized criminal group aiming at committing offenses involving fictitious trade of textiles and issuing untruthful VAT invoices - heard 16 suspects: intermediaries, helpers and representatives of companies. One of the detained representatives of the Warsaw-based company

belonging to foreigners was to "launder" nearly 25 million zł of "dirty" cash.

Only the Regional Office of the CBA in Łódź conducts under the supervision of the Prosecutor's Office a number of tax frauds investigations - the disclosed losses of the State Treasury for such criminal activity amount to several tens of millions of zlotys.

These are the next detentions of suspects involved in the chain of fictitious transactions, serving only to undercut taxes at the expense of the State Treasury. In September this year the CBA agents from Łódź detained three persons involved in fictitious real estate turnover, which was the basis for the extortion of million zlotys VAT. In the case which started in November last year with the detention (in result of a special operation) of a Warsaw businessman Łukasz P. and the organizer of the network of companies registered in Poland, Cyprus and UAE documenting the superficial business transactions - the CBA have already detained 43 people. Among the suspects in this investigation are Jan C. a deputy for Polish Parliament and Artur J. and Krzysztof M., who were charged with tax depletions for the total amount of approximately 60 million PLN. On the other hand, the detained Maksymilian G., heard the charge of authorizing the perpetration of crimes alleged to Krzysztof M. and Artur J.

The investigators from the Central Anticorruption Bureau still do not rule out further detentions and extension of the list of charges in these investigations.

