

CENTRAL ANTI-CORRUPTION BUREAU

<https://www.cba.gov.pl/en/news/311,Tax-havens-and-money-laundering-in-the-quotSenegalesequot-thread-of-Police-Chemi.html>
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Tax havens and money laundering in the "Senegalese" thread of Police Chemical Plant. The CBA detains 4 lawyers from a well-known advisory-law office and a businessman

The agents of the CBA Regional Office in Szczecin detained 5 people in the investigation of irregularities in the operation of Police Chemical Plant and a subsidiary a Senegalese company - African Investment Group S.A.

Multithreaded investigation into irregularities in Azoty Group Police Chemical Plant S.A. it is run by the CBA Regional Office in Szczecin under the supervision of the Szczecin Regional Prosecutor's Office and concerns, inter alia, an investment decision - purchase of a company that was supposed to deal with the operation of the open-cast mine of phosphate rock in Senegal, causing property damage in large sizes to Police Chemical Plant SA, crimes against significant Polish economic interests and obstruction of criminal proceeding.

As reported, last year, agents from the Szczecin Regional Office of the CBA detained 10 people - including the former president, former board members and former directors of Azoty Group Police Chemical Plant S.A. and cooperating businessmen. According to investigative findings, the persons detained by the CBA were responsible and took part in the decisions that caused material damage in large size to Azoty Group Police Chemical Plant S.A.

Persons detained by the CBA in the next thread are: a lawyer, legal advisor, tax advisor, advocate's trainee from a Warsaw tax consultancy office providing services in the field of so-called tax optimization with the use of companies registered in tax havens. The law office operates within the advisory group which is a member of the international network of independent consulting companies. The fifth detainee is the president of a company providing services to Police Chemical Plant.

The lawyer, legal advisor and president of the company heard allegations of assistance in causing the company African Investment Group S.A. property damage in the amount of 6 million dollars, which is over 22 million zł.

Allegations of the so-called money laundering - the legalization of benefits obtained as a result of crime in the amount of nearly half a million dollars were presented to the lawyer and president of the company.

As a result of the search activities of a consulting company based in Warsaw, it was established that the employees of the company undertook activities aimed at obstructing the investigation - they removed the documentation and erased electronic data carriers to prevent their procedural securing.

Therefore, the lawyer was also charged with obstruction of the investigation and hiding of documents, as well as inciting to give false testimony. The charges of obstructing the investigation were also brought against two suspects that are an advocate's trainee and a tax advisor.

By the decision of the District Court in Szczecin, the advocate - managing partner in the tax advisory company was temporarily arrested.

Against the three persons detained by the CBA, the prosecutor's office applied preventive-liberation measures in the form of a surety, ban on leaving the country, prohibition of giving legal advice and the provision of tax advisory services.

The investigation is ongoing, the investigators do not rule out the possibility of enlarging the list of charges and subsequent detentions.