The Role of Social Network to Strengthening Civil Society

Omirzhanov Yesbol[1], Alpysbek Moldir Birzhankyzy[2]
[1]Candidate of jurisprudence, an associated professor of International Law Department, al-Farabi Kazakh National University, Kazakhstan
[2]A second year Master's degree student of International Law Department, al-Farabi Kazakh National University, Kazakhstan

*Corresponding Author:
Omirzhanov Yesbol
Email: yesbol_1981@mail.ru

Abstract: This article is dedicated to define the role and influence of social network on civil society. The authors have done comparative legal research making a thorough analysis of those issues in the People's Republic of China and the Republic of Kazakhstan. They gave examples of positive and negative effects of social network on civil society. As one of the important tools of modern society, social network has an important role in the formation and development of civil society in every country. However, global and domestic social network lead role in threat response for violation and crime. State regulation is required concerning them. The authors used comparative legal and descriptive research method to reveal those issues and suggested proposal aimed at promoting and improving safe social network in the Republic of Kazakhstan.
Keywords: civil society, institutions of civil society, social network, freedom of speech, social networking

INTRODUCTION

Real personal freedom becomes possible in a democratic society where government and political power do not dominate society and the lives of its citizens, and society has an absolute superiority in relation to the government. Nevertheless, in different countries historical development of civil societies is various, and of course, other factors have an influence in its development either [1]. The development of civil society is affected by many factors, such political decision of government, various citizens' initiative, the impact of internal and external factors, development of industry, internet technology, social network and etc.

The increase of internet technology development and social network has great influence on public life and development of social relations. In recent years we see growth of social network users and their impacts on the development of some institutions in many countries. People who use social network regularly raise important social questions, ideas and problems in social network. There have been attempts to create various forms of civil society through social networking. Concerning that in this article we try to analyze the role of social network in the development of civil society in Kazakhstan and some other countries. We paid attention to the nature and history of the development of social network in modern world.

Social network is a union of social positions - social factors and their relationship – it is fundamental,

universally accepted definition of that concept [2]. Social network is an online marketplace, a website that allows registered users to give information about them and communicate with each other establishing social connections. Social network connects people of different nationalities, religions, professions, social groups, ages, genders and etc. All users of social network are able to communicate with each other directly, without using additional tools, such as email or instant messengers, to comment notes and to express his opinion. The social network has the tools to create communities of interests either, where communication takes place in narrow circles. Interesting and exciting games and information make people stay online, in social network [3].

METHODS/MATERIALS AND METHODS

The methodological basis of the scientific article is system analysis method. Also, the authors used historical analysis method to give a complete characterization of the development of civil society through social network. This article also was written based on comparative analysis of Chines and Kazakh government policy on regulation social network. For a complete reflection of reality materials were used, published in various information resources.

RESULTS

Today is an interesting aspect - the social network as a communication place gradually socialized - that is, participants in dialogue - learn to communicate

and create new connections and patterns. What leads them gradually to a more active network and off-grid interaction - in this way, the formation of like-minded communities. The structure of the network itself is changing- ties are becoming stronger and more quality. Human capital is growing - and with human capital the power and cohesion of the network are growing. Perhaps a gradual change, but rather just the formation of the structure of society, changing of its political orientation. The Internet provides an increase in the intensity of intellectual interaction of several orders of magnitude. One of these qualities potentially achievable by means of Internet technologies - the formation of groups of like-minded social network.

The first feature of social network - combinatorial, topological. The organization of intranet interpersonal interaction according to the communication point of view, gives estimation of association's power "many to many". The second feature of the social network-oriented organizations - emergent properties (properties of emergence - occurrence). We can note the characteristic features of social network:
- the lack of centralized control;
- independence and high connectivity subunits;
- arachnoid nonlinear conditionality of mutual influence [4, 3].

Some times ago, the television has made an enormous contribution in the democratization of the mass consciousness, and today the internet, social network plays the primary role. Some authors consider teledemocracy as the predecessor of electronic democracy (E-democracy), a component of the electronic cyber state. However, e-democracy has more features than teledemocracy, according to some researchers 'e-democracy' has the following features:
- the variety and frequency of interactive communications;
- filtering the information and bringing it in order by the moderators and censors;
- a quick and comprehensive access to information and documents;
- simple and favorable conditions for the transmission and presentation;
- an opportunity to find like-minded people in the network [5].

Social network is becoming a major point of support of democracy but at the time, they can become a hotbed of various promotional ideas. Observing social network resources, you can pay attention to the attempts to conduct propaganda on the part of a number of political and social movements, as well as the criticality of the environment and a strong fear of the largest parties to enter the broad uncontrolled Internet audience. Social-network resources as a means of propaganda may help to improve the integration

interaction, sometimes vice versa - to actively influence the development and deepening of social conflicts, the growth of negative processes at the individual and at the mass level.

To identify the importance of social network in today's civil society, we should show the result in the following attendance statistics. Popular social network websites in the world by the number of active users per month, million:
- Facebook - 1650
- Youtube- 1300
- Qzone (Chinese social network) - 640
- Tumbler - 555
- Instagram - 500
- Twitter - 320
- BaiduTieba (Chinese social network) - 300
- SinaWeibo (Chinese social network) – 222
- Vkontakte - 100
- Pinterest – 100 [6].

Outlining the aforementioned facts and figures, we can emphasize the role of social network in the formation and development of a modern civil society. Users of social network have the opportunity without any restrictions to create thematic groups, to exchange information and entice other participants in their meetings. However, apart from the positive aspects of such a development, also the social network has a negative effect on civil society. The activities of some criminal groups, radical religious movements in social network can lead to offenses or crimes. For example, terrorism, prostitution, extortion, armed conflicts, etc. Social network such as Facebook, VKontakte, Twitter and others have become the most popular websites on the Internet, not only because its convenient software tool for communication, but also due to the fact that its provide opportunities for social unification and integration. Cause of the service association to express its position, its view of the world and events, social network has become the most important social institution, influencing social processes, and leads to serious social change since the late 2000s.

The introduction of Internet technologies in the social life of several Asian countries was the factors so-called "Arab Spring", the revolutionary wave of demonstrations and protests in the Arab world began in December 2010. Social Internet network has an important role in these events. Protesters in a limited period of time by means of communication in social network were able to quickly gather large groups of people protesting in a specific area. According to the sociological study of the American Red Cross, on the role of social network in information work in emergency situations, 42% of respondents received information on the Internet, among them 6% - via Twitter, 14% - through Facebook, 12 % - through the websites of local authorities, 10% - through websites

specialized agencies, 7% - through the mobile applications [7].

In early 2011, a wave of demonstrations, followed by political upheaval covered almost the whole of North Africa and the Middle East. The events unfolded on the same scenario. Several dozen young people created a social network group dissatisfied with the actions of the political authorities, it agreed to hold street protests, often, demonstrations with anti-government slogans. As a result, individual and small protests led to many thousands and long days lasted demonstrations.

In December 17, 2010 26-year-old unemployed Mohamed Bouazizi doused himself with petrol and set himself on a fire near the office building in the Sidi Bouzid town, Tunis. Spreading messages on social network about the causes and procedure of the event, as well as materials of Wikileaks site on corruption led to a wave of national discontent with the Tunisian President Zine el-Abidine Ben Ali and his resignation in January 14, 2011.

In January 2011, the unit demonstration demanding the resignation of irremovable during the 30 years of President Hosni Mubarak took place in several cities in Egypt. Their dispersal actively covered in social network. For the first two weeks after the start of the Egyptian demonstrations users have created on Facebook more than 32 thousand new groups and 14,000 public pages. In late January 2011, in Egypt, the Internet major providers (EtisalatMisr, LinkEgypt, TelecomEgypt and Vodafone / Raya) were completely shutdown, and the mobile communication was partially shutdown. But it contrary increased the mood of protest and led to increased unrest, and 11 February 2011, President Hosni Mubarak resigned [8].

DISCUSSION

Social network increases civic and political engagement, because social network allows users to learn a variety of information and share opinions with other people, which in turn, can motivate a more active involvement in social activities. It is known that the degree to which society presents different points of view, determines the possibility of the existence of public opinion and deliberative democracy in this society. Knowledge through social network about other points of view enhances political tolerance of people, contributes to the fact that they are more conscious approach to their own beliefs, as well as a better understand the various issues in society. Nir Lilach offers two possible ways of defining a heterogeneous discussion: a) competition between the points of view; b) opposition to the opinions of others. Competition in this case is the existence of different points of view within the network, and the opposition - the difference between the point of view of the individual and other

members of the network. Since the opposition rather negatively effects on political participation in a result of interpersonal pressure, in the study was used a competitive approach to the definition of heterogeneity. Heterogeneity in turn helps the network participants to learn about the complexity of the issue, motivates them to further search for information and can be a cause of civil involvement [9].

Competition of opinions and the opposition equally produce active discussions on Internet platforms. Thus makes it possible for individuals to freedom of opinion and freedom of speech. However, we should not forget about the total control and limitation of social network and a vivid example of the modern China. Internet technologies in the PRC allowed emerging of resources for online communication, including chats, Internet services in the assortment, blocks of news, e-journals, message boards, social network, etc. On the Internet, people can raise the debate to apply complaints and claims to the local authorities, the impact of such appeals is more effective than the publications in the press. The role of Internet communications in the development of civil society in China is difficult to overestimate. At present, the country's Internet audience is 384 million people, or nearly a third of the total number of China's population [10].

The development of Internet communications in the government deepens the feedback between the authorities and the population, thereby strengthening the preconditions for the development of a modern civil society in China. The globalization of communication Internet network has led to the complication of social relations. Political processes and the system of public administration in the Internet were the factors in the emergence of fundamentally new actors of civil society in the form of local structures - the community (community) or network communities. They contribute to the formation of "a network of civil society", by which carries out the virtual chat online for solving real social problems. Under the influence of Internet communication develops «openspace» - a space where emerge new opportunities for the development of civil society, thereby complicating the social relations.

In China, the social network is also popular. However, after the events of the "Arab Spring" Chinese authorities have tightened their control and censorship on the Internet. The Chinese government in order to censorship limited access to foreign websites inside China. Web pages filtered by keywords related to national security, as well as on the "black list" of URLs. Foreign search engines operating in China, including Google, Yahoo and Microsoft (search LiveSearch) should also filter search results according to the agreement between the Chinese government. After

December 2010 was strengthened the control on a number of popular social network [11].

Strengthening of censorship in the Chinese segment of the Internet, which is so discussible in the Western media, is also associated with the direct statements of some American leaders. For example, during the 48th Security Conference held in Munich in February 2012, Senator John McCain, explicitly stated within the debate to the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Zhai Jun: "I have repeat many times and I'll say again: the Arab spring will come to China and there is no way to completely stifle it, that's because of these devices," - said the former US presidential candidate to the diplomat of China, pointing to his mobile phone [12].

Social network is perhaps the best place in the world in order to share content, connect and do business, but many countries do not agree with it. Some governments in different parts of the Earth are so scared of social network, its limited access to such network as Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, etc. in its countries. North Korea, Iran and the People's Republic of China banned in its territory Facebook, Twitter and YouTube. Vietnam has banned Facebook, Pakistani residents cannot use YouTube, and Turkey banned YouTube and Twitter [13]. In China, the party nomenclature, and along with the employees of the Ministry of State Security reliably protect the project "Golden Shield" or "Great Chinese firewall". This filtering system of the Internet content in "Chinese Chuchhon". Development of the project was launched in 1998, and it was put into operation throughout the country in 2003. "The Shield" is a system of servers on the Internet channel between providers and international network of information transfer, which filters traffic. Because of this wall, tens of thousands of websites from all over the world cannot be displayed on the monitors of computers or smartphones screens. Some analysts attributed the tightening of the ban to riots in Xinjiang, which swept through the region last summer. There is exist a fact that the Uighur Muslim majority, focuses on obtaining independence from Beijing (45.21% of the population) confronts Han minority (40.58%) in the north-western area of the country. However, such a policy of the Chinese authorities may be associated with attempts to protectionism of national competitors to the Facebook. In recent years, the rapid growth increases the popularity of local social network. For example, Renren Network and Sina Weibo, etc [14].

Next, we will focus on the role of social network in the development of civil society in Kazakhstan. In these examples, the authors try to talk about the positive and negative aspects of the influence of social network on the development of civil society in the country. As well as the attempts of the authorities of Kazakhstan to monitor social network.

According to the president of the Internet Association of Kazakhstan S. Sabirov internet in Kazakhstan has become an effective tool and civic engagement channel. Today, there are nearly 11 million users of social network, and this is a great field for further interaction and the formation of civil society" [15]. Kazakhstan's society on the way of formation of civil society started to skillfully express their civic thoughts and wishes. There are the examples of citizen's initiatives, expanded in the Internet resources (social network):
- Motion calling stop rudeness on the roads and traffic violations - "StopHam".
- Associations of citizens acting in defense of the rule of law, for the fight against corruption.
- Volunteer movement to protect animals - «Inucobo», «Ark», etc.
- Associations of citizens involved in charity work, and targeted assistance to the poor, single mothers - a youth group «SOS!», «Center for Youth Development Astana YDC», «Give good», etc.
- As well as a large number of users registered in the clubs. They are travel enthusiasts, car fans, hunters, fishermen, etc.

According to experts in Kazakhstan six political parties are registered and operate, exist more than 5000 NGO's of various kinds, 3 340 public funds, more than a thousand associations of legal entities, 471 ethnocultural center, more than 3,000 religious associations. These and other institutions of civil society are an important resource for the further democratization of the country [15].

Self-organization in the network - a good indicator of a degree of activity of people. And when the promising social idea begins to "share" and is distributed by "wires" to other cities and countries, it shows its quality. An example of such a "virus" can serve a group "SOS!" in different cities of Kazakhstan. The social network exists in "VKontakte", but the assistance organized by its initiators is real. During two months Youth charity group SOS! managed around 10 visits in a shelter for minors in Tamshaly, 6 times visited the Department of Hematology Scientific Medical Center, held a charity fair in the mall, conducted a master class and helped to 23 low-income families in Astana.

Another volunteer organization ofcapital, living in a network, - Astana YDC Youth Development Center. Participants also regularly visit the orphanage, organize and help to carry out the most significant cultural, social, political and economic events of national and international scale. Group thrives on the social network, while continuing to recruit all new associates. We can say the same about the charity fund "Give good". The organizers started their activities

recently, but they are positive. Helping pupils of children's homes, to poor families, collect money on treatment of sick children.

Other live page on VKontakte - the shelter for a group of animals Astana "Inucobo". Appeared a year ago, a public association rescues stray animals from the streets, find loving homes for dogs and cats. The managers are also actively use crowdsourcing tools, collecting donations of money, materials for arranging and repair of shelter, food and medicines for pets. Volunteers are always looking for sponsors.

In Temirtau operates animal shelter assistance, "Ark", and the initiative group "Help homeless animals in Karaganda and Temirtau" performs the related activities from 2008, Almaty has a shelter for homeless animals, "White Bim" (a group in Facebook).

Another civic initiative, which settled in the Russian communication services - BookCrossing in Kazakhstan. Shares of exchange books are periodically held in Almaty, Astana, Pavlodar, Karaganda and Uralsk, collecting fans to read for communication and the transfer of books on a "read - refer a friend". Another good example of self-organization is a community of Kazakhstan cycling community in the vast Facebook. Fans of two-wheelers discuss cycling issues in the cities of Kazakhstan, organized bicycle races, consult about technique and just communicate [16].

However, there is also the negative impact of social network on the civil society. We will briefly try to formulate a list of the negative effects of social network on civil society:
- the threat of a calling to terrorism and extremism;
- the involvement of young people and minors in an illegal organization;
- expanding of false information;
- the threat of emerging social differences and negative perceptions, etc.

An example of the above is the arrest Konurov for calling for jihad through a social network "VKontakte". According to the Court, a resident of Temirtau J.J. Konurov engaged in propaganda of exclusivity, superiority and inferiority of citizens according to their attitude towards religion, as well as the propaganda of terrorism with the use of telecommunications network. The court sentenced him to 3 years of imprisonment with confiscation of property to be served in a penal colony [17].

In July 27, 2016 in Almaty was held a conference on the theme: "The debate and discussion between the public organizations of Kazakhstan about Kazakhstan's internet development as a part of civil society initiatives" where the analyst Daniyar Ashimbayev raised the issue concerning non-governmental organizations and their reaction to the recent events in the country. According to his opinion, social network has had a very negative influence in society. In terms of political analysis, as the whole, there is no public opinion and social network finished it off. Now everyone is a carrier and become an expert in all matters. Also, the political scientist noted that the questions about terrorism and extremism are collected. All we have become experts on terrorism. Every thought of this, wrote a post or an article - all feel themselves as experts. Moreover, there are more or less well-established experts, but no one needs them [18].

On the issue of minors in the social network, it is possible to give one big example of his negative influence: according to the Prosecutor's Office of the Karatau region of Shymkent city during the monitoring of a social network "Vkontakte" identified 63 groups with the explicit content of pornographic materials. According M.Arystanov prosecutor in these groups involved 8.2 million people, 31 thousand 247 of them are minors from Kazakhstan and especially 2 thousand 054 minors from Shymkent. For example, in one of these communities is about 700 thousand participants, among them - 3,700 minors from Kazakhstan [19].

Well-known example of spreading of false information in a social network is information about the terrorist attacks on July 18 in Almaty. According Today.kz police found two accounts in Instagram, have published false information about a terrorist attack in Almaty. The Ministry of Internal Affairs of Kazakhstan noted unknown was spread information about events in Almaty, does not correspond to reality through the social network and Internet portals. In particular, the seizure of the shopping center CityCentre, bomb threat and explosions at the sports complex Baluan Sholak, hostage-taking in the shopping center CityPlus, moving 100 armed men from the "Zhuldyz" district to Almaty. The fact of the case was reported and brought in the Unified Register of pre-trial investigations of department of internal affairs of Almaty on item 3 of Part 2 of Article 274 of the Criminal Code, "dissemination of false information, committed with the use of the mass media, or information and communication network [20]. Student of one of the universities of Almaty also disseminated information through the social network Instagram for allegedly detained hostage in the shopping center "City Plus" and was arrested for spreading false information about a terrorist attack in Almaty on 18 July [21].

There are also examples when the state is trying to slow the impact of social network on the development of civil society by the prosecution of civil society activists in calling for inciting social discord and spread misinformation. There is an example of the

scandal surrounding the introduction of amendments and additions to the Land Code of the Republic of Kazakhstan in the summer of 2016. Through social network expanded information to unauthorized rallies across the country against the sale of Kazakh land by auction, as well as the extension of the lease of land to foreigners from 15 to 25 years. These meetings and events have led to the imposition of a moratorium on the adoption of amendments to the Land Code [22]. But the court sentenced the organizers of the demonstrations on land issues M. Bokaev and T. Ayan to the five years' imprisonment with deprivation of the right to engage in a three-year social activities for everyone. Also, under Article 400 of the Criminal Code, they are sentenced to a fine of 250 monthly calculation indices, amounting to 530 250 tenge [23].

Recently, various Kazakhstani politicians, deputies increasingly began to offer occlude the social network under various pretexts. There are some reasons: pointing the negative impact of social network on society [24, 25], and some authors complain that the citizens just discuss and criticize the policies of the country in Facebook [26]. Meanwhile, the Ministry of Information and Communications of the Republic of Kazakhstan approved the Concept of the Draft Law "On making amendments and additions to some legislative acts of Kazakhstan on the issues of information and communications". Several provisions of the bill, according to the Concept, will focus on the regulation of such an important and growing information sector, as the activities of bloggers and active users of social network [27].

CONCLUSION

Today social network is the most popular place for people's meeting and discussion the most important and significant issues of society. Themes can be both political and public affairs, as well as thematic interests of citizens. Each group in social network has its participants and listeners. The creators and organizers of such groups have possibility to entertain and recruit people without any restrictions. As in the example given above, the social network has positive and negative impacts on civil society. Due to illiteracy, bad educated or credulity, many people may join some negative groups.

Civil society formation in Kazakhstan in which the main principle is democracy and freedom of speech, state regulation should not contradict free association and activities of citizen. However, the authors do not deny the role of regulation of social network. Cybercrime and the consequences of terrorist acts require special control in social life. In this connection, the authors make suggestions below in the regulation and development of the role of social network in civil society.

In our opinion, the government should not totally control the civil society and prevent the influence of social network on the development of civil society. Nevertheless, the idea of monitoring can be accepted for prevention from negative reaction and consequences of social network. State regulation of social network should not contradict the principles of civil society. Regulation of social network should be regularized and clear lines of state intervention ought to be defined in activities of social networking, it is recommended to adopt the Law of the Republic of Kazakhstan On social network (legal regulation of social network). The adoption of a specific law should be clearly defined control framework by special public services on social network that must formulate certain culture uses of social network and increase the value of social network for the state and society.

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