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## **THE LEGISLATION OF UKRAINE ON STATE AWARDS AND THE PRACTICE OF AWARDING THE PARTICIPANTS OF THE ANTI-TERRORIST OPERATION**

Most existing Ukrainian state awards were introduced at the time when there was no need for a mass celebrating the exploits and achievements on a battlefield. Since the beginning of the anti-terrorist operation, the need for dignified celebration of the heroic deeds of Ukrainian military men by state awards has arisen. However, the Ukrainian system of awards has not undergone significant changes. It is, therefore, important to consider the law of Ukraine on state awards in the context of awarding the participants of ATO.

In the decrees of the President of Ukraine on awarding the participants of the anti-terrorist operation, the following state awards of Ukraine are referred to: the title of Hero of Ukraine; Orders: of Bohdan Khmelnytskyi, “For Bravery”, of Danylo Galytsky; medals: “For Military Service to Ukraine”, “Defender of Motherland”; award “The Presentational Fire-Arm”. For any of these awards, achievements

and exploits on the battlefield are not the main criteria for the award.

The best way of awarding the participants of ATO is the order “For Courage”, the main criteria of which is courage and heroism showed at the risk of their lives. However, this order was mentally trivialized. The practice of awarding “The Presentational Fire-Arm” also causes remarks as far as violation of its statute is concerned (e.g. achievement of high sports results).

Therefore, it should be recognized that the Ukrainian system of awards does not fully meet the requirements of proper awarding the military men who take part in the defence of independence and territorial integrity of Ukraine. The need to correct shortcomings in the practice of state awards becomes obvious. Moreover, in our opinion, it is necessary to review the statutes of individual government awards to develop more specific criteria for awarding them.