

## **Arson Attack on News Website in Northwestern Ukraine**

According to the Directorate General of the National Police in Rivne Region, the investigation department of the Rivne Police Department has launched a pre-trial investigation into the criminal proceedings in respect of the arson attack on the editorial office of the information and analytical portal “Chetverta Vlada” (The Fourth Power).

On 22 February 2018, the police received a communication from a citizen saying that an unidentified individual had deliberately poured flammable substance onto the premises of the “Chetverta Vlada” organization and set it on fire. As a result, the premises were damaged, and the suspect escaped the scene.

It should be noted that no one was injured as a result of the said delict.

On 24 February and 5 March 2018, within the framework of the investigation, briefing sessions of the regional prosecutor’s office were held, where the specific tasks to step up the investigation were determined.

As of now, the police are carrying out all necessary search and investigative activities and endeavors to identify the person who committed the arson of the “Chetverta Vlada” editorial office. The pre-trial investigation is underway.

Ukraine deems any pressure on or threats to journalists and mass media as unacceptable.