

Russian Union of Journalists' President Banned from Entering Ukraine

The Security Service of Ukraine (SBU), guided by Ukrainian legislation in force, is responsible for taking decisions on banning a foreigner (foreigners) from entering Ukraine in the interests of ensuring the security of Ukraine.

In case of sufficiency of lawfully obtained information indicating that a person (persons) has (have) committed a socially dangerous act, whatever the territory of its commission, which contravenes the interests of the security of Ukraine, SBU is authorised to take decision on preventing such a person (persons) from crossing the state border.

These rules have been applied with respect to Mr Vladimir Solovyov, Chairman of the Russian Union of Journalists.

As far as it is known, during his stay in the Crimean Peninsula, Mr Solovyov met with Sergiy Aksionov, the so-called "head of the republic of Crimea", and others representatives of the occupation authorities and pro-Russian organisations. In the course of those meetings, Mr Solovyov awarded pro-Russian information area activists in Crimea with Russian distinctions "for merit".

As a consequence, in February 2018, the Confederation of Journalistic Organisations of Ukraine issued a statement (http://nmpu.org.ua/wp-content/uploads/2018/07/%D0%A1%D0%BE%D0%BB%D0%BE%D0%B2%D0%B9%D0%BE%D0%B2_%D0%97%D0%B0%D1%8F%D0%B2%D0%B0.pdf) accusing Mr Solovyov of "anti-Ukrainian activities" in Crimea. The actions of Mr Solovyov were recognised as unacceptable and constituting a threat to national interests, information and state security of Ukraine.

Therefore, in the interests of ensuring national security of Ukraine, on 22 February 2018, Mr Vladimir Solovyov, a citizen of the Russian Federation, was banned from entering Ukraine for a period of three years.