

Official position of Ukraine

Ukrainian journalist Ruslan Kotsaba had been detained for nearly a year over accusations of “Treason and obstructing the military”

According to the official information of the Office of the Prosecutor General of Ukraine, on 12 May 2016, the Ivano-Frankivsk City Court found Ruslan Kotsaba guilty and sentenced him to 3 years and 6 months of imprisonment. On 14 July 2016, the Ivano-Frankivsk Region Court of Appeal reversed the verdict of the Ivano-Frankivsk City Court of 12 May 2016 and declared Ruslan Kotsaba not guilty based on article 114-1, par 1, of the Criminal Code of Ukraine. All criminal proceedings were closed based on article 284, par 1, of the Criminal Procedural Code of Ukraine due to absence of a criminal offense in his actions.

The Government of Ukraine calls on all journalists to act in accordance with the law and to avoid any actions that may harm Ukraine or its defense.