

Official position of Ukraine

Harassment of Journalists Natalya Kokorina and Anna Andrievska in Crimea (Ukraine) by Russian Officials

Russian occupation authorities in Crimea conducted searches, detentions, and interrogations of Eskender Nebiiev, operator of Crimean Tatar TV channel ATR, former journalists of independent online media outlets Tetiana Guchakova (Black Sea News), Anna Shaidurova (Center for Journalist Investigations), and Galyna Denysova, blogger from Sevastopol.

A criminal case under article 280.1 of the Criminal Code of the Russian Federation on "Public calls for actions aimed at violation of the territorial integrity of the Russian Federation" was instituted by occupation authorities against Anna Andrievska, journalist of the Center for Journalist Investigations. These actions have signs of systemic pressure against Crimean journalists, bloggers and independent Crimean media.

These facts of violation of rights of Crimean journalists fall under Article 171 "Deliberate obstruction of journalist professional activities", Article 162 "Violation of security of residence", and Article 146 "Unlawful deprivation of liberty or kidnapping" of the Criminal Code of Ukraine.

Directorate General of the National Police in Kherson region is carrying out a pre-trial investigation of unlawful deprivation of liberty of Natalia Kokorina, editor of Center for Journalist Investigations on 13 March 2015 and her further deprivation of right to remedy. The criminal proceeding is instituted under Article 146, par 1, and Article 374, par 1, of the Criminal Code of Ukraine.

Directorate General of the National Police in the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol is carrying out a pre-trial investigation in criminal proceeding of illegal entering into the residence of a journalist Anna Andrievska on 13 March 2015 and conducting a search by employees of security agency, illegally established in the territory of Crimea. The criminal proceeding is instituted under Article 374, par 1, of the Criminal Code of Ukraine.

The Government of Ukraine does not exercise control over the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol due to the temporary illegal occupation of these territories by the Russian Federation. In accordance with international humanitarian law and international human rights law, the Russian Federation, as aggressor and occupying power, bears full responsibility for the respect of human rights and fundamental freedoms in the temporarily occupied territories of Ukraine.