

Official position of Ukraine

Personal data of thousands of Ukrainian journalists published on the web site

The position of the Government of Ukraine is well known – we support free Ukrainian and foreign press, and condemn the pressure on journalists. Law enforcement agencies in Ukraine thoroughly investigate every act of pressure or threat to the press. We appreciate the dedication and courage of journalists who risk their lives performing their duty, and convey the truth about the events in the occupied Ukrainian territory.

It is in the interests of everyone to have objective coverage of the situation in Donbass and know what and how it is there. However, the law is one for all, and no one, including journalists, has a right to illegally penetrate into the temporarily occupied territory of Ukraine from Russia. We count on the understanding of our foreign partners, politicians, journalists, and representatives of NGOs.

Yuriy Stets, Minister of Information Policy of Ukraine, appealed to all Ukrainians and journalist community to draw appropriate conclusions from this story. The Minister also said he regretted the threats made to the journalists and expressed hope that Ukrainians have sorted this situation out. He offered to work together and show respect to Ukrainian laws and a nation fighting for its independence and future. Ukraine is not hiding the truth. We welcome the truth about the conflict in the occupied Donbas and Crimea. Ensuring the flow of information is one of the priorities for both, Cabinet of Ministers and the Ministry of Information Policy of Ukraine.

The Investigation Department of Directorate General of the National Police in Kyiv is investigating the violation of privacy and the publication of personal data of around 5000 journalists, allegedly accredited in the so-called “Donetsk People’s Republic” and “Luhansk People’s Republic”, on the Peacemaker web site. The criminal proceeding is based on the elements of criminal offences as defined in articles 171, par 1, and article 182, par 1, of the Criminal Code of Ukraine.

The pre-trial investigation covers publishing personal data on Peacemaker web site that led to negative consequences in the form of threats to journalists in connection with the performance of their lawful professional activities and

publishing confidential information about I.Berezhna, member of the parliament of Ukraine, and her family.

The pre-trial investigation is underway. It aims at full, comprehensive and objective investigation of all circumstances of the offenses committed.