

## Official position of Ukraine

### **Crimea's Prosecution Opens Criminal Probe against Journalist Mykola Semena**

Freedom of the media is substantially suppressed in the Russia-occupied Crimea. A number of media left the peninsula due to unbearable working conditions under the Russian occupation. One of the most alarming issues is putting journalists on the list of "terrorists and extremists". Currently, this list consists of more than 6 000 persons, including more than 20 Crimean inhabitants, among them – Crimean journalists Mykola Semena and Anna Andrievska.

In May 2016, the Russian FSB instituted a criminal case against Mykola Semena for publication of articles containing "incitement to violation of the territorial integrity of the Russian Federation".

According to the Office of the Prosecutor General of Ukraine, Directorate General of National Police in the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol is carrying out a pre-trial investigation in criminal proceeding into obstruction of journalist professional activities of Mykola Semena by illegally established "law enforcement bodies of Crimea" by carrying out an illegal search in his house on 19 April 2016 and his unlawful deprivation of liberty under Article 171, par 1, Article 162, par 2, and Article 146, par 2, 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.