

Official position of Ukraine :

Failure to Punish the Perpetrators of Attack on Journalists in Berdyansk

On 10 June 2016, Berdyansk Police Department of the Directorate General of the National Police in Zaporizhzhya region submitted to the Single Registry of Pretrial Investigations the information based on the fact of preventing lawful professional activities of Mr Volodymyr Holovaty and Mr Anatoliy Kyrylenko, journalists of the broadcasting company "YUG" (South), in accordance with Article 345 par 2 of the Criminal Code of Ukraine as well as information on crime in accordance with Article 171 par 1 of the Criminal Code of Ukraine.

On 15 June 2016, the procedural supervisor made the decision to combine these two criminal proceedings into one general proceeding.

The progress of pre-trial investigation and the procedural management in the mentioned criminal proceeding were considered at the operational meeting with the participation of the leadership of regional Prosecutor's Office on 9 March 2017.

The pre-trial investigation continues under the control by the regional Prosecutor's Office.

The Minister for Information Policy of Ukraine Mr Yuri Stets personally monitors the investigation of this case in collaboration with the representatives of the National Union of Journalists of Ukraine.

Ukraine is firmly committed to supporting the freedom of speech and the freedom of the media. All violations of the rights of journalists must be properly investigated. The Government of Ukraine condemns any attacks on journalists during the performance of their professional duties and calls upon all relevant authorities to give an appropriate legal assessment of all such facts. Violators of the rights of journalists must be brought to justice.