

Ukraine's position on the report entitled: «Judges illegally tried to gain access to a Ukrainian journalist telephone»

According to the information provided by the Office of the Prosecutor General of Ukraine, we inform that the prosecutors of the Specialized Anti-Corruption Prosecutor's Office carry out procedural guidance of pre-trial investigation in criminal proceedings № 52019000000000522 dated 21.06.2019 on suspicion of judges of the Kyiv District Administrative Court, Chairman of the State Judicial Administration of Ukraine, former members of the High qualification commission of judges of Ukraine and other individuals in the commission of a number of criminal offenses investigated by detectives of the National Anti-Corruption Bureau of Ukraine.

During the pre-trial investigation, including as a result of covert investigative (search) actions, it was established that on March 21, 2019, Deputy Chairman of the Court Yevheniy Ablov, being in the office of the Chairman of the District Administrative Court of Kyiv, expressed his desire to check through contacts in law enforcement agencies information about telephone connections of journalist Yevhenia Motorevska - the author of the report of the program «Slidstvo-info», in which the information about the celebration of the birthday of Yevheniy Ablov was covered, in order to establish the circle of persons with whom the journalist communicated on the eve of filming the video.

Chairman of the District Administrative Court of Kyiv Pavlo Vovk agreed to such a proposal and asked his deputy to send him the necessary information with the journalist's phone number. Subsequently, during the pre-trial investigation, a telephone conversation between the Pavlo Vovk and with a man named Alexander was recorded. He was asked to check the data on the journalist's telephone connections.

However, guided by the provisions of Art. 222 of the Criminal Procedure Code of Ukraine, the investigation may not provide copies of relevant materials (protocols of covert investigative (search) actions), because along with the above information they contain other data that constitute the secrecy of the pre-trial investigation.

Ukraine condemns any negative impact on the profession of journalist and the media, and law enforcement agencies are taking all possible measures to identify individuals in this criminal offense.