

Ukraine's position on the new announcement on the Council of Europe Platform for the Protection of Journalists entitled «RFE/RL Contributor Vladislav Yesyenko Arrested, charged with espionage in Crimea»

According to the information provided by the National Police of Ukraine, the Investigative Department of the Main Directorate of the National Police in the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and Sevastopol is conducting a pre-trial investigation into the detention and imprisonment in Radio Crimea of Radio Svoboda journalist Vladislav Yesyenko which took place on March 10, 2021 on the Angarsk Pass on the Simferopol-Alushta road of the temporarily occupied territory of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea, on the grounds of a criminal offense under part two of Article 146 (Illegal imprisonment or kidnapping) of the Criminal Code of Ukraine. The pre-trial investigations in these criminal proceedings are ongoing.

We note that since the temporary occupation of the Crimean peninsula by the Russian Federation, there have been numerous violations of human and civil rights in the temporarily occupied territory of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and Sevastopol, including the disappearance of journalists, obstruction of their professional activities, opposition to freedom of speech.

We condemn the aggressive actions of the Russian Federation and draw attention to the systemic human rights violations in Crimea and the necessity to increase pressure on the Russian Federation to stop persecuting Ukrainian citizens in the temporarily occupied territory of Ukraine.