

Strana Editor-in-Chief Flees, Seeks Asylum in Austria after Receiving Death Threats

According to the Directorate General of National Police in Kyiv, the criminal proceeding on suspicion of Ihor Huzhva in committing a criminal offence, namely extortion, is being processed.

On 29 December 2017, an indictment was drawn up in the framework of the criminal proceeding into this case, which was sent the same day to the prosecutor's office in Kyiv together with the criminal proceeding file.

However, the suspect, Ihor Huzhva, failed to appear to the prosecutor's office for familiarization with the indictment without providing any reasonable excuse, which itself constitutes violation of the current legislation of Ukraine.

Currently the indictment and the criminal proceeding file are still under consideration of the prosecutor's office in Kyiv.

On 22 January 2018, during the court hearing, the lawyers of Ihor Huzhva informed that the defendant stays in Austria for medical treatment and provided appropriate medical certificate from the Vienna hospital to the court.

However, on 12 February 2018, given the circumstances of the criminal proceeding, the Shevchenkivskyi Court of the City of Kyiv declared Ihor Huzhva wanted.

During the pre-trial investigation and the court hearing there were obtained no reports of physical or psychological violence against Ihor Huzhva.