

Two Ukrainian Journalists Sentenced to 9 Years' Imprisonment for Assisting Separatism

On 28 September 2017, the Andrushivka District Court of Zhytomyr region sentenced Dmytro Vasylets and Yevhen Tymonin to nine years of imprisonment.

According to the court decision, these persons facilitated the distribution by the terrorist organization “*DPR*”, operating in the east of Ukraine, of materials designed to assist in terrorist activities, created Internet services for the broadcasting of the terrorist TV channel “*Novorosia TV*” allowing for public access to this channel.

In addition, Yevhen Tymonin distributed through mass media materials with public calls for terrorist acts and those inciting ethnic hatred, as well as calls aimed at humiliating national honour and dignity of the Ukrainian people.

On 21 February 2018 following the attorneys' appeal to cancel the judgement and cease criminal proceedings the Court of Appeal of the City of Kyiv cancelled the sentence of ‘journalists’ Dmytro Vasylets and Yevhen Tymonin and returned the case to the court of first instance.

The Court selected following preventive measures to be applied to these persons during the re-examination of their case by the court of first instance: full-time house arrest for 2 months and obligation to carry ankle monitors.

The fact that the case is still pending before the court limits reaction on behalf of legislative or executive power.