

Ukrainian Journalist in Coma Following Assault

On 4 May 2019, unidentified people in Cherkasy attacked Vadym Komarov, a journalist of the local newspaper *Dzvin* and blogger. The attack, which took place in the morning, resulted in the journalist slipping into a coma due to head injuries.

A criminal proceeding into the attempted murder of Mr. Komarov was opened by the investigative department of the National Police in the Cherkasy region immediately after the attack. A pre-trial investigation is being held at the moment.

The National Police of Ukraine has taken all investigative measures necessary to ensure that the investigation of the details of the crime is complete and comprehensive and that the people involved are identified.

The leadership of the Office of the prosecutor of the Cherkasy region is overseeing the said investigation separately.

It should be also noted that the investigation into the attempted murder of Mr Komarov was discussed during the sitting of the Parliamentary Committee on Freedom of Speech and Information Policy of 15 May 2019.

Mr Stepan Dovhun, Deputy Head of the Main Investigative Department of the National Police of Ukraine, who attended the meeting, reported on the state of the investigation of the attack on journalist Vadym Komarov in the city of Cherkasy.

Mr Dovhun confirmed that the case was being investigated by the Cherkasy regional office of the National Police, with the Main Investigative Department of the National Police of Ukraine closely following the case. He added that the journalist had not been interrogated as a victim by then due to his health condition, and the investigation and a number of investigative procedures, including the examination of the confiscated office equipment, are underway.

Mr Dovhun also informed that the version, related to the professional activity of Mr Komarov is under consideration among other versions.

The said Parliamentary Committee expressed concern about the attack on journalist Vadym Komarov and will follow up the case.

As of 18 June 2019, the investigation into the attempted murder of journalist Vadym Komarov is ongoing.

Ukraine condemns attacks on journalists, bloggers, and media employees, and will take all measures with a view to facilitating an objective and impartial investigation of crimes committed against people exercising the profession of journalist.