

Ukrainian Police Accused of Violence against Journalists, Leaving one Hospitalized

On 3 March 2018, certain police officers were injured near the Parliament of Ukraine during the clashes between the police and protesters. As a result, in order to prevent the escalation and ensure order, the police used tear gas.

In consequence of the clashes, some Ukrainian citizens were injured, including a journalist of the “Radio Svoboda” (Radio Liberty) Internet media and radio station, a journalist of the “Hromadske TV” television channel, and a journalist of the “Insider” outlet.

According to the National Union of Journalists of Ukraine, an independent non-governmental organization, a pepper spray canister was used against Serhii Nuzhnenko, correspondent of “Radio Svoboda” (Radio Liberty), Bohdan Kutieпов, journalist of “Hromadske TV” was hit, and a reporter of “Insider” was rudely forced out of the site.

According to the investigative department of the Directorate General of National Police in Kyiv, following these events the criminal proceedings were opened by the prosecutor’s office in Kyiv in respect of violence against the three journalists and obstruction of their professional activities that took place near the Parliament of Ukraine on 3 March 2018.

The Security Service of Ukraine is engaged into the carrying out of the criminal proceedings as well.

The pre-trial investigation is ongoing.

It should be noted that in the course of the journalistic activities under such difficult conditions, all journalists are recommended to have bright patches on their clothes that identify them as journalists rather than protesters.

Ukraine condemns any interference with the professional activities of journalists and the exertion of physical or any other pressure on them.