

Uzbek Journalist on Interpol List Detained

According to the State Border Service of Ukraine, on 20 September 2017 Interpol database automatically activated the task ‘Arrest’ concerning Narzullo Okhunzhonov, Uzbek national and journalist, during a border-check at the Ukrainian border crossing point in the city of Kyiv upon arrival by Ankara-Kyiv flight.

As a result, Narzullo Okhunzhonov was detained and handed over to the Ukrainian Police officers in connection with a warrant issued by the law enforcement agencies of the Republic of Uzbekistan on a criminal charge of fraud.

On 25 September 2017, the Solomianskyi District Court of the city of Kyiv issued an order temporarily arresting Mr Okhunzhonov for a period of 40 days to carry out the extradition check. On 18 October 2017, Mr Okhunzhonov was released from custody pending the extradition check.

As of 23 October 2017, the Office of the Prosecutor General of Ukraine has not received any request by any competent authority of the Republic of Uzbekistan to extradite Narzullo Okhunzhonov for criminal prosecution. Under these circumstances, the extradition check as well as any decision regarding the extradition of Mr Okhunzhonov become impossible.

In accordance with the principle of the rule of law all restrictions on persons (including journalists) in Ukraine are imposed under the requirements of a respective legal norm.

Ukraine abides by its obligations under international treaties, and thus Narzullo Okhunzhonov, foreign national, was detained under an international arrest warrant issued through Interpol system and then released pending the extradition check.