

Ukraine Court Allows Prosecutors Access to Investigative Journalist's Phone Records

On August 27, Kyiv's Pechersk District Court at a request of the Prosecutor-General's Office ruled to allow access of the investigators to review all data of cell-phone communications of Ms. Natalia Sedletska for a period from July 1, 2016, through November 30, 2017. Ms. Natalia Sedletska is a journalist of TV programme "Schemo". According to the Prosecutor's Office, "the communication provider for a period of 17 months, which is due to the need to establish the time, date and place (geolocation) of the alleged disclosure of privileged information by the Head of the National Anti-Corruption Bureau of Ukraine, within the framework of criminal proceedings under the Criminal Code of Ukraine, article 163, part 2; article 182, part 1; article 328, part 1; and article 387, part 2".

On September 18, the Government of Ukraine received the decision of the European Court of Human Rights regarding the application of the Rule 39, which requires the authorities of Ukraine to suspend access to any data of journalist Ms. Sedletska until October 18.

Following the abovementioned decision, the General Prosecutor's Office suspended the collection of data on the geolocation of the mobile phone of journalist Ms. Sedletska.

Ukraine respects and complies with the norms of international obligations and treaties in force, and therefore the ECtHR decision has been taken into account and the necessary measures have been taken.