

Vesti's Media Office in Kyiv Raided by National Police and Military Prosecutors

The Office of the Chief Military Prosecutor of the Office of the Prosecutor-General of Ukraine is conducting a pretrial investigation into the criminal proceeding against the VESTI media holding company on the grounds of criminal offences provided for by the articles of the Criminal Code of Ukraine.

The subject of the investigation of this criminal proceeding is the circumstances of the creation of a criminal organization by former President of Ukraine Viktor Yanukovich, involving former Prime Minister of Ukraine Mykola Azarov, Minister of Revenues and Duties of Ukraine Oleksandr Klymenko, as well as the participation of officials of the State Tax Administration of Ukraine and of the Ministry of Revenues and Taxes of Ukraine, and persons not identified by the investigation in the mentioned criminal organization.

On 14 July 2017, Office of the Chief Military Prosecutor based on the relevant rulings of the investigative judge of the Pechersk District Court of the city of Kyiv, carried out a number of investigative measures, including searches, in Kyiv and certain regions of Ukraine in entities affiliated with the abovementioned persons.

Therefore, on the grounds of a ruling by the investigative judge of the Pechersk District Court of the city of Kyiv, the non-residential premises used by the VESTI media holding company in its operation were searched.

These investigative measures do not relate to the journalistic activity of the VESTI media holding company. Moreover, the investigators who carried out the searches took necessary measures to secure live streaming of the media holding. This fact can be verified on media's website.

The Government of Ukraine respects freedom of speech and facilitates prevention of any persecution of journalists. The case of searches in the premises rented by VESTI media holding company was part of the investigation into money-laundering by the former government officials of Ukraine, and were carried out with all due precautions in order not to impede journalistic activity.