

Position on the report «Ukrainian Investigative Journalist Mykhailo Tkach Finds Traces of Surveillance Devices at his Home»

Ukrainian investigative journalist Mykhailo Tkach reported to the police on 8 August 2020 that there were signs that a surveillance devices had been hidden in his apartment. In recent weeks, Tkach has received warnings from his sources and has been informed of alleged instruction to arrange surveillance in order to find compromising information about him. The police inspected the apartment and found three holes in the shared attic accessible from different entrances and a hole in the kitchen ceiling.

According to information provided by the National Police of Ukraine, the Investigative Department of the Shevchenkivskiyi Police Department of the Directorate General of the National Police of Ukraine in Kyiv is conducting a pre-trial investigation into this case in a joint criminal proceeding opened on 08.08.2020 on the grounds of criminal offenses under Part 1 of Art. 182 (Violation of privacy) and Part 1 of Art. 359 (Illegal acquisition, sale or use of special technical means of obtaining information) of the Criminal Code of Ukraine.

We inform that in order to ensure a comprehensive, complete and impartial investigation of the circumstances of the criminal proceedings and the adoption of reasonable procedural decisions, the state of the pre-trial investigation was heard at a meeting of the Directorate General of the National Police of Ukraine in Kyiv and in accordance with Art. 39 of the Criminal Code of Ukraine written instructions in this criminal proceedings were given.

At the same time, we inform that Art. 387 (Disclosure of data of operative-search activity, pre-trial investigation) of the Criminal Code of Ukraine provides criminal liability for disclosure of data of pre-trial investigation, in connection with which it is impossible to provide more detailed information on the specified criminal proceedings.

We emphasize that Ukraine is taking every possible measure to identify those involved in the commission of this criminal offense and considers unacceptable any pressure or threats against journalists and the media.