

Violation of human rights and political repressions in Ukraine

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ADDRESSING THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY

■ **On June 1, the Ukrainian parliament examined a report issued by the Temporary Investigative Commission for Compliance with Observation of Constitutional Rights and Freedoms of Human Beings and Citizens in Ukraine. We would like to publish excerpts of several portions.**

Chairman of the commission, parliamentary deputy Viktor Musiyaka:



«Since the moment of its setup on April 21, 2005, the commission has received more than 300 applications and claims from citizens about violations of Constitutional rights and freedoms.

«The mentioned materials bear witness that law enforcement agencies using «exclusive circumstances» as a pretext

regularly violate the Constitutional rights of citizens. Such rights include trespassing, privacy of correspondence, private phone conversations and other types of correspondence, as well as respect for personal dignity, protection from torture and verbal abuse, freedom and personal inviolability.

«Forty percent of applications sent to the president of Ukraine represent claims for violations by law enforcement agencies, and 49% of appeals to the Ukrainian parliament are claims referring to proper observation of the law.

«The greatest number of appeals came from Kirovohrad, Luhansk, the Transcarpathian region, Kyiv, Yalta and Donetsk. Questions raised by citizens included non-fulfillment of prosecutors' duties to monitor observance of the law by executive government agencies, and illegal actions by agencies particularly in the sphere of land distribution.

«In particular, there were many claims referring to the detainment of Boris Kolesnikov, the chairman of the Donetsk regional council. A criminal case against Kolesnikov was initiated by Deputy Prosecutor General Viktor Shokin. On April 5, a group of investigators was established to examine the case. The next day, on April 6, at 12:30 a.m., Kolesnikov was detained by three officers from the Ministry of Internal Affairs carrying machineguns in the lobby of the Prosecutor General's Office following an interrogation. He was handcuffed and sent for an X-ray examination.

«An examination of the protocol for detainment and various court rulings demonstrates there were several violations of the law. The protocol contains no reasons for his detainment and the place where he was to be detained was not specified. There were no explanations as to what sort of crime he had allegedly committed.

«We revealed an array of other violations and one of the graver ones was violation of the right to legal protection through the right of access to a lawyer. Kolesnikov was not even informed that he had the right to meet a lawyer right after he was detained, and not from the moment when accusations were actually produced.

«I received a request from Kolesnikov for a meeting in his temporary prison ward. I tried to go there, but I failed. I requested a meeting many times. I called the deputy prosecutor general, but I was not able to come to terms with him in order to obtain instructions for investigators even though the law allows meetings with relatives and other persons. Yesterday mass media outlets published information that his case was passed to a court. Kolesnikov says that he was not given chance to see those papers.

«When we examined these events, we came to the conclusion that it should be possible to change Kolesnikov's conditions of arrest. We even applied to an investigator requesting an examination of the possibility of, for example, bail in the amount declared by his alleged victims, however there was no decision made.

«As for the arrest of Ivan Ryzak, the former governor of the Transcarpathian region, the parliamentary investigative commission also considers that in this case he could apply for other restraining measures.

«Another highly publicized case examined by the commission was the illegal firing of Mikhail Reznikovych, the general director and creative manager of the Lesya Ukrainka Russian Drama Theater. He was not informed about any criminal investigation into his activities. He only found information in the mass media. We consider that there were no legal grounds to fire Reznikovych.

«Yesterday people in masks occupied a market in Dnipropetrovsk, and today

Poltavaoblenergo was taken... Yesterday deputies were beaten in Mukachevo, and today the same thing happened in Uzhorod again. Do these events represent real changes in the system of relations between the government and society?

**«Ukrainian Parliament
Commissioner for Human Rights
Nina Karpachova**

started a speech by saying one of the most fundamental human rights, the right to freedom of speech and information, is being violated in Ukraine.

«A wave of oppression and persecution of leaders and reporters working in state and community mass media outlets has started in Ukraine. I have received for examination appeals about violations of rights to freedom of speech and information from employees of the NTN and Kyivskaya Rus TV companies. Regional mass media outlets work under conditions of blatant censorship. During visit to the Cherkassy region we heard that the editor-in-chief of the Visnyk Zolotonoshyne newspaper, Olha Chukmarova, is constantly being pressed to resign by the deputy chairman of the local state district administration.

«The same sorts of things are happening in the Kherson, Rivne, Cherkassy, Sumy, Luhansk, Kharkiv, Poltava, Khmelnytsky, Zhytomyr, Ivano-Frankivsk and Lviv regions.

«The illegal firing of Viktor Prykhodko, the general director of the Dovzhenko National Film Studio, was appealed, and on May 27 the Shevchenkovsky District Court of Kyiv restored him to office. I cannot forget to mention that the prominent general director of the Taras Shevchenko National Museum Serhiy Halchenko was fired.

«But the most shameful manifestation of the government's lack of tolerance is the persecution of teachers. I received an

appeal from Vasilina Dudkovych — the director of a school who had worked as a teacher for 26 years in Staro Kocovo in the Ivano-Frankivsk region. She was fired without even been offered a job as an ordinary teacher. Who will teach our children?»

Leonid Kravchuk, the first president of independent Ukraine:

«Viktor Yushchenko's government fails the democratic exam. I have never before had to protect a democracy proclaimed all over the world from a new so-called democratic government. You have to agree that one cannot call a state a democratic one, and call its leaders democrats, when people are being persecuted, are thrown into prisons, and political opponents are being beaten. There is no ceremony with people's deputies. Thousands of employees are being fired only because they worked during the recent presidency of Leonid Kuchma. Names of people who are being called to come and meet with interrogators are being announced on TV like lists of casualties from the front during World War II. Lineups for interrogations are being organized and an atmosphere of political psychosis is being created in society. The new government does not recognize this, or probably does not want to see this. There are all sorts of grounds to classify and call such actions as political repression. Peace and civil consent in society are endangered.

«After completing their takeover of government, new leaders, who had campaigned during the election under slogans of consolidating and uniting society now work for only one goal — deepening social splits and the creation of new points of tension. The fight against corruption and crime has turned into political and criminal shows. At the same time corruption and bribery flourish with new avarice at all levels.



Leonid Kravchuk

«In politics accents were made not with social consent but through witch hunts. They literally hunt down SDPU* and Party of Regions members, and the well-known principle of 'those who are not with us are against us' is declaimed. Those who voted for Yanukovych** are considered to be moral criminals. The new president's speeches increasingly contain words like 'enemy,' 'criminal' and 'thief.' The state is being gradually transformed into a tool of political lawlessness, and it is drifting toward the establishment of a regime in which everything will be solved by one person or group of people united by family and business interests. Instead of observing the Constitution and laws, they conduct their violations on the principle of revolutionary necessity. Legal nihilism becomes the

*SDPU (u) — Social Democratic Party of Ukraine (united). Currently the party sits in opposition.

**Viktor Yanukovych — the former prime minister of Ukraine was President Viktor Yushchenko's main rival in the recent presidential election.

determining feature of activities by representative of executive government. Instead of a social dialogue between the government and the opposition, we have political persecution of the opposition, harassment of its leaders, and the abuse of the honor and dignity of people who do not deserve such attitudes. Please tell me, can a person spilling over with hate for his opponents rule a country in a democratic way? A tendency to usurp government is developing instead of the development of democracy. The legal system works in accordance with selective principles — some people can be released after a phone call from high-ranking offices, while others can be arrested under highly dubious pretexts.

«Nobody condemns the fact of that 18,000 firings conducted in Ukraine were due to political motivation. In contrast they say that this is only the beginning, because the number of officials totals 200,000. Nothing like this has transpired in Ukraine before. This is a political purge.

«We should realize that the figure 18,000 is not just a cold statistical fact. The fates of real people and their families stand behind this fact. How can the dismissal of rectors of institutes and universities, directors of schools and colleges, and even of chief physicians of medical institutions be justified? Recently we heard that in one Volyn village school police officers arrested a teacher during a lesson in presence of schoolchildren because the teacher had supported Yanukovich during the presidential election.

«A village teacher from the Transcarpathian region, Elena Yakubinskaya, recently committed suicide. She was unable to sustain psychological pressure from the new government. And what about the vivid example of the political fuss around the Dynamo soccer club in which high-ranking officials and courts took

part? And for what reason? The club had 'wrong' owners.

«Dear friends, if I knew in 1991 that everything would turn out as it is now, that dictatorship would replace democracy, I would never have signed the Belovezhskaya Agreement. I would rather have cut my hand off.

*Temporary prison ward **The Soviet Union split after the signing of the Belovezhskaya Agreement and Ukraine gained its independence.

■ **The Social Democratic Party of Ukraine (united) provided the president of European court for human rights Luzius Wildhaber with information about politically motivated oppression and persecution taking place in Ukraine. The document was passed to the Wildhaber on May 9 in Kyiv during a roundtable dedicated to the discussion of human rights in Ukraine and the efficiency of the European Court for Human Rights as a tool to protect Ukrainians' rights.**

A letter addressed to Wildhaber said:

«During the new government's first 100 days more than 18,000 people were fired from government agencies. This is a direct violation of the Law of Ukraine 'On State Service'...

«The fact is that the nation's executive has been usurped by a ruling political group which by official letter has arbitrarily established a quota principle to distribute official seats among its supporters, while at the same time ignoring the rights

of the people who had previously occupied these seats.

«More than 200 cases of discrimination and persecution (due to political reasons) have been registered by our party members.

«One should stress that this is only the tip of the bureaucratic iceberg of the new government. People in the regions are frightened by actions and threats coming from newly chosen representatives of government and do not believe in Ukrainian justice.

«A campaign of informational terror has been launched in Ukraine on a grand

scale. Violating presumptions of innocence, and without corresponding court rulings, Ukrainian citizens are being dubbed as criminals, and are being defamed. People's freedoms are being illegally proscribed and victims are being driven to suicide.

«The SDPU (u) hopes protectors of human rights and the judicial community of a united Europe will focus on the flagrant violations of rights of citizens in Ukraine and will appeal for cooperation in order to put an end to such shameful, non-civilized and illegal actions by the new government.»

POLITICAL PERSECUTION

State officials are being fired for political reasons.

■ The SDPU (u) press office obtained a facsimile of a letter signed by the chairman of the Ternopil state regional administration Ivan Stoyko addressed to the chairman of the state committee of Ukraine for technical regulation and consumer politics Mykola Negrich. The letter is a request to fire one official. The official was to be fired under the following pretext: «Mykola Teshner is an active SDPU (u) member and during the 2004 presidential election he overtly backed Yanukovych.» The SDPU (u) press office says:

«The letter states that 'one of the main goals of Cabinet of Ministers activities is meeting people's demands including an increase in the quality and competitiveness of domestic goods, and the formation of civilized relations.' It was also pathetically declared that 'today people and the quality and safety of their lives are the focus of Ternopil authorities' attention.'

«Later the letter admits that not everything is successful yet — bread sold in shops does not comply with standards, meat products are increasingly spiked with water and recipes are not observed. Gasoline under-filling reaches 250ml instead of the 50ml allowed for 10 liters. In conclusion 'neither the interests of the

state nor interests of people being are protected.'

The letter is a request asking that the director of the regional center of standardization and metrology, Mykola Teshner, be fired. The chairman of the Ternopil state regional administration thinks that he alone is guilty for all the problems in the region. However, the signatory to the letter also stressed the real reason for firing Teshner:

«Teshner is an active SDPU (u) party member and during the 2004 presidential election campaign he overtly supported Yanukovych.

«This is what one state official wrote to another official! The SDPU (u) press office is boiling over at a time when Minister of Foreign Affairs Borys Tarasyuk explains to the entire world that we have a true democracy in contrast to neighbors near and far. In a civilized country such a scandal would cost a governor his position and would result in court hearings.

«The Zaporizhzhya regional committee of the SDPU (u) announced the facts of persecution and the firing of Ukrainian citizens who are not welcomed by the new government.

«Former Energodar city council chairman (Zaporizhzhya region) G. Yakovlev, who had supported the 'wrong' presidential candidate, was forced to leave his job in accordance with a resolution of the city council. In his first two weeks in office the new mayor Morshavka fired first deputy city council chairman V. Dyachenko (a member of Labor Ukraine), director of municipal city enterprises V. Gritsay (a SDPU (u) member) and director of municipal city

markets N. Kozakov (the secretary of the local municipal SDPU (u) organization).

«The current government has one goal — to eliminate everyone who is against it or who has his own opinion,» the SDPU (u) Zaporizhzhya regional party committee says.

Government Party applies pressure on Mayor of Krasnoperekopsk

The following information was released by the SDPU (u) press office:

«By violating the law and all democratic principles, representatives of pro-government 'democratic forces' continue a campaign of defamation and psychological pressure against SDPU (u) members, including ones who were elected to chairs.»

The reason for such a statement was a copy of a letter addressed to Krasnoperekopsk city mayor and SDPU (u) member V. Abisov. The letter «advised him to examine the question publicly leaving his party, sacking his deputies and finding decent candidates for vacant seats jointly with representatives of the Government of People coalition*. If he did not comply with these conditions, the signatories to the letter «reserved the right to take other measures.»

It is entirely superfluous to talk about any legality or Constitutionality of such actions, not to mention moral aspects of the matter. In Europe, where newly elected representatives of government strive to integrate so much, it would be enough in order to come to felons' dock.

Cynically declaring the protection of the rights and freedoms of citizens, repre-

sentatives of pro-government political forces foster politics of witch hunting and continue taking revenge upon their political opponents. For that purpose they employ all available methods and means, starting with detaining the leaders of regional SDPU (u) branches by law enforcement agencies with fabricated criminal cases, as has happened in the Transcarpathian region, and ending with political pressure on ordinary party members.

Yevhen Kushnarev, the former governor of the Kharkiv region, says that the government is persecuting him along with members of his family and allies.

Things which are going on now in Ukraine are well-guided and well-planned actions undertaken by the government. The framework of these actions combines two simultaneous actions — the defamation and criminal persecution of potential and acting opposition leaders, and the replacement of all state officials in every key executive position by authorized representatives of the president.

The aims of the action are:

- To eliminate or discredit all acting and prospective opposition leaders
- To form its own administrative resources at all levels of government
- To prepare a political foothold to usurp government in the 2006 parliamentary elections
- This program's methods are simple and evident:
- In the case of opposition leaders, they will try to launch criminal actions against them

*Block of pro-government parties



Yevhen Kushnarev

— In the case of government officials, their fate will be determined by the president's signature

A repressive conveyor belt has been set up in Ukraine — those who could not be fired by Yushchenko are persecuted by Minister of Internal Affairs Yuri Lutsenko.

When Yushchenko split society into «winners» and «losers» and gave his tacit approval to the persecution of several prominent political leaders, the real wave of political persecution started. If it were simply the punishment of those who are really guilty there would have been limited numbers of criminal probes launched and the wave of repression would have already died down. But persecution continues and new criminal probes are started every day, targeting more and more people! Today people are losing their jobs. Recently Ukrainian Parliament Commissioner for Human Rights Nina Karpachova announced that her desk is piled with 66,000 claims from Ukrainian citizens com-

plaining about repression and persecution for holding «wrong ideological viewpoints.»

After the revolution, as if by magic, Ukraine was clearly split into two categories — «criminals» and «crystal-clear citizens.» And you have to note how amazingly it happened — all criminals live in eastern Ukraine, while all honest people reside in western Ukraine! What a miraculous geographic peculiarity! In order to ease the process of sorting out law-abiding citizens, all criminals were colored in blue while good citizens were in orange! Have you ever heard of a single criminal case against a representative or supporter of the new government? I personally have not.

I would like you to focus your attention. We are not talking about some particular criminal case initiated against a person in connection with a real crime, which was investigated and closed (or passed on to a court). We are talking about an endless process of persecution with cases being initiated one after another! When one case bursts out, at the same time something new is found. It is interesting that all criminal probes are started not in connection with current events, but in association with events which have already been left in the past. Moreover, these facts are not easy to find, they are carefully dug out and sometimes even falsified.

Please pay attention. Any accusations against opposition leaders are made in public and immediately distributed by mass media outlets. When such cases fall apart in courts, nobody issues public apologies. In fact the government employs the very fact that even an accusation itself damages the political image of a politician, and any reaction from his side is later perceived as an attempt to justify himself.

In other words, the goal of the author-

ities is not to punish, but defame his honor and disarm him as a political competitor.

Accusations are constantly made public even before a criminal probe is launched and necessary investigative steps are taken. That means Lutsenko practically tells law enforcement agencies who should be persecuted and what should be proved. Investigators simply implement such direct orders. In other words, every new criminal probe is personal initiative by Lutsenko, not of investigators from the ministry of internal affairs.

The scale, continuation and methods of repression clearly demonstrate their political nature.

Five months ago Lutsenko gave me his personal verdict: «Kushnarev will be jailed.» He only did not say what for, and how long I would be in prison. That is because he still does not know. Law enforcement agencies have been working on this task for five months already. You can find below the chronological order of political persecution against my family in the last five months:

1. The Prosecutor General's Office protested against combining the positions of chairman of the regional council and governor of the region.

2. Viktor Yushchenko's nephew* filed a lawsuit linked to the same protest (after two months of hearings the court refused to satisfy this lawsuit).

3. I was called to the Prosecutor General's Office as a witness in a criminal case about separatism.

4. More than 10 criminal probes were initiated against my son-in-law's business (currently almost all cases have been shut down).

5. The public discrediting of my daughter at HGU** where she has a dean's position. The essence of the charges was that she was my daughter. (Thank God, institute staff decided to protect her and several days ago she was unanimously elected as dean of the legal department through a secret ballot).

6. The Kharkiv serious crimes department (OBOP) compiled and sent a protocol of corruption to a court (the court refused it because the document had serious violations of codes of procedures and contained no proof of my guilt).

7. Dissatisfied with that result, OBOP sent two more protocols to the Prosecutor General's Office (with the result being a refusal to open a criminal case due to the absence any crime).

8. The initiation of a criminal case related to the financial activities of the New Regional Politics Foundation (all accusations were unfounded).

9. Multiple requests by people's deputies who demanded to check various facts in relation to my friends and relatives. Special commissions are being organized in regard to each case and endless checks are going on. These investigation have no results, but when one stops, another starts immediately. In other words, the initiators of such investigations are not interested in their results but in the very process — checking, making me nervous and giving me no chance to work in peace.

10. The initiative to recall me from the deputies of the regional council. The official motivation was «failure to fulfill a pre-election program.» After this failed, a new one emerged — «for separatism.» That group is headed by an advisor to the new governor.

*Yaroslav Yushchenko became deputy of governor of the Kharkiv region after Viktor Yushchenko's victory. He is 24 years old.

** Kharkiv State University

11. Recently two more criminal cases were initiated — one about alleged embezzlement of Chernobyl funds despite the fact that I had no relation to them. The other refers to alleged increases in subway construction costs and loess incurred by the state. But that is an entirely absurd accusation, because only my actions as governor enabled the completion of this project, keeping it from stopping and protecting the state from much higher losses!

The government has several driving motives:

1. First of all a clear, cold-blooded program aimed at eliminating all opposition leaders. The government put forward the task of eliminating all dissidents and potential enemies of the new regime in order to clear the road to establishing a dictatorship in Ukraine under the guise of a revolutionary mood in society, and need for fair and legal prosecution of embezzlers of state property. A vivid confirmation of this is another statement by Lutsenko when he said that he is satisfied when a politician leaves Ukraine immediately after a public accusation! Lutsenko has no desire to fulfill the main function of a system of justice — the fair punishment of criminals. Current politicians who leave Ukraine are not criminals who flee from justice. They are harassed opponents of the new regime!

2. Second, the launched repressions are personal revenge by the former opposition against former authorities for some supposed abuses they sustained some time ago. Who represents the current opposition? The former government! And who is in government now? The former opposition! These are two political teams which traded places and we witness pal-

try revenge. That is why Viktor Yushchenko now intentionally allows the same violations against opposition which government used against him quite recently.

3. And last — all of the above is the logical completion of the public relations campaign launched during the election. In the last election Yushchenko's team called the government «criminal,» accused it of embezzlement of state assets and played on the nation's traditional dislike of any acting government. Now this «criminal» government is overthrown, but one needs to complete the already started PR campaign! When you call this government «criminal,» you somehow have to confirm such accusations now! In order to do that, one has to reveal activities of the criminal government everywhere and punish them. That is why we have large-scale criminal prosecutions of representatives of a «criminal» government. Confirmation for saying that all of this repression to a certain extent represents a performance for the public is the fact of the constant appearance of Lutsenko on live programs in which he practically gives a Maidan*-style report on the job done. As the main indicator of his performance he considers not a decrease in the number of real crimes committed in the country, but an endless rise in statistics regarding the initiation of criminal cases against representatives of the previous government.

Government is ready to offer the opposition only one option for solving this conflict — the opposition should kneel down, repent and withdraw from any further political struggle. Then the new government will leave it alone and allow it to calmly live out the rest of its life in Ukraine.

*Maidan Nezalezhnosti — Kyiv's central square where actions supporting Yushchenko were held.

People accused of separatism consider criminal cases initiated against them as being political.

The Prosecutor General's Office filed charges against Viktor Tykhonov, chairman of the Luhansk regional council, and against Yevhen Kushnarev, former chairman of the Kharkiv state regional administration, accusing them of infringing upon the territorial integrity and sovereignty of Ukraine. Both have been released on bail.

According to information distributed by the Website Polit-Terror (polit-terror.info), this is the first indictment in Ukraine associated with a criminal charge of separatism. The Prosecutor General's Office of Ukraine is conducting the investigation. Tykhonov and Kushnarev were active participants in a self-administration assembly held on Nov. 28, 2004 in Severodonetsk (Luhansk region). There they discussed the need to change the state structure of the country from a unitary to a federative one. There were appeals to establish an autonomous Southeastern Republic as part of Ukraine in case Yanukovich was not recognized as president of Ukraine. Yanukovich and Moscow Mayor Yuri Luzhkov also took part in the assembly.

Tykhonov considers his case to be a political one, and said so in live appearance NTN TV.

«It was clear that investigators fulfilled somebody's order. The order was placed by a high-ranking official,» Tykhonov said. He added that he had been threatened before, and he was asked to resign from

his position as regional council chairman. Tykhonov said that he had promised he would not mention the deputy's name, but when the situation developed he considered himself to be free from any promises and obligations. «It was Viktor Topolov, who was first deputy minister for fuel and energy. He told me: 'Either you leave your office tomorrow or you will have to repent.'»

Yevhen Kushnarev, the former governor or the Kharkiv region declared:

«Viktor Yushchenko demands we be tried. I personally will do everything so court hearings can be held. But I would like to warn the scriptwriters and directors of this political performance that we will put forward a social verdict in court to those who have plunged Ukraine into an abyss of disorder and hate, dividing the Ukrainian nation into 'ours' and 'theirs.'»

Kushnarev categorically denies any accusations in separatism prepared by the Prosecutor General's Office, and lays counter charges against the new government.

«This accusation is absurd and ridiculous. It is based on an arbitrary and distorted interpretation of event last November in Ukraine and the nature of my participation in them. That interpretation was provided by investigators.»

The simultaneous charges of separatism against Tykhonov Kushnarev, in Kushnarev's opinion, should be considered as «preparation of the first political court hearings in the modern history of Ukraine» by the acting authorities, which «could find no better way to restrict our social activities.»

Kushnarev thinks that the person who set the train in motion is well-known: «As early as the beginning of June during his visit to Zaporizhzhya, Ukrainian President Viktor Yushchenko publicly expressed his

dissatisfaction saying that the Prosecutor General's Office failed to bring criminal charges against any «separatist.» That was not the first time that the guarantor of the Constitution gave direct orders to law enforcement agencies.»

Kushnarev is certain that the Constitutional order of Ukraine was endangered by the former opposition (which is the government now) during the 2004 presidential election.

«It was carefully concealed that during one week (Nov. 22-28) the leaders and inspirers of the 'orange revolution' repeatedly and violated the Constitution and laws of Ukraine. The apotheosis of this lawlessness was the administration of the presidential oath by Viktor Yushchenko in the Ukrainian parliament, the setting up of the so-called 'Committee of National Salvation,' the blockade of central executive government bodies and the announcement of a national strike. Constitutional order had not worked in half of Ukrainian territory.»

People's Democratic Party* leader reveals political pressure applied on him and party members.

■ **The Prosecutor General's Office froze bank accounts belonging to the People's Democratic Party (NDP). According to information distributed by Ukraine and the World Today, political repression in Ukraine has reached a new scale and speed. Now not only are particular people targeted, but parties as well. The cynicisms of the authorities' actions could be also seen in the fact that the campaign for discrediting potential competitors ahead of the 2006 elections started exactly at the moment when the NDP leader was in the hospital.**

**NDP leader
Valery Pustovoitenko:**

«The Prosecutor General froze bank accounts belonging to the NDP and focused attention on us when I was in the hospital recovering from surgery. Was it a coincidence or not? While it's an interesting topic for discussion, there is almost no room for coincidences in activities undertaken by such agencies. The NDP is a party of the political center. When the 10th party assembly made a decision about autonomous participation in the 2006 elections, both the party and I started experiencing more pressure and closer atten-

*Centrist Party of Ukraine.



Valery Pustovoitenko

tion. The freezing of NDP accounts is only one link in the chain. All this demonstrates that the situation will develop in a hard way.

«I personally feel certain pressure. What should you think when investigators call you when you are in an intensive care ward and call you to an interrogation? When the Prosecutor General's Office was provided with all the relevant papers confirming that the reasons that served to freeze the party's accounts were given back to the state long ago, soon we faced new accusations that funds were allegedly spent on the election campaign. I can state with full responsibility that the NDP transferred no money for election purposes. Moreover, the party did not use its funds for election purposes at all, because party did not participate in that election.

«That is why in connection with the above I say that I am not going to shoot myself*. This is purely a political matter. Now our party has more than 7,000

*After Yushchenko's victory in Ukraine, former ministers of internal affairs, transport and communications died from apparent suicides.

deputies on councils at all levels and they are experiencing huge pressure in the regions. The goal is evident — to discredit them as well as the party.»

We are witnessing the total elimination of people who had previously worked in various executive agencies. Nobody considers what sorts of positions they held there. In some regions they managed to replace 100% of all personnel. They fired managers and experts even if they were deputies, and single mothers with small kids. This process touched the spheres of education, medicine and others. That means that the goal is evidently to discredit all potential opponents in the forthcoming elections. A good example is the firing of the rector of a Bukovyna financial academy who was also leader of a regional party council**. There are similar situations in Crimea and in all other regions.

What is the purpose of these actions? The purpose is to amend the entire territorial structure, to provide for the authorities' own people with the levers of government to provide victory in elections to councils at all levels, and at elections of city and village mayors. This is a highly dangerous tendency of pushing out all opponents from government even before any elections, a tendency of discrediting deputies, managers of enterprises, directors of schools and so on in order to avoid meeting them as competitors in the future. This is dangerous for the country.

**According to information distributed by Ukraine and the World Today, the rector of the Bukovyna financial academy, Volodymyr Pryadko was fired due to a resolution by Finance Minister Viktor Pynzenyk. At the same time, a special Ministry of Finance commission that inspected the academy this April came up with no accusations against Pryadko. The main reasons for the firing were accusations produced by local authorities as «propaganda for the former governmental candidate for the presidency.»

Serhiy Kunitsin, leader of the Crimean NDP, says he was forced to resign from the position of chairman of the council of ministers of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea:

«When the president and his team made illegal moves offering candidates for the position of prime minister of Crimea which could endanger peace, consent and the social and economical development of the autonomous republic, I categorically opposed that and said so to the head of the state. As a result the nominated prime minister is appropriate for Crimea and suits everyone. At the same time, 80% of experts on my team remained in executive government bodies of the autonomous republic. If I do not compromise, all of them would be eliminated.»

Volodymyr Dzon, leader of the Luhansk NDP:

«In the Luhansk region hundreds of people are summoned by investigators due to their political beliefs which they demonstrated in the last election. We need



Serhiy Kunitsin

to establish a lawyers' center to protect people's rights.»

Volodymyr Dorosh, leader of the Bukovyna NDP:

«The government had already brought small and midsize businesses down to their knees through this year's budget provisions, taxes and so on. That is why we have to support active protests by the people, because complaints sent to Kyiv bring no good.»

Teachers and doctors are being fired due to political motives.

■ **Ukraine may soon renew the practices of stool pigeons and poison-pen letters, says Our Newspaper Plus. In Dubno in the Rivne region purge committees and a committee of social confidence (COD) have already been established. The functional duties of these organizations are similar. COD is headed by Petro Komissaruk, an active participant of in the «orange revolution,» and chief physician at a district oncology clinic.**

Nine members of the committee voluntarily took responsibility for making decisions on the fate of other people by punishing or absolving sins. The members compiled lists of leaders who (in their opinion) «abused government, employed their offices during the election and applied pressure on personnel.»

COD meetings are dedicated to discussing every accused person. Verdicts are delivered in the absence of the accused and represent so-called «corresponding resolutions with an advisory character for chiefs of authorities or higher government agencies which had appointed such managers.»

In reality such «recommendations» to newly appointed heads of district authorities are being implemented like court rulings. Due to the active assistance of heads of local district administrations the following people lost their jobs — Volodymyr Yakovets, director of the Dubno hostel for elderly people and disabled WWII veterans, and Mykola Kruzhalo.

In an interview with local newspaper *Visnyk Dubenshini*, Komissaruk overtly complained that resolutions by the committee had not helped to fire chiefs of the district department of culture and the district department of education. It happened that «neither the city mayor, nor the chairman of the district state administration have the legal right to fire them. And these officials do not react to insistent 'offers' to write letters of resignation.»

Purge organizers hope that later they will nail down other officials and that is why they declare: «We constantly control the activities of other officials, including many directors of village schools.»

Such a state of «revolutionary purging» and the methods used are not as strange as they may seem for the region is governed by Vasily Chervonyi, one of the leaders of the Ukrainian People's Party, concludes *Our Newspaper Plus*. Chervonyi became known in Ukraine as an active «propagandist and promoter» and as a direct participant in a massacre at the premises of the Rivne *Vechime* newspaper office several years ago.

Doctors, village mayors called «enemies of the nation», fired

According to information by reporter Natalya Vishnevskaya from the Rivne region, Pavel Melnik, chairman of the Zarechenskaya district state administration illegally tried to fire village mayors Nina Smaglyuk (Dobrovsk) and Olha Sharko (Perekalie), doing everything to force the women to sign resignations. At the same time, at a meeting of dwellers of the village where Sharko is mayor, only 15 of 150 residents expressed non-confidence in her. As both women were elected, they refused to write resignations. Melnik started blackmailing Smaglyuk with police and prosecutors. «You are an enemy of the nation and people do not want to see you,» said Melnik.

Such a horrible phrase as «enemy of the nation» is more and more frequently pronounced by representatives of government. For instance, an official letter signed by Miroslav Semaniv, head of the healthcare department in the Rivne state regional administration addressed to the new chief physician of the regional endocrinology clinic, contains the following phrase: «Real Ukrainian patriots and active participant in the orange revolution work in an institution which you govern. Taking into account their great merits in revealing and eliminating enemies of Ukraine, we recommend you to appoint...» One may guess that the 21 leading physicians fired in the region in a record short term is a consequence of «revealing and eliminating enemies of Ukraine.» Only chief physicians in four regional districts (who worked under the former authorities) kept their jobs.

Physicians have no doubt that person-

nel rotations will continue, and that these purges will touch both heads of hospital departments and ordinary doctors.

The consequent health of many fired people can change dramatically. For instance, Alexander Pustovit, former chief physician of the Derazhnenskaya hospital, was hospitalized with hypertension, Yaroslav Maslyi, former chief of the regional healthcare department, suffered a stroke, and Gregory Maxymyak sustained a heart attack.

NPU* statement on total firings of chief physicians, school directors and university rectors due to political motives.

Deputies of the People's Party of Ukraine (NPU) examined the situation in regions with illegal firings. NPU leader Ihor Eremeev said:

«The president probably, has no idea what is going on in the regions. Probably he does not know that the Constitution and laws are violated on a daily basis. We witnessed a slant to one side and now we see a slant to the other side. Now we have political repression in the regions, and no matter if they are they intentional or not, they happen. We are not a laboratory containing 47 million samples, we are a state.»

*People's Party of Ukraine (NPU) — a centrist party. The party's leader is Ukrainian Parliament Chairman Volodymyr Lytvyn.

NPU representative Ekaterina Vaschuk noted:

«How can we understand the total firing of chief physicians of hospitals, directors of schools and universities? We see a clear trend — you voted for the wrong team in the last election.»

■ Uzhorod University student not allowed defend final paper because he lived for a month in a tent camp

Konstantin Kutsov, despite having written permission, was not allowed to defend his final research paper on political science. The alleged grounds for the decision were a violation of the terms for preparing the paper.

«Just month ago the head of the department, my research supervisor and readers confirmed my readiness for a defense, but the day of the defense I was told that the readers had not had time to examine my final research paper,» he said, without hiding his indignation.

Kutsov is a leader of the Transcarpathian regional branch of the Socialist Youth Congress. For a month he was an active participant in a tent camp in Uzhorod. The tent camp was installed to protest the arrest of the former governor of the region, Ivan Rizak, and his deputy, Viktor Dyadchenko.

Participants in the protest action associated Kutsov's problem with his participation in the tent camp. They intend to appeal to the minister of science and education with a request to intervene in the situation. Kutsov has excellent grades and is a candidate for a diploma with distinction.

During the «orange revolution» many students skipped studies last autumn for



Konstantin Kutsov

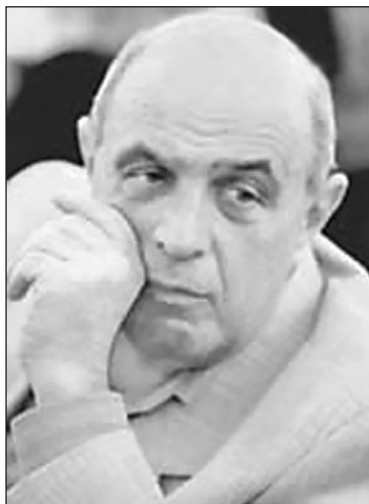
several weeks. Several institutes in various cities in Ukraine intended to punish such absentees. Strike committees in Kyiv established a joint committee of students which included representatives of different educational institutions. They picketed near the ministry of education and science and passed a petition to the minister. Vasily Kremen, the former minister of education, signed a resolution which banned any persecution of students due to political motives.

Stage director persecuted for political beliefs

■ Russian and U.S. media outlets distributed an open letter from cultural workers addressed to the president of Ukraine. They think that the Prosecutor General's Office of Ukraine started an inspection into business activities of the Russian Drama Theater only due to the fact that Mikhail Reznikovych was an authorized representative of presidential candidate Viktor Yanukovych during the 2004 election. The letter, signed by prominent Russian actors (Kiril Lavrov, Oleg Basilashvili, Zinaida Sharko, Alisa Freindlich, Yuri Solomin, David Borovsky, Galina Volchek, Alexander Kalyagin and others), says:

«The Lesya Ukrainka National Academic Russian Drama Theater successfully competes with prominent theaters in Moscow and St. Petersburg. It seems to us that such creative competitiveness is only beneficial to the cultural image of independent Ukraine.

«Dear Viktor Andreevich! You have proclaimed Ukraine's choice of Europe and loyalty to European values. We are sure that the presence of Prosecutor General's employees behind theatrical curtains is not a European choice. We ask you to avoid eliminating the wonderful Lesya Ukrainka National Academic Russian Drama Theater.»



Mikhail Reznikovych

Chronicle of events:

On April 20, Minister of Culture Oksana Bilozir told parliamentary hearings that Reznikovych was relieved of his duties as general director and stage director of the Lesya Ukrainka National Academic Russian Drama Theater. She also said that a criminal probe had been launched into his activities. Reznikovych consequently suffered an attack of hypertension.

On April 25, the Podolsky District Court of Kyiv ruled that the dismissal of Reznikovych was illegal.

On April 27, at a meeting near the Cabinet of Ministers building, theater personnel expressed their non-confidence in Bilozir, demanded her resignation, and a public apology to Reznikovych.

Boris Kuritsin, literary manager of the theater:

«Oksana Bilozir's statement on the criminal probe launched into the activ-

ities of theater's director does not correspond to reality. At first the KRU* (monitoring and auditing department) inspected the theater and then prosecutors came. Having failed to find their desired «evidence,» law enforcement officers again ordered the KRU to continue its inspection.

Even before the investigation started, somebody rushed to talk about financial violations and prosecutors organized a leak of information to a Website. Somebody certainly needed that. Even the amount of supposed damages to the state was published on the Website. But when lawyers representing the theater tried to obtain detailed information from law enforcement agencies, they were told that there are no such calculations yet. Theater personnel found out that no criminal probe had been launched and filed a lawsuit in court. The court reinstated Reznikovych in his position. After that representatives of the theater picketed the Cabinet of Ministers demanding the resignation of the minister and a public apology from her. But there is no such notion as the presumption of innocence! The ministry appealed and hearings were scheduled for May 4. Most theater employees came to court, but there were no representatives from the ministry. Instead, the ministry sent a request to postpone hearings to the second week of June.

Kyivskie Vedomosti noted that our country had seen nothing like this in almost 70 years. Newspapers and Websites flash with headlines which horribly resemble those which our

*Monitoring and auditing department — a law enforcement agency authorized to conduct financial inspections of enterprises.

fathers and grandfathers read in Stalin's times.

German cultural circles found out what had happened at the theater from media outlets and sent an open letter to the president, the prime minister and the minister of culture. The letter says:

«Lesya Ukrainka Theater was on tour in Munich, Stuttgart, Mulheim and Leverkusen giving the German public a chance to become closer to Ukrainian literature and theatrical art. At the same time, a tour by the Bavarian State Drama Theater as well as the work of German directors on the stage of the Lesya Ukrainka Theater contributed to the process of mutual understanding and learning about each other. Festivals of German drama, which were held in the theater under the guidance of Professor Reznikovych and the assistance of the German Goethe Cultural Center, were a chance to present German literature to the Ukrainian public. Such experiments forged confidence in the possibility of planning further joint projects with the theater, but their realization is endangered now. In all joint projects the Lesya Ukrainka Theater had shown itself as a wonderfully organized body, fully ready for cooperation. The warm creative atmosphere between the administration, actors and technical staff was constantly visible and it had a positive effect.

«We hope that the current situation of the Lesya Ukrainka Theater, the fate of its company and the further development of cultural ties between Ukraine and Germany in the theatrical sphere will be clarified. We also hope that any decision will be well-thought and balanced, because we consider the drastic changes associated with the Reznikovych resignation as an enormous loss.

«Seeds planted in the last few years by Ukrainian and German sides with great difficulty need further vigilant care in order for Europe to walk along the way of achieving closer cultural relations.»

The letter was signed by Klaus Dieter Oppitz (Bavarian State Drama Theater, managing director), Fredric Schirmer (Stuttgart State Theater, director and stage director), Matthias Hartmann (Bohum Drama Theater, director and stage director), Christian Stuckle (Munich People's Theater, director and stage director), George Zheno (director, Hamburg) and others.

**Volodymyr Voyush, SDPU (u)
faction member:**

«We are deeply disturbed with the actions of the ministry, which blatantly violating a court ruling tried to forcefully dismiss Mikhail Reznikovych, director of the Lesya Ukrainka Russian Drama Theater. Indignation is also provoked by the fact that all corresponding requests addressed to the ministry of culture, prosecutors the president of Ukraine, including requests



from the Ukrainian parliament, still have no answer. The question of illegal actions by the minister of culture toward the Russian Drama Theater was examined by an investigative committee of the Ukrainian parliament and we insist that Bilozir should provide a report

about her actions. We think that all the illegal bureaucratic fuss around theater inflicts damage upon our culture. It may sound like a joke but the minister of culture is intentionally destroying a cultural oasis which has national importance.»

**ABUSE
OF GOVERNMENT
BY LAW
ENFORCEMENT
AGENCIES****The government used force
against Ukrainian people's
deputies**

■ «Deputies Tamara Proshkuratova, Volodymyr Voyush and Nestor Shufrich were beaten at night in a hospital ward where Ivan Rizak, the former governor of the Transcarpathian region was staying,» according to Website Polit-Terror (polit-terror.info).

Rizak was detained by Uzhorod prosecutors in February 2005. Many politicians considered his detainment a political one. Rizak was arrested on suspicion for inciting Volodymyr Slivka (the rector of Uzhorod National University) to suicide. The rector died in intensive care last May. He was found with severed veins and a knife wound in his heart. Several wounds were also found on his body. It is very rare for anything other than criminal cases based on articles of the Criminal Code to be passed to court. Then in February, after an interrogation, Rizak was released on his own recognizance not to leave the city.

On May 13, prosecutors detained the former governor for a second time. Representatives of law enforcement agencies said that additional evidence was found in Rizak's case, and in addition to Article 120

(incitement to suicide), prosecutors launched a criminal probe according to Article 365, section 3 (abuse of office and transgression of authority resulting in severe consequences). Prosecutors soon charged the former governor with bribery.

On May 16, the Uzhorod District Court decided to arrest Rizak, however he was already in the Uzhorod cardiology clinic due to his state of health, and is under guard. This March Rizak sustained a heart attack.

A SDPU (u) press office statement says the following about the beating of parliamentarians and the abduction of Ivan Rizak, the former governor of the Transcarpathian region: «On May 20, 2005, at approximately at 12:00 p.m., about 15 masked special police force officers rapidly entered the ward where Rizak was staying in the company of parliamentary deputies Volodymyr Voyush, Nestor Shufrich and Tamara Proshkuratova. Officers violently and cynically beat the Ukrainian parliamentary. Rizak was taken out of the ward, thrown into the back of an SUV and driven to unknown direction.»

Injured parliamentary deputy Volodymyr Voyush said:

«Tamara Proshkuratova handcuffed herself to Ivan Rizak and declared a hunger strike. Parliamentary deputy Nestor Shufrich was also in the ward. There were at least

15 police officers and they started beating us. They locked me to a bedside table in the corner, they banged Shifrich's head against the floor and he lost consciousness for some time. They pressed Proshkuratova to the bed and punched her in the nose, and then cut the handcuffs with a special device.

«They dragged Rizak out of the ward and police blocked deputies who tried to do anything. Then they took him away to the street and loaded him into police car through the rear door. They practically threw him into the trunk and he was then delivered to a temporary prison ward.

«Fifteen minutes after Rizak was delivered to the temporary prison ward, I arrived and tried to get in touch with police officers in order to pass him his drugs. In addition to hypertension, Rizak had aggravated diabetes. Nobody replied to me despite the fact that I introduced myself as a parliamentary deputy. Then I went to the regional state administration.

«I called the SBU* and police from the reception hall where I saw an operator on duty. I officially informed police lieutenant-colonel Yaremchuk (who had introduced himself as the duty officer in the Transcarpathian region) that I needed to pass medication to Rizak. He refused to do that and forwarded me to the investigator despite the fact that I told him it was 2:00 a.m. I passed all this information to the SBU officer on duty.»

Injured parliamentary deputy, Hero of Ukraine, Tamara Proshkuratova said:

«I mostly suffered morally rather than physically. However, I suffered physically as well. Ivan Rizak was hospitalized in a ward located on the 4th floor of the Uzhorod hospital. What struck me most of all was



Tamara Proshkuratova

the absolute lack of sanitary arrangements, and the dirty and torn sheets on his bed. I was also amazed by the quantity of security around him — a lot of guards — as if Ivan was a terrorist or a killer! There were so many police officers there both in the lobby and in the ward.

«Ivan sustained a heart attack in March. In addition he has diabetes and hypertension. And I was amazed that doctors who had previously treated him were categorically forbidden from treating him in this hospital.

«I had normal relations with guys from the police who guarded the entrance to the ward. They frankly told me: 'Tamara Sergeevna, you may do what you want, but when there is an order to send Rizak to jail, then he will be sent.' I asked one of them: «Son, please, bring me some handcuffs!

«I asked the chief physician and chief of police to the ward. Nobody came, even the chief physician.

«Then I handcuffed my right hand and closed the cuff to Ivan's left hand. I tried to save him, to do everything I can... Just think, Ivan is in a pre-coma state, he is white and soaked with sweat. The doctors say that they do not want to treat him in such

*State Security Service of Ukraine.

conditions, and let doctors from Kyiv do that. I also asked doctor if Rizak's blood pressure had risen and if it were possible to transport him? He said how could anyone possibly think so?

«Then wild shouts came from the lobby. Probably 15 or 20 masked men with machineguns rushed inside the room. Shufrich blocked their entrance. They kicked him down and two of them rushed me. They wrenched my left arm and a big guy pressed my legs. Nestor jumped to take him off me but they caught him and threw him against the floor. Shufrich fell and lost consciousness.

«One masked guy caught me — like that — taking me by the shoulder, and I told him: 'Son, I am a teacher, a Hero of Ukraine, and a parliamentary deputy. I am as old as your mom. So what will you do?' In reply he cursed right in my face and punched me.

«You know, nobody in my life had ever touched me. And now a punch to the head and then against the bed... I do not remember, maybe they banged me against the wall... Then he pressed a pillow over my face. There was not enough air and I probably lost consciousness for several seconds. When I regained consciousness the handcuffs were already off. People say that they cut the chain with wire cutters, but I did not see that.

«The last thing I remember is the moment when they dragged Ivan away. It is not true, let them not cheat by saying that they led him away. He did not go on his feet, he was dragged on the floor like a sack.

«Nestor was unconscious, and I was in shock. When he got up, I saw how bad he felt. He was vomiting and then we rushed to the doctor. I ran to her and asked why they had released an ill person. She said: 'No one asked me. No one even asked me about his medical history and medical summary.'

«Nestor and I were offered medical aid, but I said that I did not trust them anymore. I was afraid that they would inject something. We called 03 and an ambulance arrived. They delivered us to some hospital and on TV they said that nobody asked for medical assistance! I state that is an absolute lie! We not only asked, but we received copies of our examinations. For me they wrote injuries, bruises... As for Shufrich, I heard when they examined him one doctor said to the other: 'Do not write that he has brain concussion.' Moreover, the second doctor told me later: 'You should thank God that he is alive.' He said that about Nestor.

«All that happened three days ago, but I still feel nervous. Yesterday I went to bed and it seemed to me that masked people were rushing into the room. The nurse heard how I cried out. Doctors understand that these are the consequences of shock. But I do not now when they will pass.»

Injured parliamentary deputy Nestor Shufrich said:



«Friday evening at approximately 7:00 p.m. Ivan Rizak's blood sugar level drastically dropped. His condition rapidly worsened and doctors started using extraordinary measures. At that moment we parlia-

mentary deputies, Volodymyr Voyush, Tamar Proshkuratova and I were near his bed. Soon representatives of the Uzhorod police came in with the following statement — according to experts Ivan Michailovich was healthy enough to be escorted to a temporary prison ward. Naturally, we were outraged as we had heard nothing about any experts. Even Rizak's doctor was not allowed in and we saw his true state of health.

«Everyone became nervous, including Ivan Michailovich who, beside the blood sugar drop, started suffering from hypertension as his blood pressure rose to 180/90.

«Physicians concentrated their efforts on decreasing his blood pressure. Police officers saw that and retreated, but they did not leave the building, waiting for the verdict of the chief physician.

«Approximately at midnight eight masked thugs unexpectedly darted into the room. To tell the truth, their number became known later and I saw only four of them, because I was kicked down to the floor. Volodymyr Voyush was locked in the corner by the bedside table and two guys attacked Proshkuratova, who was handcuffed to Rizak. They started beating Tamar Sergeevna. I managed to wiggle free and literally covered her and Ivan Michailovich with my body. However, in a minute, after several strong blows I again was on the floor with my head turned to the opposite side. I managed to tear away one of attacker's masks and for that I was awarded with more blows to the head. Everything seemed to spin round. When I regained consciousness I saw that everything in the ward was turned upside down and there was nobody inside, only Tamar was sitting there, weeping. Hoping to catch up with those who had taken Ivan Michailovich, I went out to the lobby, but weakened, lost consciousness again.

«Later in a treatment room Ivan Michailovich's doctor revived me. I asked her

if somebody had given permission to transport the patient. In order to properly observe procedures, police officers should have had a written corresponding application and have received approval. They did not do that.»

Parliamentary deputy Michail Dobkin commented on the event:



«This is not political repression any longer. This is already a junta like Pinochet's. How else could it be called when an ill person in critical condition is taken away by force? Who gave these people orders to use force against a woman, a Hero of Ukraine or parliamentary deputies? The government has already stepped over a line which never should have been crossed.»

Parliamentary deputy Volodymyr Zaetz:



«This is lawlessness. First, this is lawlessness toward a person with health problems. As for beating deputies, the government stepped over the line and now it can only be called a government of bandits. We have already prepared an appeal to Ukrainian parliamentary speaker Volodymyr Lytvyn and to ombudsman Nina Karpachova. We demand a stop to political repression, and we demand immediate freedom for political prisoners Boris Kolesnikov* and Ivan Rizak.»

**SDPU (u) leader
Viktor Medvedchuk
says in a statement that**

the events in Uzhorod on May 20 could be characterized only as «cynical and overt mockery over the rights and dignity of a human being. It is not a secret to anyone that the persecution of Ivan Rizak is conducted under absolutely falsified pretexts. The government is taking revenge for his political position, employing purely repressive means while trying simultaneously to solve another problem by harassing the opposition, or to prevent the distribution of information on corruption among representatives of the new government. The government has overstepped the line that divides unpunished lawlessness and maltreatment of the laws and Constitution of Ukraine.»

Medvedchuk demanded that the government to put an end to the repressive campaign launched against Ivan Rizak and other representatives of the opposition. He demanded that those who beat Ukrainian parliamentary deputies be called to account. He warned Viktor Yushchenko that he is responsible now for life and health of Ivan Rizak.



Viktor Medvedchuk

**Ukrainian Parliament
Commissioner for Human Rights
Nina Karpachova**

described the events as features of a «police state» and sent her deputy to Uzhorod for a thorough investigation of the case. Karpachova stressed that she may confirm that law enforcement officers used force against parliamentary deputies in Rizak's ward. If so, the representatives of law enforcement agencies violated Article 802 of the Constitution of Ukraine which describes the principles of immunity for parliamentary deputies. Karpachova also noted that mass detentions and arrests continue in Ukraine and added that she receives a lot of letters and complaints on such matters from Ukrainian citizens.

**SDPU (u) faction member Shufrich
thinks**

that Rizak was arrested under absolutely imaginary pretexts. «The only evidence is the testimony of the editor-in-chief of a private newspaper which somehow managed (at Rizak's request) to publish some article about the university, and Slivka, allegedly upon reading this publication, committed suicide only on a tenth attempt

*Boris Kolesnikov — former governor of the Donetsk region, arrested in March 2005.

at stabbing himself with a knife in his heart. The paradox is that Rizak (a pupil of Slivka) helped him to prolong his contract in the rector's position.

Another accusation is bribery. The author of this accusation wrote his complaint right after spending 10 days in a temporary prison ward. Doesn't that seem strange?

A campaign against me has already started. Recently one TV channel broadcast a feature containing entirely absurd accusations. Now I have officially confirmed testimony from people who said they were forced to frame me from pressure by law enforcement agencies while a camera recorded their testimony. I am still laughing both about the feature and about attempts to fabricate criminal cases against me, but if they touch my allies, I will not keep silent!

Parliamentary deputy Hreghory Omelchenko recently said Yushchenko had personally given an order to Prosecutor General Sviatoslav Piskun — «destroy social-democrats and their businesses.» And Yuri Lutsenko, in turn, in a TV interviews, said the following: «We have clear orders from the president to demonstrate before September that the former government was used not as political system, but mainly as system to steal state resources.»

I am very grateful to our colleague-deputies who backed us in such a situation. We are not going to hide and retreat. We will protect and defend the rights of people despite authorities' attempts to harass us...

Former governor Ivan Rizak said earlier:

«Law enforcement agencies in our region as well as in Ukraine in general pay less and less attention now to executing their normal functions, focusing instead on populist statements. I consid-



Ivan Rizak

er this to be informational and psychological pressure. All of these attempts are followed by disinformation. For instance, when I was summoned for the first time to an interrogation associated with a criminal probe for supposedly inciting the rector of Uzhorod University to suicide, I was arrested in an hour. Mass media outlets said that I had received summons four times, and since I failed to come, there was a necessity to apply preventive measures. But in reality I received no summons.

My former deputy Viktor Zhidachenko was delivered to the prosecutor's office in Uzhorod under escort of Berkut forces (special police department) under the same pretext. He allegedly did not come upon being summoned, however he also received no summons.

They can not forgive me that the region, which is traditionally part of western Ukraine, showed election results that seriously differed from other western Ukrainian regions in favor of Yanukovich. When I was governor, leaders of 12 various parties occupied leading positions in the Transcarpathian region. In 2003, the Transcarpathian

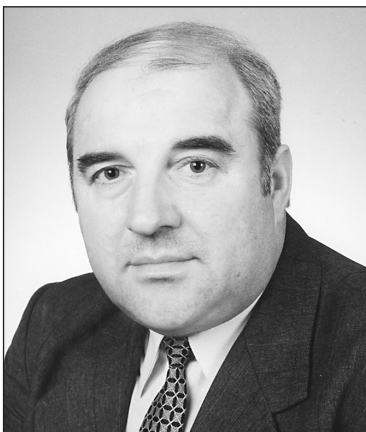
region took first place among national regions for rates of social and economic development. In 2004, the region occupied second place, giving up leadership only to Kyiv. The Transcarpathian region was the only region in Ukraine that managed to completely fulfill a presidential order to reduce the numbers of unprofitable enterprises. During my term they decreased from 44% to 4-5%.

I had meetings with leaders of CIS and OSCE groups. None of them had any comments on the election process in the Transcarpathian region. There were no comments during any round of the election. There are highly respected chairmen in some villages and they are members of our party. Yanukovich gained 60-70% of votes there — a result incredible for western Ukraine. That was done without any falsifications. So what do we see now? Criminal cases are initiated against those chairmen under the pretext of «abuse of government.»

Law enforcement agencies detained Viktor Dyadchenko, the former deputy chairman of the state regional administration of the Transcarpathian region, and after an interrogation conducted by investigators from the Prosecutor General's Office, told him that he was under arrest on charges of «Mukachevo election falsification.»

The legal nonsense surrounding Dyadchenko's arrest is that he was arrested due to the results of an election that was held legally. The ruling on Dyadchenko's arrest was made by the same court that had annulled the April election after «orange events.»

According to information provided by the newspaper Krugozor, Dyadchenko was arrested on the street in Uzhorod.



Viktor Dyadchenko

He was driving in a car with his grandson when a jeep cut him off. Masked men with machineguns ordered Dyadchenko to leave his car, and without any explanation escorted him to the prosecutor's office in Mukachevo.

The SDPU (u) press office released a statement which says that «this act become another link in the chain of a cynical, illegal and unbridled campaign of moral, psychological and physical terror, which is going on now in the region and the country toward all people who did not supported or do not support the new government. This is a logical continuation of the same bold and treacherous detainment of Ivan Rizak, secretary of the Transcarpathian regional council of the SDPU (u) on the basis of absurd accusations, as well as the arrest of the former chief of Mukachevo police, Colonel Valery Dernovoy. All of these acts prove that law and justice do not rule now in the Transcarpathian region, but «revolutionary considerations,» the absence of law, political repression (unknown even in Soviet times) and mass violations of basic rights and freedoms of citizens.

Dyadchenko's political opponents representing the present administration of the region set their minds on his moral elimination, public defamation and humiliation.

«Viktor Dyadchenko is in a Mukachevo temporary prison ward,» Krugozor says. «He is still in legal limbo. All attempts by his relatives to try to pass food and medications to him have failed. His relatives are not able to get the name of the investigator responsible for his case. They need this information to file a complaint. A search of Dyadchenko's house was also conducted illegally. Law enforcement officers broken down his door at 9:00 p.m. and turned everything upside down.»

Mykhaylo Dobkin, parliamentary deputy:

«Today a man is detained not because of a crime, but on the grounds of affiliation with a political force which is called the SDPU (u). As my parliamentarian practice demonstrates, dozens of requests about the illegal activities of certain persons are being left unanswered. But when somebody, like in 1937, pokes his finger at a person saying «he is an enemy of the nation,» and an enemy of the government, that person is immediately charged or jailed.»

Emil Landovsky, first mayor of Uzhorod:

«These events remind one of 1918-1920 when «red terror» gripped the country. Guilt was proved by «poison-pen letters,» while leather-clad «chekists» (agents of the security service) with Mausers searched for unreliable people. One can hardly believe that such actions really foster the realization of the intention to unify society declared by the president of Ukraine. Such a way of solving problems in no way corresponds to Euro-

pean norms. It looks more like an Asian way. We probably chose the wrong direction to Europe.»

Ihor Shurma, parliamentary deputy:



«Right after the public apologies by minister Lutsenko (to his credit), officers of the Transcarpathian UBOP (special police department) were given an order to find «accomplices» in Rizak's case in two days and arrest those who opposed or could create obstacles for investigating 'Rizak's case.' This confidential information was provided by UPOB officers voluntarily. Taking into account recent events, they realized that they had to obey the illegal orders of their bosses. Hundreds of people are on the lists. There is only one purpose — to harass people and get necessary testimony. In addition, we have information that events associated with the leader of the Transcarpathian SDPU (u) are not limited to a personal confrontation between the former and acting governors of the region. In reality, they are going to 'tear Rizak down' until he signs testimony against SDPU (u) leader Viktor Medvedchuk.»

Dmitry Yuriev, director of the Media Consulting and Modern Political Technology Center:

«During the pre-election campaign in Ukraine we heard various evaluations and forecasts referring to how the political situation may develop. Those who warned about the danger of highly dangerous developments after the opposition became the government were accused of harassment, black PR, and attempts to fuel social pressure. They were blamed for making a golliwog out of the opposition. It was said that their only goal was to frighten people in order to prevent democratic voting. Now, after 100 days of Yushchenko government, we (with certain bewilderment and perplexity) see that real developments highly outpace the darkest forecasts of experts and politicians who opposed Yushchenko in the Ukrainian election. It is becoming clear now that the huge destructive potential of Ukrainian «orangists» is being realized to the fullest extent. I think that when we warned the Ukrainian elite saying that repression would start when the opposition became the government, we probably thought that such repression would be of a milder or more hidden nature.

However, we see now versions of

Bishkek and Andizhan both in the political and economic spheres in Ukraine. The only difference is that this version was taken from the level of city squares to the level of authorities at law enforcement agencies. Yes, naturally, it is impossible to make a direct comparison between the aftermath of the orange revolution, the Bishkek massacre and the Adizhan slaughter, as these are different phenomena, simply because nobody spilt blood in Ukraine if we set aside the fact that several people committed suicide. However, methodologically and from the view of relations to social consent, all of these situations look very similar. In all three situations we may talk about the promiscuous attempts of a government takeover and the redistribution of power and property by revolutionary means to the benefit of new forces that were previously kept away from power and property. We are seeing absolutely unbridled and unrestricted administrative-economic revenge in Ukraine. I think that this is another confirmation of the fact that those forces, those groups, which have grasped government in Ukraine now, absolutely lack reason, do not control their own actions, and the aspect of their external image is a question they think of last, or not at all.

Tent camp in Uzhorod dispersed

■ June 16 was the first monthly anniversary of the organization of a tent camp in support of Ivan Rizak, the former Transcarpathian governor and secretary of the SDPU (u) regional council, SDPU (u) regional council member Viktor Dyadchenko, and to protest political repression. On June 20, the tent camp was dismantled by law enforcement officers.

According to information released by the SDPU (u) press office, on June 15 the chairman of the state regional administration celebrated his birthday. Local law enforcement officers were evidently eager to please their boss and to congratulate him with a city square cleared of social-democratic flags, tents and youngsters who for thirty days and nights stood for their position and for the opinion of thousands of local residents. Local police officers fulfilled a court order to dismantle the tent camp.

It is no use now talking about the impartiality and non-partisan attitude of courts — the verdict was made in violation of several legal provisions. Court hearings were held in the absence of defendants — representatives of the organizers, the Transcarpathian regional branch of Ukrainian Social-Democratic Youth. In addition, the court had no confirmation that the defendants were notified of the verdict. Participants simply faced the fact that the tent camp had to be dismantled.

«Attitudes toward the government change on a daily basis. At the same time attitudes toward protestors change in the same way,» said secretary of the Uzhorod SDPU (u) city council Serhiy Mashtalir. «Prosecutors contacted us expressing their support and said that now authorities and law enforcement agencies in the Transcarpathian region are engaged in purely political persecution, and not in their real work. It is evident now that targeted action against political opponents of the government is going on. The activities of prosecutors and police could be characterized very briefly — to destroy the SDPU (u) in the Transcarpathian region. All criminal cases initiated against well-know people in the region are pure falsifications.»

Tent camp dwellers did not resist the dismantling, however they warned bailiffs and police officers that the tents were the property of parliamentary deputies and that any action toward them was criminal. They could not be touched.

This strange confrontation lasted for three hours. Realizing the seriousness of the situation and the possibility of criminal responsibility, Uzhorod municipal workers categorically refused to collect the tents, but at 3:00 p.m. an anonymous man who did not introduce himself and who did not show any ID either to tent camp dwellers or to reporters, forced three Gypsies to collect the tents.

When tent camp dwellers asked police to intervene because some unknown people had stolen the property of parliamentary deputies, none of the almost 30 police officers present reacted.

**Nataliya Vitrenko,
Progressive
Socialist Party (PSPU*)
leader commented
on the dispersal
of protestors
in Sevastopol:**

■ **Nataliya Vitrenko made a statement saying that «regular Ukrainian army forces had beaten participants in a peaceful protest action» on Graftskaya Pristan in Sevastopol.**

Vitrenko said that on May 7 representatives of the PSPU protested at Nachimov Square and at the pier against the arrival of NATO vessels to celebrate Victory Day. The PSPU is certain that the arrival of the ships violated Article 39 of the Constitution of Ukraine, which states that the entrance of foreign navy ships into territorial waters is illegal without the permission of parliament.

When a German ship was already prepared for departure, soldiers in camouflage suddenly appeared on the pier. Officers gave soldiers order to disperse the protestors, and they kicked people... All of these events were videotaped.

Valery Ivanov, the secretary of the Crimean branch of the PSPU, asked soldiers to stop the beating, showed his deputy's ID, and asked police to protect protestors. However, neither police, nor SBU officers (who were also near the tents) reacted.



Nataliya Vitrenko

Valery Ivanov, the secretary of the Crimean branch of the PSPU, and deputy of the Simferopol city council:

«On May 7, an ambulance took me from the square where the violence had taken place to the city hospital. Doctors diagnosed soft tissue bruises on my head and injuries to my right shoulder. At least four other participants sustained injuries of varying severity. For instance, Vasily Boiko, commissar of the PSPU youth organization ('Young Guard'), probably has a broken rib.»

Lawyers persecuted

Andrei Fedur, the lawyer representing Boris Kolesnikov, the arrested former Donetsk governor, states that lawyers who protect Kolesnikov's interests are being persecuted by law enforcement agencies.

The lawyer who represents Kolesnikov is being persecuted by law enforcement

*Leftist party.

agencies. They almost put him on a wanted list. This lawyer has practiced for many years and law enforcement officers never had any questions about him until now. The man is searched, and his neighbors, relatives and friends are being interrogated.

All this was done to frighten lawyers defending Kolesnikov and force them to stop working for him. This was done by police governed by Mr. Lutsenko. Such actions may be classified as criminal, because in our country lawyers have certain rights.

The detainment of the chief accountant of the White Swan* trading center is a continuation of the same story. Authorities are looking for anything by any means. The woman was thrown in jail to make her more cooperative and to sign everything law enforcement agencies want.

Ministry of Internal Affairs tells people «to collect evidence of their innocence»

■ **The head of the Ministry of Internal Affairs press service was forced to apologize for his words used in an official statement addressed to SDPU (u) leader Viktor Medvedchuk, parliamentary deputy Hrehory Surkis, and his brother, FC Dynamo president Ihor Surkis.**

Konstantin Stogny said: «If law enforcement agencies have questions for any person, he or she may voluntarily collect evidence of innocence.»

Viktor Medvedchuk called this statement a «blatant violation of the Constitution», which forbids demanding justification from a person in reference to a crime that is not proved.

«The fact that employees of law enforcement agencies, from press secretaries to their bosses, turn out to be the main 'heroes' of news programs is a planned action targeted at brainwashing of Ukrainians. It is natural that representatives of political forces that had clearly stated their opposition to the government play role of 'anti-heroes.' The government evidently is pursuing two goals — the neutralization of existing political opposition which gains force daily, and the distraction of social attention from real problems including the government's structure, its HR policy, economy and other spheres. The government, which already officially neglects the principle of the presumption of innocence, is itself beyond the law. The next step is dictatorship. When the Ministry of Internal Affairs press secretary (a police colonel) says that somebody has to come to the ministry and 'provide evidence of their own innocence,' then this is not just some statement, but a blatant violation of Article 62 of the Constitution of Ukraine».

«In order to avoid any further insinuations, please accept my apology for my words which could be interpreted two ways,» the secretary said in reply.

*Boris Kolesnikov is a subject in a criminal case of extortion associated with the White Swan trading center.

The SPU* representative declared that the new government pursues a policy toward businessmen of «taking away everything they have.»

Mykola Melnik, parliamentary deputy and member of the Socialist Party of Ukraine delivered a speech in parliament:

«It is hard to work when you are surrounded by corrupt and amoral officials that were appointed not with the purpose of improving the economic might of the state, but for their mercantile purposes. I am talking about the SNBO secretary, who has gathered all state HR authority in his hands. He is not an honest politician, he is businessman and millionaire.

Poroshenko's family** is engaged in blackmail, bribery, and the forceful and amoral pressing on citizens of the state in subordinated territories.»

Melnik described how one of Ukrainian businessmen, «a victim of lawlessness organized by Poroshenko,» decided to appeal to his father, Alexey Ivanovich, hoping for compassion.

«Alexey Ivanovich, it's no good using force. This not only anti-democratic, this is inhuman as well. I have sustained big losses, you are making a beggar out of me». As the deputy said, Poroshenko's father replied: «Hey, boy, we had come into

government not to play with you, but to take away everything you have.»

I could give hundreds of such examples. I am not even talking about the shadow economy that the Poroshenko family has created.

Melnik asked the president: «Please tell me, Viktor Andreevich, where we should look for protection from the racket organized by the Poroshenko family? Is it true that times have returned in which one has to enlist recruits to his serfdom? Viktor Andreevich, it's time for you fulfill what you have promised — to separate business from government. People are waiting. Let businessmen be engaged in business and let politicians be engaged in politics. Business and politics represent the critical mass in government, which may explode in new orange revolution.»

Criminal case against official has signs of political interference

At the end of May, Viktor Lysak, chief of the health department of the Poltava regional state administration, was arrested.

Reporter Volodymyr Slep'tsov wrote in 2000 Weekly:

«The official version of V. Lysak's arrest consists of strained accusations that the regional health department purchased allegedly faulty X-ray equipment for regional hospitals and TB clinics. It was said that the diagnostic equipment produced by the Japanese company Shimadzu Corp. were allegedly of worse quality than those offered by a Ukrainian producer — OOO VP Kvant.

«Yet physicians say that Japanese equip-

*Socialist Party of Ukraine — a leftist party.

**Family — «circle of loyal people». SNBO — Council for National Security and Defense of Ukraine — a coordination agency for matters of national security and defense, subordinated to the president of Ukraine. This agency coordinates and controls the operation of executive government agencies in the sphere of national security and defense.



Volodymyr Sleptzov

ment is more modern, functions more reliably and has higher quality. They say that its radiation levels do not exceed allowable limits. Moreover, they have documented confirmation.

«The decision to purchase the equipment was made in a collegial manner through a regional tender committee, which paid attention to the fact that the Shimadzu equipment cost 50,000 less than Kvant units, and to the fact that the First Poltava City Hospital has not been able to get Kvant equipment to work for three years!

«The fact, that Lysak's «case» is political is of no doubt. The fact is that the government set a goal of initiating two to three criminal cases against representatives of the former government in each region. And it is not by accident that the chief of the regional health department in the Polta-

va regional state administration was arrested soon after a presidential visit to Poltava. It is known that chiefs of police and prosecutors were seriously criticized for the absence of high-profile criminal cases. That is why the machine of repression started working.

«The majority of mass media outlets loyal to the new government said that Lysak is under arrest. Who passed this information to the media? Or maybe the press office of the local department of the ministry of internal affairs sees no difference between the chief of the health department and the deputy chairman of the state regional administration? Or maybe the name of the position sounds more intriguing?

«After the disgraced physician spent more than three weeks under arrest, he was finally released. He was hospitalized with a diagnosis of a potential heart attack and his vision had worsened dramatically. At the same time Viktor Inozemtsev, the first deputy chairman of the state regional administration, drew a horrible picture showing how dozens of people received excessive doses of radiation from a Shimadzu X-ray device.

«But did this equipment enter Ukraine illegally, or it was not checked? Not at all. The committee for matters of technical regulation and consumer policy approved its use and it was registered in the state service for drugs, medications and medical goods. It was also approved by the Ukrainian Institute for Electric Equipment Testing and Certification.»

FREEDOM OF SPEECH

Government interferes with mass media outlets' editorial policies

■ The Internet newspaper *Telekritika* published a document which proves that the new government dictates to mass media outlets how they should cover events. Attempts to dictate the editorial policies of mass media outlets are well hidden and they are forwarded not to the outlets themselves, but to regional committees of the NSNU — the party of the government.

These essays are compiled by the NSNU information and analytical service. On the one hand, says *Telekritika*, it is hard to say that party has no right to form viewpoints for its members. But one should remember that at least 10 governors and many minor officials are chairmen of regional branches of the NSNU. In this case such instructions look like an order for action, because «party ticket holders» control local mass media outlets and administrative resources. It is possible that they will summon managers of regional TV companies to give them instructions, and general party strategy will rule the entire state.

We would like to publish several excerpts from this document which contains information about certain events first, followed by recommendations.

«... The Labor Party and the Ukrainian Party of Employees had set up an inter-

party coalition called the Labor Union to participate in the 2006 parliamentary and administrative elections...»

«It is recommended to avoid comments. Regional party structures should pay attention to the possibility of having local trade unions enter this coalition.»

«Speaking about his further political prospects, Vice Prime Minister Mykola Tomenko noted that he would like to see himself in a united list of parties People's Union Our Ukraine (NSNU) and Block Yulia Tymoshenko (BYT) as candidate in the forthcoming parliamentary elections...»

It is recommended that additional attention should be paid to the fact that the position of Tomenko on the presence of the president in the election list is exclusively a personal point of view and perhaps a public relations PR provocation.»

«Ukrainian Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko paid attention to members of the Cabinet of Ministers in relation to implementation of presidential orders.»

It is recommended to distribute information emphasizing the fact that the government was formed by V. Yushchenko and that the government is responsible first to the president. It is advised in the future to avoid the phrase «Tymoshenko government,» using instead the phrase «Yushchenko government.»

«The leadership of People's Union Our Ukraine (NSNU) solicits UNP representatives to join the NSNU. This information was released by UNP leader Yuri Kostenko...»

«It is recommended to distribute comments by P. Olynyk who said that «it is not correct to blame our own partners for pressure which may not exist at all.»

«Echanurov's statement on the opposition.»

It is recommended to distribute Echanurov's comment widely, highlighting the weakness of the opposition and its lack of structure.»

«Communist Party of Ukraine leader Petro Symonenko considers that proposed administrative-territorial reform will not make the government closer to people and will not increase the power or the governments of territorial communities. He thinks that the government does not have accurate forecasts and analysis of possible economic and social outcomes which could take place due to the implementation of administrative-territorial reform...»

«It is recommended to highlight the following — Symonenko's statement contains no conceptual provisions and positive criticism, and it shows the CPU's own lack vision for ways to solve this problem. In contrast to the CPU's populism, Yushchenko's NSNU party has clearly drawn a position on this aspect.»

«Viktor Yanukovych thinks that society has a right to know whose money financed the orange revolution...»

«It is recommended to pay attention to the following. Such populist statements by Yanukovych are abusing millions of Ukrainian citizens who made their conscientious choice in favor of President Viktor Yushchenko. It is necessary to frequently mention the criminal cases initiated by the Prosecutor General in reference to facts of illegal transfer of funds by the Ministry of Transportation for Yanukovych's election campaign.»

Information and analytical provision service.

Government shuts down unwanted TV channels and persecutes editors

■ **At the end of May, Luhansk TV Company ZAO LOT was switched off and could not broadcast. Company employees distributed a statement to mass media outlets:**

«According to agreements ZAO LOT programs were broadcast for the last year. We insist that the cancellation of contracts and taking our programs off the air are linked exclusively with politics and, to be more precise, with the desire of the new regional government to insulate itself from the presence of independent reporters' points of view on the air. These points of view irritate the regional government team. Recent actions and statements made by heads of the regional administration and by Governor Alexey Danilov confirm that everything was done to prevent ZAO LOT from access to broadcasting.

«That means that our forced withdrawal is nothing more than an attempt by the government to squeeze other points of views, to shuffle the blame for Yushchenko's election loss in Luhansk (whose headquarters was headed by Danilov) to mass media outlets and our company, in particular. We consider that such steps and measures undertaken by the regional government are targeted at creating a non-competitive media field in the region as the first step on the way to a totalitarian system.

«We consider the recent events around our TV and radio company as the intentional creation of obstacles to the execution of reporters' professional duties. This

is pressure on mass media and nothing more.

«We consider that the practice of separating mass media outlets into two camps — white-blue and orange** — is inadmissible**.

«We appeal to our colleague-reporters to help us protect our rights and the rights of all of our compatriots to freedom of speech. We appeal to all citizens of Ukraine, to all political parties and social institutions in order to discuss the revenge taken by regional authorities on independent mass media outlets.»

According to information released by the newspaper 2000, the collection of signatures in support of ZAO LOT was launched in Luhansk and in other regions of Ukraine. The unwanted TV company ranks third in regional ratings. Unfortunately, such illegal actions are becoming more frequent in Ukraine. Recently TV and radio company Unikon (Makeevka) announced that the channel will be shut down due to interference in its operations. This TV company broadcast its programs in several cities in the Donetsk region, including the city of Donetsk.

■ The National Council for TV and Radio Broadcasting examined an inspection report of how TET TV Company observes the laws of Ukraine and its license conditions. The council passed a resolution on applying warning sanctions to TET and it is now the first and only central TV channel to receive such punishment.

Hrehoriy Tychyna, the chairman of the board of directors of ZAO TET TV Company, considers that the council is politi-

cally motivated. «The council has such methods of influence — if a company breaks the law, it first receives a warning. We were accused of two violations — broadcasting programs in Russian and exceeding the allowed percentage of airtime for advertising. I think that the protocol which was used as the basis for the council resolution does not correspond to reality, and is just a manipulation of the results of a TET inspection. There was no excessive advertising registered at any hour. I completely disagree with the opinion that we allegedly exceeded the limit of 20% of airtime which can legally be used for advertising each hour.

«In addition, we consider the application of a provision of the law on TV and radio broadcasting referring to language as absolutely incorrect. I would like to point out that the law contains a provision stating that 'TV and radio companies shall conduct broadcasts in the state language.' However, the next phrase of the same law says: 'Broadcasts in certain regions may be conducted using languages of national minorities which reside in numbers in the mentioned territories.' And as practically all regions where TET broadcasts (in Kyiv, Crimea, in eastern Ukraine and even in western regions) Russian-speaking Ukrainian citizens live in significant percentages, then such a cultural service in that language sphere should be considered justified. Use of the languages of national minorities is guaranteed by the Constitution. So the language policy pursued by the company completely complies with current laws and license provisions. Thus the company's language policy completely complies with current laws and license conditions.

«That is why, as a chairman of the board of directors, I am frustrated by the attempt by the council to demand more than the

law stipulates. At the session they clearly told me that broadcasting shall be done only in the state language. I consider this as a sign of pressure.

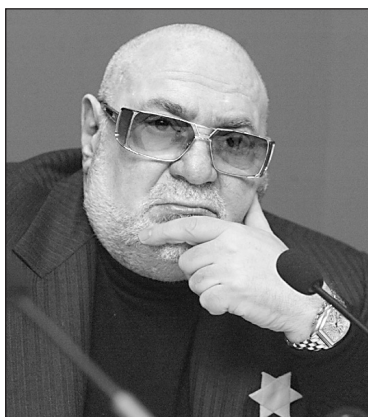
«The resolution adopted by this agency is amazing from another point of view — practically any television company could be brought to task for such supposed violations. There is no major television channel in Ukraine whose broadcasting schedule has no programs in Russian. However, such sanctions were selectively applied only to TET. Such a situation makes you wonder what influenced the council's actions. We see that current members of this agency are turning it into a tool of repression. At the same time, I would like to stress that TET is entirely an entertainment station. Its programs do not contain any political news releases. This is a non-political channel for housewives.

«The former council, despite the criticism that it received, never issued such warnings to any major TV company. And now we may expect sanctions for any violation. Moreover, the law does not stipulate that such sanctions should be used for the language of broadcasting, for tax revenue mistakes or for violations of fire safety rules.

«It seems that we now have a problem of a shortage of frequencies for TV channels. New elections are looming and we are experiencing a shortage of airtime. In such a situation one should try and take frequencies from some and pass them on to others. But why should this be done to a company which has worked successfully for a long time?»

Jan Tabachnik, popular Ukrainian composer:

«Revenge against TV channels, theaters and dissidents is inadmissible. I think they should force us to march in line and tell us what flags we should carry. I guess that



now we have to privatize part of Siberia in order to find a place to exile unwanted people. I think that we are reaching this point rapidly. There is a tendency that can be observed when the government wants to leave only one TV channel for everyone to watch.»

■ **Pressure on Zinoviy Shturnak, editor-in-chief of the Zlagoda editorial-publishing complex and the newspaper with the same name (Tlumach, Ivano-Frankivsk region), who headed Yanukovych's election headquarters, still continues.**

Even in November, right after the second round of the presidential election, local leaders of political parties that supported Viktor Yushchenko tried to dismiss Shturnak. His colleagues supported him.

According to information released by the newspaper 2000, the next series in the drama dubbed «Dismiss Unwanted Editor-in-Chief» was demonstrated at a session of the district council that of Zlagoda personnel characterized in the following way: «Several hours' torture of Editor-in-Chief

Zinoviy Shturnak, which continued for several hours. The purpose was to drive him either to a heart attack or pressure him with various forms of blackmail to write his resignation 'of own accord.' And that's what happened as a result.

Ihor Lubchenko, chairman of the National Union of Journalists of Ukraine, called Zinoviy Shturnak a «wonderful reporter and organizer.» Taking into consideration the opinions of his subordinates and the leader of the National Union of

Journalists of Ukraine, Shturnak repudiated his resignation. By doing so he forced local deputies to gather again on May 6 to discuss the «personal case» of the headstrong man. Angry people's deputies made many threats: «Shturnak is a good owner and manager, but he should be dismissed for his morals because he backed the old government.» «If personnel support Shturnak, we will take the offices and equipment and let them go with him.»

XENOPHOBIA AND INFRINGEMENT OF FREEDOM OF CONSCIENCE

Anti-Semitic mood is heats up in Ukraine

■ The international conference **Dialogue of Civilizations — Zionism — The Greatest Threat to Modern Civilization** was held in Kyiv in the MAUP (International Academy of Personnel Management) building. David Duke, leader of the Ku-Klux-Klan, convicted in the U.S. for racism, was the honorary guest. Appeals for deporting Jews from Ukraine resounded at the conference.

The newspaper 2000 says that such an unbelievable event transpired mainly due to the fact that a recent notorious open letter, whose anti-Semitic nature was acknowledged even by Secretary of State Alexander Zinchenko (the letter was signed by 100 people and among them were politicians, deputies and public figures) had not received a proper reaction from the Ukrainian government.

This happened despite the fact that it was personally addressed to President Yushchenko, parliamentary speaker Lytvyn and Supreme Court Chairman Vasily Mal-yarenko. Other agencies which should have reacted according to the law, did not, including the Prosecutor General's Office and the Ministry of Internal Affairs.

Such a position by authorities could hardly be explained by anything else than a lack of desire to quarrel with their own allies. It is not a secret that the signatories of the letter backed Yushchenko during the election. The first bass-relief in Ukraine in Yushchenko's honor recently appeared in the MAUP building.

The government adores any occasion (or even without any occasion) at which it can declare its «European style,» its commitment to principles and norms of the civilized world, and its readiness to guarantee and protect inter-racial peace and the rights of any citizen irrespective of his or her ethnicity. But in reality it has demonstrated the opposite, and xenophobic actions were left unpunished.

As should be expected, certain circles perceived the lack of official reaction to these xenophobic manifestations if not as a sign of approval, at least as a sign that they were free to carry out further actions in Ukraine.

According to information provided by the Internet newspaper MIGnews.com.ua, Mr. Shekin, the rector of MAUP, decided to conduct an inspection of regional branches of the academy. For the first time in the history of independent Ukraine this inspection was targeted at checking the ethnicity of lecturers. Shekin was rebuffed by students and lecturers at the Kharkiv branch of MAUP. They picketed the academy and regional state administration, and appealed to Prosecutor General Svyatoslav Piskun with a letter:

«Employees, professors, lecturers and students at the Kharkiv Institute of MAUP appeal to you. We are disturbed with the fact that the Kyiv administration of MAUP in recent years has been conducting ideological activities aimed at kindling national hatred... We consider that the recent replacement of several directors at MAUP

regional institutes is directly associated with their ethnicity.»

The letter notes that Shekin tried to attract students and lecturers to the process of creating his party. At the same time, «the main ideology of the party is zealous nationalism which frequently turns into racism. It was proclaimed that all leading positions in the state should be occupied by representatives of the main (Ukrainian) nation.»

2000 says it seems that Shekin perceived the victory of the «orange revolution» as a new possibility not only to propagandize his dubious ideas, but also as a chance to root them at a higher level, in particular by means of entering the political arena. Unfortunately, Shekin has grounds for such confidence. And why not, taking into account that Ministry of Justice registered a party whose program contains the following phrases: «The party stands for the priority of Ukrainian ethnic representation in each government agency.» «We are for the restoration of national identity indication in passports of Ukrainian citizens.»

But Shekin and company decided to advertise themselves on the international level. The connivance of authorities resulted in the possibility that Kyiv is at risk of being known as a world center of racism. On June 3, in the capital of Ukraine (for the first time in its history), with the silent approval of authorities (and even under police protection), we witnessed an event which could only be called as a «xenophobic-racist Sabbath.» MAUP organized a conference where one could hear appeals to deport Jews from Ukraine! And this was all going on in the presence of parliamentary deputy and BYT member Levko Lukyanenko, high-ranking representatives of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, well-known Ukrainian movie director Yuri Ilienکو, head of

the Chamber of Books of Ukraine Mykola Senchenko and others.

An SDPU (u) appeal to an OSCE conference on anti-Semitism and other forms of intolerance says: «Undisputed achievements of independent Ukraine include inter-racial peace, a low level of xenophobia and anti-Semitism. But unfortunately, quite alarming tendencies can be traced recently in the delicate and sensitive sphere of inter-racial relations. In particular, this directly refers to such disgusting manifestations of xenophobia as anti-Semitism.»

No matter how amazing it may seem, especially from the viewpoint of a Western observer who perceived the «orange revolution» as an act of democracy and freedom, the arrival of the new government revived anti-Semitism.

The first rank of anti-Semitic ideas consists of forces, politicians and public figures who belong to the winning «orange» camp. The government, despite its duty to protect the Constitutional and norms of law, occupied the position of an unbiased observer, and in a number of cases practically played a role as champion and assistant to forces which ignite an anti-Semitic mood in Ukrainian society.

In the middle of April, Personal Plus published by the International Academy of Personnel Management, distributed an open letter signed by group of parliamentary deputies belonging to pro-government factions, several members of the National Union of Writers of Ukraine, five editors-in-chief of newspapers, five editors-in-chief of magazines and many other public figures, well known in social and political circles in Ukraine.

In this letter the authors not only abused Jewish people, but they undertook an attempt to directly set off two nations — Jewish and Ukrainian — as enemies. Passages from this letter could be cited as

appeals for ethnic purges and massacres.

The signatories, who are people who enjoy high status in political, social, scientific and education circles in Ukraine, practically demanded that a «fight with Jewry» be set at the state level, to approve it almost as a state policy.

Such manifestations of overt anti-Semitism resulted in a storm of indignation in social-political circles of Ukraine to which ideals of freedom and humanism as well as respect of human rights are not just hollow words. Public statements condemning the letter and the positions drawn up in it, were made by several parties and movements, including the SDPU (u).

We expected an immediate and public reaction, and real action in compliance with duties stipulated by the Constitution and laws of Ukraine, from Ukrainian authorities. Moreover, as was said above, the anti-Semitic open letter was addressed directly to the highest officials of the country. It was signed by number of political allies of Viktor Yushchenko and that fact placed greater responsibility on the president, including obligations of a moral nature.

However, there was no reaction — no statements or actions to prevent anti-Semitism as stipulated by law.

The first name is Shekin — the MAUP rector. MAUP is well-known in Ukraine as a structure which publicly promotes anti-Semitism and racism in its publications. Shekin is a founder of the Ukrainian Conservative Party which was recently registered by the Ministry of Justice.

Overlooking the evident non-compliance with provisions of the Constitution that guarantee equal rights to all citizens regardless of ethnicity the Ministry of Justice registered this party and in practicality legalized radical nationalism and xeno-

phobia, opening the road to individuals who promote such misanthropic ideas. So the Ukrainian Conservative Party will be able to bring its dubious ideas to the public in the 2006 parliamentary elections. And that fact, in turn, will foster additional incitement of interracial hatred in Ukraine, as well as the growth of xenophobia and anti-Semitism.

The most alarming thing is that propaganda promoting xenophobia and misanthropy in Ukraine recently acquired a qualitatively new level, moving from the home to the political arena, and anti-Semites have new footholds to promote their ideas.

We hope such a highly authoritative and respected organization as the OSCE will look at the evident problem of anti-Semitism in Ukraine. We hope for your help, and hope that you will not be indifferent.

It is inadmissible for bold anti-Semitism and fascism to appear in any manifestation in a European country in the 21st century. It is inadmissible for xenophobes and racists have a chance to promote their ideas without punishment, openly demanding ethnic purges, says a SDPU (u) statement.

Desecrated Church in Lviv

Unknown people painted the walls of an Armenian church in the center of Lviv with abusive inscriptions. On the wall in the churchyard was slogan «Armenians are second Jews — get out of Lviv» and a swastika. Church representatives complained to the police. A clergyman said that the graffiti was found just before April 24 — the 90th anniversary of genocide against Armenians. The Armenian church is an architectural monument built in the 14th century.

Orthodox organizations informed about persecution of authorities

■ More than 10 Ukrainian Orthodox social organizations have appealed to Moscow and Russian Patriarch Alexy II with an open letter complaining about persecution of canonic Orthodoxy in Ukraine.

The reason for the complaint, as the authors of the letter said, was the infringement of the rights of congregation by Ukrainian Orthodox Church by represen-

tatives of authorities and supporters of the unrecognized Kyiv Patriarchate headed by Filaret Denisenko, who was excommunicated. The most recent incident is the takeover of Voskresensk Church in Tarasha in the Bila Tserkva parish by supporters of Filaret. The authors of the letter said that the takeover was conducted with the help of local police.

«We are talking about an incident which had took place on the evening of April 24 when Father George (Chernyakinsky), in presence of law enforcement officers, was subjected to violence from unknown civilians. They wrenched his arms and threw him out of the church. The church door was sealed and guarded by police,» the statement says.

Бюллетень Социал-демократической
партии Украины (Объединенной)

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и политические репрессии в Украине**

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