

**Appeal to international organizations
and journalistic community
from the online newspaper Strana.ua**

Dear Colleagues!

«Strana.ua» is an Ukrainian mass media, which is working on sharing the truthful information to the world since 2016. We are considered to be at top three of the most influential websites in Ukraine. The program of SimilarWeb counted that the amount of visitors on the website of «Strana.ua» is being more than twenty four millions visitors per month.

Subsequently speaking, for more than five years as a crew members of the «Strana.ua» we have been fighting for our rights as mass media, to have the opportunity of the freedom of speech. The key points were creating content on a daily basis, such as interviews, reports, investigations. However, the Ukrainian government did not found it appealing to the current justice system.

The first case of acts of trying to ban the «Strana.ua» mass media was when the fifth president of Ukraine, Petro Poroshenko publicly expressed his dissatisfaction with our work.

The dissatisfaction attitude has been passed on the current sixth president , Volodymyr Zelensky.

Consequently speaking, in both cases, the new government has the same patterns as the previous one. The Ukrainian Justice system feels threatened due to «Strana.ua» acts of spreading the light on the corruption in the government.

Petro Poroshenko, while he has been a president, used to create fake obligations towards our mass media. The result of his actions is that the chief editor of «Strana.ua» ,Ihor Guzhva had been imprisoned for several time. Which is a violation of human rights.

After Ihor Guzhva has been released from prison he had to ask for shelter in Austria. In 2018 Austria has been given him a place to stay in. Which means that the European country officially admitted that the chief editor of «Strana.ua» is being politically stalked by the Ukrainian government.

The current governmental structures is going for the mostly the same tactics. Besides that Volodymyr Zelensky taking more of an easier way to manipulate.

On August 20, 2021 National Security and Defense Council of Ukraine or NSDC had putted on the sanctions list Ihor Guzhva and the «Strana.ua» mass media .

These actions are the direct example of the violation of constitution. The Ukrainian law has a fundamental rule, which means that the sanctions must not be putted on the citizens without the decision of the Ukrainian court.

Nevertheless, the mass media can't be influenced by the law of sanctions.

Those actions of the The National Security and Defense Council of Ukraine must be considered as an illegal act of demolishing «Strana.ua», one of the biggest mass medias in Ukraine. Even when the official decision stated from the governmental office have not been published yet. By the order of Volodymyr Zelensky, the internet and television sources had already blocked access the site of <http://strana.ua>.

Those actions of the government does not have any justification by law. No types of testimony has not been given to the «Strana.ua».

We hope that the international journalists all over the world could make an impact on the Ukrainian government, by rising the topic of censorship of the «Strana.ua» mass media.

In those circumstances we are deeply looking forward to getting the feedback and support of the independent journalism community.

Editorial team "Strana.ua"