



THE SITUATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS AND CIVIC ACTIVISTS IN UKRAINE IN 2019

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



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Photos Mykola Mirniy / ZMINA, illustrations provided by activists described in the report.

Cover photo: Burning car of Alena Parfyonova, Co-Chair of Parents SOS Civic Association

WARNING: This publication contains real images of victims of violence that may shock or upset some readers.



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PERSECUTION, REFORM, AND SOLUTIONS

the authors of this report. This ongoing persecution is especially concerning given the important role human rights defenders and civic activists play in democratic societies; contributing to improvements in respect for human rights, oversight of state bodies and local authorities, and effective campaigns against corruption, among other things. That being said, human rights defenders and civic activists have continuously been targeted with violence and other types of persecution because they challenge the interests of powerful people in the government and business community. And with a total 83 documented incidents, 2019 was no exception. What's more, in the vast majority of cases perpetrators were not held accountable under the applicable criminal and administrative offenses, just like in previous years.

The persecution of human rights defenders and civic activists, especially through violence and threats, continued to be a serious problem in 2019, according to monitoring and documentation conducted by – Ukrainian Helsinki Human Rights Union (UHHRU), ZMINA Human Rights Center, Truth Hounds, and Freedom House –



RESULTS OF MONITORING AND DOCUMENTATION

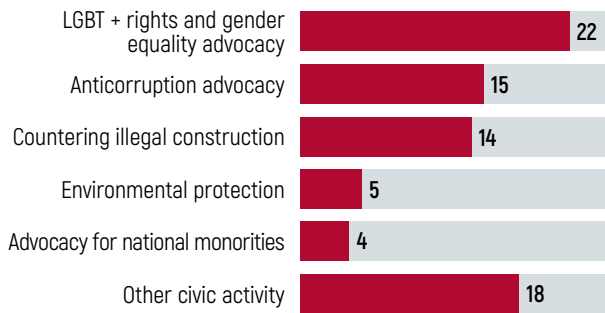
Throughout 2019, the report's authors extensively monitored and documented the persecution of human rights defenders and civic activists in Ukraine, using a methodology that draws upon standards established by the UN, the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), and the Council of Europe.¹

The 83 documented incidents included 37 violent attacks on people and property, 20 threats, and 11 assaults on participants in peaceful assemblies. In all of the documented cases involving the persecution of human rights defenders,² there was significant evidence that the perpetrator's motives were related to an individual's or group's human rights work. However, when compared to the 66 violent attacks or threats and 20 assaults on participants in peaceful assemblies in 2018, last year can be seen as a slight improvement.

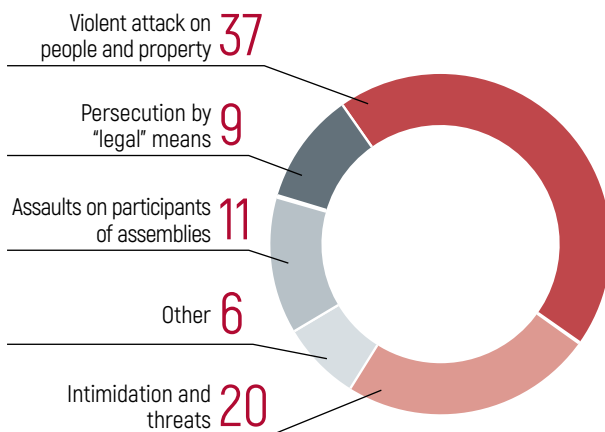
¹ Truth Hounds and ZMINA Human Rights Center conducted monitoring and documentation of incidents, receiving information from victims, media reports, and other documents to determine who was responsible for the incident, what, where, and when it happened, and why the persecution occurred. Truth Hounds worked with 10 trained regional monitors to monitor, document, and verify incidents via interviews and document collection. ZMINA Human Rights Center conducted media monitoring, as well as interviews with victims and others who had information on the incident in question. The authors also included several incidents that UMDPL (the Association of Ukrainian Human Rights Monitors on Law Enforcement) had documented, in accordance with the aforementioned monitoring and documentation methodology.

² The authors define human rights defender in accordance with the UN's Declaration on Human Rights Defenders and the OSCE Guidelines on the Protection of Human Rights Defenders. According to these standards, a human rights defender is someone who works alone or with others to advance or protect human rights through peaceful means and without discrimination. While many civic activists are also human rights defenders, many are not, due in part to their use of non-peaceful means to achieve their goals or the rejection of the principle of non-discrimination.

INCIDENTS BY TYPE OF CIVIC ACTIVITY



INCIDENTS BY TYPE OF PERSECUTION



The types of incidents and human rights defenders targeted varied in 2019, although monitoring revealed several themes. For example, almost one third of documented incidents involved those advocating for the human rights of LGBT+ people or for gender equality. Other incidents commonly involved those protesting illegal construction (17 percent) and corruption (18 percent). Radical right-wing actors committed nearly a quarter of all incidents documented.

Violence was the most common form of persecution, occurring in 44 percent of incidents recorded, while threats were also common, occurring in 24 percent. In Kyiv, where more than 39 percent of the documented incidents occurred, nearly half of them (47 percent) were violent. The Odesa and Kharkiv Regions were the runners up in terms of the number of documented incidents, with approximately 18 percent and 11 percent, respectively. In both regions violence was the most common form of persecution, totaling approximately 50 percent of incidents recorded in each region.

POLITICAL AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENTS IN 2019

The public's awareness of the danger of civic activism in Ukraine significantly increased in 2019, after the death of human rights defender Kateryna Handziuk. She was attacked with acid in 2018 and died from her injuries in November of that year. Following Handziuk's tragic death, campaigners seeking accountability for the attack

organized protests and events across the country, pushing for the prosecution of those responsible for carrying out and ordering the attack. In turn, the campaign contributed to social and political pressure for action and reform. A November 2019 poll revealed that 84 percent of Ukrainians view attacks on civic activists as a serious problem, while 77 percent considered civic activism to be a dangerous activity.³

In November 2018, the Ukrainian Parliament (the Verkhovna Rada) created a Temporary Investigative Commission (TIC) to scrutinize the work of law enforcement investigators and prosecutors looking into attacks on Handziuk and many other human rights defenders and civic activists. Despite the pressure from the public and the Verkhovna Rada, the investigation into Handziuk's murder and the other attacks resulted in few



³ According to a poll conducted jointly by the Ilko Kucheriv Democratic Initiatives Foundation and the Kyiv International Institute of Sociology, November 4-19, 2019. See <https://dif.org.ua/article/gromadska-dumka-listopad-2019>.

effective investigations and prosecutions, and little accountability. In December 2019, the new convocation of the Verkhovna Rada extended the TIC's mandate until December 2020.

The Ukrainian authorities have a responsibility to protect human rights defenders. According to UN, Council of Europe, and OSCE guidelines,⁴ in addition to refraining from actions that violate the rights of human rights defenders, the authorities should establish safe and favorable conditions so that human rights defenders can act without impediments or threats to their security. These "safe and favorable conditions" include access to justice and accountability for violations against human rights defenders, such as assaults and threats. The authorities must also protect human rights defenders from abuses from third parties. This includes implementing effective policies to prevent and investigate abuses, and penalize those responsible.

Unfortunately, the Ukrainian authorities have implemented few policies in response to the ongoing threats to human rights defenders. There are no targeted efforts to prevent and respond to attacks at the local or national levels. Meanwhile, both the National Human Rights Strategy and Action Plan⁵ commit Ukraine to implementing a wide range of targeted policy reforms in the area of human rights, and provide for some reforms that would, if implemented, contribute to protecting human rights defenders. However, neither document addresses the problem of impunity for the persecution of human rights defenders, a major factor contributing to their insecurity in Ukraine. Furthermore, the Action Plan is set to expire in 2020 and remains largely unrealized.

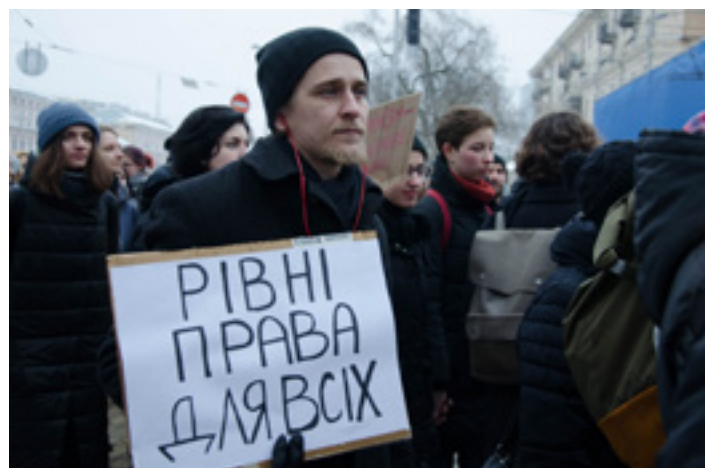
THE ENJOYMENT OF HUMAN RIGHTS BY HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS

Protecting human rights requires the realization of a variety of rights, including the right to the freedoms of expression, peaceful assembly, and association. In Ukraine, developments in these areas were mixed in 2019. The Constitutional Court striking down the e-declarations requirement for anticorruption activists in June was perhaps the most significant development in terms of freedom of association last year. The decision means that anticorruption activists are no longer

required to submit public income and asset declarations in order to avoid risking serious financial and legal consequences.

Peaceful assembly and protest, which are among Ukrainians' most cherished rights, are common and barely regulated, in accordance with international standards.

When it comes to the freedom of expression, policies and laws that penalize the peaceful expression of unpopular ideas, especially those relating to the conflict with Russia, continue to affect Ukrainians. The media NGO, the Institute of Mass Information, for the period January – September 2019, recorded 191 violations of the freedom of expression.⁶



⁴ Relevant guidelines include the UN Declaration on Human Rights Defenders (<https://www.ohchr.org/en/issues/srhrdefenders/pages/declaration.aspx>), OSCE Guidelines on the Protection of Human Rights Defenders (<https://www.osce.org/odihr/guidelines-on-the-protection-of-human-rights-defenders>), and the Council of Europe's Declaration of the Committee of Ministers on Council of Europe action to improve the protection of human rights defenders and promote their activities (https://search.coe.int/cm/Pages/result_details.aspx?ObjectID=09000016805d3e52).

⁵ For the National Human Rights Strategy see <https://www.coe.int/t/commissioner/source/NAP/Ukraine-National-Action-Plan-on-Human-Rights.pdf>. For the Action Plan, see <https://www.kmu.gov.ua/npas/248740679>.

⁶ Report on monitoring conducted by IMI, see <https://imi.org.ua/monitorings/75-porushen-svobody-slova-zafiksovano-v-ukrayini-u-tretomu-kvartali-2019-roku-imi-i29933>.

Human rights defenders and others continue to experience serious challenges in gaining access to public information, a key tool for their work. As a result, the Parliamentary Commissioner for Human Rights (Ombudsperson) received 2,967 complaints in 2019 on violations of the law on access to public information. In November 2019, policymakers began discussing new laws on media and disinformation. The law on disinformation elicited the most concern among civil society, in particular proposals to criminalize disinformation.

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The decrease in incidents in 2019 compared to the previous year is welcome. Unfortunately, it cannot be attributed to meaningful legal or policy reforms to protect human rights defenders being implemented during the year. Instead, it seems that the decrease in the number of incidents in 2019 is due to increased public attention to the persecution of human rights defenders in the media, among political leaders and the international community, and within civil society itself.

While human rights defenders and others experience numerous challenges when it comes to realizing their human rights, it is the violence against and persecution of human rights defenders, and the impunity perpetrators enjoy, which poses the biggest threat to protecting human rights in Ukraine. In most cases, there is a lack of an effective investigation and prosecution because police and prosecutors fail to identify perpetrators, build strong cases, or meaningfully pursue them in the courts. In other cases, the victims themselves do not report the potential crime to the police, out of fear for their safety or because they doubt that law-enforcement would take their claims seriously.

Due to these dynamics, radical right-wing groups, which were responsible for most of the documented incidents of violence against some human rights defenders, enjoyed broad impunity for their violent actions. Shockingly, this is the case even though some individuals are repeat offenders who make no effort to hide their identity or actions, sometimes even publicizing their feats on social media.

The targeting of those who advocate for the rights of LGBT+ people was notable in 2019, as was the inability of the justice system to adequately cope with this recurrent problem. Clearly, policy reforms aimed at improving the protection of human rights defenders must also include

reforms to ensure more effective prosecution of hate-motivated crimes – and not only based on sexual orientation and gender identity, but also based on race, ethnicity, and religion.

The Parliamentary Commission for Human Rights continues to play an important role in conducting oversight of the authorities. The continuation of the Verkhovna Rada's TIC in 2019 was also a welcome development, although its hearings and reports have yet to result in concrete reforms. The Verkhovna Rada could play a larger role in protecting human rights defenders by asserting and using its parliamentary oversight authority, including through the renewed TIC and through the committees responsible for human rights and law enforcement.



Finally, political leaders and the authorities too often do not respond to incidents of violence and persecution of human rights defenders, while the justice system carries out ineffective investigations and prosecutions. Instead, in response to each incident, Ukraine's leaders should clearly and unequivocally condemn the persecution of human rights defenders, communicate to the public the grave consequences for the country's democratic system should these abuses continue, and pledge to hold perpetrators accountable.

Based on these conclusions and the results of our monitoring in 2019, we make the following select recommendations to key stakeholders:

INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS AND UKRAINE'S PARTNERS

- Support human rights defenders and activists in Ukraine, by, among other things:
 - regularly meeting with them and soliciting their input on recommendations to the Ukrainian authorities and the status of civil society and human rights in Ukraine;
 - providing support to them and their work publicly and through private bilateral channels, especially at times of increased threats or following incidents of threats and repression; and
 - providing *ad hoc* and institutional financial assistance to support their human rights defense work, including the defense and protection of human rights defenders themselves.
- Engage Ukrainian law-enforcement, justice, and political institutions and officials to:
 - highlight the importance of preventing and responding to threats to human rights defenders;
 - encourage them to take all available measures to prevent and respond to efforts to disrupt or attack peaceful assemblies and other civil-society events; and
 - urge them to implement the recommendations outlined in this report.

VERKHOVNA RADA OF UKRAINE

- Support the parliamentary oversight work of the TIC, including by demanding testimony by the Prosecutor General of Ukraine and the leadership of the Security Service of Ukraine, the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Ukraine, and the National Police of Ukraine on their implementation of recommendations made by the TIC made on July 11, 2019.
- Develop and pass a law to prevent government bodies (national, regional, and local) from providing public funds or other resources to groups or individuals that publicly support or use violence.
- Amend Article 185 (parts 1 and 2) of the Code of Administrative Violations to eliminate administrative liability for violations of the order of public assemblies, which does not exist in reality.
- Amend the Criminal Procedural Code to enable the public reporting on progress of investigations of attacks on human rights defenders. Establish broader criteria under which investigators and prosecutors can publicly share information related to a pre-trial investigation.

PARLIAMENTARY COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

- Take action in response to every incident of persecution of a human rights defender or civic activist to ensure the protection of their rights by relevant government bodies, especially those responsible for investigating incidents, as well as full implementation of court decisions concerning the incident.

- Establish a rapid response group with the capacity and resources to quickly travel to the site of incidents of persecution and violence against human rights defenders in order to quickly establish the particulars of the incident.
- Initiate, jointly with human rights defenders and civic activists, the preparation of a joint report for 2020 covering protection of human rights defenders and impunity for persecution of them. Cover this issue in annual reports on the status and protection of human rights and freedoms in Ukraine.

PRESIDENT OF UKRAINE

- Convene, jointly with the Ministry of Internal Affairs and the Prosecutor General's Office, a public presentation of the results of investigations of crimes committed against human rights defenders in 2017-2019 in connection with their civic activity.
- Order the Commission on Legal Reforms (established by Presidential Order 584 in August 2019) to develop and issue recommendations for amendments to the National Human Rights Strategy (established by Presidential Order 501 in August 2015) to strengthen the section on "Providing for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders and Civic Activists," specifically by:
 - qualifying as a fundamental problem the impunity for crimes committed against human rights defenders and civic activists in connection with their civic activity;
 - establishing as a strategic goal the creation of a system to guarantee the protection of human rights defenders and civic activists;
 - establishing as desired outcomes a) the effective investigation of crimes committed against human rights defenders and civic activists in connection with their civic activity and b) a decrease in the risk of undertaking such as activities;
 - introducing systematic education within law-enforcement bodies focused on strengthening their respect for human rights and non-discrimination; and
 - developing mechanisms to provide for the physical protection of human rights defenders and civic activists.

PROSECUTOR GENERAL'S OFFICE OF UKRAINE

- Continue reforming of prosecutors in Ukraine by conducting the previously announced comprehensive and objective attestation. Prosecutors who do not pass attestation should be relieved of their positions. This will contribute to the effective procedural oversight of pre-trial investigations and prosecutions in cases concerning crimes against human rights defenders and civic activists related to their civic activity.
- Prioritize the prosecution of crimes against human rights defenders and civic activists connected to their civic activity given the direct connection between these crimes and the development and health of civil society overall.
- Prosecute those who carry out crimes against human rights defenders as well as those who order and facilitate such crimes.
- Regularly inform society (quarterly, more as necessary) on the progress of the prosecution of crimes against human rights defenders and civic activists connected to their civic activity.

MINISTRY OF INTERNAL AFFAIRS

- Continue reforms of the National Police by:
 - renewing the personnel of regional bodies, in particular pre-trial investigators, who largely consist of officers that passed attestation or were reinstated by court order after the Revolution of Dignity;

- ceasing using criminal statistics as the determinative factor when evaluating the effectiveness of the police;
- introducing the use of criminological surveys (i.e. to determine the true level of crimes, evaluate the public's trust in the police) and procedures to standardize and guide the work of investigators;
- enabling police officials to evaluate how well those under them fulfill their professional responsibilities; and
- conducting oversight of the respect for human rights by the National Police.

NATIONAL POLICE

- Ensure the appropriate registration of criminal complaints regarding crimes against human rights defenders and civic activists connected to their civic activity, in particular by:
 - registering complaints into the Unified Register of Pre-trial Investigations without delay; and
 - establishing a procedure to hold officials accountable for untimely, incomplete, or biased information added to the Unified Register of Pre-trial Investigations.
- End the practice of detaining individuals who commit a violation against a human rights defender or civic activist without appropriate follow-up efforts to hold those individuals accountable under administrative or criminal statutes.
- Develop and introduce forms for registering crimes against human rights defenders and civic activists which enable the proper documentation of motives, the personal characteristics of those responsible and the victims, and an analysis of motives and other features. Use form 1-DPL on human rights violations and criminal statistics as an example.
- Share information on an ongoing basis with human rights defenders, civic activists, and civil society organizations on incidents, the progress of investigations, and steps necessary to prevent or minimize the impact of incidents.
- Take measures to protect the security of peaceful assemblies and other events, including:
 - avoid discriminatory approaches to events based on their theme, the number of participants, the views being expressed, or other characteristics;
 - share with organizers in a timely fashion information on threats prior to events and work in good faith with organizers to ameliorate those threats;
 - take special care to protect the safety of participants in cases when there are counter-demonstrations, and take measure to prevent violence between participants in demonstrations and counter-demonstrations;
 - take special care to protect the safety of participants before and after events, including, for example, by accompanying them to the event location or entrance, public transport;
 - after public events, work with organizers to assess the actions of law-enforcement and participants to improve respect for the freedom of peaceful assembly; and
 - take all possible measures to ensure that organizers of events can continue events after disruptions.
- Analyze the impact of radical right-wing groups on the safety of human rights defenders and civic activists.



10 Attacks on Human Rights Defenders and Civil Society Activists in Ukraine in 2019

Murder of Vadym Komarov

June 20, 2019
Cherkasy, Cherkasy Region

On May 4, 2019, blogger, journalist and civil society activist, Vadym Komarov, was badly beaten. His assailants hit him on the head with a hammer, but did not steal any of his personal belongings. Komarov was hospitalized after the attack but never regained consciousness. He spent weeks in a coma and then died on June 20, 2019.

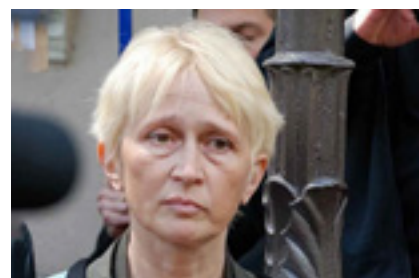
Komarov's work combined public interest journalism and civil society activism. His articles and social media posts highlighted embezzlement and corruption in the Cherkasy City Council, as well as illegal construction projects and the ill-treatment of prisoners.



Attacks on Activists Defending the Summer Theatre in Odesa

February 17, April 19, May 7, 2019
Odesa, Odesa Region

On May 7, 2019, Svitlana Pidpala, an activist from the environmental movement Green Leaf and journalist, was assaulted with a bucket of feces near the Summer Theatre in the city garden of Odesa. Pidpala was waiting for an inspector from the community-owned enterprise Zelentrest to arrive and



document the low-quality transplantation of trees in the park. Pidpala believes that the goal of the attack was to discourage her from her activism opposing illegal construction in the garden. According to documents Pidpala obtained, a commercial partner of the mayor of Odesa, Hennadii Trukhanov, was undertaking the illegal construction. This was the second attack on Pidpala since 2017 connected to her activism opposing illegal construction in park areas. Pidpala believes that people working for top officials of the Odesa City Council are responsible for organizing the attack, and that the construction company knew the attack was being planned. The police formally accused someone of the attack, however, the accused, an unemployed person, was able to make bail (approximately \$1,600) and used the services of two private attorneys. Despite significant evidence, the police investigation was ineffective and the police were unable to identify who ordered and carried out the attack.

At a press briefing on protecting the Summer Theatre in Odesa on April 19, 2019, parliamentarian Mustafa Nayyem was also doused with a bucket of feces. An unidentified assailant had also set fire to another activist's car on February 17, 2019. The vehicle belonged to Oleksandr Babych, a local historian and activist who works to protect the city's cultural heritage and has participated with Pidpala in the movement to protect the Summer Theatre. Babych also opposed the construction on the territory surrounding the theatre and voiced his opposition during public consultations on the matter.

Threats and Attacks on Members of the Protect Protasiv Yar Initiative

August – October, 2019
Kyiv

On August 29, 2019, Hennadii Korban threatened the head of the Protect Protasiv Yar initiative, Roman Ratushnyi, via Facebook. Korban is believed to be the beneficiary of a construction project in the Protasiv Yar park area, a development which Ratushnyi and others consider illegal. On September 20, 2019, representatives of the construction project threatened Ratushnyi in person. Then, in late September, he received information from a variety of sources claiming that he would be kidnapped and assaulted. At around the same time, the police documented unknown people carrying out surveillance on Ratushnyi's apartment building. Since the September incidents, Ratushnyi has been forced to hide and keep a low profile. In what is likely a related incident, on September 15, 2019, Ratushnyi's colleague, activist Yuliia Kononenko, was punched in the face on the street. Later, Kononenko learned that a security firm hired by the developer of Protasiv Yar, the TOV Daytona Group, hired and employed her attacker. Police detained Kononenko's attacker, who was released shortly afterwards.



Threats against Roman Likhachev

August 26, 2019
Chuhuiv, Kharkiv Region

On the night of August 26, 2019, a wreath and axe were affixed to Roman Likhachev's front door in the city of Chuhuiv. The wreath bore a ribbon with a message threatening Likhachev, who is a well-known human rights lawyer and anti-corruption activist. That same night, unknown individuals delivered a coffin and cross with Likhachev's name on it to his office. Likhachev believes that the threats are connected to his work with the Network of Anti-Corruption Centers, which has been investigating the illegal business activities of Ukrainian parliamentarian



Dmytro Shentsov. On September 2, 2019, Likhachev's advertisements for legal services on display in the village of Pechenihiy were painted red. He believes that this incident is connected to the threats he received a week earlier. In late November 2019, Likhachev reported that the police investigation into the threats made against him was ineffective.

Arson Attack on Yevhen Tavenok's House

September 5, 2019
Kosiv, Ivano-Frankivsk Region

On September 5, 2019, unknown individuals set fire to the house of environmental activist Yevhen Tavenok. Tavenok works to counter illegal logging in and around the town of Kosiv. At the time of the arson attack, Tavenok was giving journalists from a local TV channel a tour of illegal logging locations in the local forest. According to Tavenok, two days before the arson attack, locals involved in illegal logging threatened to set his house on fire. Tavenok also suffered an arson attack on his car in 2012.



Law Enforcement Targeting of Oleh Tsvilyi

October 4, 2019
Kyiv

On October 4, 2019, law enforcement representatives used excessive force against human rights activist Oleh Tsvilyi, who works to protect the rights of prisoners. Officers handcuffed Tsvilyi and beat him as he was getting out of his car near his home. Officers also searched Tsvilyi's apartment and confiscated all of his research materials, documents, and hard drives. The police claimed they searched Tsvilyi's home as part of an investigation into the distribution of illegal drugs, and that they confiscated illegal drugs during the search. That being said, the police refrained from detaining him. According to Tsvilyi, the police were most interested in the information they seized from his apartment. He claims that the prosecutor's office orchestrated the incident in response to his efforts to report on crimes committed against inmates in the penitentiary system.



Attack on Kharkiv Pride Participants

September 15, 2019
Kharkiv

On September 15, 2019, radical right-wing individuals attempted to forcefully block an Equality March planned as part of a week of Kharkiv Pride events. The attackers, many of whom were masked, bore symbols indicating their affiliation with groups such as Tradition and Order, Freikorps, Misanthropic Division, and other radical right-wing organizations. The police facilitated the peaceful Equality March and an estimated 1,500 to 2,000 people took part. According to the organizers of the march, a radical right-wing supporter injured one person in an attack before the event began, and there were further



attacks after the march that led to two victims being hospitalized. Two police officers were also injured.

The police arrested 17 people in connection with violence against police before, during, and after the march. The Dzerzhynskiy District Court sentenced one of the attackers, Rostyslav Fedorko, to 60 nights in prison. Fedorko is a member of the ultra-rightwing organization, Brotherhood of Dmytro Korchynskiy, which has organized a number of right-wing actions in Kyiv. The same group threw a green antiseptic substance known as “brilliant green” on well-known anti-corruption activist Vitalii Shabunin, outside of the Special Anti-Corruption Prosecutor’s office in July 2019. In addition to Fedorko’s sentence, the Dzerzhynskiy Court sentenced two other members of the radical right-wing organization, *Freikorps*, to house arrest.

Arson Attack on Lavrentyi Kukhaleyshvili’s Car

February 17, 2019
Irpın, Kyiv Region

On the night of February 17, 2019, unknown assailants carried out an arson attack on a car belonging to environmental activist Lavrentyi Kukhaleyshvili, in the city of Irpin just outside of Kyiv. The week before the arson attack, Kukhaleyshvili and local residents prevented illegal peat extraction from taking place at the Irpin river floodplain. The environmental activist believes that Irpin’s Mayor, Volodymyr Karplyuk, was the main beneficiary of the illegal peat extraction. Kukhaleyshvili’s previous car was also destroyed in an arson attack.

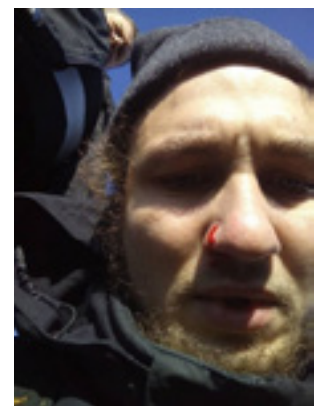


Attack on Illia Stanislavskiy

December 6, 2019
Kyiv

On December 6, 2019, Illia Stanislavskiy, an activist from the NGO Ecopark Osokorkiy, was attacked while attempting to photograph the construction of a power substation for the *Patriotica* residential complex development.

Security guards at the construction site damaged Stanislavskiy’s phone and camera during the scuffle, and struck him in the face. The guards tried to drag him into the construction area and threatened to drown him in the nearby lake. The development company, Contactbudservice, has since postponed construction and is already 65 million UAH (about \$2.7 million) in debt to the city for unpaid land rental fees. The Kyiv City Council has since voted to terminate the contract with the developer.



In 2018, clashes took place at the construction site between local opponents of the development and thugs hired by the developer. Tension began building after the developer started construction on an electrical substation 20 meters from the nearby lake. Stanislavskiy and other activists claim that the construction does not have the necessary permits, violates technical standards, and threatens the city’s main sewage collection infrastructure, which is already in dangerous disrepair.

Arson Attack on Roman Dovbenko's Car

October 13, 2019

Buchach, Ternopil Region

On the evening of October 13, 2019, unknown assailants carried out an arson attack on a car belonging to Roman Dovbenko. An activist who protests illegal logging and landfill construction, he is also responsible for dismantling an illegal diesel gas station in the area. Dovbenko regularly publishes information online about district officials committing offenses, in particular, incidents of drunk driving.

Dovbenko was threatened several times before. The night before the arson attack, unknown assailants damaged his car with a baseball bat and threw stones at the window of his house. After the arson attack, Dovbenko began receiving more threats. He suspects that Petro Sheremet, the owner of the aforementioned illegal gas station, ordered the arson attack and that Volodymyr Druchkyv organized the attack.





ХТО ЗАМОВИВ
ВБИВСТВО
КАТІ ГАНДЗЮК?

ЇЇ ВБИЛИ

ХТО ЗАМОВИВ
ВБИВСТВО
КАТІ ГАНДЗЮК?



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