



# Gorshenin *Weekly*

**ISSUE #17(86) 05/07/2012**

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**Ukrainian prosecutors refuse to launch criminal case over alleged beating of former Prime Minister Yuliya Tymoshenko. European politicians intend to boycott Euro 2012 in Ukraine**

**The Ukrainian Prosecutor-General's Office (PGO) has issued a reaction to a statement by former Prime Minister Yuliya Tymoshenko, in which she claimed that she had been punched by prison guards.**

The Ukrainian news and analysis website Lb.ua quoted Prosecutor-General **Viktor Pshonka** as saying on 4 May 2012 that the Kharkiv prosecutor's office had refused to open a criminal case over the alleged beating of **Yuliya Tymoshenko**. At the same time, he stressed that the PGO agreed with this decision.

Furthermore, Pshonka said that the photos which demonstrated bruises on Tymoshenko's body, and which had been publicized on 27 April 2012 by former Ukrainian ombudsman **Nina Karpachova**, were doctored. According to him, only a forensic medical examination, which the former prime minister refused to undergo, could either confirm or disprove the fact of the bruises. In Pshonka's opinion, the rest is "extralegal".

On the same day, Kharkiv Region's prosecutor **Hennadiy Tyurin** said that Tymoshenko might have made the bruises herself. "The materials of the inquiry indicate that we cannot rule out such a case," he explained.

As reported earlier, Tymoshenko said that during her transfer from Kharkiv Region's Kachanivska prison to a hospital on 20 April 2012, three prison guards applied force to her. According to the former prime minister, they twisted her arms and legs, as well as punched her in the stomach. Later, Karpachova's representative publicized the pictures of the bruises on Tymoshenko's body.

Tymoshenko declared a hunger strike on 20 April 2012 to protest against ill treatment. Dozens of activists from different Ukrainian regions also went on hunger strike to support her.

On 4 May 2012, the Ukrainian State Penitentiary Service said that German doctors had arrived in Ukraine to examine Tymoshenko.

Later the same day, a doctor from the German Charite hospital, **Karl Max Einhoysl**, said after examining Tymoshenko that she had preliminarily agreed to receive medical treatment at Kharkiv's Ukrzaliznytsya (Ukrainian railway) hospital starting from 8 May 2012. German physicians will participate in the treatment of the former prime minister.

On 4 May 2012, the first deputy head of the opposition Fatherland party, **Oleksandr Turchynov**, and an MP of the opposition Yuliya Tymoshenko Bloc (YTB), **Serhiy Vlasenko**, said during a joint press conference that the management of the Kachanivska prison, where the former prime minister is currently serving her sentence, systematically violated all Tymoshenko's legal rights. She is not allowed to use the phone, which is permitted by law, and is denied the right to see her family, relatives and friends once a month, they added.

Tymoshenko's allies believe that such actions of the authorities are an attempt to completely isolate her from society.

We would like to note that the international community is growing increasingly concerned over the situation with Tymoshenko.

The USA urged the Ukrainian authorities to end the persecution of Tymoshenko and other members of her government.

A number of European politicians and officials declared that they refused to attend the football matches that will be held in Ukraine during the Euro 2012 championship. In particular, German Chancellor **Angela Merkel**, European Commission President **Jose Manuel Barroso**, EU commissioners and representatives of other European countries are currently considering the possibility of boycotting the football championship in Ukraine.

At the same time, former Polish President **Aleksander Kwasniewski** urged political leaders not to boycott Euro 2012 in Ukraine.

The Ukrainian Foreign Ministry believes that the statements of European politicians about the possibility of boycotting Euro 2012 as a result of Tymoshenko's treatment in jail are similar to the "cold war" methods.

In his turn, Ukrainian Prime Minister **Mykola Azarov** urged European politicians to check information prior to evaluating the situation with Tymoshenko.

"I can say one thing for sure: no force has been applied to Tymoshenko," he said.

The deputy head of the parliamentary committee for foreign relations, MP of the pro-presidential Party of Regions **Leonid Kozhara**, expressed the opinion that such statements made by European politicians demonstrated the application of double standards.

An MP of the Party of Regions, **Olena Bondarenko**, said that the majority of European and US officials who call for a boycott of Euro 2012 in Ukraine are political allies of the YTB.

For its part, the Ukrainian opposition urged European politicians to boycott the Ukrainian power holders and to refrain from boycotting the Euro 2012 championship in Ukraine.

In the opinion of the director of the Institute for Euro-Atlantic Cooperation, **Volodymyr Horbach**, the refusal of the European politicians to come to Ukraine is used to once again declare their position and to demonstrate their attitude towards the Ukrainian leadership.

**Court to hold preliminary hearing of ex-minister Yuriy Lutsenko's appeal over sentence on 8 May 2012**

**On 8 May 2012, a court will start to hear an appeal filed by former Interior Minister Yuriy Lutsenko against his jail term.**

Former minister's lawyer **Ihor Fomin** said that the court will hold only a preliminary hearing on 8 May 2012, while a substantive consideration of the appeal will take place on 15 May 2012, as previously planned.

We shall remind you that on 27 February 2012, the Kiev Pechersky court sentenced Lutsenko to four years in prison and a seizure of property.

**German foreign minister says ratification of EU-Ukrainian association agreement suspended**

**The European Union (EU) has suspended the ratification of the association agreement with Ukraine.**

"EU partners reached a unanimous conclusion that the ratification of the association agreement with Ukraine would be suspended until the process of reestablishing the principles of a legal state goes in the appropriate direction," German Foreign Minister **Guido Westerwelle** said on 3 May 2012.

In response, the deputy head of the parliamentary committee for foreign relations, MP of the pro-presidential Party of Regions **Leonid Kozhara**, said that “Germany's access to the Ukrainian market will be restricted without this agreement”.

**European leaders refuse to participate in summit of Central European states in Crimea on 11-12 May 2012**

**On 4 May 2012, Bosnia-Herzegovina's President Bakir Izetbegovic turned down an invitation to attend the summit of Central European countries which will be held in Yalta.**

Izetbegovic has become the twelfth president who refused to participate in the Yalta summit, which is scheduled for 11-12 May 2012.

Earlier, the German, Austrian, Czech, Italian, Slovenian and other presidents announced that they would not attend the event.

So far, the invitation to participate in the summit has been accepted by the presidents of Poland, Slovakia and Moldova.

MP of the pro-presidential Party of Regions **Vladyslav Lukyanov** said that the refusal of several European heads of state to attend the Yalta summit was a biased position and a political mistake.

**Law enforcers continue to look for organizers of Dnipropetrovsk terrorist attack**

**On 3 May 2012, Ukrainian Interior Minister Vitaliy Zakharchenko said that law enforcement agencies had not yet established the main version behind the terrorist act in Dnipropetrovsk.**

Later, on 4 May 2012, he also said that improvised explosive devices had been detonated in Dnipropetrovsk. The perpetrators of the blasts put explosive devices in trash cans made from concrete and which served as shrapnel, he added.

Zakharchenko also said that there were no grounds for changing the profile of the Dnipropetrovsk blasts. “All the signs of a terrorist act are evident and the profile was established correctly,” he said.

We shall remind you that on 27 April 2012, within an hour, four blasts took place in Dnipropetrovsk. As a result, 30 people were injured and 26 of them were hospitalized. The Security Service of Ukraine (SBU) is investigating the criminal case which a prosecutor's office launched under Part 2 of Article 258 of the Ukrainian Criminal Code, which deals with terrorist acts. Law enforcers continue to look for the blast organizers.

The director of the Institute of Global Strategies, **Vadym Karasyov**, believes that the explosions in Dnipropetrovsk were not linked to the approaching Euro 2012 championship.

We would like to note that according to a survey conducted by the Gorshenin Institute in January 2011, the majority of respondents (57.3 percent) believe that there is a threat of terrorist attacks in Ukraine.

**Ex-Premier Yuliya Tymoshenko third most popular politician in Russian mass media. Ukrainian president may meet Russian counterpart on 15 May 2012**

**Former Ukrainian Prime Minister Yuliya Tymoshenko has become the third on the list of the persons most frequently mentioned in Russian mass media in April 2012.**

Hence, according to "The system of the comprehensive news analysis" of the Interfax news agency, Tymoshenko was mentioned 6,421 times by the Russian press in April, becoming the third most popular politician in the rating. Russian Prime Minister **Vladimir Putin** and the Russian head of state **Dmitriy Medvedev** continue to top the list.

We would like to note that on 3 May 2012, Putin said that Russian doctors were ready to provide Tymoshenko with medical treatment, whose health condition had deteriorated in prison. Additionally, he stressed once again that the gas contracts, which were signed between Ukraine and Russia when Tymoshenko was the prime minister, were fully in line with the legislation of the two countries.

On the same day, the Russian news agency RIA quoted a Kremlin source as saying that Russia attempted to affect the court ruling in the criminal case against Tymoshenko launched over the 2009 gas contracts.

President Medvedev said earlier that the persecution of the opposition in Ukraine was unacceptable.

On 7 May 2012, Putin will be sworn in as the president of Russia.

According to the mass media, Ukrainian President **Viktor Yanukovich** may meet Putin during an informal summit of the Commonwealth of Independent States, which will take place in Moscow on 15 May 2012.

In the opinion of the director of the Kiev Center for Political Research, **Mykhaylo Pohrebynsky**, Putin's ascent to the presidential post will have no impact at all on the situation with Tymoshenko.

**Ukrainian Central Electoral Commission sets date for parliamentary election campaign launch**

**An electoral campaign for the upcoming parliamentary polls will commence on 30 July 2012.**

This date is set in a preliminary calendar plan for preparing and holding of the parliamentary election, which is posted on the website of the Central Electoral Commission (CEC).

According to the plan, the CEC should announce the beginning of the electoral campaign no later than on 28 July 2012.

The polls will be held on 28 October. The CEC is tasked with determining the official results of the election by 12 November and with publicizing them no later than on 17 November 2012.

We shall remind you that on 20 April 2012, the CEC set up 225 single-seat constituencies in Ukraine.

Later, on 4 May 2012, the deputy parliamentary speaker, MP of the opposition Yuliya Tymoshenko Bloc (YTB) **Mykola Tomenko**, said that according to the conducted research, the principle of the compact location of electoral constituencies and the unity of territorial and administrative units had been violated in 70 out of 225 constituencies. Tomenko believes that such a principle of

drawing the constituencies' borders was applied in order to prevent the opposition from winning in the election. At the same time, he continued, it was regional administrations – not the CEC – that had carried out the redistricting.

In his turn, a CEC member, **Oleksandr Osadchuk**, dismissed the accusations of the biased drawing of the constituencies' borders as ungrounded.

## **Freedom House sees deterioration of press freedom in Ukraine**

### **On 1 May 2012, Freedom House, a human rights organization, published its annual report on media independence.**

As Lb.ua news and analysis website reported, according to the survey, the situation with press freedom in Ukraine substantially worsened last year. The country dropped 9 places to the 130<sup>th</sup> position, which it shares with South Sudan. The level of press freedom in Ukraine is assessed as partly free.

Such a decline resulted from growing government control over the media, the report says.

Many national media council members are loyal to First Deputy Prime Minister and owner of Inter TV channel **Valeriy Khoroshkovskyy**, and media owners increasingly face political pressure regarding content, Freedom House says.

According to a representative of the Reporters Without Borders organization, **Oksana Romanyuk**, the authorities need to take into account Ukraine's sharp decline in the media independence ranking. "If it doesn't happen, members of the incumbent government may be banned from visiting European countries," she said.

During the press conference on the occasion of World Press Freedom Day held on 3 May 2012, representatives of non-governmental media organizations noted that Ukraine again sees confrontation between the government and the media.

## **U.S. again adds Ukraine to list of offenders of intellectual property rights**

### **On 30 April 2012, the Office of the United States Trade Representative issued its annual report listing the countries that deny protection of U.S. intellectual property rights.**

Russia and China were named the main infringers of intellectual property rights in the new annual report. Also, Ukraine appeared in the Priority Watch List for the first time since 2007.

According to the report, Ukraine showed "minimal progress" in implementing its action plan for combating piracy and counterfeiting, and in some cases it took steps backwards.

## **Ukraine, Belarus agree to lift trade restrictions**

### **On 3 May 2012, Economics Minister of Ukraine Petro Poroshenko held a meeting with First Deputy Prime Minister of Belarus Uladzimir Syamashka in Minsk.**

Following the talks, the parties agreed that the Ukrainian side should lift the ban on imports of Belarusian dairy products to Ukraine while Belarus would remove restrictions on access of Ukrainian beer to the market of Belarus.

**Banks owned by businessmen related to president show rapid growth – media reports**

**Banks which are controlled by businessmen loyal to the incumbent power have grown ten times faster than the market over the two years of President Viktor Yanukovich's tenure.**

According to the Lb.ua news and analysis website, the report was published by Teksty website. The website analyzed growth rates of nine Ukrainian banks, including eight banks controlled (or considered to be controlled) by pro-presidential businessmen. Another bank – Raiffeisen Bank Aval – was used in the analysis for comparison purposes.

The leader in terms of asset growth was the All-Ukrainian Bank for Development (100% of shares are directly owned by the president's son, **Oleksandr Yanukovich**). The bank increased its business by almost 7.5 times. This bank showed the fastest growth of equity (by three times) and portfolio of loans issued to legal entities (by 6.5 times).

**President Viktor Yanukovich signs law on privatization of mines**

**On 3 May 2012, President Viktor Yanukovich signed the law “On aspects of privatization of coal-mining enterprises”.**

According to the law, the privatization of coal-mining enterprises will be carried out through auctions, investment tenders or other ways listed in the privatization legislation.

**Customs beats fees collection target**

**Revenues from collection of customs duties in January-April 2012 amounted to 4.77bn dollars, which exceeds the plan by 100m dollars.**

According to the press service of the State Customs Service, the volume of customs duties grew by 24%, or nearly 940m dollars, as compared to the same period of 2011.

As the customs service says, such growth of the revenues was achieved thanks to the increase in the total trade turnover of Ukraine (48.6bn dollars for the first four months of 2012).

According to representatives of several foreign embassies polled by the Dzerkalo Tyzhnya weekly, the Ukrainian customs significantly complicate operations of foreign businesses in Ukraine. Among the main problems are a long periods of goods clearance, application of the highest prices in determining customs values of goods, arbitrary reevaluation of goods to increase the amounts of customs duties, frequent reclassification of products from one tariff line to another, etc.

**Ukraine signs 150m-dollar military contract with Kazakhstan**

**Ukraine will supply armored vehicles to Kazakhstan.**

On 3 May 2012, the Ukrainian state-owned concern Ukroboronprom signed a contract with the Kazakh national company Kazakhstan Engineering to supply Ukrainian armored carriers BTR-4 for Kazakhstan's Armed Forces. The contract is worth about 150m dollars.

As Interfax-Ukraine news agency reported citing its own source, Ukraine will soon perform the second shipment of 62 armored carriers BTR-4 to Iraq as part of the contract signed in 2009.



**Communists to disregard Lviv authorities' ban on using Soviet symbols during Victory Day celebrations**

**Representatives of Communist organizations in Lviv are going to ignore the ban on use of Soviet symbols during the Victory Day celebrations.**

"On 9 May [2012], we will be marching with red flags because no-one can prohibit it, as stated in the legislation of Ukraine," head of the Lviv regional branch of the Antifascist Committee of Ukraine **Oleksandr Kalynyuk** said on 1 May 2012.

On 26 April 2012, the Lviv city council decided to impose the ban on use of Communist and Nazi symbols, as well as symbols of the Soviet Union, on the territory of Lviv. Later the prosecutor of Lviv filed a protest against this resolution.

On 9 May 2011, members of the Communist organizations clashed with supporters of the nationalist forces during celebrations of Victory Day.

**Russian peacekeepers named main threat to Moldova**

**The newly elected president of Moldova, Nicolae Timofti, considers the presence of Russian troops in the breakaway Dniester region as "the primary threat".**

As the Lb.ua news and analysis website reported on 4 May 2012, Timofti expressed hope that Russia would withdraw its troops from Dniester region.

Timofti was elected president on 16 March 2012. On the first day of his tenure, he called for withdrawing Russian troops from Dniester region.

While commenting on the election of the new Moldovan president, Director for Political Programmes of the Gorshenin Institute **Yevhen Kurmashov** noted that the nomination of Timofti as a candidate to the post of President of Moldova was a surprise not only to many international observers who monitor political processes in the post-Soviet area, but also to many citizens of Moldova.

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