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Prosecutor General's Office of the Czech Republic - Bohdan Danylyshyn will not be extradited to Ukraine

Prosecutor General's Office (PGO) of the Czech Republic sees impossible the extradition of the former Minister of Economy of Ukraine Bohdan Danylyshyn.

On January 21st, 2011, Czech authorities submitted a petition to the Prague City Court asking not to allow the extradition of B.Danylyshyn from the Czech Republic to Ukraine due to his getting a political asylum in the Czech Republic.

The President of Ukraine **Viktor Yanukovich** announced that the case of the former Minister B.Danylyshyn had nothing to do with politics. 'B.Danylyshyn is not a politician, he is not in politics at all. He was just a regular government official. He was involved in corrupt dealings and he is being prosecuted for that. He has never been involved in politics, that is why I don't understand why he needs a political asylum', - he said. The President V.Yanukovich also noted that the discussion about the alleged shrinkage of democracy in Ukraine is being lead by those who defend the old mechanisms of corruption. 'There's a fight between the old system, a corrupt one and the new one we are trying to implement now. I think this process will be over soon', - he said

Earlier, the USA authorities said that granting of the political asylum to B.Danylyshyn should serve as a signal to the Government of Ukraine as to how the international community was perceiving the situation in Ukraine. In particular, the selective application of justice. The European Union (EU) also expressed the concern that Ukrainian authorities were trying to get even with their opponents engaging the courts to achieve that goal.

Along with that, the President's representative in the Parliament, National Deputy, member of the Party of Regions **Yuriy Myroshnychenko** said that granting of the political asylum to B.Danylyshyn only proves the existence of corrupt ties between the former **Yulia Tymoshenko's** Government and European authorities.

It is to remind that two leaders of parliamentary parties in opposition are under arrest and investigation: **Yuriy Lutsenko** of 'Narodna Samooborona' and **Yevhen Korniychuk** of the 'Ukrainian Socio-democratic Party'. A criminal case has been brought against leader of 'Batkivschyna' party Y.Tymoshenko.

As of today, the PGO of Ukraine has opened 18 criminal cases against former government officials.

The Prosecutor General's Office of Ukraine would not allow Yulia Tymoshenko to go to Europe

The PGO of Ukraine refused to satisfy the former Prime-Minister Y.Tymoshenko's petition to make an official visit to Brussels.

'My petition to go on official visit to Brussels to meet with the management of the European People's Party (EPP) got denied', - she said. According to her, investigators justified their decision arguing that the invitation received by Y.Tymoshenko from the EPP had been written in English.

Earlier, Y.Tymoshenko announced that during the phone conversation with the Secretary General of the EPP **Antonio Lopez-Isturiz** she had received an invitation to visit Brussels to meet with the leaders of this Party. Along with that, the PGO does not exclude the possibility that Y.Tymoshenko might still get the permission to go to Brussels.

Currently, Y.Tymoshenko is being released on her own recognizance pending the investigation of a criminal case against her on charges of embezzlement and improper use of budget funds. According to the former Prime Minister, doing so, the

current Government is trying to hinder her political activity.

Ukraine's representative in the EU: political persecutions in Ukraine will not be an obstacle to its European integration

All the statements about the lack of respect of democratic rights and freedoms in Ukraine will not affect its European aspirations – thinks the Head of Ukrainian Permanent Mission in the EU Kostyantyn Yeliseyev.'

We have not received any such signals from our European partners and hopefully we will not', - the diplomat said. K.Yeliseyev emphasized that the talks between Ukraine and the EU were primarily based on pragmatic interests. He agreed that the matters concerning democracy and human rights are of core value to the EU, however, he noted, that even the EU member states were experiencing a few problems with adhering to these principles. In particular, K.Yeliseyev reminded that recently, there had been a discussion in the European Parliament with regard to freedom of speech and legislation regulating this field in Hungary.

Earlier, the President of Ukraine **V.Yanukovych** declared European integration to be the strategic goal of Ukraine's foreign policy.

Leader of the 'Batkivschyna Party **Y.Tymoshenko** insists on V.Yanukovych reporting on the progress of implementation of the recommendation contained in the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE) and the European Parliament resolutions. 'In reality, after the adoption of these resolutions, the situation in Ukraine is rapidly getting worse and V.Yanukovych's report as to the implementation of these resolutions is due', - she said. Also Y.Tymoshenko talks about the necessity for the European bodies to conduct a monitoring of the situation regarding the respect of human rights and freedoms in Ukraine, and only based on the results of such a monitoring, make a decision to sign an agreement about the creation of the Freed Trade Area between Ukraine and the EU.

As a reminder, the next round of talks between Ukraine and the EU about the creation of the Free Trade Area will be held in Kiev on February 6th, 2011.

Former President **Viktor Yuschenko** thinks that after V.Yanukovych's coming to power, Ukraine has distanced itself from the democratic processes and the idea of national renaissance. 'Certainly, all this is reflected in the foreign policy. In fact, the current Government has chosen the path contrary to the one the country has been on recently. Today, our relations with Europe are based rather on decorations', - V.Yuschenko said. Also he emphasized on the activation of Ukrainian-Russian relations in the field of security. In his opinion, such a cooperation distances Ukraine from economic integration into European structures and from the mechanisms of transparency and fair competition.

Earlier, the press-secretary of the former President announced that V.Yuschenko had meetings with the current President V.Yanukovych on a regular basis.

During Viktor Yanukovych's Presidency, the economic situation in Ukraine has worsened significantly

In the survey conducted by International Living, over the last year Ukraine has dropped 5 positions and ranked 73d in the Quality of Life Index.

The authors of the Index think that the economic situation in Ukraine has significantly worsened in the past year.

After having analyzed the level of annual percentage rates, inflation, GDP growth rate, the authors have rated the Ukrainian economy as one of the worst in the world. Based on this data, it made the worst top three, preceded only by Zimbabwe and Somali.

Human Rights Watch has pointed out that censorship and pressure on the media in Ukraine are getting stronger

Non-profit organization Human Rights Watch emphasizes the growth of pressure on the media and the flaws of the immigration policies in Ukraine. These issues have been mentioned in the 21-st Human Rights Report concerning the respect of human rights in the world in 2010.

In this report, the organization notes that in 2010, many newspapers and independent magazines in Ukraine complained about the growth of pressure on the part of law enforcement, some TV channels complained about censorship. Also, the report mentions escalation of pressure and the incidents of assault on human rights activists. The authors of the report also stress out that the authorities in Ukraine are implementing the judicial reform too rapidly without taking into consideration recommendations of the Venetian Commission.

Venetian Commission: Ukrainian authorities do not know how to proceed with reforms

Member of the Venetian Commission Maryna Stavniychuk thinks that the Government does not have a clear vision as to the next steps of constitutional reforms.

According to her, the Ukrainian authorities do not imagine today how to go on with the constitutional reform.

'This is a sign of either rivalry inside the President's team or the lack of strategic vision and accordingly qualified and trained personnel, and as a result a unified, positive policy in the field of constitutional relations', - she stressed out.

As a reminder, earlier, the Venetian Commission expressed its doubt as to the legitimacy of **V.Yanukovych's** Presidency. In particular, the Commission points out that V.Yanukovych was elected as a President with a certain set of powers, and having taken the office, has expanded his powers through the decision of the Constitutional Court of Ukraine.

PACE: Ukraine is ignoring the decisions of the European Court of Human Rights

PACE is criticizing Ukraine that the decisions of the European Court of Human Rights are being executed with delays.

Among the most frequent human rights violations, PACE mentioned deaths and injuries caused by law enforcement agents, illegal or unjustifiably long detentions, delays of court hearings and failure to execute courts' decisions.

As a reminder, Commissioner on Human Rights in the Parliament (Ombudswoman) **Nina Karpacheva** announced that Ukraine ranked third after Russia and Turkey as to the number of complaints brought to the European Court of Human Rights, and it is number one considering the ratio of these complaints per capita.

The Supreme Administrative Court of Ukraine took away the frequencies from Ukrainian channels 'Channel 5' and TVi

On January 26th, 2011 the Supreme Administrative Court of Ukraine (SACU) refused to satisfy the cassation appeals submitted by 'Channel 5' and TBi with regard to their loss of licenses to broadcast.

At the same time, Director General of TVi **Mykola Knyazhitskiy** and the 'Channel 5' representative in court **Tetyana Malashenkova** expressed their intent to appeal this decision in the Supreme Court of Ukraine and in the European Court of Human Rights.

As a reminder, in summer 2010, the court of the first jurisdiction as well as the court of appeals satisfied in full the complaints of UA Inter Media Group owned by the Head of the Security Service of Ukraine (SSU) **Valeriy Khoroshkovsky** and bereaved 'Channel 5' and TVi of their licenses to broadcast which they had received earlier in the beginning of 2010. In particular, the courts found illegitimate the decision of the National Council on Television and Radio, issued on January 27th,

2010 that determined the winners of the frequencies tender.

According to the Vice-Speaker of the Ukrainian Parliament **Mykola Tomenko**, this decision only proved the real state of freedom of speech in the country.

The National Deputy, member of 'NU-NS' Parliamentary faction **Oles Doniy** announced that the SACU's decision to cancel the broadcast licenses is a reflection of the current Government's fear of any manifestations of opposition in the society and media. According to the Deputy, authorities will try to suppress the freedom of speech entirely in order to create a media environment without alternative opinions. He added that the authorities in Ukraine are afraid that free media might deliver truthful information to the people.

**Two explosions in
Donetsk oblast**

On the morning of January 20th, 2011 in the city of Makeyevka, two explosions erupted - one near the shopping center and the second - close to the entrance to the building of the administrative office of the state-owned company 'Makeyevugol'.

There were no victims or injuries in the incident, the damage was caused only to the nearby buildings.

An envelope with a demand to pay a large amount of money was found attached to the wall near the scene of one of the explosions. Otherwise, the unidentified individuals threatened to organize another series of explosions throughout the entire city. Later, nobody showed up to receive the ransom, there were no more explosions in the city either.

The authorities have opened a criminal case on the charges of terrorism.

Due to the situation in Makeyevka, President **V.Yanukovych** shortened his visit to Japan, came back to Ukraine on January 20th, 2010 and held meetings with the heads of the law enforcement agencies regarding the investigation of this incident.

The Head of the SSU **V.Khoroshkovsky** said the explosions in Makeyevka had been organized with the purpose of intimidation and the extortion of money. The Prime Minister of Ukraine **M.Azarov** thinks that there is no threat of more explosions in Makeyevka.

Y.Tymoshenko suspects that the explosions in Makeyevka are a political technique aimed at diverting the attention of the Ukrainian population from the economic problems. The first Deputy Head of the Committee on the Fight against Organized Crime and Corruption, member of 'NU-NS' faction **Gennadiy Moskal** agrees with this opinion. According to him, explosions in Donetsk oblast might have been ordered by the authorities in order to toughen the regime in Ukraine.

Along with that, the SSU calls cynical the opposition's claims that the explosions in Makeyevka are part of the spinning techniques used by the authorities.

According to Gorshenin Institute expert **Volodymyr Zastava**, these explosions have nothing to do with terrorism: 'Particularly attentive citizens might notice that these events strangely accurately preceded the National Unity Day of Ukraine with all the conspiracy theories accompanying them. Our prognosis is that in the nearest future, the 'Makeyevka case' will be passed on from SSU to the local law enforcement and soon will be forgotten. I would like to emphasize once again, fortunately there's no ground in Ukraine for terrorism and all talks on this subject matter are nothing but speculations, - V.Zastava noted.

**Entrepreneurs
preparing for another
round of protests**

An indefinite strike of entrepreneurs is scheduled to begin in all cities of Ukraine on February 1st, 2011.

This was announced by the Head of the Coordinating Council of the Assembly of the Civic Organizations of small and medium businesses in Ukraine **Ihor Hurniak**.

The Head of the Assembly Council noted that during the protests the entrepreneurs will demand the cancellation of the Tax Code, resignation of the Government, setting of the date for Parliamentary Elections for 2011 and the rejection of the Labor Code.

Also, I.Hurniak noted that, almost in every oblast of Ukraine, participants of the Tax Maidan (protests against the adoption of the Tax Code) were called in to the police precincts for various reasons. Such actions, in his opinion, have the purpose of intimidating the entrepreneurs.

As a reminder, in November 2010, in Kiev on the Independence Square, entrepreneurs protested for several days against the adoption of the Tax Code. Later this event was called the Tax Maidan.

**Ukraine has confirmed
its friendship with
Belarus and Olexander
Lukashenko**

Ukraine has decided not to make any radical steps as to the relations with Belarus, since Kiev has much closer economic ties with Minsk than the EU countries.

This opinion was expressed by the Head of the Department on information policies of the Ukrainian Ministry of Foreign Affairs **Oleg Voloshin**. According to him, currently there's no talk of sanctions against Belarus in Ukraine - the measure that all European countries are calling for. The Ambassador of Ukraine in Belarus **Roman Bessmertniy** represented Ukraine at the inauguration of President Lukashenko on January 21st, 2011. Along with that, European countries and the US have boycotted the inauguration of the Belorussian President. Deputy Head of the Parliamentary Committee on Foreign Affairs, member of the Party of Regions **Leonid Kozhara** thinks that isolation of Belarus and its exclusion from the EU program 'Eastern Partnership' will not bring any positive development into the relations between Belarus and the EU. 'We call not for the isolation but for a large-scale engagement of Belarus into all institutions of the Eastern Partnership', - he stressed out.

**Viktor Yanukovych
wants 'Shell' to extract
shale gas on the
territory of Ukraine**

President of Ukraine V.Yanukovych met with the Chief Executive Office 'Shell' Peter Voser.

During the meeting the Head of the State stressed out that it was time to start discussing partnership with 'Shell'. "For a long time I have been observing closely your work in Ukraine and today I think it's a positive thing that you have decided to start the extraction of shale gas in Ukraine", - V.Yanukovych said. The President noted that he was aware that the problems that existed between "Shell" and the state owned company 'Ukrgezdoobycha' had been resolved as well as the misunderstanding between the company and the local tax administration. 'Today I expect you to actively start the exploration of gas reserves on the border between the Kharkov and Donetsk oblasts and certainly start the extraction', - the President emphasized and added that the appropriate license had already been issued.

As a reminder, the experts think that Ukraine might become independent from the Russian gas in 5 -7 years provided that it explores its reserves of shale gas.

Prime Minister of Ukraine: without the consensus with the EU and Russia, the Ukrainian GTS has no future

Prime Minister of Ukraine M.Azarov thinks that the modernization of Ukrainian Gas Transportation System is possible only on condition of participation of both Russia and the EU.

'We understand very well that without Russia's consent or EU's participation, modernization of our Gas Transportation System and its existence have no prospects', - the Prime Minister stressed out. Along with that, the Prime Minister noted that the parties were not able to reach a three-party agreement.

Ukrainian pipeline 'Odessa-Brody' will carry Azerbaijani oil

Ukraine and Azerbaijan have signed a memorandum on organizing the supplies of liquefied gas and oil.

The memorandum was signed by the Minister of Energy and Coal Industry of Ukraine and his Azerbaijani colleague. The signing ceremony took place in the course of the meeting of the two presidents **V.Yanukovych** and **Ilham Aliyev** during the World Economic Forum in Davos.

The Head of the Administration of the President of Ukraine **Sergiy Lyovochkin** announced that the parties had agreed on two strategic issues, in particular, transportation of Azerbaijani oil through the Pipeline 'Odessa-Brody' and the supplies of Azerbaijani liquefied gas from Azerbaijan to Ukraine. At the same time, he mentioned that the parties were planning to transport 4 million tons of Azerbaijani oil annually - and this is so far a minimum amount. As to the liquefied natural gas, the question regarding its volumes will be regulated in the process of implementation of a national investment project - the construction of the first shale gas processing plant in Ukraine.

As a reminder, earlier 'Ukrtransnafta' reached an agreement with the Belorussian oil company to transport 4 million tons of oil annually through the Pipeline 'Odessa-Brody' till 2013.

On January 24th through January 26th, 2011, Gorshenin Institute has conducted a phone survey "Explosions in Makeyevka". A total of 1000 respondents age 18 or older representing all 25 regional centers, Kiev and Sebastopol, were selected at random following a systematic procedure aimed at filling sex, age and community quotas. The margin of error is no higher than +/-3.2%. Results of the survey conducted among the residents of Makeyevka are presented separately.

According to the results of this **national survey** Gorshenin Institute experts came to the following conclusions:

Overwhelming majority of Ukrainians (86.1%) have heard about the explosions in Makeyevka. Only 13.3% of the respondents don't know anything about the incident, 0.6% of the interviewed could not answer the question.

Almost one quarter of Ukrainian citizens (22.3%) think that the explosions in Makeyevka were a terrorist attack. Along with that only 8.6% of Makeyevka residents hold that opinion. 17.5% of Ukrainians see the incident as an attempt to cover up economic crimes, the same opinion was expressed by every third resident of Makeyevka (30.8%). 16.3% of Ukrainians thinks that the explosions were an attempt to divert people's attention from other problems in the country, 14,5% of Ukrainian citizens believe it was a politically motivated crime, 13.3% of the respondents call it a crime committed with the purpose of extortion. 7.8% of fellow-Ukrainians chose the answer "other", 21.7% of the interviewed could not answer the question.

More than a half of the respondents (57.3%) think that there's a threat of terrorist attacks in Ukraine, whereas 39.9% of Makeyevka residents hold that opinion. Among them, 38.0% of Ukrainians (21.9% of Makeyevka residents) answered "definitely yes", 19.3% if the interviewed Ukrainians (18.0% of Makeyevka residents) said "most likely" . 40.4% of Ukrainians do not see any terrorist threat, in Makeyevka this number constitutes 52.4% of the respondents. Along with that, 22.9% of Ukrainians citizens (31.3% of Makeyevka residents) answered "definitely no", «unlikely» - 17.5% of the interviewed Ukrainians (21.1% of Makeyevka residents). 2.3% of Ukrainians (7.7% of Makeyevka residents) could not answer the question.

Overwhelming majority of Ukrainians (81.9%) do not fear any terrorist activity leaving their households. Along with that 73.5% chose the answer "definitely no", 8.4% - "rather no" 16.8% of Ukrainian citizens are afraid of a terrorist threat. Along with that 9.0% answered "definitely afraid", 7.8% - "rather afraid". 1.3% of the respondents could not answer the question.

More than a half of Ukrainians (61.5%) think ha law enforcement will not be able to track down individuals responsible for the explosions in Makeyevka.

More than a half of Makeyevka residents (55.3%) hold that same opinion. Among them, 39.8% of Ukrainians (34,2% of Makeyevka residents), are sure of that, 21.7% of Ukrainians (21.1% of Makeyevka residents) are rather certain. Almost one third of Ukrainians (30.2%) think that the law enforcement authorities will be able to find those responsible for this crime. Almost every third resident of Makeyevka (35.5%) believes it will happen. Among them, 12.7% of Ukrainians (18.4% of Makeyevka residents) are absolutely sure of that, 17.5% of Ukrainians (17.1% of Makeyevka residents) are rather certain. 8.3% of Ukrainians (9.2% of Makeyevka residents) could not answer the question.

Appendix

(Makeyevka residents' answers are indicated in the parentheses)

Have you heard or are you aware of the explosions in Makeyevka?

Yes – 86.1% (99.2%)

No – 13.3% (0.8%)

Can not answer the question – 0.6% (0.0%)

In your opinion, explosions in Makeyevka are:

(multiple choices are permissible)

A terrorist attack – 22.3% (8.6%)

An attempt to cover up economic crimes – 17.5% (30.8%)

An attempt to divert people's attention from other problems in the country –
16.3% (14.8%)

Politically motivated crime – 14.5% (10.9%)

A crime committed with the purpose of extortion of money – 13.3% (18.8%)

Other – 7.8% (10.9%)

Can not answer the question – 21.7% (18.0%)

In your opinion, is there a terrorist threat in Ukraine?

Definitely yes – 38.0% (21.9%)

Rather yes – 19.3% (18.0%)

Rather no – 17.5% (21.1%)

Definitely no – 22.9% (31.3%)

Can not answer the question – 2.3% (7.7%)

Are you personally afraid to be outside, visit public places due to the possible terrorist threat?

Definitely yes – 9.0% (13.3%)

Rather yes – 7.8% (3.9%)

Rather no – 8.4% (7.0%)

Definitely no – 73.5% (71.9%)

Can not answer the question – 1.3% (3.9%)

In your opinion, will Ukrainian law enforcement be able to track down individuals responsible for the explosions in Makeyevka?

Definitely yes – 12.7% (18.4%)

Most likely – 17.5% (17.1%)

Unlikely – 21.7% (21.1%)

Definitely no – 39.8% (34.2%)

Can not answer the question – 8.3% (9.2%)

Our contact information:

4, Chapayeva street, office 14

Kiev 01030, Ukraine

+38 044 230 4962

+38 044 230 4966 f

kipu@kipu.com.ua



For more information please visit our website

www.kipu.com.ua