

PRISON CELL OR HOSPITAL BED?



CRIMEAN JOURNALIST MYKOLA SEMENA IS FACING CHARGES THAT MAY GET HIM FIVE YEARS IN JAIL. AT THE SAME TIME, HE IS IN NEED OF MEDICAL ATTENTION DUE TO SEVERE SPINAL ISSUES. HIS DOCTORS CLAIMED THAT WITHOUT AN OPERATION HE IS RUNNING A RISK OF DEVELOPING A DISABILITY.

The journalist is banned from traveling from Crimea to Kyiv for treatment. Russian authorities in the illegally annexed Crimea charged him with public calls to challenge territorial integrity of the Russian Federation. This is a backlash against Mykola Semena for publicly expressing his political views.

HONEST PEOPLE HAVE TO RAISE THEIR VOICES IN SUPPORT OF MYKOLA SEMENA. THEY HAVE TO DEMAND COMPLETE WITHDRAWAL OF ALL CHARGES AGAINST HIM AND LIFT OF THE BAN TO TRAVEL OUTSIDE THE CRIMEAN PENINSULA FOR TREATMENT.

ASSAULT AGAINST FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION IN CRIMEA

FACTS AT A GLANCE:



After annexation of Crimea in the spring of 2014, all local Ukrainian TV channels were promptly shut down and replaced by Russian ones.

After the illegal annexation of Crimea, the Russian Parliament amended Article 280.1 of the Criminal Code to include a criminal penalty of five years in jail for "public incitement to violation of the territorial integrity of the Russian Federation committed with the use of media". These changes in the law are a freshly-introduced suppression tool to be used against journalists who disagree with annexation of Crimea.



On 10 March 2015, the Russian secret service, the FSB, launched a criminal case under Article 280.1 of the Criminal Code against the editor-in-chief of «BlackSeaNews» Andriy Klymenko. This happened after his speech before the Atlantic Council in Washington on «Human Rights in Crimea under Russian Occupation». Presently, the journalist faces a prison term of up to five years.

On 13 March 2015, the parents of Crimean journalist Anna Andriyevska were informed that the FSB had opened a criminal case against their daughter under article 280.1. of the Criminal Code. She is accused of writing an article about volunteers in the Ukrainian battalion «Crimea». As above, the journalist faces a prison term of up to five years.



In early August 2016 Natalia Poklonskaya, who was appointed by Moscow to serve as a «prosecutor» of Crimea, launched a shut-down campaign against six pro-Ukrainian Crimean media outlets and a number of Ukrainian media Internet sites. Poklonskaya attributed her actions to «a fight against terrorism and extremism».