Spanish freelance journalists Antonio Pampliega and Manuel Angel Sastre were intercepted by Ukrainian police upon arrival at Kyiv airport on 24 August 2017. They were deported on the same day under the pretense that they represented "a threat to national security". The two journalists intended to cover the armed conflict in the east of the country, as they did in a previous report in December 2014. The Spanish consular authorities told the journalists that the Ukrainian authorities justified their deportation by the fact that they were on a list drawn up by the Ukrainian secret service. The Federation of Associations of Journalists of Spain (FAPE) condemned the deportation. It asked the Spanish authorities to request official explanations from the Ukrainian authorities.

02 Nov 2017: On 2 November 2017, following the lift of travel ban on journalists Antonio Pampliega and Manuel Angel Sastre, the partner organisations to the Platform declared this case to be "resolved", concluding it was no longer an active threat to media freedom.

23 Oct 2017: On 10 October 2017, the Ukrainian Security Service (SBU) announced that it lifted the travel ban on the two Spanish journalists who were denied entry to the country in August.

Article published by hromadske international: "Ukrainian Security Service Lifts Travel Ban on Two Spanish Journalists "

PARTNER: EFJ/IFJ, CPJ, Index, RSF
Key information:
Antonio Pampliega, Manuel Angel Sastre

Two Spanish freelance journalists who had both previously been on a list of banned persons issued by the Ukrainian President, but had since been granted access to the country.