

18

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▲ Lvl. 1

State  
replied

Ukraine

Alert created on: 02 Oct 2017

## Uzbek Journalist on Interpol List Detained

SOURCE OF THREAT ▶ State

CATEGORY  ▶ Detention and imprisonment of journalists

**PARTNER:** Index, EFJ/IFJ

On 25 September 2017, a Kyiv court approved a 40-day detention period for Narzullo Okhunjonov, who has been living in exile since 2013. Authorities detained Okhunjonov under an international arrest warrant on 20 September, when he arrived in Ukraine with his family from Turkey to seek political asylum. The authorities noted that his name was on an Interpol list. Uzbekistan filed the international warrant for Okhunjonov on a fraud charge.

The journalist, who left Uzbekistan to avoid politically motivated persecution for his reporting, denies the charges. Okhunjonov writes critically, in Uzbek and Russian, from exile for sites including BBC Uzbek about Uzbekistan's authoritarian government, particularly on the the late President Islam Karimov.

The journalist arrived in Kyiv from Turkey with his wife and five children. His family is currently in the capital of Ukraine.

### UPDATES

**19 Oct 2017:** On 5 October 2017, Narzullo Okhunjonov was released from the detention center by a decision of the Kyiv prosecutor's office.

➔ Article published on hromadske.ua: "Ukraine Frees Detained Uzbek Journalist"

### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

➔ Statement by the Committee to Protect Journalists: "Uzbek journalist detained in

## Ukraine at risk of extradition"

- ➔ Report published on the Mapping Media Freedom platform: "Uzbek journalist on Interpol list detained "

### STATE REPLIES



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- ➔ Official position of Ukraine