

## Platform to promote the protection of journalism and safety of journalists

31 Jul 2018

A Lvl. 2

State replied

**Ukraine** 

Alert created on: 01 Jun 2018

## Threats against the President of the National Union of Journalists of Ukraine

SOURCE OF THREAT ▶ State

CATEGORY Harassment and intimidation of journalists

PARTNER: EFJ/IFJ

Several journalists have been threatened in Ukraine, in a context of increasing verbal violence against the media and the journalists' organisations that challenge the actions of Ukrainian government. On 30 May 2018, Larissa Sargan, spokeswoman of the General Prosecutor of Ukraine, posted on her Facebook page a list of 26 so-called "traitors" who criticized the law enforcement authorities after the information about the "murder" in Kyiv of Russian journalist Arkady Babchenko. The "murder" was in fact an operation in which Ukrainian security services (SBU) faked Babchenkos's assassination. Two journalists appear in Larissa Sargan's list of so-called traitors: Myroslava Gongadze and Sergiy Tomilenko, who is the President of the National Union of journalists of Ukraine. On 16 May 2018, Iryna Gerashchenko, first vice-speaker of the Ukrainian parliament, attacked verbally the National Union of Journalists of Ukraine. She accused the union to cooperate with the "Kremlin propagandists". In the following days, Sergiy Tomilenko was targeted by online threats (mainly Facebook posts and comments) calling the Ukrainian Security Services to imprison him.

## **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**



- Larissa Sargan's Facebook post on the so-called "traitors"
- Article in Strana: "Глава НСЖУ обвинил Ирину Геращенко во лжи с парламентской трибуны"
- **3** Statement: IFJ and EFJ condemn threats against journalists in Ukraine

## **STATE REPLIES**



