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Ukrainian authorities' actions to limit freedom of the media

Written question No. 680 to the Committee of Ministers

by Mr Alexey PUSHKOV, Russian Federation, Representatives not belonging to a Political Group

On 28 August 2014, the National Television and Radio Broadcasting Council of Ukraine published a list of 49 Russian journalists facing a ban on entering Ukraine.

On 17 February 2015, Ukraine's Verkhovna Rada took a decision on the temporary suspension of accreditation with Ukrainian governmental institutions for journalists of Russian media outlets. According to the Security Service of Ukraine (SBU), it concerns 115 Russian media outlets.

On 25 February 2015, three Russian journalists – Elena Makarova, Sergei Korenev and Andrei Grigoryev – were detained without explanation by the Ukrainian security forces in Kyiv. Later they were deported from the country. Without any explanation, Russian journalists Zhanna Karpenko and Alexandra Ulyanova were denied entry to the territory of Ukraine at Kyiv airport. According to the SBU, 88 journalists were expelled from Ukraine in 2014.

On 26 February 2015, Mr Markiyanyan Lubkivsky, Adviser to the Head of the SBU, warned of criminal responsibility for those who collaborate with hostile mass media.

Mr Pushkov,

To ask the Committee of Ministers,

To give its assessment of the relevant actions of the Ukrainian authorities, in view of the fact that all the above can be considered as an imposition of censorship in the public life of Ukraine, as persecution of individuals who express alternative opinions, and as an outrageous violation of the right to the freedom of expression.

