

News Bulletin of the Association of Ukrainian Human Rights Monitors on Law Enforcement (January-March 2013)

1. Civic campaigns

<http://umdpl.info/index.php?id=1363025090I>

International police monitoring coordinators from five countries meet in Kiev

In February 2013 the international campaign of police monitoring was launched in six countries, in Ukraine it was coordinated by the UMDPL. The campaign organizers from Ukraine, Russia, Tajikistan, Moldova and Armenia met in Kiev on March 11 2013, to discuss the results of this first in its way monitoring.

Coordinators meeting was dedicated to assessment of campaign's efficiency, exchange of experience in organizing such monitoring, planning of further activities in the field of civic control over the police activity.

Format of the monitoring presumed the use of the uniform questionnaire which enabled to test if the police of each country complies with the international standards

<http://umdpl.info/index.php?id=1365057694>

"Ukrainian police activities" – results of international monitoring

Long-term experience of many countries tells us, that presumption that «Police is capable of self-reforming, i.e. without the impact and assistance from civic society» is wrong and dangerous, first of all for regular citizens. Only a constant development of already existing mechanisms of civic control and creation of their new versions can bring essential reforming of the way the society and police cooperate, which in its turn will have a positive impact both on crime rate reduction and general situation of compliance with legal order in the country.

In fact that was the conclusion made by human rights and civic activists from Ukraine, Russia, Moldova, Tajikistan, Armenia and Belarus. They decided therefore to consolidate their efforts and for the first time in the history of these countries launch a joint and coordinated campaign of control over national law enforcement activities.

The result of the international monitoring campaign will be a public analysis of law enforcement activities and comparison of observance of human rights by the police in different countries, establishment of the system of international control over the police activity and reinforcement of cooperation in this sphere between human rights defenders from different countries.

The practical stage of the international monitoring campaign was held in Ukraine between 13 and 24 February, 2013.

Monitors publications during this campaign:

<http://umdpl.info/index.php?id=1362374846> - Kerch: The public checks the 3-rd Police Department

<http://umdpl.info/index.php?id=1361686069> - Police in Ivano-Frankivsk is irritated by anonymity

<http://umdpl.info/index.php?id=1361426860> - Kyiv: The history of five departments (VIDEO)

<http://umdpl.info/index.php?id=1361869889> - Vinnytsa: Head of police shows an example of readiness to have a dialogue with the public (VIDEO)

<http://umdpl.info/index.php?id=1362115402> – Kherson region: Monitoring of Police departments and patrol service

<http://umdpl.info/index.php?id=1362937149> - Kyiv: Focus on Sviatonshyn District Police Department in Kyiv (VIDEO)

<http://umdpl.info/index.php?id=1362077585> - Rivne: The wooden wheelchair ramp and youtube popularity

Reference:

The national monitoring campaign «Police Under Control» is a civic campaign during which activists and volunteers conduct monitoring of human rights observance by police officers. The monitoring started in 2011 aims at developing various forms of civic control over the police by ensuring transparency of its activities.

The campaign is held as a series of thematic monitorings on the most systemic problems in the police activities resulting in human rights violations. After summarizing and analyzing data obtained in the course of each monitoring, the experts develop recommendations for the MIA of Ukraine aimed at improving the situation.

The campaign is coordinated by the Association of Ukrainian Human Rights Monitors on Law Enforcement.

2. International activity

<http://umdpl.info/index.php?id=1361869228>

UN Special Rapporteur on Belarus meets Belarus human rights defenders and journalists in Kyiv

On 18-20 February in Kyiv with the organizational support of Kyiv Human Rights House, UMPDL Association and Human Rights House Foundation UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Belarus held a meeting with human rights defenders and media representatives from Belarus. Miklós Haraszti which was appointed a Special Rapporteur on June 2012 has been unable so far to meet representatives of civic society on the territory of Belarus since its authorities have not yet issued an entrance visa for him.

Due to the impossibility to get to Belarus Mr. Haraszti holds such meetings with activists, human rights defenders and journalists in neighboring Ukraine and Lithuania.

<http://umdpl.info/index.php?id=1360825082>

A meeting on civic control over the police was held in Moscow

On February 10, 2013 a meeting of regional coordinators on civic control over police was held in Moscow. Meeting organizers have also invited a representative of the UMPDL Association Evhen Krapivin, who had an opportunity to share Ukrainian experience and get familiar with the entirely new stage of development of civic control over police in Russia.

3. Awareness-raising activity

<http://umdpl.info/index.php?id=1363702255>

Association UMDPL has held its regular training on police monitoring in Kyiv

Association UMDPL continues to conduct trainings on civic control over Ukraine's internal bodies officers activities. A scheduled training took place between March 15 and 17, 2013 in Kyiv. Activists of civic organizations and other interested people had been invited to take part. The training was conducted thanks to the financial support from National Endowment for Democracy Foundation (NED), USA and organizational assistance by the All-Ukrainian Educational Program «Understanding Human Rights». Soon each participant will join the all-Ukrainian volunteers network of the campaign «Police Under Control».

This is already a tenth basic training of the Association UMDPL on monitoring. All those willing to participate in one of the next trainings have a chance to so and are advised to follow updates on the website <http://umdpl.info/>.

<http://umdpl.info/index.php?id=1364917990>

Association UMDPL taught how to speak to the police with confidence during International Human Rights Documentary Film Festival "Docudays UA" - 2013

Master-class called "Is the police for you or are you for the police? How to protect oneself from the police illegal actions?" took place on March 27 in the Budynok Kino (Cinema House) in Kyiv, within the framework of the International Documentaries Festival. All those willing to participate were invited to the event held by the Association UMDPL experts.

All attendees learnt how to behave in typical situations of communicating with the police, how to protect their own rights from being violated. The experts also told when it is possible to photograph and video record police officers and when it is forbidden, whether the police can confiscate photos and videos or take away your photo and video cameras and how to appeal against illegal actions of law-enforcement officers.

<http://umdpl.info/index.php?id=1364537091>

Ex police ombudsman turned into "live book" at Docudays UA

President of the Legal and Political Research Center "Duma", head of the Kharkiv Regional Branch of the Association UMDPL Yuriy Chumak acted as a «live book». «Live Library» is a unique educational project organized between March 23 and 27 in the Cinema House in Kyiv within the framework of 10th International Human Rights Documentary Film Festival Docudays UA.

As in a regular library where readers can choose and read books with information they are interested in, so in the «Live Library» each one can choose a "Human – book", a person with an interesting life experience and ask him any questions of interest.

The «Books» are people towards which the society is often prejudiced. Buddhists, high-ranking officials, penitentiaries, ex-convicts, refugees, gays, feminists, diplomats, HIV - positives.

Note: The International Human Rights Documentary Film Festival Docudays UA is held annually during the last week of March in Kyiv. Ukrainian Helsinki Human Rights Union (UHHRU) is its main organizer. In addition to documentaries the festival program also includes various educational events, those dedicated to human rights issues are among them. Association UMDPL held its master-class for the second time and intends to continue its educational activity during the festival in the future.

4. Cooperation with authorities

<http://umdpl.info/index.php?id=1361856410>

Association UMDPL along with the Ombudsman Office investigate rights violations of replacement therapy patients

Association UMDPL experts and employees from the Office of The Ukrainian Parliament Commissioner for Human Rights have conducted civic investigation of the fact of the illegal detention of replacement supportive therapy patients in Ternopil oblast Municipal Center of Preventive Care and Fight Against HIV. Association UMDPL continues developing a civic investigations line of activity as one more way to control the police publicly and prevent them from human rights violation.

On December 6, 2012 a representative of UMDPL was informed by a person who wished to keep his anonymity that during operation hours of replacement supportive therapy site in Ternopil oblast Communal Center for Preventive Care and Fight Against HIV about ten clients of the replacement therapy program had been detained. All of them were transported without being informed of the reason for their detention to Ternopil Regional Office of the MIA. They all were photographed and had their fingerprints collected . All detainees had been released three hours after. At the moment a criminal case is opened as a result of the initiated civic investigation into the fact of the violation of RST patients rights.

<http://umdpl.info/index.php?id=1360217028>

Representative of the Association UMDPL has become a member of The Expert Council On The National Preventive Mechanism Realization

On January 24, 2012 at the secretariat of The Ukrainian Parliament Commissioner for Human Rights the first constitutive meeting of The Expert Council On Issues Of The National Preventive Mechanism Realization (NPM) had taken place. The Expert Council will become a main coordinating body of the national preventive mechanism activity in accordance with the UN Optional Protocol to the Convention against torture, which was enacted upon the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine adoption of changes to the Ukraine's law «About The Ukrainian Parliament Commissioner for Human Rights». National preventive mechanism will work in accordance with the model «Ombudsman+», which means that Parliament Commissioner for Human Rights Office and representatives of civic society will cooperate in this sphere. Executive director of Association UMDPL Vadym Pyvovarov has become a member of the Expert Council among other representatives of civic human rights organizations. The Association UMDPL experts have been working for more than 5 years with the aim of establishing a civic control over law-enforcement actions as a mechanism of prevention of human rights violation. Thus their participation in the Expert Council will become a logical continuation of Association activities in this sphere.

5. News from regions

<http://umdpl.info/index.php?id=1359645487>

Romanies from Cherkassy learned to communicate with police without conflicts

In Cherkassy city training was conducted for representatives of Romani people. They were taught potential mechanisms of protecting their rights from illegal actions of the police.

This event was organized by the civic organization «Alyans romen Cherkashchiny» ("Cherkassy Romani alliance") and the Association of Ukrainian Human Rights Monitors on Law-Enforcement with the support of the International Renaissance Foundation. Participants not only raised their legal awareness, but also learned algorithms of behavior in concrete real-life situations when a citizen, for one reason or another, has to deal with representatives of law-enforcement authorities. Besides, participants had received useful instruction booklets assisting to learn basics of one's rights during communication with the police.

<http://umdpl.info/index.php?id=1363335938>

Skadovsk: civic control is combined with cooperation with law enforcement

On March 5, 2013 a working meeting dedicated to development of the system of civic control over law enforcement took place in Skadovsk (Kherson oblast).

The event was organized by Kherson regional organization «Uspishna zhinka» ("Successful woman") and the Association of Ukrainian Human Rights Monitors on Law Enforcement (Association UMDPL), with the support of the International Renaissance Foundation

The Head of Skadovsk District Department of the Regional Office of the MIA Dmytro Tkachenko, regional Public Relations Coordinator of The Ukrainian Parliament Commissioner for Human Rights in Kherson oblast Natalya Kozarenko, Skadovsk City Council Commissioner for Human Rights Ivan Shulga, activists of local civic organizations, mass media representatives took part in the meeting.

The meeting aimed at strengthening the potential of NGOs which work at the sphere of civic control at districts of Kherson oblast since they serve as an important element in prevention of cruel treatment and illegal violence in law enforcement.

<http://umdpl.info/index.php?id=1364538011>

Ivano-Frankivsk: Public Council under The Main Department of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Ukraine – a bridge between the police and a local community

In Ivano-Frankivsk the Public Council at the Regional Office of the MIA held its foundation meeting, during which its new composition had been approved and governing body elected. Provisions regulating its activity had been discussed too.

Vasyl Kostiv, Head of Ivano-Frankivsk regional branch of all-Ukrainian civic organization «Association of Ukrainian Human Rights Monitors on Law Enforcement» was reelected as a Head of a Public Council under The Main Department of the Ministry of Internal Affairs. Editor in chief of «Golos narodu Ivano-Frankivshchiny» newspaper Vitaliy Chornenkiy was elected a Deputy Head, , the Head of «Molodizhna administratsiya Ivano-Frankivskoyi oblasti» philanthropic organization had been elected a Secretary , Head of the "Golos" civic organization Rostislav Gudzinskiy was elected a Presidium Member.

More regional news:

<http://umdpl.info/index.php?id=1364538455> – Kharkiv oblast.: In Chuhuyiv District Police Department a legal information board was installed at the initiative of Yurii Chumak – the Head of Kharkiv branch of the Association UMDPL.

<http://umdpl.info/index.php?id=1363678349> - Kirovograd: Association UMDPL representatives continue cooperation with the Secretary of The Ukrainian Parliament Commissioner for Human Rights

<http://umdpl.info/index.php?id=1363181750> - Kyiv: Association UMDPL representative took part in a monitoring visit of The Ombudsman Office employees to Shevchenkivski District Court

<http://umdpl.info/index.php?id=1363069852> - Mykolayiv: Association UMDPL representative has checked the activity of a District Police Department in Mykolayiv

<http://umdpl.info/index.php?id=1362028297> - Kirovograd: The monitoring visit to Kirivograd pretrial detention center was conducted in accordance with the «Ombudsman +» model.

6. Event announcements

Association of Ukrainian Human Rights Monitors on Law Enforcement ([Association UMDPL](#)) continues its regular set of trainings dedicated to methods of civic control over the police activity. Trainings are held with the financial support of the [National Endowment for Democracy Foundation \(USA\)](#) and organizational assistance of the All-Ukrainian Educational Program [«Understanding Human Rights»](#).

The next training will take place on **May 17-19, 2013 in Chernihiv**. NGO activists, mass media representative who have motivation to work actively in the field of protecting and maintaining human rights and cooperate (or want to do so) with human rights organization on issues of civic control over law enforcement activities are invited to take part in this event

Activity of the Association UMDPL is supported by:

- International Renaissance Foundation and other institutions of the Open Society Foundation network
- Penal Reform International (Great Britain)
- National Endowment for Democracy (NED) (USA)
- Embassy of the Great Britain in Ukraine
- Council of Europe and European Council
- Charles Stewart Mott Foundation