

UKRAINIAN ASSOCIATION OF CIVIC HUMAN RIGHTS ORGANIZATIONS

UKRAINIAN HELSINKI

HUMAN RIGHTS UNION



2010
ANNUAL REPORT



CONTENTS

	History of the organization	3
	The structure of the organization — members, members of the board, supervisory board and staff	4
	Main areas of activities	7
	Defending of victims of human rights abuse	8
	Information about human rights violations	13
	Human rights education	16
	Impact on government human rights policy	18
	Development of the human rights movement	21
	Special UHHRU projects	22
	Financial report	28
	How to help UHHRU?	30



«It was the activity of the Ukrainian Helsinki Group that began the non-violent, legal and law-based development in Ukraine of democracy, respect for human rights and the road to independence. The emergence then of the Ukrainian Helsinki Group and the repressions received wide publicity throughout the world, stirred public opinion and promoted the birth in Ukraine of civic society.»

*Vasyl Ovsyenko,
member of the UHG, and of the Supervisory Council of the Ukrainian
Helsinki Human Rights Union — an interview for Radio Svoboda [Radio Liberty]*



THE ORGANIZATION'S HISTORY

The Ukrainian Helsinki Human Rights Union (UHHRU) is the largest network of civic human rights organizations in Ukraine, with 29 member NGOs.

The Ukrainian Helsinki Group to Promote the Implementation of the Helsinki Accords (UHG) was formed in November 1976. From that time on, the regime tried to crush the organization, its members were thrown into prison or labour camp. The leadership, the activists and name changed, however the purpose of its work has and will remain the defence of human rights.

UHHRU was created on 1 April 2004 as an association of human rights organizations in order to promote the implementation of the humanitarian articles of the 1975 Final Act of the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) and other international legal documents adopted for its development, as well as all Ukraine's human rights obligations.

Chronology:

9 November 1976: The Ukrainian Group to Promote the Implementation of the Helsinki Accords was formed however, due to repression by the Soviet regime its activities were effectively stopped.

1988. The Ukrainian Helsinki Union was created with its aim being the renewal of Ukraine's independence. In 1990 it effectively ceased to exist, turning into the Ukrainian Republican Party. Those activists who saw human rights defence as the aim of their work gave a new start to the human rights movement.

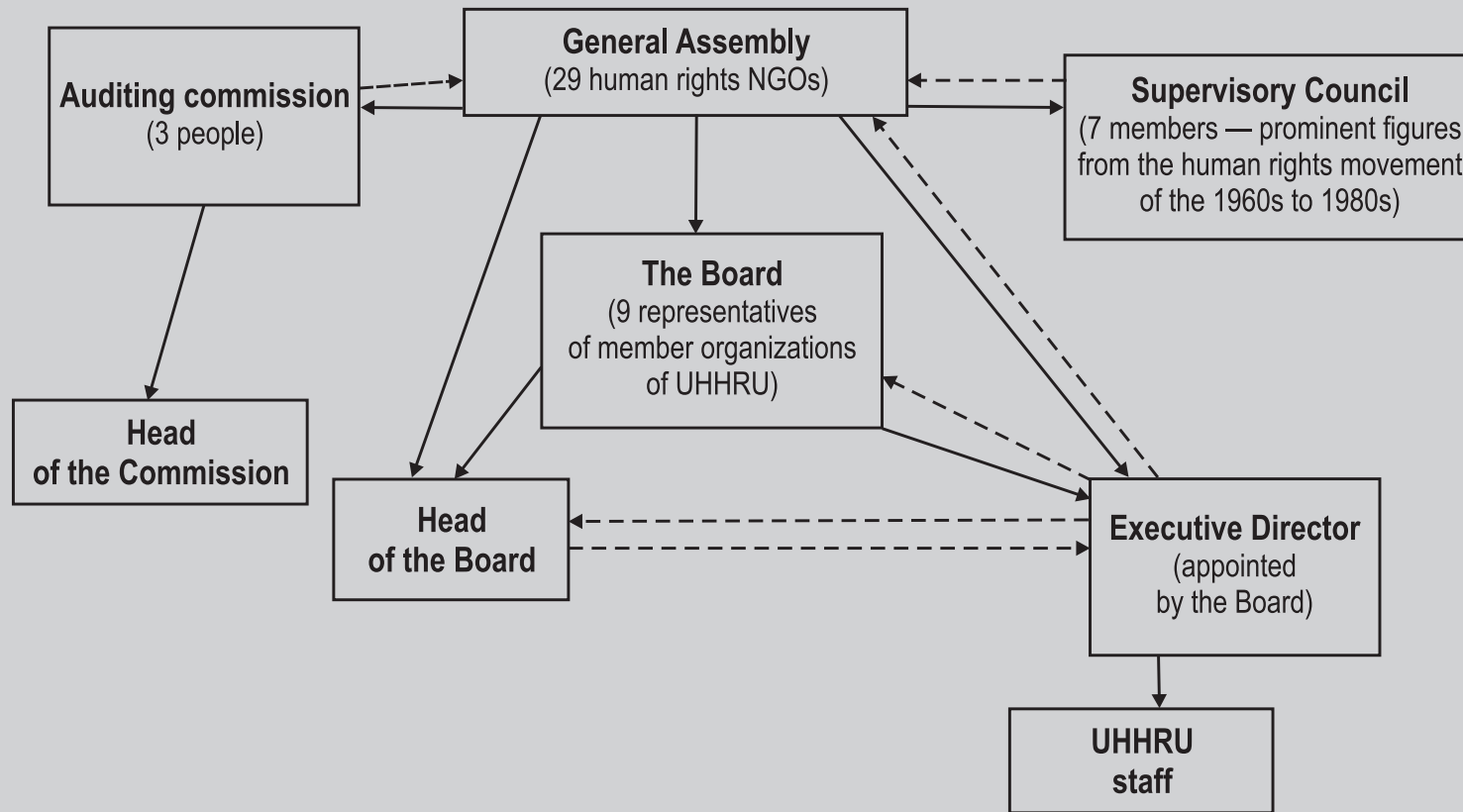
1990. Emergence of the **Helsinki-90 Committee**.

2003. The Council of Ukrainian Human Rights Organizations [RUPOR] was created with this beginning to coordinate the activities of a network of human rights organizations.

1 April 2004 after the First Forum of Human Rights Organizations organized by RUPOR, a founding meeting took place of an association of human rights organizations called the **Ukrainian Helsinki Human Rights Union**. This marked the beginning of a new phase in the joint work of many human rights organizations. It is a poignant anniversary since on that same day Mykola Rudenko, one of the founding members of the Ukrainian Helsinki Group died.



THE STRUCTURE OF THE UKRAINIAN HELSINKI HUMAN RIGHTS UNION



As of December 2010 UHHRU comprised 29 human rights NGOs:

1. The Civic Initiatives Association, Kirovohrad <http://www.monitoring.kr.ua>;
2. The Ukrainian Society of Political Prisoners and Victims of Repression, Kyiv (which the Helsinki-90 Committee was part of);
3. The Civic Organization "Aibolit", Simferopol;
4. The Public Committee for the Protection of Constitutional Rights and Civil Liberties, Luhansk;
5. The Legal Research and Strategy Institute, Kharkiv <http://www.hr-lawyers.org/>;
6. The Civic Organization "Territory of Success", Kirovohrad <http://www.watchdog-kr.org.ua>;
7. The Civic Organization "Flora", Kirovohrad <http://childflora.org.ua/>;
8. Donetsk Memorial, Donetsk <http://ukrprison.org.ua/>;
9. The Environmental Club "EOL", city of Yuzhny, Odessa region;
10. The Environmental & Humanitarian Association "Zeleny Svit" ["Green World"], Chortkiv, Ternopil region www.greenworld.org.ua;
11. The "Respublica" Institute, Kyiv;
12. The Congress of National Communities of Ukraine, Kyiv <http://www.kngu.org>;
13. The Konotop Consumers and Taxpayers Society "Hidnist" ["Dignity"], Konotop, Sumy region;
14. The Committee on Monitoring Press Freedom in the Crimea, Simferopol;
15. Kryvy Rih City Association of the Ukrainian Taras Shevchenko "Prosvita" Society, Kryvy Rih, Dnipropetrovsk region;
16. The Luhansk Regional Branch of the Committee of Voters of Ukraine, Severodonetsk, Luhansk region;
17. The International Women's Human Rights Organization "La Strada-Ukraine", Kyiv <http://www.lastrada.org.ua>;
18. The Civic Organization "M'ART" [Youth Alternative], Chernihiv;
19. The Odessa Human Rights Group "Veritas", Odesa;
20. The Odessa Regional Branch of the Committee of Voters of Ukraine www.cvu.od.ua;
21. The Sevastopol Human Rights Group;
22. The Sumy Public Bureau "Pravozakhyst" ["Human Rights Defence"];
23. The Kharkiv Human Rights Group <http://www.khpg.org>;
24. Kherson City Association of Journalists "Pivden'" ("South") <http://www.uapravo.org/>;
25. The Kherson Regional Branch of the Committee of Voters of Ukraine, Kherson;
26. The Centre for Research into Regional Policy, Sumy;
27. Centre for Legal and Political Research "SIM", Lviv www.centre7.org.ua;
28. The Chernihiv Civic Committee for the Protection of Human Rights, <http://www.protection.org.ua>;
29. Helsinki Initiative — XXI, Chortkiv, Ternopil region.

Members of the organization adhere in their work to the UHHRU **Declaration of Ethical Principles** which can be read here:

<http://helsinki.org.ua/en/index.php?id=1239889483>

The UHHRU Board changed in 2010, and is made up of the following members

1. **Arkady Bushchenko** — Head of the Board (Legal Research and Strategy Institute, Kharkiv);
2. **Oleksandr Bukalov** (Donetsk Memorial, Donetsk);
3. **Halyna Bakhmatova** (Kherson Regional Branch of the Committee of Voters of Ukraine, Kherson);
4. **Yevhen Zakharov** (Co-Chair of the Kharkiv Human Rights Group), Kharkiv;
5. **Olha Kalashnyk** (International Women’s Human Rights Organization “La Strada-Ukraine”, Kyiv);
6. **Volodymyr Ponomarenko** (Konotop Consumers and Taxpayers Society “Hidnist”, Konotop, Sumy region);
7. **Oleksy Svyetikov** (Luhansk Regional Branch of the Committee of Voters of Ukraine, Severodonetsk, Luhask region);
8. **Oleksandr Stepanenko** (Helsinki Initiative — XXI, Chortkiv, Ternopil region);
9. **Alla Tiutiunnyk** (Kherson City Association of Journalists “Pivden”, Kherson).

The UHHRU Supervisory Board of the Association is made up of well-known participants in the Ukrainian human rights movement from the 1960s–1980s: Zynoviy Antoniuk; Mykola Horbal; Vasyl Lisovy; Vasyl Ovsyenko, Yevhen Proniuk; Yevhen Sverstiuk and Joseph Zisels

UHHRU has its central office in Kyiv and is run by:

Volodymyr Yavorsky — Executive Director

Ludmila Yelcheva — Financial Director

Maxim Shcherbatiuk — Lawyer

Oleh Levytsky — Lawyer

Oleksandr Bakhov — Lawyer

Marina Hovorukhina — Head of Public Relations

Irina Kuchynska — Chief Accountant

Nazar Losiuk — Office Manager

Vitaly Novikov — Web Administrator of the UHHRU website

Anna Andrusiak — Secretary

Yulia Milaya — Public Relations Manager of the International Human Rights Documentary Film Festival Docudays UA



MAIN AREAS OF ACTIVITY:

- Defending human rights and fundamental freedoms in the court, public authorities and bodies of local self-government;
- Providing legal assistance to help people defend their rights;
- Constant monitoring of human rights observance in Ukraine and providing information about human rights violations;
- Carrying out human rights studies, including regular monitoring of draft laws and other legal acts. Opposing the adoption of nor-

mative acts which would adversely affect protection of rights and freedoms;

- Public discussion of draft normative acts; preparation of our own proposals.;
- Human rights education; holding educational events and campaigns; seminars, training courses, conferences, schools, etc;
- Development and support for a network of human rights organizations.

All those wishing to become involved in UHHRU's work are very welcome to do so, whether as volunteers, through joint activities, by becoming members or through donations. Please see contact information below, or information for potential sponsors here: <http://helsinki.org.ua/en/index.php?r=a2b7>



UHHRU takes part in the National Law Week



Participations in the Quest "Immigration and Emigration in Ukraine"

DEFENDING VICTIMS OF HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSE

Providing consultation regarding infringements of rights and freedoms

In 2010, with the support of «Oxfam Novib» UHHRU continued coordinating the work of a single network of public advice centres providing members of the public with free legal assistance.

The UHHRU Public Advice Centres provide the following types of legal aid:

- Information and consultation;
- Help with preparing documents, including law suits;
- Representing people in the courts and other authorities;
- Preparing applications to the European Court of Human Rights.

The Advice Centres all adhere to the same standards regarding records of applications and consultations, rules and procedure of activities, and ethical norms. We have created shared information resources and improved communications between the Centres. A shared information network has been created with exchange of information between the centres organized.

The network contains **14 Public Advice Centres** located in Chernihiv, Donetsk, Kherson, Kharkiv, Kirovohrad, Konotop (Sumy region), Kyiv, Lviv, Luhansk, Mykolaiv, Severodonetsk (Luhansk region), Sevastopol and Ternopil.

These advice centres hold sessions at least once a week. A lot of people also write; telephone or make contact via the Internet. As well as seeing people in the regional centres in their offices, each organization holds outreach consultations around the region in inaccessible areas where there is often no legal aid at all.

In 2010 the UHHRU Public Advice Centres provided 13,960 consultations. The Centres are most often turned to by pensioners, people with dis-

abilities, those unemployed, prisoners and their relatives. It should be noted that 54% of the consultations were to women. People complain most of all about the courts, the police, bodies of local self-government and administration, enterprises, the Pension Fund and social protection agencies.

In order to enhance the level of legal services provided at the Advice Centres, UHHRU has run a number of educational events enabling lawyers to gain greater expertise and share experience. These included seminars on Land Law within the Context of Human Rights Protection; Improving the Work of UHHRU Public Advice Centres; Providing Legal Aid to Convicted Prisoners; a training seminar for members of human rights organizations in the area of gender equality; a training seminar for lawyers in human rights organizations on legal issues regarding gender discrimination complaints; a training seminar on Human Rights in the Context of Information Security.

In Kyiv members of the public can receive consultations either by coming to the public advice centre (each Monday from 14.00 to 18.00 lawyers and bar lawyers give advice to those on low incomes or other vulnerable groups in society), as well as by post, etc.

During 2010 the UHHRU Office provided 3 638 verbal or written consultations, this being double the figure for 2009. Responses provide information on possible ways of reinstating the right violated. On the basis of reports received, UHHRU also systematically sends appeals to the relevant authorities in order to reinstate their rights. In some cases a lawyer takes on the case free of charge.

Legal consultations are also provided on the UHHRU website through online answers in the section "Questions to a human rights defender". This is one of the most

popular sections of the site, with 2,458 consultations online being provided during 2010 (against 2,356 in 2009).

UHHRU has also created a section entitled "Advice from Human Rights Defenders" which contains answers to the most frequent questions put by visitors to the site. These include advice on how to defend freedom of peaceful assembly, on a person's rights when detained or arrested, etc.

(<http://www.helsinki.org.ua/index.php?r=a1b19>)

Contact details of the Public Advice Centres can be found at:

<http://www.helsinki.org.ua/index.php?r=a1b18>

Site for posing questions to human rights defenders:

<http://www.helsinki.org.ua/index.php?r=a1b4>

Strategic Litigations Fund

The Strategic Litigations Fund was established so that UHHRU could provide efficient legal assistance for victims of rights violations in cases, which have strategic importance. Strategic litigations are cases that change legislation, administrative or judicial practice, are aimed at upholding rights and freedoms or that concern particularly widespread or flagrant violations.

Legal assistance can be via written or verbal consultations; help in drawing up documents, as well as representation in court or with the authorities or international bodies. Support for such a case may also be achieved through other methods, for example, through research, wide-scale peaceful events, circulating information through the media and other forms of campaigns to defend violated rights.

UHHRU can either fully or partially pay the cost of legal services if these are not provided free of charge. Victims of violations and others can make donations to help with the cost of legal aid.

The Fund is run in accordance with Provisions which can be found at:

<http://www.helsinki.org.ua/index.php?r=a1b9>

Examples of the Fund's work during 2010

The European Court of Human Rights found that Ukraine had violated the right to liberty and security of person (Article 5 of the Convention on Human Rights)

<http://helsinki.org.ua/en/index.php?id=1276072857>

Belarusian national Oleg Kamyshev won his case against Ukraine in the European Court of Human Rights. The Court found that Mr Kamyshev, who has official second category disabled status, had been unlawfully detained by the Ukrainian authorities. He had been held in detention pending extradition for 3 months.

The Court found that Oleg Kamyshev had been deprived of his liberty without any legal grounds. A criminal case had been initiated with the only reason for his being held in custody being the extradition request from Belarus.

The Court's judgment confirms that one cannot keep a person in custody where there is no clear procedure for such, and that in Ukraine there is no such legislation.

Fire fighters withstand Cabinet of Ministers attack

<http://helsinki.org.ua/index.php?id=1278409519>

The District Administrative Court in Kyiv ruled that the Cabinet of Ministers had unlawfully deprived Ukrainian fire fighters of compensation for uniforms not received.

A former sergeant of the civil defence service sought redress for the infringement of his rights. As a fireman from 1992 to 2009, he had had to buy his own uniform. When in connection with his state of health he was dismissed and sought compensation for the costs incurred, he was told that he would not receive the money since the Cabinet of Ministers had decided to economize on the fire fighters and had passed resolution № 319 from 08.04.2009.

According to this resolution, rank and file and managerial staff of civil defence, dismissed for health reasons, were not provided with the uniforms not received at the time of their dismissal or with compensation for their cost. This meant that buying ones uniform was treated as private expenses of a person who as it was did not receive a large salary.

The resolution was in force for almost a year despite the fact that its provisions were in breach of the Code of Labour Laws “On the Legal Foundations of Civil Defence”, and the Law on the Social and Legal Defence of Military Servicemen and Members of their Families”.

The government had effectively deprived tens of thousands of people who each year risked their life in the service of the country of money to which they were entitled. It was forcing fire fighters to buy their own uniforms and did not plan to compensate them for this.

The court revoked the resolution. According to lawyer Viacheslav Yakubenko who represented the firemen in court, “the wish of the authorities to save public funding cannot be an argument for infringing the rights of fire fighters who for years used their own money to buy jackets, caps and boots. Although the resolution in dispute had been passed by Tymoshenko’s government, the present Cabinet of Ministers defended it as their own”.

In December 2010 the Cabinet of Ministers lost their appeal against the ruling and it came into force.

Chernihiv Court revokes curfew for minors

<http://www.helsinki.org.ua/index.php?id=1276165899>

The Desnyansky District Court in Chernihiv ruled that a curfew for minors was unlawful and that the Chernihiv Regional Council had violated citizens’ constitutional right to freedom of movement.

The Decision of the Council “On restricting children’s presence in recreational establishments, public eating places, computer clubs, on the

streets and other public places” from 24 December 2009 in prohibiting children under the age of 14 from being on the street and other public places without their parents after 22.00, and from 14 to 16 — after 23.00, was declared unlawful.

Lawyer Viacheslav Yakubenko who represented the case in court comments:

“No one would deny the good motives of the deputies wishing to overcome juvenile crime and alcoholism in the region. However that does not constitute grounds for violating citizens’ constitutional right to freedom of movement

After all, according to Article 2 of the Law on Freedom of Movement and Free Choice of Place of Residence in Ukraine, restriction of freedom of movement can only be established by law, and in no way via a decision from regional, district or village councils. The same norms are contained in Article 12 of the International Convention on Civil and Political Rights, as well as in Article 2 of Protocol № 4 to the European Convention on Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms.”

An appeal has been lodged.

Disabled children win civil suit against the Cabinet of Ministers

<http://helsinki.org.ua/en/index.php?id=1267179616>

The District Administrative Court in Kyiv declared unlawful and invalid the Cabinet of Ministers Resolution № 1015 from 12.11.2008 where it deprived disabled children of the right to an electrically powered wheelchair up till the age of 14.

The court thus allowed in full the appeal by Vitaly Matyushenko from Kharkiv whose 7-year-old daughter Yulia had been denied by the Cabinet of Ministers the right to get to her school lessons using such a wheelchair.

The court agreed with the claimant that CMU Resolution № 1015 contradicts the Laws on the Fundamental Principles of Social Protection for the Disabled,

on the Rehabilitation of the Disabled as well as the UN Convention on the Rights of the Disabled, which Ukraine has ratified.

The court ruling has come into force.

Yury Moseykov is at liberty, but at what price?

<http://helsinki.org.ua/en/index.php?id=1274178282>

Miracles, it seems, do happen and people who have criminal charges fabricated against them are sometimes released. Only who will give Yury Moseykov back the five years of court and investigation procrastination with almost three years spent in a SIZO [remand unit]?

It all began in May 2005 when, leaving the house to go to work, Yury was met by police officers who asked him to come with them to the police station. There he learned that he was accused of murder.

It is difficult to imagine what an innocent person goes through flung into the system's clutches. Yury Moseykov was tortured until he signed blank pieces of paper. For some time he had no access to a lawyer. He even once attempted suicide.

He had not committed the murder, but the court did not believe him and in 2009 he was sentenced to 10 years imprisonment.

Yury's lawyers, Oleh Levytsky and Oleg Veremeyenko continued fighting for his acquittal and release. Thanks to their efforts the sentence was revoked and the case sent for new examination to the first instance court (the Dniprovsky District Court in Kyiv). Yury Moseykov was released from remand on a signed undertaking not to abscond.

The case is truly incredible. The lawyers discovered that around 50 pages, including the protocols regarding the inspection of the place of the crime and reconstruction of the events were missing. Due to "technical reasons" the video with the reconstruction of the circumstances of the murder became unusable and in some mysterious fashion ALL material evidence, including the murder weapon, as well as the jacket with the blood stains

which had supposedly belonged to Moseykov disappeared. There was a muddle anyway over this jacket since the file said that Moseykov's jacket was blue, yet in the protocol of the search the colour is given as brown, and the forensic analysts received a "black synthetic jacket with black lining".

All of this clearly suggested that the case against Yury Moseykov was fabricated, and the court could not fail to take this into consideration.

UHHRU learned that the court issued an additional decision addressed to the Kyiv Prosecutor regarding the need to investigate the unlawful fabrication of evidence for the prosecution by officials of the Dniprovsky District Prosecutor's Office in Kyiv.

And this cost one young man who had committed no crime 5 years of his life which cannot be returned.

The Abduction of three Ukrainians by police officers.

Those responsible are still unpunished

<http://helsinki.org.ua/en/index.php?id=1270802116>

More than a year has passed since police officers from the Odessa region abducted three Ukrainians and unlawfully took them to the unrecognized Republic of Trans-Dniester.

The police officers handed the Ukrainian nationals over to their colleagues in Trans-Dniester, single-handedly finding them guilty of a number of offences (it transpired later that the men had committed no crime).

The abducted Ukrainians were tortured in an attempt to force a confession to the illegal actions which they had not committed. They spent almost a year in the Grygoriopol SIZO [remand unit] in Trans-Dniester. The victims were finally able to return home, yet the scar of what they went through, will remain with them all their lives.

Those responsible have not been punished despite the fact that the Ministry of Internal Affairs recognized that there had been a violation by its officers. Disciplinary penalties were applied and the case was passed to the Prosecutor's Office.

The Prosecutor initiated criminal proceedings against the police officers. They lodged an appeal against it with the court, but the first instance court rejected it. The police turned to the court of appeal, and the case is still continuing.

The men abducted and held in the Grygoriopol SIZO do not even have victim status and have received no compensation for what they suffered at the hands of representatives of the State.

The Dementiy Bily Case

On 14 September 2010, the Kherson Mayor Volodomyr Saldo, who was standing for re-election for the third time from the Party of the Regions, was giving his report in the Kherson Theatre. There had been no announcement of the event either in the media or on the City Council's website. There were rumours that invitations were being issued to those specially chosen, and leaders of civic organizations were not among them.

There were two burly guys at the doors allowing in only those who had invitations. Dementiy Bily first endeavoured to enter simply as a citizen and voter, then as journalist from the publication "Politichna Khersonshchyna" [about events etc in the Kherson region], for which he had the relevant journalist ID. Neither he nor other civic leaders were allowed in, with Saldo's Deputy overseeing this process. It was only when the Deputy Head of the Regional Administration intervened that they were able to enter the hall where most of the seats were taken by employees of the City Council.

When Saldo's address was already in progress, it became clear that the guards were not admitting two members of the City Council in opposition to Saldo. Dementiy Bily first tried without success to convince Saldo's guards that this was illegal and that they needed to be admitted since the Mayor was reporting to voters and deputies. He was ignored.

Dementiy Bily then walked to the middle of the theatre, took a microphone and demanded that Saldo stopped and issued an instruction for all those to be admitted who wished to hear his report. He repeated this several times until Saldo stopped, however the moderator immediately turned to this largely selected audience saying "Let's support our mayor". Most began clapping.

Dementiy was pushed out of the hall by Saldo's Deputy and four burly men in plain clothes, where three of them twisted his arms behind his back and held him, while the other hit him on the face and head. The police stood and watched. When Dementiy broke free and tried to fight back, the camera hanging from his arm hit the forehead of the person who had been hitting him, and lacerated his skin. The police immediately appeared, called an ambulance for the "victim", and took him to the hospital.

Dementiy's wife, Halyna Akhmatova and colleagues who were in the hall, ran into the foyer during the fight and managed to film some of it. Dementiy's face was covered in red blotches, yet Saldo's deputy and the others still tried to blame him.

In 2010 a criminal case was initiated against the person who assaulted Dementiy Bily, while he himself was found not guilty of having inflicted bodily injuries.

The case is continuing. The latest information can be found at:

<http://www.helsinki.org.ua/en/index.php?id=1292316613>

2 INFORMATION ON HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS



The UHHRU website

The UHHRU website is an important resource for providing information about human rights. It contains the reports of human rights organizations and international bodies, material from the Council of Europe and UN institutions with regard to Ukraine, as well as a lot of other useful information.

The resource provides visitors with Ukrainian and world human rights news, and is constantly updated in three languages: Ukrainian, Russian and English.

Each day there are around 1 thousand visitors to www.helsinki.org.ua Geographical location is highly varied with human rights news from Ukraine proving of interest not only to Ukrainians, but also Australians, Americans, Russians, Chinese, Canadians and others. In 2010 people from Saudi Arabia, Nigeria and Mozambique also began visiting the site.

Statistics for visits to the site in 2010:

month	hits	visitors	hosts
1	7 487	4 397	4 399
2	53 976	31 976	30 673
3	65 847	38 761	37 554
4	54 063	32 397	31 491
5	49 236	29 470	28 693
6	48 642	27 901	26 924
7	38 512	21 822	21 145
8	37 534	20 423	20 131
9	45 792	26 914	26 471
10	46 328	26 592	26 117
11	56 145	33 098	32 195
12	50 730	28 344	27 929

year	hits	visitors	hosts
2005	19 855	5 699	5 553
2006	116 529	43 876	41 561
2007	184 640	80 669	78 099
2008	314 709	156 894	152 699
2009	500 000	279 752	272 315
2010	594 141	346 418	336 619

UHHRU blog <http://ugspl.livejournal.com/>

UHHRU is an active blogger and almost everyday the blog is filled with the most up-to-date news. UHHRU members give advice or express their views regarding various events. At present there are 334 regular readers, this being 2 and a half times the number in 2009 (139).

The Blog Community "Human Rights Chronicle"

http://community.livejournal.com/ua_human_rights/

This group was created by UHHRU as a platform for discussion and exchanging of views by all those interested in human rights in Ukraine, and in neighbouring countries. There are 101 participants (there were 95 members in 2009 so it would not be worth focusing on figures here).

Human rights defence videos <http://www.youtube.com/ugspl/>

UHHRU collects videos about human rights violations in Ukraine or other human rights protection events in the country. It will be using such videos for circulating such information in the media, and for the possible elimination of abuse, as proof of violation of rights in court proceedings, with the authorities and international organizations, in production.

Twitter <http://twitter.com/UGSPL/>

In 2010 UHHRU became even more interactive with its website now on Twitter, and 219 people following UHHRU reports through this medium.

Facebook <http://www.facebook.com/#!/pages/Ugspl/161635813884383>



HUMAN RIGHTS EDUCATION



*Photo of a campaign
at the national human rights school for young people*

One of the biggest human rights education programmes in Ukraine is the project **“We Understand Human Rights”** which began in 2008.

The programme envisages impact on the formal education system, as well as the development of human rights education outside this formal system. It is being carried out by partner organizations carrying out individual projects but united by a common aim and approaches in accordance with a joint action plan.

The programme’s organizers are convinced that the programme helps to increase the number of people able to think critically, creates a platform for discussion and extends the circle of people ready to uphold and defend human rights.

The Programme’s achievements in 2010

73 young activists received training at the National Human Rights School for Young Activists and 3 local human rights schools for young activists. Those who have received such training initiate protest actions, projects, campaigns in defence or support of human rights or take part in such events, involving others as well, and create groups of activists, and cooperate with NGOs.

18 members of staff and volunteers of NGOs defending the interests of people with disabilities received training as part of the National Human Rights School in the interests of people with disability.

Training is underway of **21 journalists** from national and local media outlets from television, radio, the printed press and Internet publications, within the framework of the First Course on the Role of the Journalist in Defending and Supporting Human Rights. Active participants in the Course are more competent in preparing journalist material on human

rights issues, become able to provide coverage of events from a human rights position, avoid hate speech, and gain skills at defending themselves in conditions of strict editorial policy and political engagement of publications.

The training is continuing of **38 general education school teachers and administration personnel within the framework of the Second Course “School as Human Rights Territory”** Participants gain knowledge and skills on human rights, constructing the learning process on human rights principles, on the form and methods of teaching human rights and related issues, including the possibility of integrating the relevant topics in various academic disciplines. On completing the course, the teachers and administration personnel, together with other participants in the educational process, work on creating a school atmosphere based on human rights principles, incorporating their own initiatives regarding human rights education in the school and creating procedure for school management from a human rights position.

Training is underway of **24 penitentiary system employees** within the framework of a Human Rights Course for Penitentiary System Personnel. These are largely employees of the staff services of local Divisions of the State Department for the Execution of Sentences whose duties involve training penal colony staff. Course members participate in testing methodology materials on teaching human rights which will be proposed for use in the system of training and professional development of staff.

The training is continuing of **17 employees of the Ministry of Internal Affairs** system as part of a Human Rights Course for Staff of the Law Enforcement Bodies. The participants are lecturers from all* higher educational institutions working within the MIA system. They are taking part in drawing up and testing a Human Rights Course within the MIA system.

51 graduates of the programme have received special training as part of specialized training course and seminars on “Collective Actions in Defence of Human Rights”. “Human Rights Monitoring”; “Educational Activities in Defence

* 14 higher educational institutes train employees of the MIA system

of Human Rights”; “Strategic Litigation according to Disability”. The last seminar, “Strategic Litigation according to Disability” was attended not only by the Course graduates, but also by **13 other activists (mainly lawyers)** who use legal action in the interests of people with disability. The seminar participants use the training received to carry out relevant action — monitoring, collective and educational activities, strategic litigations.

In 2010 preparation began of a concept framework and implementation of distance learning courses.

17 Belarusian bar lawyers received basic training at the seminar “Using International Law in Bar Law Practice” in order to then continue studying on a long-term Course entitled “Implementation de factor of International Obligations in the Field of Civil Rights and Freedoms, being carried out by Belarusian NGOs together with the Network of Human Rights Houses (Oslo, Norway).

In 2010 working versions of **6 training courses** were published with these being tested and intended for publication in 2011. This stage of the preparation is underway for methodology material which can be used for training activists, teachers, journalists, disability rights activists, human rights monitoring activists as well as those using educational activities in support of human rights.

158 participants in the Conference “Development of Education in the Human Rights Sphere” have prepared recommendations regarding the development of formal and non-formal human rights education in Ukraine. On the basis of these recommendations a resolution is being prepared which will be circulated among the authorities, the media and civic organizations.

“The Programme for Human Rights Education in Ukraine” is a joint project of the Ukrainian Helsinki Human Rights Union and the Norwegian Helsinki Committee.

More on it can be found in Ukrainian at:

<http://www.edu.helsinki.org.ua>



IMPACT ON GOVERNMENT HUMAN RIGHTS POLICY

In appeals throughout 2010 UHHRU repeatedly drew the attention of high-ranking public officials to a deterioration in the human rights situation. The representatives of the regime, however, showed scant willingness to consult with human rights groups. For example, UHHRU and the Kharkiv Human Rights Group issued a press release on the results of the first 100 days of the new Ministry of Internal Affairs leadership where we highlighted dangerous trends in the human rights sphere within the Ministry <http://www.khpg.org/en/index.php?id=1276790516>. Yet the Minister of Internal Affairs ignored the Public Council under the Ministry throughout the entire year.

The promise made by President Yanukovich at the beginning of the year to meet with a broad range of human rights activists remained mere words <http://www.helsinki.org.ua/en/index.php?id=1270113520>

In June the Deputy Head of the President's Administration, Anna Herman stated that "the President has included human rights activists on the Public Humanitarian Council. She said that the next meeting of the Public Humanitarian Council would be specifically devoted to protection of human rights and that many human rights activists would be present. Unfortunately that meeting never took place, and there is not one human rights activist on the Public Humanitarian Council:

<http://www.president.gov.ua/documents/10775.html>.

Some achievement can be seen in the inclusion by the President on the National Commission for the Strengthening of Democracy and Affirmation of the Rule of Law of the UHHRU Executive Director, Volodymyr Yavorskyy <http://www.president.gov.ua/documents/12615.html>. However the order confirming the makeup of the Commission was only issued on 9 December 2010, and it would therefore be premature to speak of the effect of the activities of UHHRU representatives on that body.

Throughout the year the new regime did not, in fact, hold any official consultations with human rights activists regarding State policy, neither within the framework of the public councils, nor in any other possible manner.

Appeals to the authorities

- 18 March 2010 UHHRU and 31 other human rights organizations addressed an appeal to the President over the dissolution of the Department for the Monitoring of Human Rights in the Work of the Police by the Minister of Internal Affairs, Anatoly Mohylyov. The human rights groups stressed that such actions by the Minister were the official position of the MIA against human rights protection:
<http://www.helsinki.org.ua/en/index.php?id=1268924945>

Result: The President called the decision of the Minister of Internal Affairs to reduce that part of the MIA apparatus which deals with human rights ill-considered <http://www.helsinki.org.ua/en/index.php?id=1270127290> However the Minister was deaf both to human rights groups and to the President.

- 26 March 2010 UHHRU and 250 members of the public sent the President and Prime Minister an open letter regarding government policy in the area of human rights. The appeal specifically focused on the closing of the Department for the Monitoring of Human Rights in the Work of the Police, the lack of women in the government and the erection of a monument to Stalin in Zaporizhya:
<http://www.helsinki.org.ua/en/index.php?id=1270113520>

Result: Due to the lack of any response, UHHRU on 1 April sent another appeal to the President in which it called on him to assess the actions of the

Minister of Internal Affairs in dissolving the Department for the Monitoring of Human Rights in the Work of the Police <http://www.helsinki.org.ua/en/index.php?id=1270127290>. In response to that appeal, the President sent the human rights organizations' complaint about the Ministry of Internal Affairs to that selfsame Ministry <http://www.khpg.org/en/index.php?id=1272377532>. In its turn the Minister of Internal Affairs sent a letter to UHHRU in which he asserted that members of human rights organizations were regularly invited to meetings of the collegiate board of the Ministry <http://www.helsinki.org.ua/en/index.php?id=1277361141> It should be noted that UHHRU which is the largest human rights organization in Ukraine did not once receive such an invitation during the whole of 2010.

- 13 April 2010 UHHRU sent a letter to the Prime Minister and the Minister of Internal Affairs calling on them to not introduce named railway tickets since this would be an unwarranted restriction of human freedoms. The letter was also signed by 48 other civic organizations: <http://www.helsinki.org.ua/en/index.php?id=1271166079>

Result: At present such named tickets are not to be introduced, however the MIA has not totally rejected the idea.

- **22 April 2010** The Ukrainian Helsinki Human Rights Union and the Kharkiv Human Rights Group sent another letter to the President to mark his 50th day in office. The letter pointed to a considerable worsening in the human rights situation and provided recommendations on improving this. <http://www.helsinki.org.ua/en/index.php?id=1272271846>
- **28 May 2010** The General Assembly of the Ukrainian Helsinki Human Rights Union decided to send a letter to the Prosecutor's Office regarding the unlawful destruction of century-old trees in Kharkiv's Gorky Park and violence against those defending the trees: <http://www.helsinki.org.ua/en/index.php?id=1275048911>.

Result: The Kharkiv Regional Prosecutor's Office found no violation in the beating up of people in Gorky Park: <http://www.khpg.org/en/index.php?id=1279921946>

- **31 May 2010** UHHRU turned to the Speaker of the Verkhovna Rada and the Head of the Verkhovna Rad Committee on Human Rights, National Minorities and Inter-ethnic Relations. The letter concerned the need to make public and widely discuss draft Law № 2450 "On the Procedure for Organizing and Holding Peaceful Events": <http://www.helsinki.org.ua/en/index.php?id=1275314651>
- **On 6 June 2010** the Ukrainian Helsinki Human Rights Union submitted to the Verkhovna Rada its legal analysis of draft Law № 2450 "On Peaceful Assembly", prepared for its second reading: <http://www.helsinki.org.ua/en/index.php?id=1276248891>
- **3 June 2010** UHHRU addressed an appeal to the Verkhovna Rada, the Prosecutor General, the Human Rights Ombudsperson regarding the inaction of the police when defenders of Kharkiv's Gorky Park were being assaulted: <http://www.helsinki.org.ua/en/index.php?id=1275650070>.

Result: The Kharkiv Regional Prosecutor's Office found no violation in the beating up of people in Gorky Park: <http://www.khpg.org/en/index.php?id=1279921946>

- **4 June 2010** UHHRU called on the President to veto the Law on Personal Data Protection since it contained a number of serious failings, did not meet European standards and seriously jeopardized freedom of speech in Ukraine: <http://www.helsinki.org.ua/en/index.php?id=1275660138>.

Result: The President did not use his power of veto. A representative of the President's Administration sent UHHRU a response, stating that UHHRU com-

ments and proposals would be taken into consideration when the draft law was being passed to the President for his signature, this being prohibited by law <http://www.helsinki.org.ua/index.php?id=1278419490>. UHHRU issued a statement pointing out that the law is a significant step towards totalitarianism and calling for amendments to be made without delay to the Law on Personal Data Protection and for these to be passed before 1 January 2011 when the Law was to come into effect <http://www.helsinki.org.ua/index.php?id=1277472776>. This, however, was not done and the law came into force on 1 January 2011 without any changes having been made.

- **18 June 2010** UHHRU and a number of activists from human rights organizations addressed a letter to the President in connection with an interview on TV Inter given by the Minister of Internal Affairs. They accused the Minister of deliberate deception and misleading the public about MIA actions. They cited as an example the claim that the Department for the Monitoring of Human Rights in the Work of the Police had been retained, despite its having been dissolved back in Spring and its staff made redundant as entries in their work record documents indicated: <http://www.khpg.org/en/index.php?id=1279449281>.
- **18 July 2010** The Ukrainian Helsinki Human Rights Union and 131 members of the public called on the President to veto the Law on the Judicial System and the Status of Judges on the grounds that the considerable failings in the law would adversely impact upon the right to a free trial in Ukraine. <http://helsinki.org.ua/en/index.php?id=1279437290>

Result: The President did not use his power of veto

- **26 July 2010** UHHRU turned to the President and Minister of Foreign Affairs with regard to the ban on entering the Russian Federation of Vasyl Ovsienko. Mr Ovsienko is a well-known human rights activist, former dissident and prisoner of conscience. He was a member of the Ukrainian

Helsinki Group from 1978, is member of the UHHRU Supervisory Commission and KHPG Programme Coordinator:

<http://helsinki.org.ua/en/index.php?id=1280770093>

Result: The Foreign Affairs Ministry issued an official commentary in which it reported that the Russians had at very high level expressed regret to Ukraine over the refusal to allow Ukrainian national V. Ovsienko into the country <http://www.mfa.gov.ua/mfa/ua/news/detail/43052.htm>.

However, despite statements from the MFA, human rights activist and former political prisoner Vasyl Ovsienko still did not receive an official apology from RF State structures for the refusal by border guards to allow him into Russia.

- **8 September 2010** The Ukrainian Helsinki Human Rights Union and 39 civic organizations addressed an appeal to the Minister of Justice; the Head of the Verkhovna Rada Committee on Human Rights, National Minorities and Inter-ethnic Relations; the Head of the Verkhovna Rada Committee on Legislative Provisions for Law Enforcement Activities; the Head of the Verkhovna Rada Committee on National Security and Defence; the Head of the Verkhovna Rada Committee on Health. The appeal concerned the need to hold widespread public discussion of the draft law on the creation of national preventive mechanisms against torture: <http://www.helsinki.org.ua/en/index.php?id=1283960162>.

Result: In a letter to UHHRU the Deputy Minister of Justice, Valeria Lutkovska stated "In the very near future the above-mentioned draft law will be posted on the site of the Ministry of Justice for study and to take into consideration public opinion": <http://www.helsinki.org.ua/index.php?id=1288002283>.

- **10 September 2010** UHHRU and the Kharkiv Human Rights Group sent an appeal to the President, the Head of the SBU and the Prosecutor General in connection with the unlawful detention of historian Ruslan

Zably. UHHRU and KHGP demanded that the SBU stop their harassment of the historian:

<http://www.helsinki.org.ua/en/index.php?id=1284112664>

- **15 September 2010** UHHRU addressed an appeal to the Prosecutor General and Minister of Internal Affairs calling for a swift, independent and effective investigation into the assault on human rights activist and journalist Dementiy Bily:

<http://www.helsinki.org.ua/en/index.php?id=1284549387>.

Result: The Prosecutor's Office initiated a criminal investigation over the assault on Dementiy Bily <http://www.helsinki.org.ua/en/index.php?id=1284653526>

- **7 October 2010** The Ukrainian Helsinki Human Rights Union addressed an appeal to the Prosecutor General calling for a proper investigation into the case of Kornilenko. On 22 September 2010 Mr Kornilenko who is from Poltava issued a statement in which he said that under the instructions of officers of the anti-drug department of the Poltava Department of the MIA, he took part in provoking crimes and falsifying criminal file material in the criminal case against accused R. presently being examined by the Zhovtnevy District Court in Poltava. He admitted to having given false testimony in the court because he was frightened that a criminal investigation would be initiated against him:

<http://www.helsinki.org.ua/en/index.php?id=1288372722>

Result: The Poltava Regional Department of the Ministry of Internal Affairs accused human rights activists of discrediting the police:

<http://www.helsinki.org.ua/en/index.php?id=1288372722>

- **27 October 2010** UHHRU appealed to the international community, to international organizations and foreign embassies to try to influence Ukraine's policy in order to stop the harassment of human rights activists for their work. UHHRU also turned to the European Union and its member

states with a request to more actively use the Guiding Principles of the EU on the protection of human rights and to draw up a plan for inculcating these in Ukraine:

<http://www.helsinki.org.ua/en/index.php?id=1288264668>.

- **28 October 2010** UHHRU and 45 European human rights organizations signed an appeal to the President demanding a stop to pressure and harassment of human rights activists in Ukraine. The examples were cited of the cases of Oleh Verentsov, Dementiy Bily and Dmytro Groisman.

<http://www.helsinki.org.ua/en/index.php?id=1288347322>

- **17 November 2010** The Ukrainian Helsinki Human Rights Union called on National Deputies to implement the judgment of the Constitutional Court by ensuring that Ukrainians who have gone abroad are paid their pensions:

<http://www.helsinki.org.ua/en/index.php?id=1290070104>.

Result: The Verkhovna Rada Committee informed UHHRU that National Deputies had on a number of occasions submitted draft laws to the Cabinet of Ministers aimed at resolving this issue. However the Cabinet of Ministers has not supported them. UHHRU's next step will be an appeal to the Cabinet of Ministers.

- **3 December 2010** UHHRU and members of 62 civic organizations called on the President to take measures aimed at either changing the actions and policies of the Ministry of Internal Affairs in order to ensure the public's safety and safeguard human rights, or at changing the Minister and management of the Ministry of Internal Affairs who had proved helpless and inactive in this sphere:

<http://khpg.org/en/index.php?id=1291384961>

- **8 December 2010** UHHRU addressed a letter to the Minister of Foreign Affairs expressing outrage over Ukraine's refusal to take part in the Nobel Peace Prize ceremony. The letter stated that the lack of an official representative of Ukraine at the Nobel Peace Prize Ceremony for Liu Xiaobo would be seen by the EU and the international community as a move away from the principles of democracy and respect, and as a demonstration of solidarity with those particular countries which do not support the generally accepted concept of human rights and put forward their "own models" of interaction between the State and individual as a cover for authoritarian tendencies and infringements of human rights and fundamental freedoms:

<http://www.helsinki.org.ua/en/index.php?id=1291809113>

Result: A representative of Ukraine was present at the Nobel Peace Prize ceremony <http://news.dt.ua/news/73017>

- 22 December 2010 UHHRU published an open letter calling on the Ukrainian government to put an end to selective prosecutions and pointing to a sharp reduction in the level of political freedom in the country <http://www.helsinki.org.ua/en/index.php?id=1293011756>

Several days later similar statements were issued by the USA and the European Union (see for example:

<http://www.khpg.org/en/index.php?id=1293706488>

and <http://www.khpg.org/en/index.php?id=1293491380>)

Press Conferences

21 April 2010 A press conference was held in the press agency RIA Novosti to mark the return of the three men abducted from the Odessa region and held in the Grigoriopolsk SIZO or remand unit in Trans-Dniester. A member of the UHHRU Board explained that they had been unlawfully taken to Trans-

Dniester by police officers and had there been subjected to torture. The police officers who carried out the abduction have still not been punished:

<http://helsinki.org.ua/en/index.php?id=1270802116>

21 April 2010 UHHRU's Executive Director took part in a press conference to mark publication of research on the Situation for Trans-Gender People in Ukraine;

7 June 2010 UHHRU's Executive Director took part in a press conference on access to information. The full text of his address is available in Ukrainian at:

<http://helsinki.org.ua/index.php/files/docs/pda/index.php?id=1275902481>

10 December 2010 UHHRU gave a press conference to reveal the laureates of the Anti-Prize "Thistle of the Year 2010":

<http://www.helsinki.org.ua/en/index.php?id=1291990742>

The Press about UHHRU

UHHRU is always pleased to cooperate with the media and provide commentaries to journalists on human rights-related issues.

In 2010 there were **over 200 mentions** of the Ukrainian Helsinki Human Rights Union in the media, this being double the figure for the previous year.

This demonstrates that UHHRU is carrying out its activities in an ever more transparent and public manner.

Its activities were covered by such media outlets as UNIAN, the TV channels 1+5, Kanal 5, Tonis, STB, TVi, "Ukraina", the newspaper Komsomolskaya Pravda v Ukrainie, the journal Korrespondent, the newspaper Segodnya, the radio stations of Deutsche Welle, Radio Svoboda, Radio Era and others.

More detail in Ukrainian is available in the sections: the Press about us at:

<http://helsinki.org.ua/index.php?r=a1b1c10> — and the Press about the Anti-Award "Thistle of the Year" <http://helsinki.org.ua/index.php?id=1184236923>



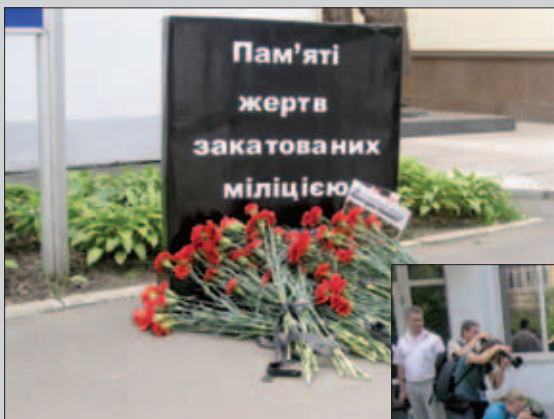
SPECIAL EVENTS

The action “Against Torture”

On 26 June, International Day In Support of Victims of Torture the Ukrainian Helsinki Human Rights Union and “We Understand Human Rights” Programme held an action in memory of victims of torture by the police.

In 2010 outside the Ministry of Internal Affairs, a Wall of Remembrance was erected in memory of victims of torture at the foot of which all those who wished to laid red flows. All those taking part in the action received black ribbons with the inscription “In Memory of Victims of Torture”.

Photos from the action (the words on the Wall of Remembrance say “In Memory of victims tortured by the police”:



More photos available at: <http://helsinki.org.ua/index.php?id=1277462301>

Members of UHHRU also took part in a protest action outside the Shevchenkivsky District Police Department: “We don’t want to fall, we don’t want to die” demanding that the killers of Ihor Indylo (who died in that station during the night before his 20th birthday — the police have claimed that he “fell” — translator) be punished and that an end be put to torture by the police.



Participation in the “New Citizen” Campaign

UHHRU was one of the founders of the civic initiative “New Citizen” which is aimed at strengthening the impact of the public on social and political processes in Ukraine.

In 2010, as part of the campaign, UHHRU took part in a Public Forum “The Changes we need” held on 19 March in the Ukrainian House.

The Forum arose out of awareness of the lack of fully-fledged debate between the main presidential candidates and an election campaign which was scandalous, lacking in substance and did not provide answers as to how the successful candidate would govern the country over the next five years.

Unfortunately the President did not appear at the Forum. Therefore, after the Forum members of UHHRU took part in a protest procession from the Ukrainian House to the President’s Administration. During this, 160 pages of questions from members of the public, put during the initiative “Ask the newly-elected President” were handed over for the President’s attention. The symbolic response to the President’s first damp squib as regards communication with the public was a mass-scale action by members of the procession bursting balloons outside the President’s Administration.



Volodymyr Yavorsky and Yevhen Zakharov spoke at the Forum of the main human rights problems in Ukraine



The procession from the Ukrainian House to the President’s Administration

Participation in the National Law Week

In 2010 UHHRU participated in the exhibition and forum “Lawyers to the Public” as part of the National Law Week.

The aim of Law Week is to hold a nationwide law forum as part of which each lawyer or law institution can make a direct contribution to the public good.

The exhibition and forum is a central event of the National Law Week during which visitors can receive free legal consultations from qualified professional lawyers. UHHRU was represented at the event by lawyer Oleksandr Bakhov.

UHHRU also presented printed publications on human rights at the forum — exhibition. The UHHRU stand was extremely popular among university and institute students.



Street action “Will the President stop the Ministry’s Axe?”

Human rights activists showed the adverse impact on human rights of the Ministry of Internal Affairs outside the President’s Administration and handed over an open letter.

The open letter contained a summary of the hearings in the Verkhovna Rada Committee on Legislative Backup for Law Enforcement Activities held on 1 December 2010. This was yet again cynically ignored by the Minister of the MIA despite an appeal from the Head of the Committee, V. Shvets to Prime Minister Azarov to ensure the Minister’s appearance.

Members of the Ukrainian Helsinki Human Rights Union maintain that the MIA is flagrantly violating human rights. Over the first 10 months of 2010 more than 2,633 reports were submitted about crimes with the police only initiating criminal investigations in 14 percent of them. Moreover each year more than 600 thousand Ukrainians suffer torture or other forms of ill-treatment.

Violations of human rights by the MIA, the lack of control of the police and the total impunity of the authorities have become a threat to Ukraine’s national security.

Participants in the action included victims of human rights abuse who provided photos and evidence of the crimes committed by the MIA.



On photo the photo depicts the Tree of Human Rights with the Ministry of Internal Affairs’ axe poised to strike. The human rights activists ask: “Will the President stop the axe?”

Training seminar “Public Relations for human rights lawyers”

The Ukrainian Helsinki Human Rights Union held an educational seminar for human rights lawyers. The seminar’s trainers concentrated on teaching practical things which each lawyer can use in his or her work today.

The relevance of the chosen topic is confirmed by the number of people wishing to take part with 60 bar lawyers applying for 17 places.

Participants in the event learned how to become an expert speaker for the media and gained skills in using new media forms.

The course “Public Relations for human rights lawyers” became possible thanks to a tandem of human rights activists and professional PR personnel (**the HOSHVA PR agency**). This is the first such project in Ukraine, and results showed the relevance and good prospects for similar cooperation.



On photo shows participants in the training seminar “Public Relations for human rights lawyers”

The annual UHHRU “Thistle of the Year” Anti-Award

As always the worst violators of human rights in Ukraine during the year were announced on 10 December, International Human Rights Day and received the Ukrainian Helsinki Human Rights Union’s Thistle of the Year for 2010.

The photos show the discussion of nominations for Thistle. From left to right: Arkady Bushchenko, Head of the UHHRU Board; Vakhtang Kipiani, journalist; Andriy Mokrousov, Director of the Krytyka Publishing House (see below):



Of the 7 candidates nominated (the Minister of Education, Dmytro Tabachnyk; the Minister of Internal Affairs, Anatoly Mohylyov; the Head of the Security Service, Valery Khoroshkovsky; the Mayor of Kharkiv, Hennady Kernes; the Prime Minister Mykola Azarov; the President’s Administration; and Kharkiv judge Serhiy Lazyuk) the competition commission, made up of journalists, members of civic organizations and human rights activists selected four “laureates” of this ignominious award, the Gold Thistle.

Laureates of the Ukrainian Helsinki Human Rights Union’s Thistle of the Year for 2010 Anti-Award were:

Minister of Internal Affairs, *Anatoly Mohylyov*

Gold Thistle for deliberate disregard for human rights and fundamental freedoms.

Under his leadership:

- there has been an increase in violent deaths in police custody;
- peaceful gatherings not banned by the courts have been unlawfully stopped or obstructed and organizers and participants in peaceful protests have been detained;
- there is virtually no proper investigation into unlawful actions by the police;
- a policy of initiatives is being formed potentially dangerous for fundamental rights of the individual. This includes, for example, the initiative put forward for introducing personal data on railway tickets and the implementation of unlawful forced diagnosis of people taken to district police stations;
- the system has been reinstated whereby statistical figures (for example, of numbers detained, confessions, etc) are used for police assessment purposes, this fostering human rights violations;
- there has been a return to a policy of secrecy about the activities of the MIA via effective refusal to cooperate with civic organizations;
- increased interference with the rights of foreign nationals regardless of whether they have done anything unlawful;
- pressure has been brought to bear on human rights activists because of their activists (the cases of D. Groisman, A. Fedosov and O. Verentsov).

Head of the Security Service [SBU], *Valery Khoroshkovsky*

For his use of the Security Service for the systematic restriction of civil liberties.

Under his leadership:

- there has been an increase in cases of unwarranted interference in public life;
- activists, journalists and rectors of higher educational institutes have been subjected to constant pressure;
- the possibility has been created for interference in the work of judges through Khoroshkovsky’s membership of the High Council of Justice and “control over rulings issued by judges”;

- significant restriction in access to SBU archives regarding the Soviet past and the decision to pass electronic archives to public libraries has been revoked;
- the detention of historian Ruslan Zabily, removal of his personal computer, as well as the search of the National Memorial Museum of the Victims of Occupation Regimes “Tyurma na Lonskoho” in Lviv during which archival material and personal computers of members of staff were removed.

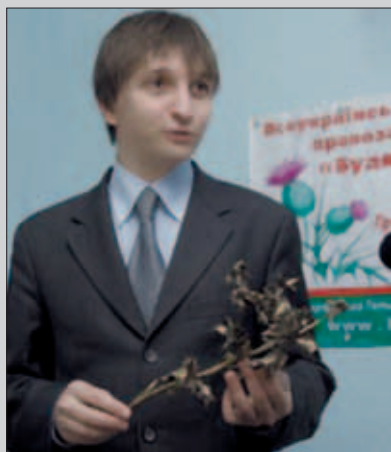
Mayor of Kharkiv, *Hennady Kernes*

Judge of the Dzerzhynsky District Court in Kharkiv, *Serhiy Lazyuk*

For violations of the right to peaceful protest during the civic defence of Kharkiv’s Gorky Park.

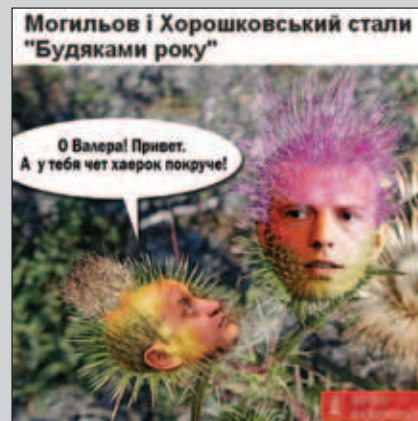
For:

- Unwarranted use of force against members of the public in order to crush peaceful protest;
- The 15 day administrative arrest sentences imposed on 9 June 2010 against two of the Gorky Park defenders — Andriy Yvarnytsky and Denis Chernehy which prompted Amnesty International to declare them prisoners of conscience;
- Violation of environmental rights and ignoring public opinion.



UHHRU Executive Director Volodymyr Yavorsky stated that “the country is like a field: there are plants there which bring use to society and there are weeds which stunt the growth of all that is beneficial. The task of society and its government is to identify in time and systematically weed out the thistles! We are pointing out to the public the human rights thistles”.

The aim of the Anti-Award is to draw public attention to flagrant abuses of human rights committed in the country during that particular year.



In 2010 for this purpose the websites of our information partners www.gazeta.ua and www.unian.net gave their readers the opportunity to vote for their “Thistle”. Over three thousand people took part in the vote.

An example of public attention to the Thistle of the Year Anti-Award can be seen in the cartoon from the website http://durdom.in.ua/uk/main/article/article_id/7868.phtml: The banner reads: Mohylyov and Khoroshkovsky have become “Thistles of the Year”. http://durdom.in.ua/uk/main/article/article_id/7868.phtml:

All information in Ukrainian on past and current year Thistle of the Year competitions is available in Ukrainian at: <http://helsinki.org.ua/index.php?r=a1b14>

Docudays UA

Human Rights Documentary Film Festival

The VII International Human Rights Documentary Film Festival Docudays UA took place in Kyiv at the House of Cinema on Saksanska St from 26 March to 2 April 2010.

The main objective of the Festival — is through the medium of film to draw the Ukrainian public’s attention to the problems of ordinary people, to promote the development of open dialogue on human rights and affirm respect for human dignity as of the highest value.

As the Head of the Board of the Ukrainian Helsinki Human Rights Union, Arkady Bushchenko put it, “Docudays UA is a unique opportunity to view the reality of life through “human rights glasses”. The films on human rights force us to notice what we sometimes feel like closing our eyes to. And it is always easier to fight injustice with our eyes open”.

It is this chance that Docudays UA has over the years of its existence given to hundreds of thousands of Ukrainians. In 2010 the best contemporary documentary films were seen during the Festival by 22,300 viewers.

During the Festival there were:

43 Ukrainian premier showings; 6 European premiers 5 world premiers.

There were different panels of judges: one judging films on their professional merits, a second from their presentation of human rights issues and also a student jury.

The 32 best documentary films shown in Ukraine for the first time were chosen to take part in the creative and human rights film competition. The list of films can be found on the Docudays UA website:

http://www.docudays.org.ua/2010/index.php?option=com_content&view=section&layout=blog&id=7&Itemid=55

http://www.docudays.org.ua/2010/index.php?option=com_content&view=section&layout=blog&id=8&Itemid=56

The student panel of judges assessed all the films competing.



the Head of the Creative Work Panel of Judges, world-renowned director Patric Barberis (France)



Prizes awarded to the Festival winners

As part of the Festival, UHHRU and its partners held a number of events including:

- A roundtable: "How to defend ones own morals. The New concept for the National Expert Commission on the Protection of Public Morality — public proposals";
- A quest "Immigration and Emigration in Kyiv";
- Discussion "Steps to reconciliation";
- Master Class "Use of educational debating techniques for human rights education";
- Discussion "Borders vs. freedom of movement".



Participants in the Quest "Immigration and Emigration in Kyiv"

**Мандрівний фестиваль Docudays Ua
«Дні документального кіно про права людини»**

After the end of the Festival in Kyiv, Docudays UA by tradition travels around Ukraine. In 2010 from 15 September to 30 December the best documentaries from Ukraine, countries of Europe and Asia on human rights issues formed part of the Travelling Docudays UA Human Rights Documentary Festival and could be seen by people living in 100 cities and towns in 22 regions of Ukraine. These included: Chernihiv, Dnipropetrovsk, Donetsk, Kryvy Rih, Kharkiv, Kherson, Kyiv, Luhansk, Lviv, Odessa, Poltava, Simferopol, Sevastopol, Sumy, Ternopil, Vinnytsa, Yevpatoria, Zaporizhya and Zhytomyr.

The festival films were shown in cinemas, houses of culture, educational institutes, schools, youth clubs, bookshops, libraries, etc. the effect from the films was heightened through meetings with well-known human rights activists, cultural figures and artists, topic-based discussions, debates etc with youth audiences.

More information about the Festival can be found in English at:

<http://www.docudays.org.ua>

Competition of cartoons on human rights in Ukraine

A special event at the VII International Human Rights Documentary Film Festival Docudays UA was the announcement of the winners of the Cartoon Competition and the opening of an exhibition of cartoons on the topic of discrimination. These were organized by the Association of Cartoonists of Ukraine and UHHRU with the support of the International Renaissance Foundation. Over 300 works from 53 cartoonists in different cities and towns of Ukraine took part in the competition.

The panel of judges chose three winners who received prizes, while another 8 cartoonists received incentive prizes and there was one special prize from the Association of Cartoonists of Ukraine.



The works were assessed by a panel of judges headed by UHHRU Executive Director, Volodymyr Yavorsky, the Coordinator of the Youth Human Rights Centre (Kyiv) Olha Vesnyanka; the Head of the UNIAN Human Rights Project (Kyiv) Tetyana Pechonchyk; the Project Coordinator of the Social Assistance Centre (Kyiv) Iryna Fedorovych.

During the award ceremony Volodymyr Yavorsky noted “Unfortunately, facts and studies show that the level of discrimination in Ukraine is on the increase. The most terrible thing is that the public accept this as a part of life, and certain politicians even support and fuel such moods. We hope that this competition will impel people to pay attention to facts which they try not to notice. That is the first step to changes for the better.”

The site “Cartoons on Human Rights” <http://helsinki.org.ua/caricature/>



So that as many people as possible can see the works of artists creating cartoons on human rights issues, UHHRU presented a separate site. You can find the participants and winners of the competitions in 2008 and 2010. There are 182 cartoons on the site.

The cartoons on display there will undoubtedly raise a smile and force people to think about how the situation can be improved, how to prevent violations, or simply how one can explain apparently complex things through simple drawings.



UHHRU FINANCIAL REPORT FOR 2010

Income (in UAH):

	Amount
Non-returnable financial assistance	4,663,333.32
Donations from individuals	950.00
Passive income from sale of currency	202,194.83
Total:	4,866,478.15

Sources of financial support:

The International Renaissance Foundation (IRF, Ukraine)

Grant agreement № 42552 from 16.07.2010 to support the project "Strengthening Mechanisms for Defending Human Rights". Period of force of the agreement: from 01.09.2010 to 31.08.2011. Amount received: **119,100.00 UAH**.

The Open Society Institute (OSI-ZUG, Hungary)

1. Grant agreement № 40015873 for institutional support in 2009–2010. Period of force of the agreement: from 01.07.2009 to 30.06.2010. Amount received: **209,606.30 UAH** (19,299 €).
2. Grant agreement № 40017724 for institutional support in 2010–2011. Period of force of the agreement: from 01.07.2010 to 30.06.2011. Amount received: **394,660.00 UAH** (50,000 \$).

Oxfam Novib (The Netherlands)

Grant agreement № OEK-505110-0007051 for institutional support in 2009–2012. Period of force of the agreement: from 01.11.2009 to 30.10.2012. Amount received: **1,373,609.75 UAH** (135,000 €).

National Endowment for Democracy (NED, USA)

Grant agreement № 2010-221 to support the project "Ukraine Human Rights Report 2009–2010". Period of force of the agreement: from 01.02.2010 to 28.02.2011. Amount received: **383,762.68 UAH** (48,260 \$).

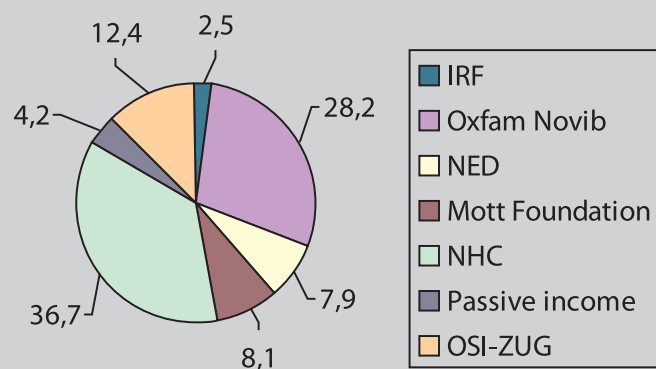
Norwegian Helsinki Committee (NHC, Norway)

Grant agreement from 18.12.2009 to support the "Program for Human Rights Education in Ukraine". The agreement is for 2010. Amount received: **1,788,244.59 UAH** (122,500 €).

The Charles Stewart Mott Foundation (USA)

Grant agreement № 2006-00484.01 for institutional support in 2010–2012. Period of force of the agreement: from 01.07.10 to 30.06.12. Amount received: **394,350.00 UAH** (50,000 \$).

UHHRU income in percentages



Community Technology Skills Program

Special thanks to the Microsoft company for agreeing to donate software for the UHHRU office

Expenditures (in UAH)

Type of expenditure	Amount
Salaries	553,525.49
Office Expenses	
Office rent	97,885.60
Communications	19,003.27
Database, literature, periodical literature	10,422.72
Audit	5,000.00
Bank services	17,945.75
Total	150,257.34

Equipment and Materials

Equipment, furniture	52,543.54
Materials	12,064.57
Total	64,608.11

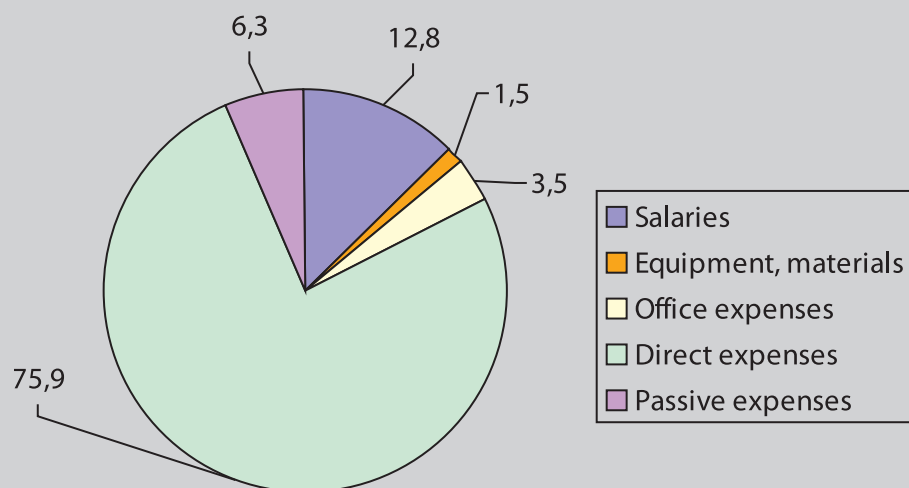
Direct Expenses

Legal services	352,273.54
Educational and public events	1,431,820.30
Translation	154,532.15
Publications	115,479.00
Subgrants	479,520.25
Contracting services	748,274.43
Total	3,281,899.67

Passive expenses from the sale of currency **273,139.32**

Overall total **4,323,429.93**

UHHRU expenditure in percentages





HOW TO HELP UHHRU?

The Ukrainian Helsinki Human Rights Union is a non-political, non-profit making and independent civic organization. All of its work is aimed at defending victims of human rights violations and preventing such abuse in the future.

We never take any payment for the assistance we provide. This is in fact effectively prohibited by current legislation however in the vast majority of cases those people whom we help would simply not be in a position to pay anything.

This unfortunately entails considerable expenditure with all the costs linked with running an organization and paying staff.

If you would like to support our work through donations, we would be enormously grateful.

All such donations will go towards helping those victims of human rights abuse who are not able to help themselves. The money spent is all checked by the Audit Commission and independent auditors.

We are grateful for any support, and all those who contribute to our work will receive our annual report, financial report, as well as information about how the donations were spent.

We would be grateful if you could inform us, in whatever way is convenient (by telephone, post, etc) of when you made the payment and how much it was for. Please also tell us if you would like to receive our reports, and whether you are happy for us to make your generosity known. If needed, we can provide any documentation required to confirm a charitable donation against tax.

In the case of legal entities, assistance to non-profit making organizations of more than two percent, but not exceeding five percent of the taxable profit from the previous tax year is included in the gross expenditure amount (Article 5.2.2 of the Law of Ukraine "On taxing businesses' profits").

Details of payment in Euro

<i>Bank name:</i>	PODOL Branch of PJSC «UKRSOTSBANK»
<i>Bank address:</i>	Sagaydachny str. 22/1, Kyiv, 04070 Ukraine
<i>Bank account holder:</i>	Ukrainian Helsinki Human Rights Union
<i>Bank account number:</i>	2600 900 0017 574
<i>SWIFT code:</i>	UKRSUAUX
<i>Correspondent bank:</i>	
<i>Bank name:</i>	Commerzbank AG
<i>Bank address:</i>	Frankfurt am Main, Germany
<i>Bank account number:</i>	400886615401
<i>SWIFT code:</i>	COBADEFF

Details of payment in USD

<i>Bank name:</i>	PODOL Branch of PJSC «UKRSOTSBANK»
<i>Bank address:</i>	Sagaydachny str. 22/1, Kyiv, 04070 Ukraine
<i>Bank account holder:</i>	Ukrainian Helsinki Human Rights Union
<i>Bank account number:</i>	2600 800 0017 575
<i>SWIFT code:</i>	UKRSUAUX
<i>Correspondent bank:</i>	
<i>Bank name:</i>	Commerzbank AG
<i>Bank address:</i>	Frankfurt am Main, Germany
<i>Bank account number:</i>	400886615400
<i>SWIFT code:</i>	COBADEFF

We should also mention that in accordance with Ukrainian legislation when receiving charitable assistance from abroad, we need to receive written confirmation of the donation. This can be sent by email, fax or normal post.



Contacts

UHHRU address: 04071, Kyiv, Olehivska St, 36, office 309,
tel/fax: (044) 4174118

e-mail: office@helsinki.org.ua

www.helsinki.org.ua

<http://ugspl.livejournal.com>

<http://www.youtube.com/ugspl>

<http://twitter.com/UGSPL/>

<http://www.facebook.com/#!/pages/Ugspl/161635813884383>