

The Ukrainian Helsinki Human Rights Union

Ukrainian Association of Civic Human Rights Organizations

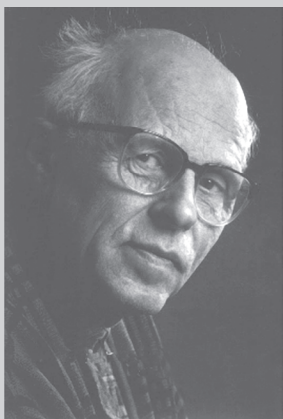
Annual report 2011





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“Society needs intellectual freedom — the freedom to receive and circulate information, freedom of unbiased and fearless discussion, freedom from the pressure of authorities and superstition”

*Andrei Sakharov
human rights defender
and Nobel Peace Prize Laureate in 1975*

such well-known dissidents as Petro Grigorenko, Myroslav Marynovych, Levko Lukyanenko, Ivan Kandyba, Nadiya Svitlychna, Viacheslav Chornovil, Vasyl Stus, Sviatoslav Karavansky, Oksana Meshko, Oles Berdnyk, Vasyl Ovsiienko and others.

The organization acted within the framework of the legislation of the time and maintained contacts with analogous associations within the USSR, aiming to “internationalize” defence of civil and national rights. By 1980 three-quarters of the members of the Ukrainian Helsinki Group were imprisoned. Of the 23 members of the UHG imprisoned, 6 received 15 year sentences, 3 persons — 12 years, 13 received from 3 to 9 years and only one was imprisoned for one year.



THE ORGANIZATION'S HISTORY

The Ukrainian Helsinki Human Rights Union (UHHRU) is the largest network of civic human rights organizations in Ukraine, with 30 member NGOs. It has 35 years experience of work. The purpose of its work has and will remain the defence of human rights.

How the organization developed

In 1975 the governments of 35 countries in Europe and North America, including the Soviet Union, signed the Helsinki Accords which were supposed to strengthen new relations in Europe, ensure implementation in each country the lofty principles of democracy and human rights. Understanding that in Soviet Ukraine this was virtually impossible, in November 1976 ten Ukrainians formed the Ukrainian Group to Promote the Implementation of the Helsinki Accords [UHG]. The Group had 37 members during the years of its existence from 1976 to 1980. It issued 30 statements, 18 memorandums and 10 bulletins. Of the five analogous groups in the USSR, the UHG was the largest and most active. Its members included

In Lviv during the summer of 1988 a nationwide organization based on the UHG was created, the Ukrainian Helsinki Union. The UHU's programme statement was the Declaration of Principles written by Viacheslav Chornovil and the brothers Mykhailo and Bohdan Horyn. The programme proposed by UHU was approved by a number of human rights and informal organizations and taken as the basis for the Declaration on Ukraine's Sovereignty (July 1990).

In 1990 UHC 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.

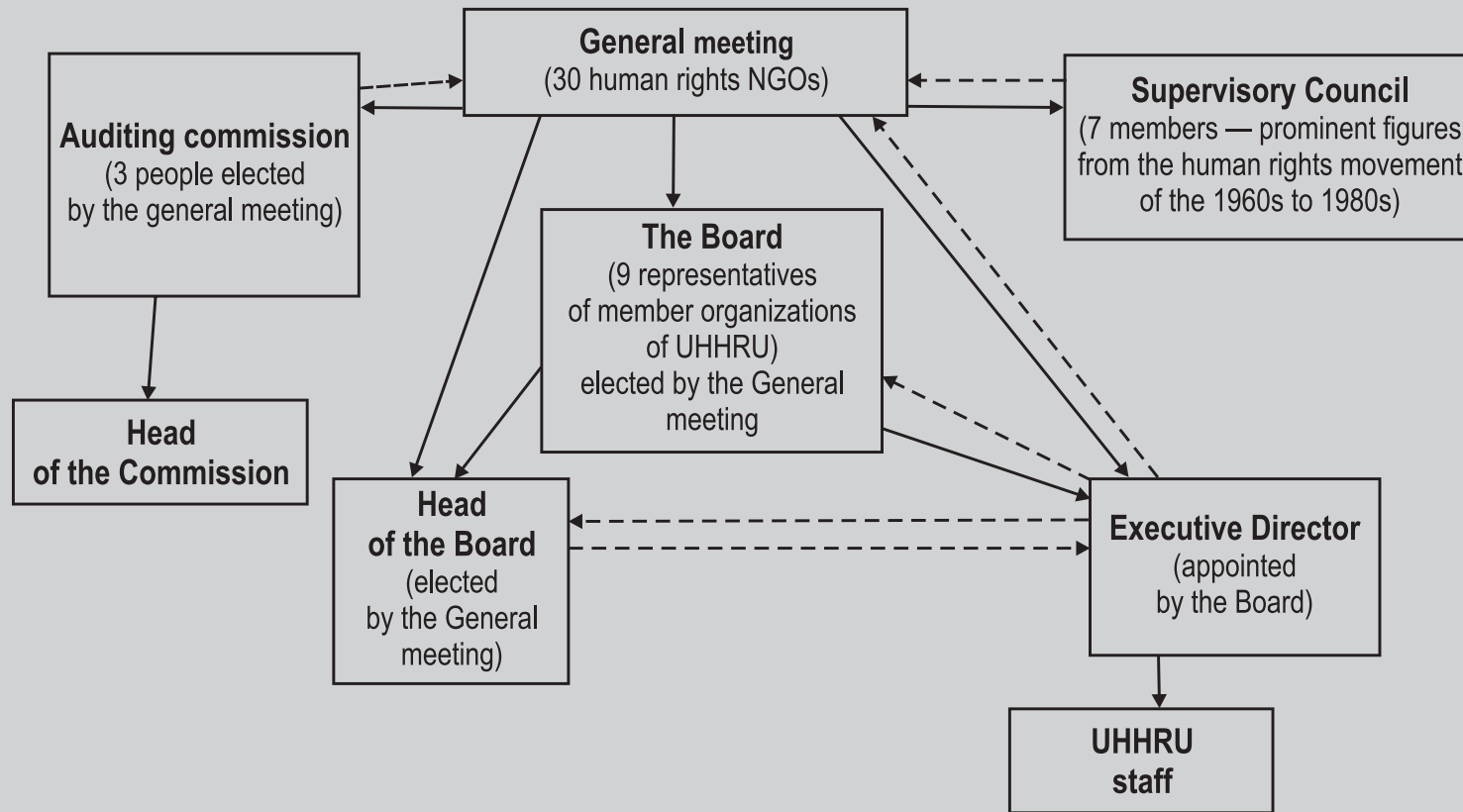
1990 — emergence of the **Helsinki-90 Committee**.

2003 — **the Council of Ukrainian Human Rights Organizations [RUPOR]** was created.

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.



THE STRUCTURE OF THE UKRAINIAN HELSINKI HUMAN RIGHTS UNION



As of December 2011 UHHRU comprised 30 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
3. The Civic Organization "Aibolit", Simferopol
4. The Public Committee for the Protection of Constitutional Rights and Civil Liberties, Luhansk
5. The Legal Analytics and Strategies 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", 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 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", Odessa
20. The Odessa Regional Branch of the Committee of Voters of Ukraine, Odessa www.cvu.od.ua
21. The Sevastopol Human Rights Group, Sevastopol
22. The Sumy Public Bureau "Pravozakhyst" ["Human Rights Defence"], Sumy
23. The Kharkiv Human Rights Group, Kharkiv <http://www.khpg.org>
24. Kherson City Association of Journalists "Pivden" ["South"], Kherson <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, Chernihiv <http://www.protection.org.ua>
29. Helsinki Initiative – XXI, Chortkiv, Ternopil region
30. The Postup [Progress] Human Rights Centre, Luhansk <http://postup.lg.ua/>

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 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. **Oleksandr Stepanenko** (Helsinki Initiative — XXI, Chortkiv, Ternopil region);
5. **Yevhen Zakharov** (Kharkiv Human Rights Group, Kharkiv);
6. **Olha Kalashnyk** (International Women’s Human Rights Organization “La Strada–Ukraine”, Kyiv);
7. **Alla Tiutiunnyk** (Kherson City Association of Journalists “Pivden”, Kherson);
8. **Oleksy Svyetikov** (Luhansk Regional Branch of the Committee of Voters of Ukraine, Severodonetsk, Luhansk region);
9. **Volodymyr Ponomarenko** (Konotop Consumers and Taxpayers Society “Hidnist”, Konotop, Sumy region).

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 Yavorskyy — Executive Director

Ludmila Yelcheva — Financial Director

Maxim Shcherbatiuk — Lawyer

Oleh Levytsky — Lawyer

Oleksandr Bakhov — Lawyer

Marina Hovorukhina — Public Relations manager

Irina Kuchynska — Chief Accountant

Nazar Losiuk — Office Manager

Vitaly Novikov — Web Administrator of the UHHRU website

Anna Andrusiak — Secretary

Ksenya Kharchenko — 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 normative

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.



Volodymyr Yavorsky, UHHRU Executive Director presents Report on Harassment of Human Rights Activities in the world and in Ukraine



Forum of Human Rights Organizations: action on Kyiv's Khreshchatyk



DEFENDING VICTIMS OF HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSE

Providing consultation regarding infringements of rights and freedoms

For 4 years, with the support of “Oxfam Novib” UHHRU coordinated 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 assistance:

- 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 consists of **14 Public Advice Centres** located in Chernyiv, Donetsk, Kherson, Kharkiv, Kirovohrad, Konotop (Sumy region), Kyiv, Lviv, Luhansk, Mykolayiv, 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 2011 the UHHRU Public Advice Centres provided 15 855 consultations. The Centres are most often turned to by pensioners, people with disabilities, those unemployed, prisoners and their relatives. It should be noted that over 56% 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 ran a number of educational events enabling lawyers to gain greater expertise and share experience. These included seminars on defending the rights of people with disabilities; a training seminar on countering gender discrimination; topical issues on protecting human rights in exercising the right to immovable property; enforcement of court rulings and human rights in the housing and communal services area and effective protection and assistance to victims of domestic violence.

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.

The UHHRU office provided 5 059 verbal or written consultations in 2011. 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. During 2011 3,554 consultations were provided online

In 2011 UHHRU prepared and published a series of booklets for people turning to the advice centres. There were 10 types, each with a print run of 5 thousand. They included:

Being reinstated in the case of unlawful dismissal; Benefits for families with many children; What an employee should do if s/he isn't paid; Private criminal prosecution cases; Appealing against decisions to not initiate criminal investigations; Your rights when being detained or arrested; Freedom of peaceful assembly; Implementing court rulings in a civil case; Parents' duty to provide for their child; Appealing against a court ruling in a civil case where the person is not present.

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>

In 2011 the Fund supported 35 cases pertaining to the defence of various rights and freedoms, including freedom of peaceful assembly, the rights of people with disabilities, socio-economic rights, and protection of civic activists.

Successful Examples of the Fund's work during 2011

Ukraine to pay refugee from Russian Federation 6 thousand euro in moral compensation

<http://helsinki.org.ua/index.php?id=1311159081>

On 5 July 2011 the European Court of Human Rights issued a judgement confirming the amicable agreement between Lema Susarov and Ukraine.

According to the judgement in the Case of Susarov v. Ukraine, Chechen Lema Susarov withdrew his claim against Ukraine, while the Ukrainian Government agreed to pay him 6 thousand euro in moral compensation. In deciding to accept the amicable agreement, the Applicant bore in mind first and foremost that the Kyiv District Administrative Court had on 2 July 2008 found unlawful and revoked the decision by the Prosecutor General's Office from 27 July 2007 to extradite him to the Russian Federation. On that same day Lema Susarov was released from custody and very soon left for an EU country which had offered him asylum from persecution by the Russian and Ukrainian authorities.

Lema Susarov was represented both in the Ukrainian courts and at the European Court by Oleh Levytsky, a lawyer working at the UHHRU Public Advice Centre. Considerable efforts on Susarov's behalf were also made by many civic organizations in Ukraine and abroad. Amnesty International, for example, issued an Urgent Action. During the year that Lema spent in custody, a lot of help was given by the UNHCR office in Ukraine and by the Human Rights Ombudsperson, Nina Karpachova.

The first court proceedings in the country over failure to provide ramps begins in Dnipropetrovsk

<http://helsinki.org.ua/ru/index.php?id=1323951021>

On 6 July 2010 Dmytro Zharky sent off to get medicine from the chemist. In order to get into the building he had to get up several steps. There was no ramp for his wheelchair and he therefore had to ask passers-by to lift him up.

Dmytro is a lawyer by profession. In order to defend his rights he wrote a complaint to the City Department of Social Security, the Central Architectural Qualification Department and the State Inspectorate on the Quality of Medicines. However all these bodies assured him in fob-off letters that they did not have competence in such matters.

Dmytro Zharky: "I don't want to be dependent on other people, their mood and physical capabilities in exercising my rights and legitimate interests".

The first instance court rejected Dmytro's claim, however with the support of a UHHRU specialist, he is now preparing an appeal. He is planning to take this to the European Court of Human Rights.

The right to peaceful assembly upheld in Simferopol

<http://helsinki.org.ua/ru/index.php?id=1321273972>

The Zaliznychny District Court in Simferopol declared unlawful the instruction from the Simferopol City Executive Committee which changed the rules regulating peaceful assembly.

After the instruction was issued on 25 February, Simferopol residents filed a suit against the city authorities believing that the instruction infringed their right to peaceful assembly.

According to the claimant Oleksandra Dvoretzka the provision stating that Simferopol residents must provide notification of planned gatherings 10 days in advance was unacceptable. She pointed out the Article 39 of the Constitution speaks only of notification in advance, and does not allow any restrictions on freedom of peaceful assembly other than those imposed by a court. Any time frames are unlawful.

At present it is known that the city authorities have appealed against the ruling.

Court finds deputy guilty of assaulting journalist Dementiy Bily

<http://helsinki.org.ua/index.php?id=1321880146>

On 21 November judge Olha Slysarenko found the businessman and City Council deputy Viktor Shevchuk guilty of causing journalist and Head of the Kherson Regional Branch of the Committee of Voters of Ukraine, Dementiy Bily light bodily injuries. She ordered him to pay a fine of 850 UAH, moral compensation of 4 thousand UAH and to pay court costs.

On 14 September 2010 Dementiy Bily was pushed out of the theatre where the Mayor of Kherson was giving his "report" to a closed audience and beaten up. He had objected to the refusal to allow members of the public into the theatre despite there being seats free and, taking a microphone, called on the Mayor to have them admitted.

Instead three men shoved Dementiy out into the foyer, where one proceeded to inflict blows to his face. The police did nothing until Dementiy's camera hit the main assailant, businessman Viktor Shevchuk, on the forehead as he tried to break free. They then drew up a protocol against

Dementiy Bily for an administrative offence as supposedly having caused the fight.

Dementiy Bily himself applied to the Prosecutor to have a criminal investigation initiated over the assault and obstruction of his journalist work. The Prosecutor only initiated an investigation against the other person, Viktor Shevchuk over injuries inflicted to Dementiy Bily (Article 125 §1 of the Criminal Code).

At the end of 2010 the Suvorovsky District Court combined two cases: the first being that mentioned above, initiated by the Prosecutor's Office. The second — a private complaint from Shevchuk against Dementiy Bily, alleging deliberate injury inflicted through his camera.

During the first three months of 2011 the judge examined both cases as part of the same proceedings. The judge then concluded that there was insufficient evidence that Bily had deliberately injured Shevchuk and sent the case back for further investigation. That ruling was upheld by the Appeal Court.

The case against Shevchuk was almost immediately sent back to the court however the allegations about Dementiy Bily were investigated again. The investigator issued a decision to charge him with deliberate bodily injury and he was made to give a signed undertaking not to leave the city. There was, however, public outrage over this, and several collective appeals demanding a more thorough investigation. This resulted in the Prosecutor terminating the highly contentious proceedings. Shevchuk however appealed against this decision and the court at two levels issued a decision to have the circumstances of the case more thoroughly examined.

Is Ukraine to answer for infringement of freedom of peaceful assembly?

<http://helsinki.org.ua/index.php?id=1326717027>

The European Court of Human Rights has passed the case of Odessa resident Mykhailo Shmushkovych to the Ukrainian Government for its comments.

The case is supported by the Ukrainian Helsinki Human Rights Union's Strategic Litigations Fund.

On 19 March 2009 Mykhailo Shmushkovych, Vice-President of the youth organization "Zelenka" and a member of the Odessa City Council held a peaceful picket without any public order offences. Yet he was fined 170 UAH for holding it.

The circumstances were all rather strange. Sixteen days after the picket a senior police officer turned up at his flat and drew up a protocol on an administrative offence under Article 185-1 of the Code of Administrative Offences, supposedly committed on 19 March 2009. The protocol did not indicate what the offence was.

Most interesting is that both the first instance and the appeal court judges agreed to this presentation of facts and stated that the notification of the planned picket needed to have been submitted 10 days prior to the event, not 2 days as had been the case.

Arguments that there is only one single legislative norm regulating freedom of peaceful assembly, that being Article 39 of the Constitution, and that this does not demand notification 10 days before, that it stipulates that the right to peaceful assembly can only be restricted by a court and only on the grounds stipulated by that article which do not include lack of notification made no impression on the court.

It should be pointed out that the first instance court ruling was for some reason not announced immediately and in public during the court hearing as is demanded by Article 285 of the above-mentioned Code. It was handed to Shmushkevych's representative only 3 hours after the court hearing ended.

The Odessa Regional Court of Appeal upheld that first ruling and found no procedural infringements. The ruling took force and was not subject to appeal.

UHHRU considered the case of strategic significance and lodged an application with the European Court of Human Rights.



INFORMING ON HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS

The screenshot shows the website of the Ukrainian Helsinki Human Rights Union. The main content area displays a list of news articles with dates and titles, such as 'Regional Monitoring Report about human rights movement in Lugansk region' and 'Statement on the right to a fair trial for oil industry workers from Zhanaozen'. The sidebar on the left includes links for 'Annual human rights reports', 'Ukraine in UN documents', and 'Donate now to Ukrainian Helsinki Human Rights Union'. The right sidebar lists various human rights issues like 'The right to life', 'Torture and inhuman treatment', and 'Freedom of expression'.

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.

Rate of growth of site usage

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	499 999	279 751	272 314
2010	595 450	347 164	337 337
2011	715 380	424 142	406 622

Statistics for visits to the site in 2011

Month	Hits	Visitors	Hosts
1	17 097	10 806	20 265
2	51 114	28 379	27 910
3	51 576	27 863	28 454
4	46 576	25 768	26 282
5	44 935	26 451	26 512
6	44 103	23 790	23 774
7	36 512	19 380	19 456
8	46 370	26 432	25 389
9	69 829	43 281	41 779
10	79 298	49 731	45 675
11	98 307	60 917	55 548
12	100 027	65 469	59 418

The UHHRU blog at <http://ugspl.livejournal.com/> has 260 regular readers.

The blog community “Human Rights Chronicle”

http://community.livejournal.com/ua_human_rights/ has 107 participants.

UHHRU at Twitter <http://twitter.com/UGSPL/> — 400 people.

UHHRU on Facebook

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Ugspl/161635813884383> — 195 people have said that they like the webpage.

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

UHHRU collects videos on human rights violations in Ukraine and on other rights-related events in the country. The Union will be making use of such videos for circulation in the media, possible removal of the violations and as evidence of violations in court proceedings, with the authorities or international organizations.



HUMAN RIGHTS EDUCATION <http://www.edu.helsinki.org.ua>



Civil campaign study

The nationwide educational programme “We understand Human Rights” was launched in 2008. It is a long-term civic campaign aimed at ensuring access to human rights education in Ukraine both within civic society and at official level.

The first steps of the programme’s action plan took off from partner projects of UHHRU, the Norwegian Helsinki Committee, the civic organization M’ART and the International Renaissance Foundation. At the present time the efforts are united of many civic organizations and activists working to defend and support human rights both in Ukraine and abroad.*

The work of the programme is gradually influencing the development of the human rights movement, involving young activists in it. Human rights schools and specialized training courses on various types of human rights defence and protection are run at local and national level for civic activists and young people, and public campaigns are organized. There are particular training courses on swift response to topical issues. For example, in 2011 there was a training session on Human Rights in Places of Confinement which training a group of activists trying to influence the human rights situation in closed institutions belonging to different state departments — healthcare, education, social policy, the Penitentiary Service, Internal Affairs bodies, etc. Activists who are preparing an alternative report on Ukraine’s implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities took part in a human rights school on the needs of people with disabilities in 2011 The programme supports as an educational platform the initiatives of the Association of Ukrainian Human Rights Monitors on Law Enforcement.

Journalists take part in active measures, and in the long-term Course on the Role of Journalism in Defence and Support of Human Rights. Their material encourages people to look at specific cases and social problems through the

* The list of programme partners includes around 50 organizations among them organizations directly carrying out particular parts of the action plan, those sharing expertise and those providing financial support.

prism of human rights. They have the capacity to consolidate the efficiency of public campaigns.

The official system of human rights education is influenced first and foremost through involvement of educational workers with a strong civic position. At present a network is being created “The School — Human Rights Territory” from general educational institutions, pedagogical workers and administrators who undergo training as part of the programme. Proposals are drawn up on integration of human rights themes in the curriculum on educational programmes within the training system for the Ministry of Internal Affairs (MIA). Members of staff from higher educational institutes within the MIA are involved in this.

Educational measures are gradually opening up Ukraine’s penitentiary system. In 2011 civic activists were able to carry out educational events in corrective colonies using a specially created educational video.

The task of how to continue activists’ practical training is a constant element of the programme “Initiatives of human rights activists” thanks to which activists undergoing training can gain expert accompaniment and small resource support for their initiatives in defence and support of human rights.

The information platform for the programme is provided by its website www.edu.helsinki.org.ua and social network www.hr-activists.net. As well as providing information about the work within the programme, the most important events from the point of view of human rights and problems for activeness of those who’ve completed the course, these information resources also create additional possibilities for direct action in defence of human rights, planning for such action and public discussion.

We should also mention work on international acts of solidarity in defence of human rights. Having partners in other countries, within the framework of the programme since 2011 there has been a partner international Human Rights

Course for Young Activists. This new initiative arose out of actions of solidarity by Ukrainian youth with Belarusian activists.

In 2011 thirty training events were held as part of the programme, with 14 of these being directly run by UHHRU. The events run by UHHRU involved 164 activists and civically active young people, 34 journalists, 10 members of staff of Internal Affairs bodies, and 35 school teachers. Thirty initiatives aimed at defending and supporting human rights received expert support and 7 of these also received modest resource support.

The programme works closely with the International Human Rights Documentary Film Festival Docudays UA. Both initiatives have common plans and are united by a common aim.

From 2012 another target group for the programme will be defence lawyers. Here the programme will work in partnership with the Human Rights House Foundation (Oslo, Norway).

The immediate programme plans envisage the development and support for a network of graduates, an increase in work at local community level, enhancement in efficiency of nationwide already traditional educational events, and paying particular attention to training courses on organizing civic campaigns in defence and support of human rights and on increasing impact on the formal education system.

The full annual report for the programme is published on the website www.edu.helsinki.org.ua

“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 “We understand Human Rights” can be found in Ukrainian at
<http://www.edu.helsinki.org.ua>



IMPACT ON GOVERNMENT HUMAN RIGHTS POLICY

Work on consultative-advisory bodies at

UHHRU representatives are members of two commissions — on the Commission for the Strengthening of Democracy and Affirmation of the Rule of Law

<http://www.president.gov.ua/documents/12615.html>

and the Commission on Prevention of Torture

<http://www.president.gov.ua/documents/14191.html>.

International activities

In **June 2011** UHHRU prepared a short report on the human rights situation in 2010 for the Ministerial Conference of the EU Eastern Partnership.

On 22 July the Ukrainian Helsinki Human Rights Union sent the UN Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination its alternative report on Ukraine's implementation of the UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination. In its report, UHHRU offered general recommendations on overcoming existing forms of discrimination in Ukraine

<http://helsinki.org.ua/index.php?id=1312376836>

In **October** UHHRU representatives took part in the annual OSCE Human Dimension Meeting in Warsaw. This is the largest regional conference in Europe on human rights issues. With the participation of representatives of OSCE member states' governments, representatives of NGOs and international

organizations discuss present problems and ways of overcoming them. UHHRU circulated a written report on human rights violations in Ukraine in 2011 during the conference.

In **November** UHHRU took part in the third Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum in Poznan (Poland). In November a second brief report was presented on the human rights situation in Ukraine during 2011 for the Ministerial Conference of the EU Eastern Partnership.

In **February, July and November** members of UHHRU took part in working meetings of the US-Ukraine Strategic Partnership Commission as part of political dialogue on issues of rule of law and human rights observance. UHHRU prepared the necessary reports on the current issues with human rights in the country.

In **September** UHHRU took part in the Sixth Dublin Platform for Human Rights Activists which is a meeting place for over 100 human rights activists from around 80 countries. The participants exchange information about trends in human rights abuse and how they carry out their work. The platform is organized by the international organization FrontLine Defenders (Dublin)

<http://www.frontlinedefenders.org/platform>

In **October** UHHRU took part in the Regional Conference on Protecting Human Rights Defenders, organized by the Council of Europe's Human Rights Commissioner in Strasbourg. During the conference information was circulated about pressure on human rights activists in Ukraine and worsened conditions for their activities.

Appeals to the authorities

Call for the Dismissal of the Head of the High Court on Civil and Criminal Proceedings for breach of oath

On 24 January 2011 UHHRU, the Kharkiv Human Rights Group (KHPG), the Centre for Political and Legal Reform, the Association of Lawyers of Ukraine, the International Women's Human Rights Centre La Strada-Ukraine, and the Association of Ukrainian Human Rights Monitors of Law Enforcement turned to the High Council of Justice and to the President regarding infringement of oath by the L. Fesenko, Member of Parliament (MP) Head of the High Council on Civil and Criminal Proceedings. On 7 October Deputy of The Parliament L. Fesenko voted for his own appointment as judge of the High Court on Civil and Criminal Proceedings. Having received new status as judge, L. Fesenko did not stop carrying out his powers as Deputy of The Parliament and continued to vote in parliament, thus combining the functions of judge and MP this being prohibited by the Constitution

<http://helsinki.org.ua/index.php?r=a1b1c9>

Result: The recipients found no violation in such actions by the judge however parliament soon removed his deputy mandate.

<http://helsinki.org.ua/index.php?id=1298891277>

Open Letter from UHHRU and KHPG on the Measures against Gazeta po-kievski

28 March 2011 The Ukrainian Helsinki Human Rights Union and Kharkiv Human Rights Group came out in support of the newspaper Gazeta po-kievski and called on the newspaper's owner, Mr Kolomiysky, to stop the destruction of the newspaper and on the Verkhovna Rada to take measures at a legislative level to defend media freedom from such actions by the owner aimed at destroying the publication. They stated that "justice must be restored and the

kind of practice which degrades and shames the country should not reoccur in future"

Result: On 19 May the publication of the newspaper was resumed, however on 22 June it was closed – according to its owner "for financial reasons"

<http://helsinki.org.ua/en/index.php?id=1301391314>

Open Appeal regarding proposed amendments to the Law on Access to Public Information

28 April 2011 The Ukrainian Helsinki Human Rights Union and Kharkiv Human Rights Group addressed an open appeal to V. Lytvyn, Speaker of the Parliament, asking him to not make changes to the Law on Access to Public Information which would lead to a reduction in the scope of human rights and run counter to European standards

<http://helsinki.org.ua/en/index.php?id=1304000122>

Result: Deputies decided not to introduce the amendments which human rights and other organizations had opposed

<http://helsinki.org.ua/index.php?id=1306833775>

Appeal to the leaders of democratic countries

8 June 2011 UHHRU appealed to civic organizations to call on democratic countries to apply visa restrictions on officials implicated in human rights abuse in Ukraine, as well as to freeze financial assets held by them abroad. The appeal was signed by 168 organizations and individuals

<http://helsinki.org.ua/en/index.php?id=1307613720>

Result: Ukrainian officials began experiencing difficulties in getting visas. For example, such problems arose for assistants of MPs and employees representing the judiciary. Four high-ranking officials of the Prosecutor General's Office

were refused visas to the USA. Members of the BYUT — Batkivshchyna faction in parliament Oleh Bilorus and Andriy Shkil stated that EU embassies had received a tacit instruction to restrict the issue of Schengen visas to Ukrainian officials

<http://helsinki.org.ua/index.php?id=1319709721>

http://gazeta.ua/articles/politics/_ukrajinskim-chinovnikam-vzhe-ne-vidayut-vizi-do-es-zmi/405920

Ukrainian Helsinki Human Rights Union asks Karpachova to intercede on behalf of former Chernobyl clean-up workers, children of the War and pensioners

On 14 July 2011 UHHRU called on the Human Rights Ombudsperson and heads of deputy factions to send a submission to the Constitutional Court concerning the failure to comply with the Constitution of Item 4 of the Final Provisions of the Law on the State Budget for 2011. The provision envisages the cancellation of specified amounts of social rights and guarantees set down in special laws

<http://helsinki.org.ua/en/index.php?id=1310725323>

Result: 50 MPs lodged a constitutional submission

<http://frontzmin.ua/ua/media/news/none/4427-arsenij-jatsenjuk-initsijuvav-zvernennja-do-ks-schodo-zvuzhennja-sotsialnih-garantij-chornobiltsjam-ta-ditjam-vijni.html>

UHHRU condemns overt interference by the Prosecutor General in Court Work

On 28 July 2011 the UHHRU addressed an open letter over interference by the Prosecutor General's Office in the work of the courts. The Union had learned

that on 7 June 2011 the Deputy Prosecutor General M. Havrylyuk had suggested that the High Council of Justice (which he himself is a member of) dismiss three judges of the Kyiv Court of Appeal. The judges had released a person from custody in full accordance with Ukraine's Constitution and the European Convention. The Prosecutor General' was thus effectively punishing the judges for the prosecution's inability to provide grounds for holding the accused in detention

<http://helsinki.org.ua/en/index.php?id=1310725323>

Result: After UHHRU's appeal the Prosecutor General's representative withdrew the proposal to the High Council of Justice to dismiss the judges.

UHHRU and KHPG protest at Flagrant Violation of Freedom of Expression in Kharkiv

On 19 September 2011 the Ukrainian Helsinki Human Rights Union and Kharkiv Human Rights Group addressed an open appeal over the removal from air of three opposition Kharkiv TV companies — ATN, Fora and A/TVC. They call it "a flagrant violation of the fundamental right to freedom of expression enshrined in Article 34 of Ukraine's Constitution and Article 10 of the European Convention on Human Rights. Various official reasons for the cutting off of the channels, namely the "lack of a hygiene passport" at ATN, the supposed "systematic failure to pay for services" of the provider in the case of Fora, and the alleged lack of contractual broadcasting obligation in the case of ATVC are nothing more than methods of political pressure"

<http://helsinki.org.ua/en/index.php?id=1316425028>

Result: As of the end of 2011 only TVK Fora" has resumed broadcasting. The other channels remain off air.

Open appeal from human rights organizations over sentencing of Yulia Tymoshenko

On 25 October 2011 the Ukrainian Helsinki Human Rights Union and Kharkiv Human Rights Group called on human rights groups to join an appeal over the Tymoshenko case after the Pechersky District Court in Kyiv on 11 October sentenced her to 7 years imprisonment over the 2009 gas accords with Russia. "We are concerned that this verdict could result in the review of the norms of criminal law so as to find a political resolution of the present situation". The appeal received 55 signatures

<http://helsinki.org.ua/en/index.php?id=1319547615>

Result: Tymoshenko's verdict was upheld by the Appeal Court.

UHHRU condemns plan to bring in liability for "propaganda of homosexuality"

On 27 October 2011 the Ukrainian Helsinki Human Rights Union addressed an open letter to the Speaker of Parliament and chairs of various parliamentary committees recommending that it reject draft Law no. 8711 which proposed introducing liability for what it calls "propaganda of homosexuality". UHHRU stated that the draft law would lead to unwarranted restrictions of citizens' rights to peaceful assembly since any picket, rally etc aimed, for example, at defending gay rights, etc, could be qualified as "propaganda of homosexuality". Its adoption would also lead to a disproportionate and discriminatory restrict of the right to freedom of thought and speech for one group in society, this being in breach of Article 24 of the Constitution

<http://helsinki.org.ua/en/index.php?id=1319800020>

Result: The profile parliamentary committee on freedom of speech and information reported that it shared the view of the human rights group and was awaiting the draft law's consideration in other committees and structural divisions of the Verkhovna Rada.

UHHRU: Ukrainian Railways [Ukrzaliznytsa] is depriving people of socially important train routes

On 5 December 2011 the Ukrainian Helsinki Human Rights Union issued a statement expressing concern over the significant decrease in the number of train routes offered by Ukrainian Railways [Ukrzaliznytsa] and asked the company's management to reconsider. UHHRU stressed that movement around the country is no whim or luxury, with people forced to travel, whether to work or to maintain family and social relations, not to mention when there are reasons for approaching a public body, court etc. The State therefore has a duty to ensure transport facilities throughout the country, not only in the capital. "Any attempt to get rid of socially important passenger routes in connection with their low profitability, without providing an adequate alternative, can be seen as abuse by Ukrzaliznytsa of its monopoly of the market"

<http://helsinki.org.ua/index.php?id=1323248185>

Result: UHHRU received a response in which officials stated that in view of the social significance of the train No. 360/369 Lviv-Kyiv, that this would be retained

<http://helsinki.org.ua/en/index.php?id=1325162015>

Open Appeal to the Kazakhstan Authorities

On 22 December 2012 the Ukrainian Helsinki Human Rights Union and Kharkiv Human Rights Group issued an open letter to the authorities in Kazakhstan regarding the events in Zhanaozen. As of the end of 2011 there were 12 signatures.

<http://helsinki.org.ua/ru/index.php?id=1324566334>

Press conferences

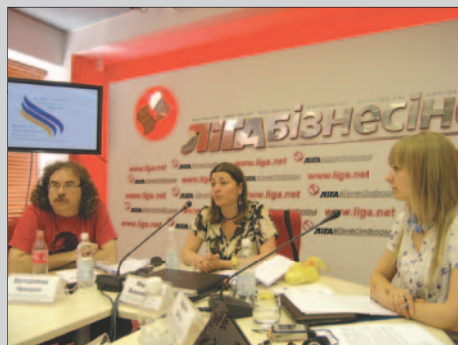


24 February 2011 Presentation of the Human Rights Organizations' Report "Human Rights in Ukraine in 2009–2010". Over 40 human rights organizations from all regions of Ukraine took part in drawing up the report which contains 26 sections

<http://helsinki.org.ua/en/index.php?id=1298614523>

10 June 2011 The Ukrainian Helsinki Human Rights Union and the International Committee for the Monitoring of the Human Rights Situation in Belarus held a press conference where they presented recommendations to the Ukrainian authorities on relations with Belarus. During the presentation it was stressed that Ukraine did not have a clear position on Belarus and that that could mean tolerance of dictatorial methods of reprisals against society

<http://helsinki.org.ua/index.php?id=1307710712>



4 August 2011 UHHRU held a press conference to mark the creation of the Public Committee against Political Persecution in Ukraine.



7 November 2011 as part of the International Conference "Freedom of Peaceful Assembly: European standards for Ukraine", organized by the Commission for the Strengthening of Democracy and Affirmation of the Rule of Law, the Rule of Law Programme of the International Renaissance Foundation, the National Democratic Institute of International Relations, the Ukrainian Helsinki Human Rights Union and the USAID Project "Ukraine: A Fair Justice System", a press conference was given with the participants speaking of recommendations to the authorities on regulating the right to peaceful assembly

<http://helsinki.org.ua/index.php?id=1320674467>



21 November 2011 The Ukrainian Helsinki Human Rights Union and Kharkiv Human Rights Group presented the results of a study into political persecution in Ukraine during 2010–2011. According to the authors, there is a clear

political basis to the criminal prosecution of the members of the Tax Code protest, against members of the Tryzub organization, and against former government officials Tymoshenko, Lutsenko, Danylyshyn, Korniyshuk

<http://helsinki.org.ua/index.php?id=1321880101>

8 December 2011 The Ukrainian Helsinki Human Rights Union and the International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH) held a press conference to present the International Report of the Observatory on the Defence of Human Rights Activists. This looks at harassment of human rights activists and civic activists in the world and in Ukraine. FIDH put Ukraine in the category of countries with the most serious pressure on human rights activists. Other categories in the same category are Latvia, Iraq, Uganda, Ruan-da, Indonesia, Afghanistan, Pakistan, India, Myanmar and most Latin American countries. The authors of the document also noted that the situation in the region had from the beginning of 2010 to the middle of 2011 noticeably worsened. Together with Belarus, Russia, Uzbekistan and other countries of the CIS, authoritarian trends have sharply increased in Ukraine



<http://helsinki.org.ua/index.php?id=1323352364>

The full FIDH report can be found at

<http://www.fidh.org/Uporstvo-svidetel-stvovaniya>



26 December 2011 the Rule of Law Programme of the International Renaissance Foundation, the Ukrainian Helsinki Human Rights Union and Kharkiv Human Rights Group held a press conference asking “Who is earning on the problems of people due benefits, and how?”. The press conference considered the following issues: The programme to overcome poverty has failed. What next? While to benefits risk Ukraine’s European interrogation? What do the gas accords with Russia and social payments have in common? Who interferes in the work of the former Chornobyl clean-up worker civic organizations and how? Why are social rights the main driving force for street protests in Ukraine?



The media 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 and that indicates that almost every day human rights activists tried to draw the media’s attention to human rights issues in Ukraine.

For example, the activities of human rights groups were covered by: UNIAN; TV channels: 1+1, Channel 5, TV Tonic, STB, TVi, and TV Ukraina, the newspapers Komsomolskaya Pravda in Ukraine and Segodnya, the Correspondent journal, Radio Deutsche Welle, Radio Svoboda, Radio ERA, etc.



SPECIAL UHHRU PROJECTS

Presentation of the Human Rights Organizations' Report Human Rights in Ukraine 2009–2010

On 24 February 2011 in Kyiv the Ukrainian Helsinki Human Rights Union and the Kharkiv Human Rights Group presented a joint annual report of Ukrainian human rights organizations about the human rights situation in 2009–2010. The study will be used by such organizations as the Council of Europe, the UN, OSCE and other structures and organizations. On 11 April 2011, for example, the US State Department referred to UHHRU in its report on human rights in Ukraine

<http://helsinki.org.ua/index.php?id=1302528642>

Over 40 human rights organizations from all regions of Ukraine took part in drawing up the report which contains 26 sections on various rights and freedoms.

More information can be found at

<http://helsinki.org.ua/en/index.php?id=1298614523>

The report can be found at

<http://helsinki.org.ua/en/index.php?r=a2b3c6>

Fifth Forum of Ukrainian Human Rights Organizations

On 16 June 2011 in Kyiv UHHRU held the Fifth Forum of Human Rights Organizations. Human Rights activists from all over Ukraine voted on a joint



manifesto “Civil Society against Lawlessness”. They found considerable deterioration in the human rights situation in today’s Ukraine. This is the first such document in the years since Independence. The Co-Chair of the Kharkiv Human Rights Group, Yevhen Zakharov told Deutsche Welle that “the need has arisen since human rights workers see flagrant systematic violation of fundamental human rights. Human rights were not overly respected in previous years, however over the last year and a half the situation has seriously worsened”.

The human rights activists also held a theatre action where three people represented the three branches of power: legislative, executive and judicial. Other participants handed them balloons connected with the names of issues and burning needs in the human rights sphere, while the three sent the balloons flying, symbolizing their disregard for people’s problems.



A photo report from the Forum can be found here:

<http://helsinki.org.ua/index.php?id=1308297130>

Detailed information about the forum here:

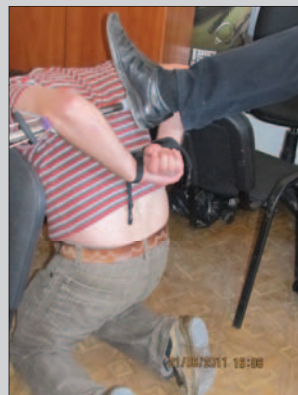
<http://helsinki.org.ua/index.php?id=1308303086>

Action "Against torture"

On 26 June International Day in Support of Victims of Torture, the Ukrainian Helsinki Human Rights Union held its already traditional street action.

Activists from the organization together with partners organized an exhibition outside the Prosecutor General's Office of torture equipment, including the Criminal Code of Ukraine, a bottle of water, handcuffs and an accumulator. Stands were also set up displaying photos showing just how police officers apply these modern torture weapons.

Photos from the action



The full photo report of the action can be found here:

<http://helsinki.org.ua/index.php?id=1308825484>

Ukrainian Helsinki Human Rights Union held Volunteer Day

On 11 July 2011 UHHRU held a Volunteer Day during which all activists who are working as interns or have worked were invited. A training course was held on motivations, and diplomas were awarded for active participation in the development of the Union.



More detail about the action can be found here:

<http://helsinki.org.ua/index.php?id=1310393629>

Protest action "Patients in SIZO must be treated!"

On 7 October 2011 the Ukrainian Helsinki Human Rights Union together with partner organizations (the Human Rights Information Centre, the Kharkiv Human Rights Group, and the Regional Initiatives Foundation) held a protest actions entitled "Patients in SIZO [remand centres] must be treated". It was held outside the State Penitentiary Service in Kyiv at 81 Melnykova St., During the street performance civil activists showed how people held in SIZO are deprived of the opportunity of receiving proper adequate medical assistance and are doomed to torment and suffering, sometimes even death.



There is a full report of the action here

<http://helsinki.org.ua/index.php?id=1317977930>

Seminar for Journalists: If the police have ALREADY violated your rights

On 19 October 2011 the Association for Human Rights Monitors on Law Enforcement, with the support of the Ukrainian Helsinki Human Rights Union, held a seminar for journalists entitled "Journalists and the Police: If your rights have ALREADY been violated". Organizational support was provided by the Kyiv Independent Media Trade Union of Ukraine.

During the seminar journalists received an answer to the following questions: Human rights activists regularly register violations of journalists' rights by police officers. What can be done if you have ended up in such a situation? Who do you complain to in order to receive the best results? What can be done to make police officers forever lose the wish to impede your professional activities?



More information about the event here

<http://helsinki.org.ua/index.php?id=1319101505>

The authorities' naked morality: theatre performance protest action

On 9 November 2011 on the day of parliamentary hearings into the state of public morality, the Ukrainian Helsinki Human Rights Union, together with human rights activists, civic activists, held a protest action demanding withdrawal of draft law No. 7132 on amendments to the Law on the Protection of Public Morality and refusal to create a State body of censorship and propaganda under the guise of the National Commission on the Protection of Public Morality.

Activists from the Human Rights Education Centre, the Ukrainian Helsinki Human Rights Union, and the Postup Human Rights Centre publicly undressed the authorities' morality as a street performance outside the Verkhovna Rada.



More information about the action here

<http://helsinki.org.ua/index.php?id=1320922075>

Cartoon Exhibition on the theme "Freedom of Speech, peaceful assembly and association"

From 26 to 31 March an exhibition took place in the House of Cinema of cartoons around the theme of freedom of speech, of peaceful assembly and association. The event was organized by the Ukrainian Association of Cartoonists and UHHRU.

There were 278 cartoons in the competition of which the panel of judges chose four winning entries. The winning artists received prizes of money from the organizers. The four winners were:

First place: Dmytro Skazhenyk, Mariupol

Second place: Viktor Savilov, Donetsk

Third: Ivan Dutka, Kalush; **Leonid Storozhuk**, Kharkiv.

Consolation prizes were awarded to:

Yury Artyukh (Kyiv), Vasyl Voznyuk (Zhytomyr), Oleksandr Dubovsky (Dnipropetrovsk), Mykhailo Mayevsky (Kirovohrad), Oleksandr Manastyrsky (Kyiv),

Oleksy Kustovsky (Vyshneve, Kyiv region), Daniil Kuznetsov (Bila Tserkva), Vadim Shevchenko (Kyiv), and Olena Tsuranova (Kyiv).

Special prize from the Association of Cartoonists: Volodymyr Adamovych (Kherson).

Special recognition from the New Citizen Partnership: Mykhailo Mayevsky (Kirovohrad).

Members of the panel of judges: Svitlana Zalishchuk, Coordinator of the civic initiative "New Citizen", Kyiv; Yury Lukanov, Head of the Kyiv Independent Media Trade Union; Tetyana Mazur, Manager of the Amnesty International in Ukraine, Kyiv; Victoria Syumar, Executive Director of the Institute for Mass Information, Kyiv; Volodymyr Yavorsky, Executive Director of the Ukrainian Helsinki Human Rights Union, Kyiv, Chair of the panel).



Meeting of the panel of judges

During the prize-giving ceremony, Volodymyr Yavorsky pointed out that the theme of freedom of speech, of peaceful assembly and association had not been chosen as key theme, since there had been more violations of freedom of peaceful assembly in 2010 than from 2005 to 2009 all together.

"Ukrainian and international analysts observe that the situation with freedom of expression has worsened significantly in the country. A lot of cases have been registered where socially important information has been muffled or distorted,

of manipulation in the news, pro-regime commissioning; restrictions of access for the opposition to broadcasting time. Pressure has also increased on journalists as well as censorship of journalists' material. There are many ways of counter-ing such a situation. One of them is to hold a cartoon competition since one can laugh at and criticism the present situation through humour and satire".

Winning cartoons

Dmytro Skazhenyk, First place



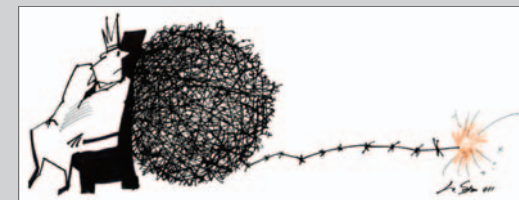
Viktor Savilov, Second place



Ivan Dutka, Third Place



Leonid Storozhuk, Third Place



The cartoons on human rights themes for 2008, 2010 and 2011 can be seen at the special website here: <http://caricature.helsinki.org.ua/>. The cartoons you can see will undoubtedly make you smile however they will force you also to think about how we can change the situation in the country, how to prevent violations or simply how to explain apparently complicated things through simple pictures.

We are convinced that in order to resolve complex problems, we should learn to laugh at them.

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



The traditional announcement was made on 9 December, the day before International Human Rights Day, of the worst human rights violators in Ukraine during 2011. They received the UHHRU “Thistle of the Year — 2011” Anti-Award.

Of the 20 nominees (the list can be seen here <http://helsinki.org.ua/index.php?id=1318499595>) the commission made up of journalists, members of NGOs and human rights activists chose four “winners”, and the panel of judges also chose “The Golden Thistle”.

“Laureates of the UHHRU Thistle of the Year” Award for 2011:

- **The National Bank of Ukraine** for the most flagrant intrusions of privacy;
- **Svitlana Muratova, Judge and Deputy Chairperson of the Kyivsky District Court in Kharkiv**
for failure to act where rights have been violated; for violations of the right to liberty and a fair trial; for violations regarding the prohibition against torture and ill-treatment.
- **The Kyiv District Administrative Court**
for flagrant violation of freedom of peaceful assembly;

- **Deputy Prosecutor General and member of the High Council of Justice Mykhailo Havrylyuk**
for pressure on judges and contempt for the justice system
- **Prime Minister M. Azarov, Deputy Prime Minister S. Tihipko, Minister of Finance F. Yaroshenko and Deputy Head of the Board of the Pension Fund of Ukraine V. Nikitenko**
for unlawful actions with respect to the judiciary and contempt for the justice system.

Viktor Yanukovych, President of Ukraine, received “The Gold Thistle” for systematic use of his powers to restrict rights and freedoms, and his indifference to wide-scale human rights violations.

More information about the “Thistle of the Year” Anti-Award can be found at

<http://helsinki.org.ua/index.php?r=a1b14>

Docudays UA. Human Rights Documentary Film Festival

www.docudays.org.ua



*Photo from the Festival opening.
Yehor Sobolyev and Marichka Padalko*

Docudays UA is the only documentary film festival in Ukraine which enables Ukrainians to see the best examples of world documentary cinema, raise their cultural knowledge, realize the importance of developing documentary cinema in Ukraine, stimulates open dialogue on moral issues of humanity, human rights, universal human values and create a foundation for the country's democratic future.

The International Human Rights Documentary Film Festival Docudays UA takes place each year in Kyiv in the last week of March. After the Festival, there is traditionally a wandering festival showing the best films in regions of Ukraine. This takes place between October and December.

The number of people attending the Festival increases by the year. If in 2007 the Festival in Kyiv had 6,000 viewers, in 2008 there were 10,700; in 2009 — 17,800; in 2010 — 22,300; and in 2011 — already 24,700.

In 2007 the Travelling Festival was visited by around 50,000 viewers in 30 cities; in 2008 — 118,500 in 60 cities; in 2009 — 140,000 in 100 cities and towns; in 2010 — 153,000 viewers in 123 cities; and in 2011 — 134 thousand in 112 cities.

The Eighth Docudays UA took place in Kyiv at the House of Cinema on Saksanska St and the Goethe Institute on Voloska St, 12/4 from 25 March to 31 March 2011.

The organizers of the Festival are the Ukrainian Helsinki Human Rights Union, the Kherson City Association of Journalists "Pivden", the Kherson Regional Charity and Health Fund, and the civic organization "The Centre for Contemporary Information Technologies and Visual Arts".

The Festival opened with a favourite of many international festivals — the film "The Other Chelsea" Story from Donetsk by the German Film Director Jakob Preuss.



Photo: Jakob Preuss, director of the opening film of the festival

There were 58 Ukrainian participants in the Festival, including 28 regional partners, 15 winners of a competition for graduates of the Nationwide Programme "We Understand Human Rights" who became the coordinators of the Festival's educational programmes in regions of Ukraine; well-known human rights activists; members of the panel of judges, etc.

40 people from other countries also took part in the Festival: film directors, experts, including 4 leaders of civic organizations from Moldova, Russia, Belarus and Georgia who want to organize similar festivals in their countries.

As part of the Festival, UHHRU held the following events:

Master class on how to protect oneself from the unlawful actions of police officers, run by the Head of the UHHRU Board, Arkady Bushchenko and the Head of the Cherkasy Centre for Monitoring Human Rights, Volodymyr Batchaev. A video training course has been created on the basis of the master class. There were 38 participants.

A discussion on police torture and demonstration of the film "Kylymok" by Andriy Rozhansky / Ukraine 2010. The discussion included well-known human rights activists and programme coordinator for the Kharkiv Human Rights Group, Andriy Didenko. There were 118 participants.

Presentation of new video clips on the themes "Free2choose", human rights education and tolerance. The organizer was the Congress of National Communities of Ukraine.



The Head of the UHHRU Board during the master class on how to protect oneself from the unlawful actions of police officers

There were three panels of judges: creative, human rights and a student panel. There were 119 publications in the printed press and Internet about the Festival, including 3 video features. There were 10 television shots, including on 5 national television channels (ICTV, Era, Channel 5, STB and 1+1), and 2 radio slots on the national Era radio station.

Advertisements about the Festival were placed in 6 Internet publications (banners; press and post event releases, mailings of each text document to the subscribers of an Internet publication, etc). There were 7 advertising models of the Festival in 3 regional printed media outlets, the newspaper Dzerkalo Tyzhnya and journals Status and Expert. Ukraine. 30-second advertising video clips were broadcast on TV Channel 5 (30 times) and TVi (60). It was also broadcast 30 times on Radio Era.

The Travelling Docudays UA Human Rights Documentary Festival

After the Festival, the films are traditionally taken around Ukraine. From 4 October to 24 December 2011 the Eighth International Travelling Docu-

days UA Human Rights Documentary Festival passed through 112 cities, towns and settlements in 22 regions of Ukraine including the Crimea and Sevastopol.

134 thousand people attended the Travelling Festival. The film showings took place in 19 cinemas (houses of culture), 22 cultural or civic centres, 5 social centres, 23 film clubs, 3 children's orphanage-schools, 1 children's home, 51 higher educational institutes, 3 technical colleges, 6 colleges, 7 gymnasiums and 8 lyceums 42 schools, 2 educational complexes, 11 libraries, 4 village councils and district administrations, 35 corrective colonies and 4 SIZO [remand units] in the Kherson, Lviv, Kirovohrad, Donetsk, Kyiv and Kharkiv regions, and also in 1 military unit, 1 regional department of the MIA and 1 vocational training institute for staff of the State Penal Service.

In 2011 preparation for the International Travelling Docudays UA Human Rights Documentary Festival was not only a kind of platform for cooperation among civic organizations who are partners of the Festival in different regions of Ukraine, but also promoted an increase in their number from 28 to 34.



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

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



UHHRU FINANCIAL REPORT FOR 2011

Income (in UAH):

	Amount
Irrevocable financial assistance	3 302 112,45
Charitable donations	213,00
Irrevocable aid in form of goods	126 909,42
Passive income from sale of currency	38 060,51
TOTAL:	3 467 295,38

Sources of financial support

The International Renaissance Foundation (IRF, Ukraine)

1. Grant agreement No. 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 25.12.2011. Amount received: **79 400,00 UAH.**
2. Grant agreement No. 44492 from 15.04.2011 to support the project "Modern trends of the Human Rights violation in Ukraine". Period of force of the agreement: from 29.04 to 10.11.2011. Amount received: **114 714,00 UAH.**
3. Grant agreement No. 40079 from 02.11.2009 to support the project "Public control over the execution of the judgements of the European Court of Human Rights". Period of force of the agreement: from 02.11.2009 to 31.03.2012. Amount received: **179 394,75 UAH.**
4. Grant agreement No. 45631 from 03.10.2011 to support the project "EU's approach towards justice reform. Lessons to be learned from Romania and Bulgaria; Moldova and Ukraine; Croatia, Serbia and Macedonia". Period of force of the agreement: from 19.10 to 30.11.2011. Amount received: **5 719,00 UAH.**

The Open Society Institute (OSI-ZUG, Hungary)

1. Grant agreement No. 40017724 for institutional support in 2010–2011. Period of force of the agreement: from 01.07.2010 to 30.06.2011. Amount received: **398 360,00 UAH** (50 000,00 \$).
2. Grant agreement No. 40020577 for institutional support in 2011–2012. Period of force of the agreement: from 01.07.2011 to 30.06.2012. Amount received: **398 785,00 UAH** (50 000,00 \$).
3. Grant agreement No. 40018358 for implementation "The Human Rights and Governance" — participation of an organization's representative in the NGO-Court Meeting/Strasbourg/2010, between October 20–22, 2010". Amount received: **9 790,80 UAH** (1 230,00 \$).

Oxfam Novib (The Netherlands)

Grant agreement No. A-00860-02-505110 (OEK-505110-0007051) for institutional support in 2009–2012. Period of force of the agreement: from 01.11.2009 to 29.02.2012. Amount received **163 032,21 UAH** (15 000,00 €).

National Endowment for Democracy (NED, USA)

Grant agreement No. 2011-141 to support the project "Ukraine Human Rights Report 2011". Period of force of the agreement: from 01.03.2011 to 29.02.2012. Amount received: **335 828,66 UAH** (42 190,00 \$).

Norwegian Helsinki Committee (NHC, Norway)

1. Grant agreement from 20.12.2010 to support the "Program for Human Rights Education in Ukraine". The agreement is for 2011. Amount received: **951 797,49 грн** (83 792,44 €).
2. Grant agreement from 05.09.2011 to support the "International Human Rights School". Period of force of the agreement: September 2011. Amount received: **26 644,54 UAH** (2 381,00 €).

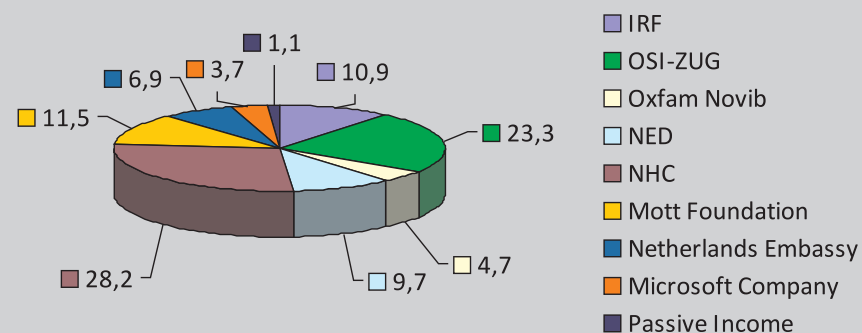
The Charles Stewart Mott Foundation (USA)

Grant agreement No.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 **398 615,00 UAH** (50 000,00 \$).

Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in Kyiv

Agreement on project No. 23431 dated 11.11.2011. "Promotion and Strengthening of Human Rights in Ukraine". Period of force of the agreement: from 15.11.11 to 15.11.12. Amount received **240 031,00 UAH**.

UHHRU income in percentages

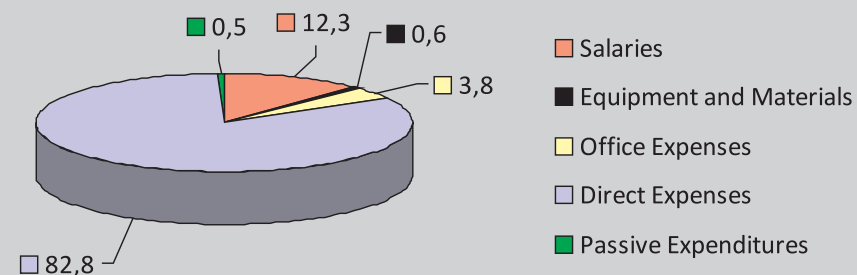


Expenditures (in UAH):

Type of expenditure	Amount
Salaries	579 897,28
Office Expenses	
Office rent	101 415,60
Communications, postage, Internet, hosting	21 960,02
Databases, literature, periodic	13 793,46
External audit	23 000,00
Bank fees	18 975,80
Total	179 144,88

Equipment and Materials	
Equipment, furniture	20 489,67
Materials, stationery	9 944,22
Total	30 433,89
Direct Expenses	
Legal services	523 807,80
Educational and public events	1 465 325,75
Translation	151 468,00
Publications	29 001,00
Subgrants and aid in form of goods	985 239,12
Contracting services	738 177,57
Total	3 893 019,24
Passive expenditures from the sale of currency	21 438,46
GRAND TOTAL	4 703 933,75

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

Bank name: PODOL Branch of PJSC "UKRSOTSBANK"
Bank address: Sagaydachny str. 22/1, Kyiv, 04070 Ukraine
Bank account holder: Ukrainian Helsinki Human Rights Union
Bank account number: 2600 900 0017 574
SWIFT code: UKRSUAUX

Correspondent bank

Bank name: Commerzbank AG
Bank address: Frankfurt am Main, Germany
Bank account number: 400886615401
SWIFT code: COBADEFF

Details of payment in USD

Bank name: PODOL Branch of PJSC "UKRSOTSBANK"
Bank address: Sagaydachny str. 22/1, Kyiv, 04070 Ukraine
Bank account holder: Ukrainian Helsinki Human Rights Union
Bank account number: 2600 800 0017 575
SWIFT code: UKRSUAUX

Correspondent bank

Bank name: Commerzbank AG
Bank address: Frankfurt am Main, Germany
Bank account number: 400886615400
SWIFT code: 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.



Contact Us

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

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

<http://www.facebook.com/#!/pages/Ukrainska-Gelsinska-spilka-z-prav-ludini>