

DECLARATION ON DEMOCRATIC FREEDOMS IN UKRAINE

The recent processes taking place in Ukraine raise severe concerns of civil society regarding the state of play with democratic freedoms in the country. In our view, the attention of international community should be drawn to the following:

- Uncertainty regarding the date of the next local elections that infringe basic principles of democratic elections and put into question the legitimacy of decisions taken by local self-governance;
- Increasing pressure on the mass-media and the cases of censorship;
- Neglecting established principle of interpretation of constitutional provisions regarding the governmental coalition formation that resulted in ignorance of the principles of democratic representation and responding to legitimate expectation of voters;
- Limitation of the freedom of assembly in the newly registered governmental legislative initiative;
- Lack of public participation and independent expert consultations with regard to three bills that have fundamental importance for citizens and would have tremendous effect on the state, namely the concept of judiciary reform, the draft Tax code and the draft Budget Codes;
- Repeated cases of human rights violations by police forces.

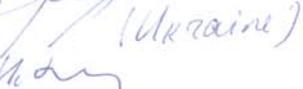
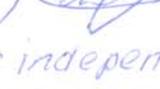
The above listed facts do not correspond with European values and standards, principles of good-governance and the international obligations of Ukraine in the field of human rights protection and democratic development.

Such practice is unacceptable in the democratic country, therefore:

We request the state authorities in Ukraine to take steps needed to stop the process of undermining democratic freedoms.

We appeal to the international community, in particular to the Council of Europe, to provide the assistance to civil society efforts aiming at ensuring and sustaining the implementation of basic democratic freedoms in Ukraine.

Supported on June 12 in Vilnius (Lithuania) by

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