

# Chronicle of Anti-Semitism and Xenophobia in Ukraine

Monthly online information bulletin of the National Minority Rights Monitoring Group

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## 1. MANIFESTATIONS OF XENOPHOBIA

### 1.1 Hate-motivated violence.

On **October 21**, during a match in Kyiv between the Dynamo (Kyiv) and Chelsea teams of the UEFA Champions League, fans of the Kyiv club severely beat four black spectators, as well as several people who tried to protect the victims. The incident happened at the 19th sector of the Olimpiyskiy National Sports Complex. It has been supposed that the attackers might be connected to the fan-group “Rodichi” (“Kindred”)<sup>1</sup>. Moreover, at least one more black spectator was hurt due to a concerted assault that took place at Sector 23 of the stadium. According to eyewitnesses, the attacks, which have been recorded on video by the “2 + 2” channel, were accompanied by shouts of “White power!”, which is certainly an indicator of a hate motive in the attackers’ actions<sup>2</sup>.

According to an official statement by the Ukrainian Ministry of Internal Affairs made on **October 23**, the Pechersk District Department of the Ministry of Internal Affairs in Kyiv has instigated criminal proceedings to investigate the crime. The incident was qualified according to Article 296, Part 2 of the Ukrainian Criminal Code (“hooliganism”).

The incident garnered a wide resonance both in Ukraine and abroad. An upsurge of indignation was caused particularly by an inappropriate statement made by Vladimir Spilnichenko, the Director of the Olimpiyskiy National Sport Complex. When talking to a “2 + 2” journalist, Spilnichenko said that it might be a good idea to create a separate sector for dark-skinned spectators. Later, the stadium’s PR department said that the statement had been taken out of context and, in fact, that the director of the sports complex had in fact spoken against creating

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<sup>1</sup> The incidents were recorded by the “Football against racism in Europe” (Fare) network as part of its system of monitoring discrimination at international soccer competitions. For details of their monitoring system, see: <http://www.farenet.org/get-involved/report-discrimination/observer-scheme-faq/>. The video recording of the incident was first published by the Guardian website. See: <http://www.theguardian.com/football/2015/oct/21/uefa-investigate-attack-black-fans-dynamo-kyiv-chelsea>

<sup>2</sup> <http://2plus2.ua/video/article/svidki-rozpovili-podrobici-biyki-na-matchi-dinamo-chelsi-1-385031350.html>

separate sectors for different categories of spectators<sup>3</sup>.

Many of the commentators, particularly Dynamo Vice President Alexei Semenenko, have supposed that the incident had been a “provocation,” an “act planned in advance” by somebody who is “interested in making the social situation of every Ukrainian citizen worse.” We do not believe that this version has much merit<sup>4</sup>.

## 1.2. Vandalism

On the evening of **October 4**, unknown vandals desecrated a memorial plaque in Lutsk, commemorating the uprising of Jews in the ghetto in 1942. The anti-Semites poured blue paint over the plaque<sup>5</sup> and wrote “die kikes” on it. By the next morning, the writing had already been painted over.

The memorial plaque had been installed on the walls of the teachers college (formerly the Gliklikh Jewish gymnasium), where the Jews of the ghetto began their rebellion, in December 2012 at the initiative of the Volyn Progressive Judaism religious community. The community did not file a statement with the police<sup>6</sup>.

## 1.3. Public manifestations of xenophobia

On **October 13**, an interview with the Head Rabbi of Dnipropetrovsk and the Dnipropetrovsk Region, Shmuel Kaminetsky, was published in the “Novoye Vremya” journal. Kaminetsky, one of the most respected Ukrainian rabbis, recounted a “recent” incident: “...and so I meet this young man, he saw me, shouted all of his slogans, did the whole Nazi protocol, and threw a firecracker at me.” Later, Kaminetsky identified the young man and learned that he had volunteered to fight in the Azov Regiment, which is based in Mariupol. Upon learning that the young man “is truly ready to give up his life for Ukraine,” the rabbi decided to “leave him be”<sup>7</sup>.

On **October 14**, a representative of the All-Ukrainian “Svoboda” Union political party, Mikhail Geraschenko, made a number of anti-Semitic statements in his speech at a rally in Zaporizhia dedicated to Defender’s Day in Ukraine. Gerashenko said: “Today we are all in this situation that the kike brass have taken over 80% of the government, supposedly ruling the Ukrainian nation... Imagine the Jewish people electing an Arab to be President of Israel—that’s impossible! But our nation is being pursued precisely by the Jews!”<sup>8</sup>.

After these statements, Gerashenko’s speech was interrupted, and one of the participants of the rally, a man dressed in military uniform with insignia of one of the volunteer area defense battalions, even tried to attack the speaker.

On **October 19**, a rally was held to support the activists of the national-radical party All-Ukrainian “Svoboda” Union who are suspected of being involved in the August 31 riots. One of

<sup>3</sup>[http://humanrights.org.ua/material/sport\\_i\\_diskriminacija\\_ujefa\\_skazhe\\_svoje\\_slovo\\_pro\\_napad\\_na\\_temnoshkirih\\_ubolivalnikiv\\_a\\_spilnichenko\\_ne\\_govoriv\\_pro\\_okremi\\_sektori](http://humanrights.org.ua/material/sport_i_diskriminacija_ujefa_skazhe_svoje_slovo_pro_napad_na_temnoshkirih_ubolivalnikiv_a_spilnichenko_ne_govoriv_pro_okremi_sektori)

<sup>4</sup> <http://www.depo.ua/ukr/sport/vitse-prezident-dinamo-pobittya-temnoshkirih-faniv---provokatsiya-22102015145100>

<sup>5</sup><https://www.facebook.com/nmrmg/photos/a.301261026707333.1073741828.293839707449465/553902721443161/>

<sup>6</sup> As reported by Chairman of the Volyn Progressive Judaism religious community Sergey Shvardovsky.

<sup>7</sup> <http://nv.ua/publications/rebe-poslal-menja-sjuda-chtoby-evrei-byli-schastlivy-shmuel-kaminetskij-rassuzhdaet-o-mestnyh-bogachah-i-bednjakah-73265.html>

<sup>8</sup> <http://www.061.ua/news/994477>

the speakers, the mother of a suspect, used anti-Semitic rhetoric in her speech. According to her, “kikes” seized the power in Kyiv, and “kikes are sitting in Bankovaya street” [the location of the Ukrainian Presidential administration - ed.]<sup>9</sup>.

On **October 25**, elections to local councils were held all over Ukraine as well as elections of heads of city and village state administrations.

Instances of anti-Semitic materials aimed at discrediting certain candidates were recorded in several regions. It must be noted that these were isolated incidents, and no organized systematic campaign took place; the scope of the incidents was also quite limited. It is also notable that candidates who are widely known to be ethnic Jews have successfully competed in the elections, and in several cases made it to the second round or won, including in large cities, particularly Kyiv and Kharkiv.

Bright orange flyers were disseminated in Drogobych (Lviv Region) with the following text: “Kondratyuk! A kike from Berdychiv! And he wants to be mayor?”<sup>10</sup>. Similar flyers, but stating that the would-be mayor was a separatist, were also disseminated.

Yuri Kondratyuk is a little-known self-nominated candidate, who received practically no voter support in the elections.

In the city of Cherkasy, promotional posters (so-called “cubes”) of candidate Alexander Radutsky were debased with anti-Semitic slogans. For example, the slogan “Live for Cherkasy” (“Zhyty Cherkasamy”) was supplemented by the following: “Kikes in Cherkasy - kolyvvschina soon to come!” (“Zhydy v Cherkassah - kolyvvschina skoro!”). The kolyvvschina was an uprising by the haidamaks, pro-Ukrainian paramilitary groups in the 18th century Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth, which involved severe Jewish pogroms. “Ukrainians! Do not vote for foreigners! Support Ukrainians!” calls a different sign on another “cube.” A third cube had a quote mistakenly attributed to Taras Shevchenko: “Vile kikes rule over us, and we are even worse than kikes, for we have sold the glory of our grandfathers and the kikes have us harnessed.”

The candidate himself believes that the discreditation campaign was initiated by the well-known local politician Sergey Odarych, who won the elections. We believe this to be implausible, however. Odarych had been the front-runner of these elections, he is a well-known politician with a good reputation. Radutsky received fourth place in the elections and had not been any real competition to the winner. Judging by certain elements of the graffiti, it can be supposed that it had been made by perfectly genuine anti-Semites, supporters of a marginal national-radical youth group “Right movement 10/44,” which has recently appeared in certain Central and Eastern Ukrainian cities. <sup>11</sup>.

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<sup>9</sup> <http://www.politnavigator.net/zhidy-parashi-sudyat-patriotov-mat-svobodovca-ustroila-skandal-pod-gpu.html>

<sup>10</sup> The editors have photocopies of the flyers in their possession.

<sup>11</sup> <http://www.eajc.org/page16/news52880.html>. “10/44” is a fairly uncommon (and mostly circulating in youth subcultures) code for radical Ukrainian nationalism. The code was created to be similar with better-known racist and neo-Nazi codes, such as “14/88.” The first number means “10 commandments” - an allusion to the “Decalogue of the Ukrainian Nationalist,” a brief foundational text for the Organization of Ukrainian Nationalists (OUN), compiled between 1929-1936 after much internal discussion. The second number means “The 44 Rules of Life of the Ukrainian Nationalist,” which is a list of maxims compiled by Dmitry Miron-Orlik in 1932, during his time at a Polish prison. These texts together with the “The 12 Character Traits of the Ukrainian Nationalist” make up the “Catechesis of the Ukrainian Nationalist” as approved by the OUN Grand Assembly.

According to an unverified report, on **October 29**, a drunken hooligan walked into a Jewish community center museum in Odesa and started insulting the visitors, calling them “kikes.” Someone called the patrol police, and upon arrival they had to use force to arrest the troublemaker<sup>12</sup>. This incident is currently being confirmed.

## 2. MANIFESTATIONS OF XENOPHOBIA IN THE OCCUPIED AUTONOMOUS REPUBLIC OF CRIMEA

On **October 6**, the Kyiv District Court of the city of Simferopol has sentenced (*in absentia*) Refat Chubarov, Chairman of the Mejlis of the Crimean Tatar People, to being detained for “public calls to plan, organize, prepare and perform the acts [...] aimed at violation of the integrity of the Russian Federation” (Article 280.1, Part 2 of the Criminal Code of the Russian Federation; “Public Appeals for the Performance of Extremist Activity”). The proceedings were initiated by the Criminal Investigation Department of the Federal Security Service Directorate for the Crimea and Sevastopol of Russia<sup>13</sup>.

On June 4, 2014, Refat Chubarov was banned from entry to the Russian Federation.

On **October 9**, the Central District Court of Simferopol changed the pre-trial restrictions for Eskander Nebiyev, former cameraman for the Crimean Tatar TV channel ATR, to detention. Nebiyev had already been under arrest earlier. The arrestee was suspected of participating in mass riots (Article 212, Part 2 of the Criminal Code of the Russian Federation) during the events of February 26, 2014, which took place under the Parliament of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea<sup>14</sup>.

The court had already arrested the suspect earlier, on **April 20**<sup>15</sup>, but on **June 18** the suspect was released from detention<sup>16</sup> with Emirali Ablayev, the Mufti of Crimea, acting as surety<sup>17</sup>.

On **October 11**, Natalia Poklonskaya, who calls herself “prosecutor of Crimea,” issued a statement that Eskander Nebiyev has made a successful plea bargain, is working with the prosecutor’s office, has admitted his guilt, and is helping the investigation<sup>18</sup>. According to the verdict, Nebiyev has pleaded guilty to “committing a socially grievous crime while acting in compliance with the orders of Akhtem Chiygoz, who organized the unsanctioned rally.” The socially grievous crime consisted of landing several blows on an unidentified person<sup>19</sup>.

On **October 12**, the Simferopol Central District Court conducted a hearing for the case under simplified proceedings and sentenced Eskander Nebiyev to 2 years and 6 months probation.<sup>20</sup>

It is likely that the plea bargain involved the defendant’s release from doing actual time in prison in exchange for evidence against Deputy Chairman of the Mejlis of the Crimean Tatar People Akhtem Chiygoz, who is being accused of organizing riots. In essence, now the accusations

<sup>12</sup> Our information.

<sup>13</sup> <https://www.facebook.com/groups/qhaforum/permalink/605945752880578/>

<sup>14</sup> <http://ru.krymr.com/content/article/27298476.html>

<sup>15</sup> [http://news.liga.net/news/politics/5591359-del\\_26\\_fevralya\\_v\\_krymu\\_arestovan\\_eshche\\_odin\\_krymskiy\\_tatarin.htm](http://news.liga.net/news/politics/5591359-del_26_fevralya_v_krymu_arestovan_eshche_odin_krymskiy_tatarin.htm)

<sup>16</sup> <https://www.facebook.com/lilya.takosh/posts/725446147577632?fref=nf>

<sup>17</sup> <http://ru.krymr.mobi/a/27081787.html>

<sup>18</sup> <http://avdet.org/node/14638>

<sup>19</sup> <http://www.ixtc.org/2015/10/eskender-nebiev-priznal-vinu-i-osuzhden-uslovno/>

<sup>20</sup> <http://qha.com.ua/ru/read/eksoperatoru-telekanala-atr-eskenderu-nebievu-dali-2-5-goda-uslovno/149374/>

against Chiygoz, who is currently undergoing investigation in a detention facility, have already been confirmed by this decision. However, Nebiyev's lawyer has stated that his defendant has given no evidence against Chiygoz. According to the lawyer, Nebiyev merely confirmed that he saw the Deputy Mejlis Chairman during the rally, but also stated that he had received no orders from Chiygoz and was not witness to Chiygoz giving any orders at all.<sup>21</sup>

It must be added here that the father of the accused, Bekir Nebiyev, had been accused by occupational law enforcement bodies of committing double homicide on **September 26**. The mutilated body of Bekir Nebiyev himself had been found in a tract of forest land near the Simferopol microdistrict "Fontany" on **October 10**. The investigators of the crime believe that Nebiyev Sr. committed suicide<sup>22</sup>.

On **October 21**, unknown vandals in Koreiz poured yellow paint over a memorial plaque to the victims of the 1944 deportation.<sup>23</sup>

Early on **October 21**, members of the occupational police force and the so-called "Crimean self-defense forces" searched the house of Mustafayev Rustem, who lives in the Kalinovka village of the Lenin region of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea. The search party did not present any identification to the owner of the house. According to the writ that Mustafayev had been given to read, the search was being held at the request of neighbors, despite all of the neighbors being either relatives or friends of his.<sup>24</sup>

On **October 23**, the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation requested the Russian Prosecutor General Yuriy Chaika to conduct an extremism check against the Mejlis of the Crimean Tatar People.<sup>25</sup>

On **October 26**, the court finished its examination of Ali Asanov's appeal, who is a suspect in the so-called "case of February 26" and who had been placed into pre-trial detention until **November 19** by the decision of the Simferopol city Kyiv District Court. The court declined the defender's argument that the decision for pre-trial detention was made in violation of the Code of Criminal Procedure of the Russian Federation and refused to change the pre-trial restrictions to house arrest or being released under his own recognizance<sup>26</sup>. Ali Asanov has been under arrest since April 17.<sup>27</sup>

### **3. MANIFESTATIONS OF XENOPHOBIA IN TERRORIST-CONTROLLED TERRITORY**

On **October 8**, it became known that the so-called "Ministry of State Security" of the pro-Russian puppet regime "Luhansk People's Republic" closed the "Jesus is the Answer" religious organization. The Christian Evangelist church that had worked in occupied Sverdlovsk had been closed for "not being registered in the LNR" earlier.

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<sup>21</sup> <http://grani.ru/Politics/World/Europe/Ukraine/m.244956.html>

<sup>22</sup> <http://www.szona.org/tragediya-semi-nebievyh-voprosov-bolshe-chem-otvetov/>

<sup>23</sup> <http://ru.krymr.com/content/news/27318458.html>

<sup>24</sup> <http://www.qha.com.ua/ru/proisshestviya/v-krimu-prodoljayutsya-repressii-protiv-krimskih-tatar/149960/>

<sup>25</sup> <http://reeana.ru/15526>

<sup>26</sup> <https://www.facebook.com/photo.php?fbid=923101297725039&set=a.288658477835994.61901.100000755315811&type=3&theater>

<sup>27</sup> <http://news.liga.net/news/politics/5591359->

[delo\\_26\\_fevralya\\_v\\_krymu\\_arestovan\\_eshche\\_odin\\_krymskiy\\_tatarin.htm](http://news.liga.net/news/politics/5591359-delo_26_fevralya_v_krymu_arestovan_eshche_odin_krymskiy_tatarin.htm)

The leader of the church, Taras Sen, is under “investigation” by the militants. They say he is a “cultist” and accuse his church of being financed by believers from all over the world. The Protestant is also being accused of cooperating with the OSCE mission, as members of this organization asked the community leader how many people attend church gatherings, what is the mood of the city’s residents, and how many people actually supported the so-called “referendum” in 2014<sup>28</sup>.

On **October 9**, the so-called “Luhansk People’s Republic” passed its Domestic Relations Law. This document outright bans marriage between citizens of one sex<sup>29</sup>.

#### **4. ACTIONS UNDERTAKEN BY LAW ENFORCEMENT AND GOVERNMENT BODIES**

On **October 5**, criminal proceedings were opened by the Shevchenko District Department of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Kyiv after a fact check had been completed on the arson attempt of **September 13**, when the “Menorah” memorial to Holocaust victims, situated in the Babiy Yar State Historical and Cultural Preserve in Kyiv, was set ablaze. The crime was qualified according to Article 296, Part 1 (“hooliganism”) of the Ukrainian Criminal Code.<sup>30</sup>

On **October 5**, the Goloseevo District Court of Kyiv found two students, Roman Portyanko and Oleg Rybalchenko, guilty of arson and gave them 3 and 2 years of probation respectively. The students had set fire to the Zhovten cinema in Kyiv.

Prejudicial inquiry has confirmed that the aforementioned persons attempted to sabotage a film showing by throwing smoke grenades inside the movie theater. The smoke grenades, however, caused a fire. The investigation believes that the crime’s motive had been hooliganism and that the students had not intended to set fire to the building. During the hearings, the defendants stated that they wanted to take action “against the propaganda of non-traditional [sexual] orientation,” i.e. their motive was hatred for LGBTI people. The youths were found guilty according to Article 296, Part 2 (“hooliganism”) and Article 263, Part 1 (“Carrying, storing, purchasing, producing, repairing, transferring or selling firearms (other than smoothbore hunting guns), ammunition, explosive substances or explosive devices without a permit required by law”).<sup>31</sup>

On **October 29**, incidents of police misconduct towards the Romani residents of Zolotonosha city (Cherkasy region) came to light. According to community representatives, police officers entered the homes of Romani families, arrested them and took them to the local police department.

The Director of the Romani organization “Chirikli” Zola Kondur addressed Mikhail Chaplyga, who is the local representative of the Ukrainian Parliament Ombudsman. After the Ombudsman’s office interfered, the arrests stopped<sup>32</sup>.

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<sup>28</sup> <http://novosti.dn.ua/details/260942/>

<sup>29</sup> <http://lug-info.com/news/one/proekt-semeinogo-kodeksa-lnr-predusmatrivaet-zapret-odnopolykh-brakov-karyakin-7544>

<sup>30</sup> Information provided by the “No Borders!” project of the Social Action Center.

<sup>31</sup> [http://upogau.org/ru/inform/uaneews/uaneews\\_2828.html](http://upogau.org/ru/inform/uaneews/uaneews_2828.html)

<sup>32</sup> <http://www.chirikli.com.ua/index.php/ua/novini/item/143-nepravomirnym-diiam-militsioneriv-zolotonoshi-shchodo-romskykh-meshkantsiv-mista-slid-daty-nalezhnu-pravovu-otsinku>

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*Materials from the media, information provided by Ukraine’s national communities and organizations specializing in protection of human rights, and information provided by activists are all employed by the editors in the compilation of this bulletin.*

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