

## **Open appeal for early release of Russian political prisoner, lawyer Igor Kiyashko**

The Ukrainian Bar Association has repeatedly voiced its indignation towards violation of human rights by the Russian Federation.

The Association was approached by the wife of **Mr. Igor Kiyashko**, a lawyer imprisoned in the Russian Federation for political reasons. The Ukrainian Parliament's Commissioner for Human Rights and members of the Ukrainian official delegation in Minsk have repeatedly raised the issue of the political prisoner's release. The Center for Civil Liberties, which is supported by the Association, is also engaged in the legal defense of Igor Kiyashko.

On April 10, 2018, Ukrainian lawyer Igor Kiyashko was detained in Russia on suspicion of plotting smuggling. Two months later, the lawyer was charged with espionage. Being tortured, he refused from legal aid.

In December 2018, Nyzhnyogorodskyi Regional Court in Russia sentenced Igor Kiyashko to eight years in a maximum-security prison for alleged espionage in favor of Ukraine.

On July 1, 2020, the Commissioner for Human Rights of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine **Lyudmyla Denisova** reported that an outbreak of coronavirus infection COVID-19 had taken place in the correctional colony № 11, where Ukrainian political prisoner Ihor Kiyashko is being illegally held. Given these circumstances, the institution lacks personal protective equipment and proper medical care.

We believe that such facts of contempt and neglect of human rights by the Russian Federation require an immediate response from the Ukrainian authorities and the international community.

**The Ukrainian Bar Association calls on all government institutions and the international legal community to take necessary measures to release the political prisoner of the Russian Federation, lawyer Igor Kiyashko, as soon as possible.**