

Public pressure and threats to Charitable Foundation "Patients of Ukraine"

Dear partners, colleagues and supporters!

As some of you may have noticed, lately there have been multiple tries to discredit Charitable Foundation "Patients of Ukraine" through false publications, virtual threads and a lawsuit, in particular.

Publications that appear in the media consist accusations towards the members of the CF "Patients of Ukraine" are clearly being paid for. These accusations lack facts, argumentations and are often absurd. Usually, media that publish such information are not reliable, but there are instances of publishing these paid articles by the leading Ukrainian media. The information from the publications is being blindly copied (including grammatical errors) and massively reprinted in the minor media that specialize in the placement of the paid material.

Also facebook page of the CF "Patients of Ukraine" and the pages of the leaders of organization were attacked by the "bots", that echo the information from the paid articles.

The most outrageous is the publication on a lawsuit that a national pharmaceutical company has issued against CF "Patients of Ukraine" and Espresso TV on charges of spreading the false information. We also have learned about this from the media. However, for the time being, the fact that a claim has been filed is not confirmed. Any information regarding the proceeding date or the claim has not been received by the CF "Patients of Ukraine". According to the office of the Economic Court in Kyiv, any information about the claim by the pharmaceutical company against the CF "Patients of Ukraine" is also not confirmed.

Such a tendency of "black PR" proves only one thing: the work of the CF "Patients of Ukraine" on the protection of the patients' rights creates serious obstacles for the corrupt officials and the pharmaceutical companies' dirty businesses. Instead of doing honest business and diligent work as governments officials, the opponents have chosen the path of "dirty" war against the CF "Patients of Ukraine" through media, investing heavily in it.

According to our calculations, during the past two weeks approximately 15 thousand dollars have been spent on such publications. This amount could treat 405 TB patients per month or 125 HIV-positive people per year.

But the good news is that none of this will break us down! We have fought with all kinds of systems, ministers and government of this country during the

past 10 years. We have fought with the former Minister of Health Raisa Bogatyreva and her colleague Roman Bogachov, catching them stealing the money for the procurements of the medicines for HIV-positive Ukrainians. We have achieved the firing of Olexey Soloviev – a man who led the State Service of Ukraine on Drugs Control for years and who was directly responsible for the disappearance of the drugs from the Ukrainian market and the "kickbacks" from the registration of each drug. We together with the colleagues and partners have fought against Andriy Serdyuk, the Chairman of the Ukrainian National Academy of Medical Sciences as well as against brutal eviction of the hospital for HIV-positive people from the Kiev-Pechersk Lavra which was a direct order from the government of Mykola Azarov. Today we have to fight again. We have to fight with Ruslan Salyutin, Chairman of the tender committee of the Ministry of Health that has failed the drug tenders like no one before. We fight against the pharmaceutical business that are trying to bring a new drug for hepatitis C treatment to the market of Ukraine, the quality of which is unknown and the research results are being carefully hidden from the public.

We will not give up despite any pressure and false publications that appear in media regarding our organization. Our goal is affordable treatment for every patient and the destruction of the corruption in the Ministry of Health, which is the main reason for the lack of treatment at public expense in Ukraine. We understand that our foundation will never have the same financial and lobbying resources as large companies and political forces. However we believe that our main resource is people that are more valuable than any money or kickbacks. We encourage all the organizations to support us in this fight and continue uncompromisingly, honestly and openly nip corruption in Ukraine, despite political parties and clans that stay behind it.