To the Ukrainian Helsinki Group

**CONDOLENSES OF THE LITHUANIAN CENTRE FOR THE COORDINATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS**

8 July 2016

Regarding the death of Mr. Levko Lukjanenko

The Lithuanian Helsinki Group and other Lithuanian human rights organisations express their sincere condolences to the Ukrainian Helsinki Group regarding the death of its member Levko Lukjanenko.

We are convinced that this is the loss for not only the Ukrainian Helsinki Group, but also for the entire Ukrainian nation.

With the collapse of the Soviet empire, the Ukrainian and Lithuanian Helsinki Groups performed a special historical role. Thanks to these groups, the world found out about the total lie in the Soviet Union, persecution of people and their exile to concentration camps for convictions not approved by the soviet power, about ambitions for the liberation of Ukraine and Lithuania, and relentless thirst for the freedom of Ukrainian and Lithuanian nations.

Fearless persons joined in a small Ukrainian Helsinki Group, honourably conveyed the knowledge of freedom and duty to the Homeland by dedicating themselves to the benefit of the country. This duty to the Homeland and freedom has unfolded in the independent State of Ukraine.

The loss of this noble and great spirit son of Ukrainians reminds us again and again what treasurable and important the link between Ukrainian and Lithuanian nations is. The road covered by the late Levko Lukjanenko – is the road of freedom that has been chosen by our countries. Therefore, on the hour of this loss, everyone in Lithuania who have gone along this way, who knows the price of sacrifice for freedom, express their sympathy with the family, associates, companions, friends and relatives of the late Levko Lukjanenko.

May God Give you Strength.