

Ukraine opens criminal case against entrepreneur for erasing artwork

Culture

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Many pieces of primitive street art like this one are now protected state artifacts and could lead to prosecution of persons who damage or destroy them*.

KYIV, Sep 5, 2017 - A furniture store owner who recently erased street artwork from the Euromaidan revolt ignited a national scandal this weekend, prompting nationalists to break down the store's glass door entrance, Concorde Capital informed clients in an online advisory. While criminal charges have yet to be announced against the vandals, Prosecutor General Yuriy Lutsenko announced on Sept. 3 he opened a criminal case against the store owner for destroying a cultural or historical monument. The artwork was a cultural monument as decreed by the Culture Ministry, said Ukraine's Institute of National Memory, which recommended criminal prosecution. Besides that, Lutsenko promised that the store will face detailed inspection "of all state inspection agencies" in the nearest future. Concorde analyst Zenon Zawada added: "If only the government worked so diligently in prosecuting more serious offenses, like corporate raids. If only the government worked so hard in protecting business, rather than prosecuting it. A major factor in this case will be whether the store owner knew that the artwork on his property was government-protected. Regardless, any criminal proceeding against him should correspond with equal treatment against the vandals, who have yet to be the subject of a criminal investigation. This situation has the potential to harm further Ukraine's investment attractiveness if it's mishandled by law enforcement authorities. *Editor's Note: The artwork example above is merely for illustrative purposes. This is not the artwork that is the subject of the article above.

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