

Radical MP goes on trial in Ukraine

Kiev – The Ukrainian Supreme Court trial of Stepan Khmara, a radical opposition MP facing five charges, including civil disobedience, began yesterday in Kiev, writes Susan Viets. Mr Khmara spent six months in prison following a scuffle with an undercover policeman, and his case is the biggest political trial in Ukraine since President Gorbachev took power. Mr Khmara was stripped of his parliamentary immunity in a vote which his colleagues call illegal, but retains his seat.

Mr Khmara told the judge that “the so-called trial is being held in a tiny room, a modern version of a gas chamber licensed by the Supreme Court of the Ukraine. Today you are showing how you are mocking at human dignity.”

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