

# Ukrainian Defamation Bill Withdrawn

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**The**  **Moscow Times**

KIEV — Ukraine's parliament has withdrawn a bill that would impose jail terms for defamation and that critics feared could be used by the government to silence independent media.

The bill has been criticized by international rights groups and sparked angry protests by Ukraine's media community.

The draft law was backed last month by President Viktor Yanukovich's party. But in response to the protests his and other parties in parliament on Tuesday voted to withdraw the bill.

*(AP)*

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