

Roman Symkiv and Andrii Petrov are among the young public prosecutors of «the first hour» of the Specialised Anti-corruption Prosecutors Office of the Ukraine, also known as SAPO, which was established at the end of 2015.

Despite difficult political circumstances, Roman Symkiv and Andrii Petrov have exercised their great responsibility very prudently and with great courage. They have not hesitated to bring criminal proceedings against famous public officials in their own country on suspicions of corruption, in an environment often characterised by latent but also open intimidation against prosecutors.

Roman Symkiv and Andrii Petrov have, within a short time and with the support of the National Anticorruption Office of Ukraine (NABU) accomplished pioneer work in the fight against corruption, in a manner visible to the Ukrainian public. Despite their youth and the challenges in addressing corruption, they have become positive role models in their country, and helped to shape a better perception of justice and the rule of law in the Ukraine. Thus they have become important bearers of hope for many people in their own country.

Internal high-level corruption in any country typically has an international dimension. In their criminal proceedings, Roman Symkiv and Andrii Petrov regularly come into contact with foreign colleagues as part of international cooperation. Both have gained great respect in these international contacts through their professional work within a short period of time. They are also distinguished by their great willingness to provide support in criminal proceedings which are conducted abroad. As a result, they have played a decisive role in shaping the reputation of the still young SAPO on an international level.

The IAP underlines this valuable work of Roman Symkiv and Andrii Petrov in the fight against high-level corruption with granting them the IAP Special Achievement Award.