



Monitoring of Xenophobia and Extremism in Ukraine May 2014

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Introduction

When it seemed that the peak of the crisis in the country took place in April, this year May will be kept in our memory due to hundreds of victims... The national holiday annually celebrated in Ukraine on May 1, despite the skeptical predictions was generally calm. But it was only the calm before the storm. The next day March for Peace, organized by football fans from Kharkov and Odessa, appeared to be the beginning of the terrible tragedy in Odessa, which killed dozens of people. A week later in the days, when many countries were celebrating the victory in World War II, on the streets of Mariupol real fights took place. Along with this, the secret services of Ukraine managed to prevent terrorist attacks and provocations in many other cities of the country aimed to harm WW II veterans. Notwithstanding the prohibitions and the illegitimacy of such events in Lugansk and Donetsk regions referendums on the establishment of Donetsk and Lugansk People's Republic were conducted. As it turned out, the self-proclaimed authorities of "the newly established republics" were not too interested in the will of the local people, and therefore, without waiting for summing up of referendums' result, they began to create their own Constitutions. Attempt of the authorities to strengthen anti-terrorism operation to stop the chaos and bloodshed, unfortunately, resulted in a gain of aggression by impostors. In the South-East of Ukraine Chechen militias and representatives of Russian Cossacks appeared. At the same time, the Russian authorities constantly claimed that they were not involved and that all of Russia's armed forces were in places of permanent deployment, despite the constant attacks on the Ukrainian border from the side of Russian Federation.

On May 25, 2014, the country held presidential elections. For the first time during all years of independence, Ukrainians have decided on their choice in one round. And although in the Donetsk and Lugansk regions many polling stations were not opened, the absolute majority of the population has voted to Petro Poroshenko. In addition, Election 2014, in contrast to the previous ones, passed almost without incidents. "Fascist" country gave 2.25% to presidential candidate, President of the All-Ukrainian Jewish Congress Vadim Rabinovich, while the much-loved by many Russian media radically minded Oleg Tyagnybok and Dmitry Yarosh got less than 1% each. The end of May was occupied by vote counting. June citizens of Ukraine met with faith in their new President and the hope that he is able to stabilize the situation in the state and to return the so desired peace to all regions of united Ukraine.

Statements of officials

Romanian FM Corlatean: Russia needs federalization to block Ukraine's European development, 01.05.2014

KYIV, May 1 /Ukrinform/. Romanian Foreign Minister Titus Corlatean believes that the idea of Ukraine's federalization was initiated by Russia to block the European vector of development of the Ukrainian state.

He told this to the foreign media in an interview, Ukrinform's Bucharest correspondent reported Thursday.

"The idea of federalization of Ukraine is used by Russia exclusively for blocking the European development of Ukraine and aims to expand its influence in the direction of Odesa region and Transnistria," Corlatean said.

Geopolitical interests of Russia, in his opinion, are also to preserve its influence in post-Soviet states - Ukraine and Moldova.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/romanian_fm_corlatean_russia_needs_federalization_to_block_ukraines_european_development_320945

Avakov reminds to separatists about requirements of law-enforcers, 02.05.2014

KYIV, May 2 /Ukrinform/. The Antiterrorist Center requires that armed separatists immediately surrendered their weapons, released all hostages and the captured administrative buildings and stopped the disorders and pogroms. At the same time, the Ukrainian government is ready to grant amnesty to those members of the civil strife and the seizure of administrative buildings, who have not committed serious violent crimes. Interior Minister Arsen Avakov reminded about this, the press service of the Interior Ministry informs.

"We are ready to negotiate with the protesters and their representatives. But to terrorists and armed separatists - only inevitable retaliation," the head of the power department said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/avakov_reminds_to_separatists_about_requirements_of_law_enforcers_320953

Turchynov signs decree on two-day mourning in Ukraine, 03.05.2014

KYIV, May 3 /Ukrinform/. Interim President and Verkhovna Rada Speaker Oleksandr Turchynov has signed a decree on a two-day mourning for the people killed during mass disturbances in Odesa and an anti-terrorist operation in eastern Ukraine, the Ukrainian parliament's press service has reported.

"The 2nd of May was a tragic day for Ukraine... We have to draw the right conclusions from the tragedy that occurred primarily due to an external provocation. Those guilty of organizing and provoking these events will be punished," Turchynov said.

Three days of mourning were declared in Odesa for the victims of the clashes initiated by pro-Russian separatists. The death toll has currently reached 46.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/turchynov_signs_decree_on_two_day_mourning_in_ukraine_320989

Anti-terrorist operation not hampering presidential elections - SBU, 03.05.2014

KYIV, May 3 /Ukrinform/. The anti-terrorist operation, which is underway in eastern Ukraine, cannot be an obstacle to the holding of early presidential elections on May 25. SBU First Deputy Head and Chief of the SBU Anti-Terrorist Center Vasyl Krutov said this at a briefing on Saturday, a Ukrinform correspondent reported.

"The holding of the anti-terrorist operations in no way poses any obstacles to the election campaign and the election of the Ukrainian president," Krutov said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/anti_terrorist_operation_not_hampering_presidential_elections_sbu_320990

ATO in east of Ukraine to be continued – Turchynov, 05.05.2014

Antiterrorist operation in east of Ukraine will be continued and will give its results. The press service of the VR disclosed to UNIAN that acting President of Ukraine, Speaker of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine Oleksandr Turchynov said this in an interview with 5 Kanal.

According to his words, special subdivisions under the Interior Ministry of Ukraine have been created for support of the eastern regions and with a goal to make separatist actions impossible in other regions; as of today seven battalions function today.

<http://www.unian.info/politics/914497-ato-in-east-of-ukraine-to-be-continued-turchynov.html>

Turchynov: Russia waging war against Ukraine, 05.05.2014

KYIV, May 5 /Ukrinform/. Russia is waging a war against Ukraine, both in the eastern and southern regions of the country.

Ukrainian Parliament Speaker and interim President Oleksandr Turchynov said this in an interview with Channel 5.

"Russia is waging a war against our country, both in eastern and southern Ukraine. They are trying to destabilize the situation completely," Turchynov said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/turchynov_russia_waging_war_against_ukraine_320991

Russia openly interferes in Ukraine's affairs as they try to postpone elections, 05.05.2014

KYIV, May 5 /Ukrinform/. The Russian Public Chamber is preparing an appeal to the UN and the Council of Europe with the proposal to postpone the presidential elections in Ukraine, scheduled for May 25, Public Chamber First Deputy Secretary Vladislav Grib has said, according to RIA Novosti.

"The Public Chamber is preparing a formal appeal to the UN and the Council of Europe with a proposal through joint diplomatic efforts of leading world powers to seek the postponement of the presidential elections in Ukraine until the situation is stabilized," Grib said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/russia_openly_interferes_in_ukraines_affairs_as_they_try_to_postpone_elections_321013

150 Cossack aggressors transferred to Sloviansk from Crimea, 05.05.2014

KYIV, May 5 /Ukrinform/. 150 Cossacks were transferred to Sloviansk from Crimea to help the separatists.

SBU Spokesperson Maryna Ostapenko told a briefing at the Antiterrorist Center, a Ukrinform correspondent reports.

"There is information about the arrival of 150 Cossacks from Crimea to help Sloviansk separatists," Ostapenko has said.

According to her, the activity of pro-Russian forces testifies to their disposition to further destabilization of the situation in eastern regions of Ukraine.

"Activity of pro-Russian forces is not reduced, and the situation remains to be aggravated. Separatists intensify activities aimed at further destabilization of the situation in the East of Ukraine," the SBU Spokesperson noted.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/150_cossack_aggressors_transferred_to_sloviansk_from_crimea_321017

Referendum in Donetsk to escalate crisis - Merkel, 05.05.2014

KYIV, May 5 /Ukrinform/. German Chancellor Angela Merkel has said that the so-called referendum on the status of Donetsk region, which is scheduled for May 11, is unconstitutional and will only escalate the crisis in Ukraine.

German government spokesman Steffen Seibert said this in Berlin on Monday, a Ukrinform correspondent in Germany reported.

"This so-called referendum is contrary to the Constitution of Ukraine and will only exacerbate the situation," he said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/referendum_in_donetsk_to_escalate_crisis_merkel_321033

Theme of federalization "disappears" in Donbas - Taruta, 06.05.2014

KYIV, May 6 /Ukrinform/. A theme of federalization "disappeared" in Donbas and a play in "the Donetsk People's Republic" is a fake.

This was stated by Head of the Donetsk Regional State Administration Serhiy Taruta at a meeting at the Regional Development, Construction, Housing and Utilities Ministry on decentralization of executive power with the participation of local government representatives from Volyn, Donetsk, Luhansk and Lviv regions.

"We've eliminated the theme of federalization since the communities do not get anything in this case, we will just move the capital to the regional level and thus will also increase the number of officials at the local level," Taruta has said.

The Regional State Administration Chairman added that "we play in the so-called Donetsk Republic, but this is a kind of a fake, as the youth say."

According to him, the most important today is to convey to people of each region the advantages of the local government reform.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/theme_of_federalization_disappears_in_donbas_taruta_321102

Threat of act of terror exists in Kyiv on May 9 – deputy chief of staff of AP, 06.05.2014

Deputy chief of staff of the Administration of President Andriy Senchenko said this, Ukrainska Pravda reports.

Commenting on information on increasing tension on the eve of May 9 and planned activation of diversionists, Senchenko said:

"Using information of law-enforcement bodies, including agency, we found out that some actions for destabilization of the situation and, possibly, acts of terror, are planned".

<http://www.unian.info/politics/915198-threat-of-act-of-terror-exists-in-kyiv-on-may-9-deputy-chief-of-staff-of-ap.html>

Criminogenic situation in Luhansk Oblast is out of militia's control – Interior Ministry, 06.05.2014

As of today a criminogenic situation in the Luhansk Oblast is out of militia's control, because a big number of firearms got in residents' hands.

The Public Relations Department of the Main Department of the Interior Ministry of Ukraine in the Luhansk Oblast disclosed this to UNIAN.

According to militia, a big number of smash-and-grab raids, murders, plunders and car thefts have been committed during recent days.

<http://www.unian.info/politics/915248-criminogenic-situation-in-luhansk-oblast-is-out-of-militias-control-interior-ministry.html>

Germany will not recognize results of Donetsk so-called "referendum", 07.05.2014

KYIV, May 7 /Ukrinform/. The government of Germany confirmed that it will not recognize results of the so-called "referendum" on the status of Donetsk region to be held on Sunday, May 11.

German Foreign Ministry Spokesman Martin Schaeffer has said about this on Wednesday, Ukrinform's own correspondent in Germany reports.

"Results of this voting will not have any political meaning for us," he said.

Official Berlin is convinced that the "referendum" on Ukraine's east is contrary to the Constitution of the state.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/germany_will_not_recognize_results_of_donetsk_so_called_referendum_321152

Putin calls on Ukrainian separatists to reschedule May 11 'referendum', 07.05.2014

KYIV, May 7 /Ukrinform/. Russian President Vladimir Putin has called on separatists to postpone a pseudo-referendum on the status of Luhansk and Donetsk regions, which is scheduled for May 11.

He said this in Moscow on Wednesday at a meeting with OSCE Chairperson-in-Office and Swiss Foreign Minister Didier Burkhalter, a Ukrinform correspondent reported.

"We are asking representatives of southeastern Ukraine and supporters of the country's federalization to postpone the 'referendum' scheduled for May 11 this year in order to create the necessary conditions for this dialogue [on Ukraine]," Putin said.

"I want to emphasize that the presidential elections planned in Kyiv are a movement in the right direction, but they won't solve anything if all citizens of Ukraine do not understand how their rights are guaranteed after the presidential elections," he said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/putin_calls_on_ukrainian_separatists_to_reschedule_may_11_referendum_321154

<http://www.unian.info/politics/915631-rf-calls-to-carry-over-referendum-on-may-11-in-donetsk-and-luhansk-oblasts-putin.html>

Van Rompuy: EU ready for further sanctions against Russia, 07.05.2014

KYIV, May 7 /Ukrinform/. The European Union is ready, in case of the necessity caused by the destabilization of the situation in Ukraine, to introduce further sanctions against Russia.

European Council President Herman Van Rompuy said this after the EU-Japan summit in Brussels on Wednesday, a Ukrinform correspondent reported.

"We decided at the European Council that further steps on the part of Russia to destabilize the situation in Ukraine will lead to additional far-reaching consequences in relations with Russia in a broad range of economic branches. The European Commission's preparatory work is in progress. We are ready to make decisions if necessary," Van Rompuy said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/van_rompuy_eu_ready_for_further_sanctions_against_russia_321158

Nuland: Elections in Ukraine a matter of national security for United States, 07.05.2014

KYIV, May 7 /Ukrinform/. The presidential elections in Ukraine on May 25 are a matter of national security for the United States.

U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Victoria Nuland expressed such a position of the U.S. administration at a hearing of the U.S. Senate Committee on Foreign Relations on Ukraine on Tuesday, a Ukrinform correspondent reported.

"It is in the U.S. national security interest that the May 25th presidential election reflects the will of Ukraine's 45 million people," she said.

She noted that the United States stands united with the overwhelming majority of the international community - in the G7, in NATO, in the OSCE, in the UN General Assembly, in the Council of Europe - in support of Ukraine's democratic choice.
http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/nuland_elections_in_ukraine_a_matter_of_national_security_for_united_states_321106

Nuland: Russia repeats Crimean scenario in east of Ukraine, 07.05.2014

Moscow plans to annex east of Ukraine, using the same methods, which were used in Crimea.

Spokesperson for the United States Department of State Victoria Nuland expressed this opinion at hearings of the committee of the Senate concerning the situation in Ukraine that took place in Washington, Ukrainska Pravda reports.

"Equally worrying, today from Slovyansk to Odesa the playbook is identical to what we saw in Crimea: first you create upheaval in towns that were completely peaceful just 2 months before, then you intimidate the local population, and hold bogus independence referenda on 2 weeks' notice, as have just been declared for May 11 in the so-called Donetsk and Luhansk Peoples' Republics", - said Nuland.

<http://www.unian.info/politics/915406-nuland-russia-repeats-crimean-scenario-in-east-of-ukraine.html>

Ukraine not ready to join NATO - Poroshenko, 07.05.2014

KYIV, May 7 /Ukrinform/. Presidential candidate Petro Poroshenko believes that Ukraine could not become a NATO member in the nearest future.

The politician's press service informs.

"Ukraine, which is in the state of war, according to the NATO Statute, has no right to submit an application to join the organization," Poroshenko has said about this at a press conference in Kirovohrad.

According to him, to join NATO, "it is necessary to win the war and bring peace and tranquility" in the state.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/ukraine_not_ready_to_join_nato_poroshenko_321118

Kyiv bridges guarded, 07.05.2014

KYIV, May 7 /Ukrinform/. The guard was set up on the Kyiv bridges for the Victory Day. Chairman of the Kyiv City State Administration Volodymyr Bondarenko told a press conference at Ukrinform.

"In Kyiv, the basic critical infrastructure of the city was brought under control - water intake stations, bridges and others," he said.

Bondarenko added that the objects holding chlorine, ammonia and various radiological substances will be also taken under protection.

Roadblocks are at the entrances to the city, and city authorities have already agreed with the Maidan self-defense units about peace and order: "Negotiations with the Maidan self-defense units were conducted. We also have support of the Right Sector, which promised not to hold any events in the capital this day."

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/kyiv_bridges_guarded_321134

Terrorism may increase in Donetsk region during holidays - SBU, 07.05.2014

KYIV, May 7 /Ukrinform/. Donetsk region remains the most dangerous region, where sabotage and provocations are possible during the holidays.

SBU Chairman Valentyn Nalyvaichenko told a briefing on Wednesday:

"Donetsk region, undoubtedly, remains the strongest magnet for provocations with weapons, explosives and the implementation of sabotage attacks, possibly terrorist".

Nalyvaichenko said that the greatest risk of unrest is in Sloviansk and Kramatorsk, where the antiterrorist operation is conducted and where the militants continue to resist. At the same time, the SBU Chairman warned against "certain calm" in western regions.

"Today, in Lviv region, a group of persons was detained, who imported explosives and special equipment. This testifies to attempts of making these regions dangerous as well," Nalyvaichenko said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/terrorism_may_increase_in_donetsk_region_during_holidays_sbu_321140

Extremists from Russia and Transnistria go to Odessa region by May 9 - Yarema, 07.05.2014

KYIV, May 7 /Ukrinform/. By May 9, extremists from Russia and Transnistria, controlled by Russia, come to Ukraine, especially to Odesa region.

First Vice Prime Minister of Ukraine Vitaliy Yarema told journalists.

"We know that today separatist groups and extremists from Transnistria and Russia are sent to eastern and southern regions, especially to Odesa region. They will create something like the tragedy in Odesa, but we will do our best for this not to happen again," he said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/extremists_from_russia_and_transnistria_go_to_odessa_region_by_may_9_yarema_321148

Rasmussen: Russia's aggression is greatest challenge to Europe's security, 08.05.2014

KYIV, May 8 /Ukrinform/. Russia's aggression against Ukraine is the greatest challenge to Europe's security in a generation.

NATO Secretary General Anders Fogh Rasmussen said this at a briefing in Warsaw, a Ukrinform correspondent reported.

"Russia's illegal and illegitimate aggression against Ukraine is the greatest challenge to Europe's security in a generation. So we have rightly reinforced the defense of our allies," Rasmussen said.

He said that ships and aircraft from across NATO were currently present from the Baltic to the Black Sea.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/rasmussen_russias_aggression_is_greatest_challenge_to_europes_security_321162

Ukraine Foreign Ministry regards Putin's idea as farce, rejects talks with terrorists, 08.05.2014

KYIV, May 8 /Ukrinform/. Ukraine's Foreign Ministry has issued a statement regarding remarks made by the Russian and Swiss presidents on the intentions to de-escalate the situation in Ukraine.

The statement notes that despite the appearance of gestures of "goodwill," the content and rhetoric that were announced in the Kremlin have nothing to do with a true search for a solution to the crisis.

"Russia should first fulfill its Geneva obligations and distance itself from the activity of terrorists in east Ukraine, publicly call on separatist groups to lay down arms and stop the subversive activity of sabotage groups. The withdrawal of Russian military forces from the Ukrainian borders should be confirmed by real facts," the ministry said.

"Any 'terrorist referendums' in the east of our country are illegitimate by definition. Therefore any calls for their 'postponement' are not a sign of goodwill, but a mere farce. Russia has already realized such a scenario in Crimea," reads the statement.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/ukraine_foreign_ministry_regards_putins_idea_as_farce_rejects_talks_with_terrorists_321164

Right Sector will not hold actions on May 9, 08.05.2014

KYIV, May 8 /Ukrinform/. The Right Sector plans no actions on May 9.

Head of the organization's information department Boryslav Bereza told a briefing in Kyiv, a Ukrinform correspondent reports.

“The Right Sector will not hold any actions on May 9, except for a commemoration minute of silence,” Bereza said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/right_sector_will_not_hold_actions_on_may_9_321166

Ukrainian authorities have never conducted punitive operations in eastern regions - Turchynov, 08.05.2014

KYIV, May 8 /Ukrinform/. The Ukrainian security services are protecting the life and health of Ukrainian citizens within the area of the anti-terrorist operation.

Ukraine's acting president and Verkhovna Rada speaker, Oleksandr Turchynov, said this, while commenting on a statement made by Russian President Vladimir Putin, the press service of the acting head of state reported.

"The Ukrainian authorities have never conducted any punitive operations in the east of the country. The security agencies are protecting the life and health of citizens within the area of the anti-terrorist operation, which is being conducted against terrorists, saboteurs and other criminals who are killing, torturing and kidnapping our citizens," Turchynov said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/ukrainian_authorities_have_never_conducted_punitive_operations_in_eastern_regions_turchynov_321168

Yatseniuk calls on Ukrainians to refrain from mass actions on May 9, 08.05.2014

KYIV, May 8 /Ukrinform/. Prime Minister of Ukraine Arseniy Yatseniuk called on fellow citizens to abstain from any mass actions on May, and in case of participation in them not to succumb to provocations.

This is said in his address for the Victory Day, published on the government portal.

"I do not expect that the extremists will take a pause in their murderous affairs at least for one day. The state leadership is informed about the black plans of Russian diversionists and their mercenaries. The power will take all measures for safety, but we are opposed by the people, for whom nothing and nobody are sacred. I ask possibly to refrain from any mass rallies, and in the case of participation in them not to succumb to provocations. Demonstrate tolerance to the flags, slogans, other views," the statement says.

The Prime Minister on behalf of the Government and on his own behalf congratulated veterans, children of war, and all those who, like him, considers May 9 a great day.

"I appeal to all patriots of Ukraine of different ideological views. There is one requirement - to refrain from any actions that will be used by the enemies of Ukraine in the information war against our country," he said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/yatseniuk_calls_on_ukrainians_to_refrain_from_mass_actions_on_may_9_321170

Deferral of “referendum” will not influence antiterrorist operation - Parubiy, 08.05.2014

KYIV, May 8 /Ukrinform/. Possible deferral of the so-called referendum by separatists will not influence the antiterrorist operation.

National Security and Defense Council Secretary Andriy Parubiy has said about this at a briefing at the Ukrainian Crisis Media Center, a Ukrinform correspondent reports.

“The antiterrorist operation will continue irrespective of decisions of these or other groups of diversionists and terrorists, who are in Donetsk and Luhansk regions,” Parubiy has said, answering the journalists' question about whether the antiterrorist operation is suspended in case if the Donetsk People's Republic takes a decision today to defer the “referendum.”

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/deferral_of_referendum_will_not_influence_antiterrorist_operation_p_arubiy_321174

Ukrainian peacekeepers will not be withdrawn from abroad - NSDC, 08.05.2014

KYIV, May 8 /Ukrinform/. Ukrainian peacekeepers will continue to serve outside our country in accordance with international treaties.

This was stated by Secretary of National Security and Defense Council Andriy Parubiy at a briefing at the Ukrainian crisis media center, Ukrinform reports.

"Previously, it was decided that at this stage they continue to serve, they continue to perform their duties on the basis of international obligations," Parubiy said, when asked by reporters whether Ukrainian peacekeepers return from abroad to ensure the internal security of the state.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/ukrainian_peacekeepers_will_not_be_withdrawn_from_abroad_nsd_c_321176

Yatseniuk: Russian language will get official status, 08.05.2014

KYIV, May 8 /Ukrinform/. Ukrainian Prime Minister Arseniy Yatseniuk, when considering amendments to the Constitution of Ukraine, will propose a provision according to which local councils can grant official status to Russian and other languages while maintaining the status of Ukrainian as a sole state language.

He said this in his Victory Day address released on the government portal on Thursday.

"As head of government, when considering amendments to the constitution, I will propose a provision according to which, while maintaining the status of Ukrainian as the sole state language, local councils will have the right to grant official status to Russian and other languages," Yatseniuk said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/yatseniuk_russian_language_will_get_official_status_321178

Turchynov: there can be no dialogue with armed criminals, who kill people, 08.05.2014

Law-enforcement bodies protect life and health of citizens within the ATO, which is carried out against terrorists, diversionists and other criminals, who kill, torture and kidnap our citizens, stressed Turchynov.

Acting President of Ukraine, Speaker of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine Oleksandr Turchynov states that there is cannot be dialogue with armed criminals, who kill people.

According to the words of Turchynov, a goal of authorities is to ensure stability and economic development of democratic independent Ukraine, "peace, calmness and security of Ukrainians". "We should protect the territorial integrity of the country and free temporarily occupied territories", - noted the head of the parliament.

<http://www.unian.info/politics/915848-turchynov-there-can-be-no-dialogue-with-armed-criminals-who-kill-people.html>

Baloha proposes to ban entry to Ukraine for Russian parliamentarians, 08.05.2014

KYIV, May 8 /Ukrinform/. People's deputy of Ukraine Viktor Baloha registered a draft law in the Verkhovna Rada "On a ban for entry to the territory of Ukraine for some citizens of the Russian Federation."

There is not a text of this draft resolution (registration number 4830) on the website now.

At the same time, the press service of the United Center party, with Baloha as its leader, informs that the document recommends the SBU "Not to allow to the territory of our state deputies of the Federation Council of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation and the State Duma, who took a decision on permission for President of Russia to use the Armed Forces of the Russian Federation on the territory of Ukraine, as well as approved Crimea's accession to the Russian Federation."

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/baloha_proposes_to_ban_entry_to_ukraine_for_russian_parliamentarians_321186

EU not supporting any illegitimate referenda in Ukraine, 08.05.2014

KYIV, May 8 /Ukrinform/. The European Union has said that the holding of illegitimate local referenda in Ukraine in May will not contribute to de-escalation of the situation in the country.

Maja Kocijancic, spokesperson for EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy Catherine Ashton, said this in Brussels on Thursday, a Ukrinform correspondent reported.

"When it comes to local referenda, we strongly emphasize that such referenda should not take place either on May 11 or any other later date. Such unauthorized local referenda have no democratic legitimacy and can only lead to further escalation," Kocijancic said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/eu_not_supporting_any_illegitimate_referenda_in_ukraine_321188

National unity roundtable to convene May 14, 08.05.2014

KYIV, May 9 /Ukrinform/. A nationwide unity roundtable, which has been initiated by the authorities, is scheduled for May 14, Prime Minister Arseniy Yatseniuk told reporters after the prayer service in memory of those killed during the Second World War in the Patriarchal Cathedral of St. Volodymyr in Kyiv on Friday.

"The nationwide roundtable, which is scheduled for next Wednesday, is another indication of the fact that Ukraine needs unity, needs dialogue, needs peace," Yatseniuk said.

According to the head of government, peace will be achieved when "terrorists will not be heated Russia, which 69 years ago stood with us shoulder to shoulder."

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/national_unity_roundtable_to_convene_may_14_321206

Merkel: Putin does little to ease tensions in Ukraine, 09.05.2014

KYIV, May 9 /Ukrinform/. Russian President Vladimir Putin is doing little to ease tensions in Ukraine, German Chancellor Angela Merkel told the German newspaper Rheinische Post in an interview published on Friday, Ukrinform's Berlin correspondent reported.

"He [Putin - ed.], unfortunately, has made a decision through which Russia violates international law. And today he has done little to actually contribute to defusing the dangerous situation [in Ukraine - ed.]", Merkel said.

The Chancellor noted that "in the medium term, President Putin is not acting in the interests of Russia." According to her, the Russian leader should "urge pro-Russian forces in Ukraine to lay down arms and vacate the occupied buildings." In addition, deploying its troops near the border with Ukraine, Russia still continues to put pressure on Kyiv, Merkel added.

The head of the German government confirmed the willingness of the West, "if necessary", to impose new sanctions against Russia.

Merkel stressed the importance of strengthening the OSCE's role in brokering the Ukrainian conflict and holding a second round of four-party talks with representatives of the EU, U.S., Russia and Ukraine.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/merkel_putin_does_little_to_ease_tensions_in_ukraine_321212

Putin's arrival in Crimea grossly violates international law, Poroshenko says, 09.05.2014

KYIV, May 9 /Ukrinform/. The arrival of Russian President Vladimir Putin in the occupied territory of Crimea without permission from the Ukrainian authorities is violation of international law, Ukrainian presidential runner Petro Poroshenko said after a meeting with Polish President Bronislaw Komorowski in Warsaw on Friday.

"From the standpoint of international law - Crimea is the occupied territory and President Putin's visit to the occupied Ukrainian territory without permission and

consent of the Ukrainian government is yet another violation of international law. It does not contribute to the search for stabilization of the crisis," Poroshenko said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/putins_arrival_in_crimea_grossly_violates_international_law_poroshenko_says_321213

Berlin and Paris warn Moscow about "consequences" of disruption of elections on May 25, 10.05.2014

KYIV, May 10 /Ukrinform/. Germany and France are ready to further sanctions against Russia, if the presidential elections do not take place on May 25 in Ukraine.

German Chancellor Angela Merkel and French President Francois Hollande have said this on the results of their Saturday's meeting in the seaside town of Stralsund in the north of Germany, according to [German media](#).

"If the elections do not take place in Ukraine on May 25, we will be ready for further sanctions against Russia," Merkel said.

In a joint statement on the results of the informal meeting, Merkel and Hollande also called "illegal" the so-called "referendum," which separatists want to hold on May 11 in eastern Ukraine.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/berlin_and_paris_warn_moscow_about_consequences_of_disruption_of_elections_on_may_25_321234

US not to recognize results of 'referendum' in Donbas - State Department, 11.05.2014

KYIV, May 11 /Ukrinform/. The United States will not recognize the results of the so-called referendum on independence of the "Donetsk People's Republic," which is underway in Donetsk region on Sunday, because it is illegal.

This was stated by U.S. State Department spokeswoman Jen Psaki, Radio Liberty/Radio Free Europe reported.

The "referendum" scheduled by armed groups of separatists for May 11 in eastern Ukraine is illegal according to Ukrainian legislation, and is an attempt to create further division and disorder in the country, she said. If this "referendum" is held, it will violate international law and Ukraine's territorial integrity, and the United States will not recognize the results of the illegal referendum, Psaki added.

Psaki also said Washington was disappointed by the actions of the Russian authorities that have not used their influence to prevent the holding of the "referendum."

The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly earlier called on pro-Russian separatists to cancel the "referendum."

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/us_not_to_recognize_results_of_referendum_in_donbas_state_department_321242

Anti-terrorist operation in Donbas already in final stage - Pashynsky, 11.05.2014

KYIV, May 11 /Ukrinform/. The anti-terrorist operation in the Donbas, which is conducted by Ukrainian security forces, is proceeding according to schedule and is already in its final stage.

Acting Head of Ukraine's Presidential Administration Serhiy Pashynsky said this at a briefing in Kyiv on Sunday, a Ukrinform correspondent reported.

"The anti-terrorist operation near Krasny Lyman, Sloviansk and Kramatorsk is already in its final stage" Pashynsky said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/anti_terrorist_operation_in_donbas_already_in_final_stage_pashynsky_321258

'Referendum' in Donbas not to influence Ukraine's territorial integrity - Foreign Ministry, 11.05.2014

KYIV, May 11 /Ukrinform/. An illegal May 11 "referendum" on the status of Donetsk and

Luhansk regions, which was organized by the Kremlin, is legally null and void and will have no legal consequences for Ukraine's territorial integrity and government system. The information policy department of the Ukrainian Foreign Ministry said this in a statement on an illegitimate poll on the status of Donetsk and Luhansk regions. "The holding on May 11 of an illegitimate 'referendum' on the status of Donetsk and Luhansk regions, inspired, organized and funded by the Kremlin, is legally null and void and will have no legal consequences for the territorial integrity and state system of Ukraine," the ministry said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/referendum_in_donbas_not_to_influence_ukraines_territorial_integrity_foreign_ministry_321262

Czech defence minister says Russia misinforms Europe over its policies in Ukraine, 12.05.2014

KYIV, May 12 /Ukrinform/. The Russian Federation is waging an intensive disinformation campaign in European countries about its policies towards Ukraine, Czech Defence Minister Martin Stropnický told Reuters in an interview.

"We are witnessing a quite intensive disinformation campaign on our territory, and not only on ours but also on some other European countries, including the large ones," he said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/czech_defence_minister_says_russia_misinforms_europe_over_its_policies_in_ukraine_321309

Poroshenko supports Turchynov-Yatseniuk offer to hold unity roundtable, 12.05.2014

KYIV, May 12 /Ukrinform/. Presidential runner Petro Poroshenko supports a proposal by acting President of Ukraine, Chairman of the Verkhovna Rada Oleksandr Turchynov and Prime Minister Arseniy Yatseniuk to hold a national unity roundtable.

The politician told this to reporters in Kherson on Monday.

"I am ready for any form of dialogue, if it is not attended by terrorists," Poroshenko said.

"If mayors, deputies of local councils come, if they come with a position - they are welcome, this conversation is necessary, at any time, in any format. For when people's authorized representatives exchange views - it is super," the politician emphasized.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/poroshenko_supports_turchynov_yatseniuk_offer_to_hold_unity_roundtable_321305

There is no alternative to continuation of ATO – Poroshenko, 12.05.2014

Authorities have to protect peaceful people of east from gunmen and murderers; that is why there is no alternative to continuation of antiterrorist operation.

Candidate for the post of President of Ukraine Petro Poroshenko said this on the air of «1+1» television channel, his press service disclosed to UNIAN.

Poroshenko noted that he has a lot of questions to the leadership of the state concerning carrying out of the ATO.

Poroshenko said that a fighting efficiency of Ukrainian military men has increased considerably since March and it allows expecting a successful completion of the ATO.

<http://www.unian.info/politics/916798-there-is-no-alternative-to-continuation-of-ato-poroshenko.html>

Turchynov: Pseudo-referendum in Donbass is farce, 12.05.2014

Acting President of Ukraine, Speaker of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine states that a farce that terrorists call a referendum, will have no juridical consequences, besides a criminal responsibility for its organizers.

The press service of the Verkhovna Rada disclosed this to UNIAN.

"The farce, which terrorists and separatists call a referendum, is nothing else, but a propaganda covering of murders, kidnapping of people, violence and other severe crimes", - said Turchynov.

<http://www.unian.info/politics/916831-turchynov-pseudo-referendum-in-donbass-is-farce.html>

Round table on situation in eastern Ukraine is planned in VR on May 14 – Turchynov, 12.05.2014

It is planned to carry out a round table concerning the situation in eastern Ukraine at 16.00 pm, on May 14, in the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine.

According to an UNIAN correspondent, acting President of Ukraine, Speaker of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine Oleksandr Turchynov said this at the sitting of the Conciliatory Council of the leaders of the factions and chairmen of the parliamentary committees.

He noted that representatives of local self-government of the Donetsk and Luhansk Oblasts, and also other regions are invited to participate in the round table.

<http://www.unian.info/politics/916869-round-table-on-situation-in-eastern-ukraine-is-planned-in-vr-on-may-14-turchynov.html>

Yanukovych also comments on 'referendum' in Donbas, 12.05.2014

KYIV, May 12 /Ukrinform/. Former President Viktor Yanukovych, who fled from Ukraine and is accused of mass murder of people, believes that the so-called "referendum" in Luhansk and Donetsk regions was attended by most people in the regions.

This is stated in a statement of the former guarantor, which was made available to Russian news agency ITAR-TASS.

According to Yanukovych, "an overwhelming majority of citizens" who live in the Donbas voted for any other state system "except for a system in which you can call your citizens terrorists and kill them with impunity." The former president thinks that "the people of Ukraine have reached the limit of their patience."

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/yanukovych_also_comments_on_referendum_in_donbas_321297

Turchynov says less than third of residents in Luhansk, Donetsk regions voted in 'referendum', 12.05.2014

KYIV, May 12 /Ukrinform/. According to the Interior Ministry, less than a third of population in Luhansk and Donetsk regions participated in the so-called 'referendum', acting President, Chairman of the Verkhovna Rada Oleksandr Turchynov said at a meeting of heads of parliamentary factions and committees on Monday.

"With regard to information on the participation of citizens in the 'referendum', according to the Interior Ministry, in Luhansk region 24% of the population voted, in Donetsk region - a little more than 32%. Also, there were settlements in the region where such a referendum was not conducted at all," Turchynov said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/turchynov_says_less_than_third_of_residents_in_luhansk_donetsk_regions_voted_in_referendum_321276

Situation in Mariupol stabilizing, Turchynov says, 12.05.2014

KYIV, May 12 /Ukrinform/. Police and locals in Mariupol resumed cooperation on policing, indicating stabilization of the situation in the city, acting President, Chairman of the Verkhovna Rada Oleksandr Turchynov said at a meeting of heads of parliamentary factions and committees on Monday.

"The anti-terrorist operation is now going on in some areas of Donetsk and Luhansk regions. But tonight police and residents in Mariupol resumed joint work on policing. In particular, already under the protection are Ilyich Iron and Steel Works of Mariupol, Azovstal. This indicates stabilization of the situation in Mariupol," Turchynov noted.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/situation_in_mariupol_stabilizing_turchynov_says_321278

Kremlin says it respects illegal referendum in eastern Ukraine, 12.05.2014

KYIV, May 12 /Ukrinform/. The Russian authorities have said they respect an illegal referendum in Donetsk and Luhansk regions of Ukraine and expect that the implementation of its results will proceed through dialogue between Kyiv, Donetsk and Luhansk.

The Kremlin said this in a statement on Monday, a Ukrinform correspondent reported. "Moscow respects the will of the population of Donetsk and Luhansk regions and hopes that the practical implementation of the outcome of the referendums will proceed in a civilized manner, without repeat outbreaks of violence and through dialogue between representatives of Kyiv, Donetsk and Luhansk," reads the statement.

The Kremlin press service also took note of "high voter turnout despite attempts to derail the voting."

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/kremlin_says_it_respects_illegal_referendum_in_eastern_ukraine_321280

Germany not to recognize results of 'referendum' in eastern Ukraine, 12.05.2014

KYIV, May 12 /Ukrinform/. The German government will not recognize the results of a May 11 pseudo-referendum on the status of Luhansk and Donetsk regions.

German government spokesman Steffen Seibert said this in Berlin on Monday, a Ukrinform correspondent in Germany reported.

"The federal government, as well as the international community, will not recognize the results of the so-called referendum in eastern Ukraine," he said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/germany_not_to_recognize_results_of_referendum_in_eastern_ukraine_321286

CEC: Pseudo-referendum in Donetsk, Luhansk regions to have no legal effect, 12.05.2014

KYIV, May 12 /Ukrinform/. The May 11 referendum in Donetsk and Luhansk regions will have no legal effect, deputy chairman of the Central Election Commission (CEC) Andriy Mahera told reporters at the Ukraine Crisis media center on Monday in Kyiv.

"The May 11 referendum in Donetsk and Luhansk regions will have no legal effect because it is inconsistent with the Constitution of Ukraine," the CEC official said.

According to Mahera, today in Ukraine there is a law on referendum adopted in 2012. "It clearly states that only 4 types of referenda may be conducted in Ukraine - constitutional, ratification, legislative and nationwide. There is no mentioning about local referendums," he said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/cec_pseudo_referendum_in_donetsk_luhansk_regions_to_have_no_legal_effect_321288

UDO chief reports of planned attempts on Turchynov, Yatseniuk, 12.05.2014

KYIV, May 12 /Ukrinform/. The State Guard Department (UDO) has been informed of planned attempts on the country's top officials - acting President Oleksandr Turchynov, Prime Minister Arseniy Yatseniuk and First Deputy Prime Minister Vitaliy Yarema, UDO chief Valeriy Heletey told the Segodnya daily newspaper.

"Recently, the SBU has informed us about the planned attempt not only on candidates [for president - ed.], but also on officials [Turchynov, Yatseniuk, Yarema - ed.]. These people are being already protected by the state guard. Given the new information it has been enhanced," he said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/udo_chief_reports_of_planned_attempts_on_turchynov_yatseniuk_321290

Poland warns Russia about sanctions if Ukrainian elections disrupted, 12.05.2014

KYIV, May 12 /Ukrinform/. The European Union will impose economic sanctions against Russia if Moscow tries to disrupt the presidential elections in Ukraine, Polish Foreign Minister Radoslaw Sikorski told reporters in Brussels, according to the Polish Press Agency (PAP).

"Until that time, the red line, the crossing of which threatened the use against Russia of painful economic sanctions, has been the Russian invasion of Ukraine. Today - it is inadmissible influence on the presidential elections in Ukraine," Sikorski noted.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/poland_warns_russia_about_sanctions_if_ukrainian_elections_disrupted_321311

Kremlin's press service openly encourages terrorists - Ukrainian MFA, 13.05.2014

KYIV, May 13 /Ukrinform/. Kremlin's comments on "referendums" in Donetsk and Luhansk regions do not promote de-escalation of the situation, but on the contrary, directly encourage illegitimate actions of terrorists.

This is said in a statement by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) of Ukraine.

"With an eye to "practical realization of the results of referendums," the Kremlin directly encourages illegitimate actions. Russia has resorted to another manipulation with so-called "referendums," again misleading the international community," a statement of the Foreign Ministry of Ukraine reads.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/kremlins_press_service_openly_encourages_terrorists_ukrainian_mfa_321319

OSCE starts implementing roadmap for Ukraine, 13.05.2014

KYIV, May 13 /Ukrinform/. The roadmap on resolving the crisis in Ukraine, which was proposed last week by the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), has been supported by all parties to the negotiations in Geneva - Ukraine, the EU, the United States, and Russia, and the OSCE has already started implementing it. The OSCE said this in a statement on May 12, citing the current head of the organization, Swiss President Didier Burkhalter.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/osce_starts_implementing_roadmap_for_ukraine_321341

Avakov: Police ready to ensure security in elections, 13.05.2014

KYIV, May 13 /Ukrinform/. Police are ready to ensure the security of elections and free will of citizens, Interior Minister Arsen Avakov told reporters in Kharkiv on Tuesday.

"We clearly understand that there will be provocations, we are preparing for them," Avakov said.

According to him, law enforcement agencies are going to turn to the Central Election Commission and the Verkhovna Rada to allow the presence of police units at polling stations during the vote count.

"Now, in a special mode, I believe that it should be done to ensure that there are no risk and speculations in this context," Avakov added.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/avakov_police_ready_to_ensure_security_in_elections_321349

PM Yatseniuk: Key to stabilizing situation in Ukraine's east in Moscow's hands, 13.05.2014

KYIV, May 13 /Ukrinform/. Prime Minister Arseniy Yatseniuk believes that the stabilization of the situation in the east of Ukraine depends on the actions of the Russian authorities: as soon as Moscow ceases to support separatists and terrorists, the situation will improve.

The head of government said this at a meeting with German Foreign Minister Frank-Walter Steinmeier at Boryspil Airport in Kyiv on Tuesday.

"The key to stabilizing the situation in the east is not in Kyiv but in Moscow. As soon as they stop supporting separatists and terrorists, the situation immediately will be better than it is," he said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/pm_yatseniuk_key_to_stabilizing_situation_in_ukraines_east_in_moscow_hands_321337

Turchynov set to continue ATO, 13.05.2014

KYIV, May 13 /Ukrinform/. The Antiterrorist Operation (ATO), aimed at protection of the life and health of Ukrainian citizens, will continue.

Acting President and Verkhovna Rada Chairman Oleksandr Turchynov has said about this at the parliamentary meeting Tuesday, the press service of the head of state informs.

"To counter criminal actions, the authorities continue the Antiterrorist Operation, aimed at defending the life and health of our citizens," Turchynov said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/turchynov_set_to_continue_ato_321339

<http://www.unian.info/politics/917323-turchynov-states-improvement-of-situation-in-east-but-ato-to-be-continued.html>

"Referendum" held outside legal framework - Donetsk mayor, 13.05.2014

KYIV, May 13 /Ukrinform/. The so-called "referendum" in Donetsk region, dedicated to the state status of the region, is outside the legal framework.

Donetsk Mayor Oleksandr Lukianchenko told a press conference about this, a Ukrinform correspondent reports.

"There is not a legal framework for holding similar events, it is absent," he has said.

The city mayor also said that Donbas should be a part of Ukraine. But Kyiv should have a deeper understanding what happens on the country's east and hold negotiations with its representatives.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/referendum_held_outside_legal_framework_donetsk_mayor_321343

Gas dispute with Ukraine could hurt reputation of Gazprom - Sikorski, 13.05.2014

KYIV, May 13 /Ukrinform/. Russia and Ukraine must agree on a price of gas, otherwise in winter, the EU countries may not have enough gas, which will cause a huge loss for the reputation of Gazprom.

Polish Foreign Minister Radoslaw Sikorski has said this, commenting on a statement about possible termination of Russian gas supplies to Ukraine, June 3, in Brussels, Polish media inform.

"If they (Russia and Ukraine - Ed.) fail to agree, in winter, there may not be enough gas for countries that need it. But it can also lead to huge losses for the reputation of Gazprom, as it has a duty to provide gas to customers," Sikorski said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/gas_dispute_with_ukraine_could_hurt_reputation_of_gazprom_sikorski_321323

EU not recognizing 'referendum' in Donbas, 13.05.2014

KYIV, May 13 /Ukrinform/. The European Union has officially announced that it will not recognize "illegal and illegitimate referenda" of separatists in Donetsk and Luhansk regions of Ukraine.

This is stated in the conclusions of the EU Foreign Affairs Council, which met in Brussels on Monday, a Ukrinform correspondent reported.

"The EU will not recognize yesterday's [Sunday's] nor any future illegitimate and illegal 'referenda,'" the foreign ministers of EU member countries said.

The statement notes that the European Union stands firm in upholding Ukraine's unity, sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity and calls upon Russia to do likewise.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/eu_not_recognizing_referendum_in_donbas_321329

Poroshenko: People demanding early parliamentary elections, 13.05.2014

KYIV, May 13 /Ukrinform/. Ukrainians very toughly demand holding of early parliamentary elections.

Presidential candidate Petro Poroshenko has said about this following his meeting with residents of the city of Kherson and Kherson region.

The politician stressed that people demand open lists at the elections: they want to know for whom they vote and who will represent their interests in the parliament. "I believe that the parliament will have to respond to this, because people has already learnt how to realize Article 5 of the Constitution of Ukraine and know that people is the only source of power in Ukraine," Poroshenko said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/poroshenko_people_demanding_early_parliamentary_elections_321331

Turchynov initiates ban of CPU, 13.05.2014

KYIV, May 13 /Ukrinform/. Acting President, Verkhovna Rada Speaker Oleksandr Turchynov said that he will approach the Justice Ministry for preparation of documents on a ban for the Communist Party of Ukraine as involved in separatist activities.

"I would like to ask the Justice Ministry to consider this issue and on availability of evidences to file the materials with the court on a ban of the Communist Party of Ukraine," Turchynov said.

"Symonenko repeats the lies and propaganda, spread by Russian mass media, including on the West. This is a cynical lie!" he was indignant at a speech of the CPU chairman and said that liars have no place in the Verkhovna Rada.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/turchynov_initiates_ban_of_cpu_321335

<http://www.unian.info/politics/917322-turchynov-to-ask-justice-ministry-to-consider-possibility-of-ban-of-cpu.html>

Donbas does not want to join Russia - State Duma deputy, 13.05.2014

KYIV, May 13 /Ukrinform/. Deputy of the Russian State Duma Ilya Ponomarev says that a considerable part of Donbas residents are against Donetsk region's joining Russia. He has said about this at a press conference in Moscow by results of his visit to Donetsk region, a special correspondent of Ukrinform in Russia reports.

"A considerable part of the Donbas proletariat is against the accession to Russia, primarily, miners," the Russian State Duma deputy has said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/donbas_does_not_want_to_join_russia_state_duma_deputy_321351

Ukraine's foreign ministry checking remarks by Hungarian PM Orbán, 13.05.2014

KYIV, May 13 /Ukrinform/. The Ukrainian Foreign Ministry is checking reports about the remarks by Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orbán on the feasibility of dual citizenship and autonomy for the Hungarians of the Carpathian region.

Ukraine's deputy foreign minister Danylo Lubkivsky told reporters in Kyiv on Tuesday.

"I do not know exactly about this statement literally. We need to check whether these words sounded in this version. However, I believe in the clarity of the position of the Hungarian government, which supports Ukraine," he said.

At the same time Lubkivsky emphasized that Ukraine and Hungary should act in "one key priority - European standards for minority rights." In this regard, he recalled that the Council of Europe and OSCE recent report confirmed that the rights of national minorities in Ukraine are met at a high level.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/ukraines_foreign_ministry_checking_remarks_by_hungarian_pm_orban_321355

Ukrainian diplomats concerned at Orbán's remarks, 13.05.2014

KYIV, May 13 /Ukrinform/. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine is concerned at the remarks by Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orbán on autonomy and dual citizenship for Hungarians in Zakarpattia region (Transcarpathia), the director of the Ukrainian Foreign Ministry's information policy department, Yevhen Perebyinis, told reporters on Tuesday in Kyiv.

"Amid the current complicated situation in the eastern and southern regions of Ukraine, provoked by the Russian Federation and aimed at the seizure of new territories of Ukraine, statements by head of the Hungarian government about autonomy and dual citizenship for Hungarians that contradict the current Ukrainian legislation are regarded

in Ukraine with concern as such that do not contribute to de-escalation and stabilization of the situation in our country," he said.

The Ukrainian side called its Hungarian partners for a balanced approach to such sensitive issues as ethno-national policies.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/ukrainian_diplomats_concerned_at_orbans_remarks_321387

Poroshenko offers mining TV towers, 13.05.2014

KYIV, May 13 /Ukrinform/. Presidential candidate Poroshenko considers it necessary to ensure maximum protection of the Ukrainian TV channels broadcasting even through mining of the TV towers.

He has said this on air of the ICTV, Poroshenko's press service informs.

"Yes, the bandits are afraid and disable Ukrainian TV channels. And because of this, we need to protect TV towers today, to mine them if it is necessary. Anyway, you cannot give the poisonous Russian propaganda to people, because it creates a big problem," the politician said.

He thanked all Ukrainian TV channels for showing the national flag as a sign of unity and an initiative to exclude the TV series about the Russian army from air. Poroshenko stressed the need to take effective steps, necessary to bring objective and truthful information to Ukrainian citizens.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/poroshenko_offers_mining_tv_towers_321357

"Donetsk People's Republic" does not exist legally - Taruta, 13.05.2014

KYIV, May 13 /Ukrinform/. So-called "Donetsk People's Republic" does not legally exist. Regional administration head Serhiy Taruta told a press conference at the hotel Donbas Palace, Ukrinform reports.

"The "Donetsk People's Republic" does not exist. Representatives of this organization have not a program, neither investment, or law enforcement," the Donetsk regional governor said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/donetsk_peoples_republic_does_not_exist_legally_taruta_321361

NSDC wants law banning Russian propaganda, 13.05.2014

KYIV, May 13 /Ukrinform/. The National Security and Defense Council of Ukraine (NSDC) has called for the adoption of a law banning the information and propaganda influence of an aggressor country.

NSDC Deputy Secretary Viktoriya Siumar said this during a roundtable meeting "Ukraine's Information Security amid Undeclared War," which was held at Ukrinform (the Single Country Information and Analytical Center).

"I think that we will have a law banning the propaganda impact of an aggressor country. This idea is currently being discussed, but the National Security Council decision on information security envisages this, we submitted this proposal," Siumar said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/nsdc_wantsLaw_banning_russian_propaganda_321374

Separatists' participation in OSCE roundtable possible - Merkel, 14.05.2014

KYIV, May 14 /Ukrinform/. German Federal Chancellor Angela Merkel has said that the participation of separatists in a roundtable on the settlement of the Ukrainian crisis depends on their readiness to refrain from violence.

According to the chancellor, only those who are able to achieve goals without violence are invited to the discussion, Deutsche Welle reported.

"Violence should not be used to solve one's problems," Merkel said.

In general, the politician welcomed the extension of the OSCE roundtable the first meeting of which will take place on May 14.

"The more representative the better," Merkel said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/separatists_participation_in_osce_roundtable_possible_merkel_321391

Taruta says how long 'Donetsk People's Republic' will exit, 14.05.2014

KYIV, May 14 /Ukrinform/. Independence of the Donetsk region will be pernicious for it, head of the regional state administration Serhiy Taruta said.

He has stated this at a press conference on Tuesday.

"The Donetsk region will not be able to live independently, even for two weeks...

Economic and cooperative relations of major companies, forming the local and regional budgets, are far beyond the Donetsk region," the press service of the Donetsk regional state administration quotes Taruta.

Taruta is sure there is no alternative today for development of Donbas within united Ukraine.

"That's why our task today is to stabilize the situation in the region," he said, noting that the Donetsk region "is an economically challenging region and that is why Russia is not in a hurry to warmly welcome it."

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/taruta_says_how_long_donetsk_peoples_republic_will_exit_321393

Duma speaker Naryshkin sees Ukrainian elections 'lesser evil', 14.05.2014

KYIV, May 14 /Ukrinform/. Russian State Duma Speaker Sergei Naryshkin believes that failure to hold presidential elections in Ukraine in late May is a "lesser evil" than their conduct. However, he continues to insist on the official position of Moscow that such elections cannot be completely legitimate.

"I have difficulty to imagine that such elections could be quite legitimate. But at that, it is evident that not holding the elections is even a sadder situation, so it is necessary to choose the least out of the two evils," the speaker said.

He also reiterated the Kremlin's position that "the current Ukrainian authorities are illegitimate." "In my point of view, of course, the legitimacy level of the authorities or president, voted for if the May 25 elections are held, will be incomplete as well," Naryshkin said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/duma_speaker_naryshkin_sees_ukrainian_elections_lesser_evil_321419

Sobolev doubts about new Constitution before May 25, 14.05.2014

KYIV, May 14 /Ukrinform/. People's deputy of Ukraine, acting head of the Batkivshchyna faction Serhiy Sobolev doubts about adoption of the law on amendments to the Constitution before May 25.

He has said about this to reporters on the sidelines of the Verkhovna Rada, a Ukrinform correspondent reports.

"It is hardly possible until May 25," Sobolev said.

According to him, it is more real to vote for amendments to the Constitution following the first round of the presidential elections.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/sobolev_doubts_about_new_constitution_before_may_25_321425

Poroshenko wants to limit immunity of deputies and judges, 14.05.2014

KYIV, May 14 /Ukrinform/. Immunity of people's deputies and judges should be substantially limited.

Presidential candidate Petro Poroshenko has expressed this conviction.

"It (immunity - Ed.) will be limited in compliance with European standards. And it will be limited only to absence of responsibility for what you say in the parliament - it will be impossible to attract to liability for this. And it will be necessary to be answerable for everything else, starting with violation of road laws and ending with crimes. Since a deputy is the same citizen, there should not be any difference," Poroshenko noted.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/poroshenko_wants_to_limit_immunity_of_deputies_and_judges_321427

PACE calls on parties to conflict in Ukraine to immediately end violence, 14.05.2014

KYIV, May 14 /Ukrinform/. President of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE) Anne Brasseur and the leaders of political groups called have on all stakeholders in Ukraine to put an immediate end to violence, ensure full respect for human rights and engage in a broad national dialogue.

She said this in Luxembourg on May 13, a Ukrinform correspondent reported.

"On behalf of the Parliamentary Assembly, I express my sincerest sympathy to the families and relatives of all those who have lost their lives recently across the country. Violence cannot and will not bring a solution - it must immediately stop and all sides must ensure that human rights are effectively respected on the whole territory of Ukraine," she said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/pace_calls_on_parties_to_conflict_in_ukraine_to_immediately_end_violence_321429

US to help realize national dialogue in Ukraine - Kerry, 14.05.2014

KYIV, May 14 /Ukrinform/. The United States supports the initiative of the Ukrainian government to launch a national dialogue in Ukraine and, for its part, will stimulate this process as a key factor in resolving the current crisis.

"The other key step in the path to heal the tensions politically are the Ukrainian-led, OSCE-supported national dialogue and the roundtables that are to take place across Ukraine. These will focus on decentralization and constitutional reform. And the United States very strongly supports this process," Kerry said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/us_to_help_realize_national_dialogue_in_ukraine_kerry_321439

Turchynov to Donbas: 'Stop shooting if you want to be heard', 14.05.2014

KYIV, May 14 /Ukrinform/. The Ukrainian authorities are ready for a constructive dialogue with residents of the Donbas, but it is not necessary to shoot.

Ukraine's interim president and Verkhovna Rada chairman, Oleksandr Turchynov, said this at the first all-Ukrainian roundtable of national unity in Kyiv on Wednesday, a Ukrinform correspondent reported.

"They now tell us: 'They don't want to hear the Donbas.' We want to hear [the Donbas], but in order to hear the people, it's unnecessary to shoot, rob, and seize buildings. We are open to dialogue," the speaker said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/turchynov_to_donbas_stop_shooting_if_you_want_to_be_heard_321451

Lavrov against Ukraine's NATO accession, 14.05.2014

KYIV, May 14 /Ukrinform/. The issue of Ukraine's accession to NATO concerns, including, Russia.

Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov told Bloomberg TV in an interview.

"Attempts to bring Ukraine into NATO will be very negative for the entire system of European security, and we would be totally against it," Lavrov said.

Speaking about the prospect of Ukraine's joining the EU, the Russian diplomat said, though, that this choice depends "on Ukraine itself", but gave a gentle hint that Ukraine "should be aware of the possible consequences for it in connection with obligations under the CIS."

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/lavrov_against_ukraines_nato_accession_321453

Due to actions of terrorists Donetsk may be left without food – mayor, 14.05.2014

Suppliers are afraid of delivering goods to the region.

According to an UNIAN correspondent, Donetsk City Head Oleksandr Lukjanchenko said this at the meeting with journalists.

According to his words, today there are “concerns of suppliers”, because numerous roadblocks in the Donetsk and Luhansk Oblasts are in “half-isolated condition”.

<http://www.unian.info/politics/917735-due-to-actions-of-terrorists-donetsk-may-be-left-without-food-mayor.html>

Kravchuk: Next roundtable to be held no later than Monday, 15.05.2014

KYIV, May 15 /Ukrinform/. The next meeting of the all-Ukrainian roundtable of national unity is planned to take place in a few days, former President of Ukraine Leonid Kravchuk said this during first roundtable in Kyiv on Wednesday.

"We're preparing for the roundtable, which will be held on Saturday, Monday at the latest. But not later, because then it just would not make sense to hold it," the first president of Ukraine said.

According to Kravchuk, it is still unknown yet whether the next roundtable will be held in Donetsk. "We need a decision of security forces - whether they are able to provide security there," the former head of state said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/kravchuk_next_roundtable_to_be_held_no_later_than_monday_321466

Rasmussen: “Russia has not taken one single step to live up to its Geneva commitments”, 15.05.2014

KYIV, May 15 /Ukrinform/. Russia has not taken one single step to fulfill its Geneva commitments of April 17, NATO Secretary General Anders Fogh Rasmussen said in his speech at the 2014 GLOBSEC Security Forum in Bratislava on Thursday.

“Russia has not taken one single step to live up to its Geneva commitments. Just the contrary. So judging by Russia's actions, the aim is clear. Russia is trying to establish a new sphere of influence. In defiance of international law and fundamental agreements that Russia itself has signed. This has profound, long-term implications for our security. And it requires serious, long-term solutions,” the NATO chief said.

He reiterated that what Russia is now doing in Ukraine is a blatant breach of the fundamentals of European security.

“It is a dangerous attempt to turn back the clock. To draw new dividing lines and rewrite the rule book,” Rasmussen emphasized.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/rasmussen_russia_has_not_taken_one_single_step_to_live_up_to_its_geneva_commitments_321487

NATO's door remains open to Ukraine, Rasmussen says, 15.05.2014

KYIV, May 15 /Ukrinform/. NATO will strengthen partnership with Ukraine and leaves the door for Ukraine's possible accession to the Alliance open, NATO Secretary General Anders Fogh Rasmussen said in his speech at the 2014 GLOBSEC Security Forum in Bratislava on Thursday

http://www.nato.int/cps/en/natolive/opinions_109859.htm.

“We must, and we will, remain committed to our, positive vision for Europe. That means we will deepen our partnerships with Ukraine and our other NATO partners. And keep our door open for those countries which see there their future in NATO,” the NATO chief said.

Rasmussen noted that in the face of Russia's aggression, the Alliance must uphold the principle that every country should have the right to choose its own future, including its relationship with NATO.

Also, the NATO chief recalled that Russia after signing the Charter for European Security subscribed to these principles too. “That each country has an inherent right to choose or change its security arrangements. And that no state has the right to consider another as its sphere of influence,” the Alliance's secretary general emphasized.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/natos_door_remains_open_to_ukraine_rasmussen_says_321512

Russia will engage in rattling on Election Day in Ukraine, 15.05.2014

KYIV, May 15 /Ukrinform/. The Russian Federation will hold military exercises on the Election Day May 25 in Ukraine, which means that it makes decisions, which are not conducive to stabilize the situation in Ukraine.

Acting Ukrainian Foreign Minister Andriy Deshchytsia has said about this in Kyiv Thursday.

"The Russian side, unfortunately, as you can see, makes decisions that are not conducive to stabilize the situation in Ukraine's eastern regions. Specifically, it was announced today about holding military exercises on the Election Day May 25 in Ukraine," he said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/russia_will_engage_in_rattling_on_election_day_in_ukraine_321491

Poroshenko wants new deputies this year, 15.05.2014

KYIV, May 15 /Ukrinform/. Presidential candidate Petro Poroshenko hopes that the early parliamentary elections in Ukraine will be held this year.

He has said this at a press conference in Kharkiv, the politician's press service informs.

"I hope that the parliamentary elections will be held this year," Poroshenko noted.

He is convinced that there should be the early elections, "since 85% of population wants this."

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/poroshenko_wants_new_deputies_this_year_321503

Kravchuk doesn't want to seat at table with separatists, 16.05.2014

KYIV, May 16 /Ukrinform/. The national unity roundtable can be attended by representatives of only officially registered organizations, not self-proclaimed, first President of Ukraine Leonid Kravchuk told the Ukraina television channel.

"I believe that the national round table can be attended only by officially registered non-governmental organizations that have a charter and a program," Kravchuk said.

According to him, the self-proclaimed formations can only submit for consideration their proposals through official organizations.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/kravchuk_doesnt_want_to_seat_at_table_with_separatists_321516

Bildt hopes Putin not yet lost common sense, 16.05.2014

KYIV, May 16 /Ukrinform/. Russia's leadership should understand that subsequent aggression against Ukraine will have far-reaching negative consequences for Russia, Swedish Foreign Minister Carl Bildt told reporters in Kakhovka, Kherson region.

"On the part of the international community, we have made it clear that if the Russian aggression moves forward [into Ukraine - ed.], then from our side very clear measures will be made. I hope the Russian leadership understands that this policy has very far-reaching consequences, which will be negative for Russia," the Swedish foreign policy chief said.

According to him, now "very big money is leaving Russia." Thus, recently about \$ 100 billion has left Russia, nearly all foreign investments in this country have stopped.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/bildt_hopes_putin_not_yet_lost_common_sense_321526

Problems in Crimea, eastern Ukraine shouldn't stop preparations for elections, Bildt says, 16.05.2014

KYIV, May 16 /Ukrinform/. Problems with the presidential elections in Crimea and eastern Ukraine in any case should not stop their preparations and conduct in other regions, Swedish Foreign Minister Carl Bildt said this at a press briefing in Kakhovka, Kherson region.

"It is very important that the presidential elections are held in Ukraine on May 25. It is important that the elections are held on the territory of Ukraine, are democratic, open, transparent and fair. We understand that the Russian authorities will try to prevent

people in Crimea from going to the polls. The same applies to the separatists in the east, who will do everything possible so that people cannot vote. But in any case it should not stop other regions for elections to take place," Bildt said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/problems_in_crimea_eastern_ukraine_shouldnt_stop_preparations_for_elections_bildt_says_321538

Turchynov calls on residents in Donetsk, Luhansk regions to support ATO, 16.05.2014

KYIV, May 16 /Ukrinform/. The acting President of Ukraine, Verkhovna Rada Speaker Oleksandr Turchynov called on residents in Donetsk and Luhansk regions to support the anti-terrorist operation (ATO).

"I am addressing to the citizens of Donetsk and Luhansk regions to support the anti-terrorist operation and together do away with terrorists, separatists in these regions. Because their actions affect our citizens, [they - ed.] block the ability of paying pensions and wages," Turchynov said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/turchynov_calls_on_residents_in_donetsk_luhansk_regions_to_support_ato_321532

Merkel: Crisis in Ukraine should be overcome by diplomats, not soldiers, 16.05.2014

KYIV, May 16 /Ukrinform/. The crisis in Ukraine cannot be overcome through military methods, therefore the West should continue the dialogue with Russia, German Chancellor Angela Merkel told the German newspaper Frankfurter Allgemeinen Zeitung in an interview.

"It [the crisis in Ukraine - ed.] cannot be solved through military methods," she said. The Chancellor stressed the importance of a diplomatic solution to the conflict in Ukraine. She hopes that, despite some difficulties, the presidential elections still will be held on May 25. Otherwise, the EU will again talk about sanctions against perpetrators of the conflict escalation. "The sanctions are not an end in itself for us, but if they are unavoidable, we will approve them unanimously," Merkel said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/merkel_crisis_in_ukraine_should_be_overcome_by_diplomats_not_soldiers_321544

Kolomoisky: "With Putin you should be a chess player, not a pawn", 16.05.2014

KYIV, May 16 /Ukrinform/. Chairman of Dnipropetrovsk Regional State Administration Ihor Kolomoisky in an interview with the LB.ua edition outlined in chess terms and analogies his vision of Vladimir Putin's policies towards Ukraine and the possible steps to be taken by Ukraine in response.

He has resorted to this after a journalist asked the former businessman whether it is true that he is a perfect chess player, and then proposed to discuss the more serious events simulating them while sitting at a "big chessboard" .

"No, I'm against. This is not the case - we are grandmasters, and people - pawns on the board. This is wrong. Moreover, we all the participants of the game. So first we should determine who is a player, who are pieces. If before us, as you say, there is the board, so where we are: on it or behind it?" Kolomoisky said.

"Well, if we are about chess, the young players have such a term - "Chinese draw". This is when all the pieces are knocked off the board. And that's all, the game is over. If he wants he may start a new game. On a Chinese front," Kolomoisky said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/kolomoisky_with_putin_you_should_be_a_chess_player_not_a_pawn_321554

Putin calls on Crimean Tatars to accept annexation of their homeland, 16.05.2014

KYIV, May 16 /Ukrinform/. Russian President Vladimir Putin called on the Crimean Tatars to "realize" that their interests must now be linked to Russia.

He stated this during a meeting with representatives of the Crimean Tatar community on the eve of the 70th anniversary of deportation of the Crimean Tatars Friday, a Ukrinform correspondent in Russia reports.

"I understand that there are people who, admittedly, did much for the Crimean Tatars, fighting for their rights over entire decades. Yet we must realize that the interests of the Crimean Tatars today are linked to Russia, to the Russian Federation, and the interests of other, third countries, cannot be defended using the Crimean factor. This will only harm the people. This should be realized. Conversely, we will do everything, I want to emphasize this - everything that depends on us in order to make people feel like full-fledged masters of their own land," Putin said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/putin_calls_on_crimean_tatars_to_accept_annexation_of_their_homel_and_321562

Putin calls Greeks indigenous people of Crimea, 16.05.2014

KYIV, May 16 /Ukrinform/. Russian President Vladimir Putin said that the issue of recognizing the Crimean Tatars indigenous people of the peninsula should be approached cautiously. At the same time, he demonstrated a profound knowledge of history of the ancient world saying that, for example, Greeks could claim such a status more soundly.

The Russian leader said this at a meeting with representatives of the Crimean Tatar community on Friday, foreign media reported.

"Greeks have been there before us and you," Putin argued gravely.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/putin_calls_greeks_indigenous_people_of_crimea_321567

Denisova reminds Crimean residents about pensions in continental Ukraine, 16.05.2014

KYIV, May 16 /Ukrinform/. Funding of pensions in Crimea, occupied by the Russian Federation, is impossible, therefore Crimean residents have to come to continental Ukraine in order to get money.

Social Policy Minister Liudmyla Denisova has said about this during an hour of questions to the government in the Verkhovna Rada, a Ukrinform correspondent reports.

"Funding of pensions in Crimea is currently impossible, and we pay pensions in continental Ukraine based on applications," Denisova said.

The Social Policy Minister explained that in order to get pensions, Crimean residents should write a relevant application and come to continental Ukraine, we now have 2,051 of such applications.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/denisova_reminds_crimean_residents_about_pensions_in_continental_ukraine_321536

Turchynov: Russia gets accustomed to engage in blackmail, but there is means against this, 19.05.2014

KYIV, May 19 /Ukrinform/. "Russia got accustomed to engage in blackmail, and gas blackmail is the favorite format of pressure not only on Ukraine, but on other countries too. And the time came to put an end to this blackmail."

Acting President, Verkhovna Rada Chairman Oleksandr Turchynov has said this in an interview to "TSN. Tyzhden" on Sunday.

Therefore, he said, Ukraine went to the international arbitration, "in order to terminate this format, when Russia on a unilateral basis constantly revises prices toward their increasing."

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/turchynov_russia_gets_accustomed_to_engage_in_blackmail_but_the_re_is_means_against_this_321590

Russia cuts pensions to Crimean residents, 19.05.2014

KYIV, May 19 /Ukrinform/. Social Policy Minister Liudmyla Denisova considers a myth a statement that following the promised recalculation according to the Russian law pensions of Crimean residents will considerably grow.

She has said about this in an exclusive interview for a Ukrinform correspondent.

"This is yet another myth, designed for credulous people. For instance, I know that mass recalculation of pensions according to the Russian laws started at the Pension Fund of Crimea. Out of 556,000, the first 6,000 have been recalculated. They are simply in shock, because pensions according to the Russian law for local residents are lower against they were before," Denisova said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/russia_cuts_pensions_to_crimean_residents_321594

Yarosh: Putin to get guerilla war in Ukraine, 19.05.2014

KYIV, May 19 /Ukrinform/. Due to the difficult situation in the east of Ukraine and the threat of Russian invasion, the authorities are forming two more Donbas battalions, Right Sector Leader Dmytro Yarosh said.

"According to information that I keep getting, the bringing of Russian forces into the eastern regions of Ukraine is absolutely real. Today we see the failure of government security agencies to confront. In my opinion, Russia, having brought its troops into the territory of Ukraine, will be defeated through the deployment of a large-scale guerrilla warfare on the basis of volunteer units that are already formed in Donbas," Yarosh says.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/yarosh_putin_to_get_guerilla_war_in_ukraine_321596

Putin tells Chinese about alleged Ukrainian 'fascists', 19.05.2014

KYIV, May 19 /Ukrinform/. Russian President Vladimir Putin continues his conventional rhetoric about the alleged rampant neo-Nazi forces in Ukraine.

He told this to Chinese media in an interview.

"He said he would resist attempts to make the Nazis heroes. We face these cases increasingly, the president believes. Thus, in his opinion, in Ukraine there are rampant neo-Nazi forces that unleashed terror against innocent people," the EchoMSK radio station quoted Putin as saying.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/putin_tells_chinese_about_alleged_ukrainian_fascists_321598

Putin orders to pull Russian troops back from Ukrainian borders, 19.05.2014

KYIV, May 19 /Ukrinform/. Russian President Vladimir Putin ordered to pull Russian troops back from the border with Ukraine to their permanent garrisons, Russian media reported quoting the Kremlin's press office on Monday.

http://tvrain.ru/articles/putin_dal_komandu_otvesti_vojska_ot_ukrainskoj_granitsy-368597/>

"The Russian president gave the command to return the troops participating in military exercises in Rostov, Belgorod and Bryansk regions to their permanent garrisons," the report reads.

A reminder that on May 7, Putin said that Russia withdrew its troops from the border with Ukraine, and they were supposedly only in the zone of regular exercises. However, this was not true.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/putin_orders_to_pull_russian_troops_back_from_ukrainian_borders_321606

NATO says Russian troops still on border with Ukraine, 19.05.2014

KYIV, May 19 /Ukrinform/. NATO notes that Russian troops continue to stay near the Ukrainian borders.

The NATO headquarters told Ukrinform's Brussels correspondent on Monday.

"We see no change," a NATO official said.

As Ukrinform reported, the Kremlin today assured that Russian President Vladimir Putin had ordered to pull its troops back from the border with Ukraine
http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/nato_says_russian_troops_still_on_border_with_ukraine_321612

NATO catches Putin in a lie for third time, 19.05.2014

KYIV, May 19 /Ukrinform/. NATO has no information confirming the pullback of Russian troops from the borders with Ukraine as claimed by Russian President Vladimir Putin, NATO Secretary General Anders Fogh Rasmussen told reporters on Monday in Brussels.

"We haven't seen any evidence of #Russian withdrawal of troops [from Ukrainian borders - ed.] and I regret that," he wrote on his Twitter page.

The NATO chief noted that this is Putin's third statement about the withdrawal of Russian troops.

Rasmussen also said that Putin does not fulfill the international obligations assumed.
http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/nato_catches_putin_in_a_lie_for_third_time_321629

Assistance from NATO countries already on Ukrainian border - Parubiy, 19.05.2014

KYIV, May 20 /Ukrinform/. Logistical means, supplied at the request of Ukraine by the Alliance member countries under conditions of Russian military aggression, will be delivered to Ukraine within the next days.

NSDC Secretary Andriy Parubiy said in Brussels on Monday, where he participated in a meeting of the Ukraine-NATO joint working group on the military reform, a special correspondent of Ukrinform reports.

"Some materials are already on the border. And at the moment, the question is only about technical issues. This will be decided over several days," the NSDC Secretary said.

He specified that this concerns, primarily, body armors, helmets, night vision devices, materials for medical care, some other types of non-lethal weapons.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/assistance_from_nato_countries_already_on_ukrainian_border_parubiy_321637

Akhmetov, condemning 'genocide of Donbas,' calls for peaceful rally today at noon against Kremlin-backed separatists in Donetsk, Luhansk (VIDEO), 20.05.2014

Billionaire Rinat Akhmetov, after treading cautiously between Kremlin-backed separatists and the government in Kyiv that came to power when the EuroMaidan Revolution overthrew his ally ex-President Viktor Yanukovich, came out on May 19 more forcefully against the breakaway Donetsk People's Republic.

Akhmetov called for workers at all businesses in the Donbas region, where he owns coal mines, steel mills and other businesses, to stage a peace rally at noon on May 20. He called on all people in Donetsk and neighboring Luhansk, where a separatist republic has also been formed, to join the action.

"Just tell me please, does anyone in Donbas know at least one representative of this Donetsk People's Republic? What have they done for our region, what jobs have they created? Does walking around Donbas towns with guns in hands defend the rights of Donetsk residents in front of the central government? Is looting in cities and taking peaceful citizens hostages a fight for the happiness of our region? No, it is not! It is a fight against the citizens of our region. It is a fight against Donbas. It is genocide of Donbas!" Akhmetov said in "an emergency statement" released late on May 19 addressed to "dear fellow countrymen."

Akhmetov said that he "will not let Donbas be destroyed. I was born and am living here. That is why I am calling on everyone to unite in our fight: for Donbas without weapons! for Donbas without masks! for Donbas with a peaceful sky above!"

"Today representatives of the so-called Donetsk People's Republic seized the railway," Akhmetov said. "They didn't just stop the railway, they stopped the heart of Donbas because the industry of Donbas will die without the railway. It means that Donbas, our region of hard-working people, will die! That is why I am calling upon all employees across Donbas to go out tomorrow for a peaceful warning protest at the companies where they work. The rally will start tomorrow at noon with a siren ringing at all industrial businesses of Donbas in support of peace and against bloodshed. And that sound will ring every day at noon across all of Donbass until peace is established. I also call on all motor car owners and all patriots of our region to join the action!"

<http://www.kyivpost.com/content/ukraine/akhmetov-condemning-genocide-of-donbas-calls-for-massive-peaceful-rally-today-at-noon-against-kremlin-backed-separatists-348498.html>

Terrorists of DPR decide to take away Akhmetov's factories, 20.05.2014

Leadership of self-proclaimed Donetsk Republic condemned unwillingness of Akhmetov to pay taxes to the budget of DPR.

Head of the presidium of the so-called Supreme Council of self-proclaimed Donetsk People's Republic Denis Pushylin declared a start of nationalization in the region.

"Due to unwillingness of regional oligarchs to pay taxes into the budget of DPR it was decided to start a nationalization process", -the statement of Pushylin is cited in official microblog of DPR on Twitter on Tuesday, ZN.ua reports.

<http://www.unian.info/politics/919894-terrorists-of-dpr-decide-to-take-away-akhmetovs-factories.html>

Merkel urges Putin to do everything for elections in Ukraine), 20.05.2014

KYIV, May 20 /Ukrinform/. German Chancellor Angela Merkel held next telephone conversation with Russian President Vladimir Putin, during which urged Moscow to support holding of the presidential elections in Ukraine on May 25.

The press service of the German government reports, Ukrinform's own correspondent in Germany reports.

"The Federal Chancellor urged the Russian President to do everything depending on him to support the elections in Ukraine and recognize their results," a statement reads.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/merkel_urges_putin_to_do_everything_for_elections_in_ukraine_321641

Party of Regions member convinced factions will make peace at 12:00 a.m., 20.05.2014

KYIV, May 20 /Ukrinform/. People's deputy from the Party of Regions Valeriy Pysarenko, following a break in the parliament, said that the parties reached an agreement to vote for the Memorandum of reconciliation.

He said following a break in the Verkhovna Rada, announced on a requirement from the Party of Regions and Communists.

"We reached signing of the Memorandum of reconciliation to demonstrate to the society our readiness for a dialogue and reconciliation. This Memorandum will be signed today at 12:00 a.m.," Pysarenko said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/party_of_regions_member_convinced_factions_will_make_peace_at_1200_am_321654

Russia vows to remove its troops from Ukrainian border "within a few days", 20.05.2014

KYIV, May 20 /Ukrinform/. Russian troops will be removed from training bases near the Ukrainian border "within a few days", Russia's Deputy Defence Minister Anatoliy Antonov told BBC in an interview.

Antonov also said he was disappointed by NATO's decision to boycott an international security conference being held in Moscow. "It's better when our defence ministers sit at the same table," Antonov said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/russia_vows_to_remove_its_troops_from_ukrainian_border_within_a_few_days_321664

NSDC wants to launch CNN or BBC-like TV channel, 20.05.2014

KYIV, May 20 /Ukrinform/. The National Security and Defence Council (NSDC) has developed a concept of creating a TV channel similar to CNN or BBC to deal with counter-propaganda, Head of the Presidential Administration Serhiy Pashynsky told a press briefing on Tuesday.

"The NSDC has now developed a concept of an analogue to CNN, BBC or Russia Today, which will be engaged in anti-propaganda," he said.

The official also said that part of the premises which are now subordinate to the State Affairs Administration will be used for such purposes.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/nsdc_wants_to_launch_cnn_or_bbc_like_tv_channel_321677

Akhmetov calls DPR leaders rogues, 21.05.2014

KYIV, May 21 /Ukrinform/. Largest Ukrainian oligarch Rinat Akhmetov in his new statement called leaders of the self-proclaimed "Donetsk People's Republic" (DPR) rogues, who will soon be chased off.

The press service of the SCM Group reported.

"And this bunch of rogues, who terrorize Donbas ... I am convinced that in the near future they will be given the bum's rush. If anyone among you thinks that they lead us to success, it is a mistake. This is a big mistake. They lead to collapse, poverty, hunger and cold. By their actions, they do not protect Donbas, they destroy Donbas," Akhmetov said.

He thanked all those, who took part in the "Voice of Donbas," despite the intimidation. And he called for further struggle. "For us, in Donbas, the DPR is out of the way!" the businessman said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/akhmetov_calls_dpr_leaders_rogues_321707

Yatseniuk doesn't want tete-a-tete talks with Moscow yet, 21.05.2014

KYIV, May 21 /Ukrinform/. The possibility of bilateral negotiations between Ukraine and Russia is not being discussed now. Resumption of the dialogue with Russia is possible in the quadripartite format Ukraine-EU-U.S.-Russia.

Prime Minister Arseniy Yatseniuk said this at the 3rd national unity roundtable on Wednesday in Mykolaiv.

"In today's environment, I believe the bilateral talks between Ukraine and Russia cannot be considered. In order to have relationships with Russia, we suggest that first it is necessary to resume these relations in the quadripartite format [Ukraine-EU-U.S.-Russia - ed.] - and then we will see ..." he said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/yatseniuk_doesnt_want_tete_a_tete_talks_with_moscow_yet_321733

Turchynov gives go-ahead to clear Donbas of terrorists, 22.05.2014

KYIV, May 22 /Ukrinform/. Acting President Oleksandr Turchynov inspected the positions of the anti-terrorist operation (ATO) near Sloviansk and gave the go-ahead to clear Donbas of terrorists, the president's press office said in a statement on Wednesday.

Turchynov noted that during the visit he tasked security agencies to completely clear the region of terrorists and "restore peace and order in Donetsk and Luhansk regions." He said that "the material-technical base of our military is improving daily," and today,

Turchynov added, the ATO forces have been provided with modern means of communication.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/turchynov_gives_go_ahead_to_clear_donbas_of_terrorists_321741

Yatseniuk: Ukraine initiates urgent meeting of UN Security Council due to Russian aggression, 22.05.2014

KYIV, May 22 /Ukrinform/. Ukraine has asked its partners at the UN Security Council to convene an urgent meeting of the body due to the continuation of Russian aggression in the Ukrainian territory, Prime Minister Arseniy Yatseniuk told reporters at a National Guard training center in the village of Novi Petrivtsi on Thursday.

"We appeal to our partners at the UN Security Council to convene an urgent meeting of the UN Security Council. We will present evidence that it is the Russian side that makes attempts of escalating the conflict, bloodshed, unsuccessful takeovers of Ukrainian frontier posts and disruption of the presidential elections. Russia has not abandoned its goal," the head of government said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/yatseniuk_ukraine_initiates_urgent_meeting_of_un_security_council_due_to_russian_aggression_321763

Parubiy relates killing of law enforcers to Putin's intention, 22.05.2014

KYIV, May 22 /Ukrinform/. Making four attacks simultaneously on positions of Ukrainian law enforcers testifies to the fact that the aim of the Kremlin is to disrupt the presidential elections in Ukraine.

National Security and Defense Council Secretary Andriy Parubiy told a briefing Thursday, a Ukrinform correspondent reports.

"Putin intends to disrupt the elections in Ukraine on May 25, and just for this reason this night attacks were simultaneously made on the north of Luhansk - near Rubizhne, up from Volnovakha, and two attacks were made on the border with Russia. Four instantaneous attacks were made on the territory of our law enforcers. We repelled all attacks of terrorists," Parubiy said.

At the same time, he said that the Ukrainian side also suffered losses in those battles.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/parubiy_relates_killing_of_law_enforcers_to_putins_intention_321767

Right Sector will help police during elections, 22.05.2014

KYIV, May 22 /Ukrinform/. The Right Sector will help the police to ensure order at the elections on May 25.

Right Sector leader, presidential candidate Dmytro Yarosh told a briefing Thursday.

"We will involve our activists in such actions, who are members of the territorial defense battalions, and simply people, who are able to defend the right of the Ukrainian people to vote. And not only in the east, but in the center, and also in Kyiv, our people will help law-enforcement bodies to ensure order," Yarosh said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/right_sector_will_help_police_during_elections_321779

Turchynov: 13 Ukrainian militaries killed as part of ATO in Donetsk region, 22.05.2014

KYIV, May 22 /Ukrinform/. As of today, the circle of the anti-terrorist operation (ATO) has narrowed to the central part of Donetsk and Luhansk regions, acting President/Verkhovna Rada Speaker Oleksandr Turchynov said at a meeting with representatives of the All-Ukrainian Council of Churches of Ukraine at the Verkhovna Rada on May 22.

"At the moment, terrorists have intensified attacks on Ukrainian checkpoints. Today, the ATO circle has narrowed to the central part of Donetsk and Luhansk regions. Today, in particular, the terrorists attacked a checkpoint, located 48 kilometers from Donetsk. The

attack killed 13 Ukrainian ATO participants. The people who fought for a united and indivisible Ukraine," Turchynov said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/turchynov_13_ukrainian_militaries_killed_as_part_of_ato_in_donetsk_region_321785

Turchynov promises calm elections in spite of expected attempts to wreck it by terrorists, 22.05.2014

According to an UNIAN correspondent, acting President of Ukraine, Speaker of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine Oleksandr Turchynov said this during the meeting with members of all-Ukrainian council of churches and religious organizations.

He noted that "terrorists will try to wreck elections".

Turchynov stressed that "elections will take place calmly and confidently" in majority of cities and villages.

<http://www.unian.info/politics/920787-turchynov-promises-calm-elections-in-spite-of-expected-attempts-to-wreck-it-by-terrorists.html>

Poroshenko offers to expel sponsors of separatism from Verkhovna Rada, 22.05.2014

KYIV, May 22 /Ukrinform/. According to presidential candidate Petro Poroshenko, the Antiterrorist Operation must begin with the Verkhovna Rada, where there are the masterminds and financiers of separatists.

He expressed this belief at a press conference in Lviv, a Ukrinform correspondent reports.

"The Antiterrorist Operation must begin with the Verkhovna Rada, where, in fact, there are masterminds and financiers of the separatists' gangs and organizers of the fratricidal war," Poroshenko said, who completes his campaign tour over Ukraine in Lviv.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/poroshenko_offers_to_expel_sponsors_of_separatism_from_verkhovna_rada_321787

Foreign ministry: Ukrainian elections to be monitored by most influential international institutions, 22.05.2014

KYIV, May 22 /Ukrinform/. The most influential international institutions were invited to Ukraine to observe the elections, Deputy Foreign Minister of Ukraine Andriy Olefirov told a press briefing on Thursday in Kyiv.

"This is, firstly, the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) and the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly. Actually, the ODIHR will send almost half of all the invited observers ... Virtually all international observers used to monitor elections. They are experienced and therefore we look forward to their objective assessment of the voting on May 25," the official said.

The diplomat noted that the Central Election Commission (CEC) registered 2,784 observers, of them 2,502 represent international organizations and 282 individual countries.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/foreign_ministry_ukrainian_elections_to_be_monitored_by_most_influential_international_institutions_321790

Russia refuses from meeting with NATO on Ukraine, 23.05.2014

KYIV, May 23 /Ukrinform/. An extraordinary meeting of the Russia-NATO Council, planned for May 27, will not take place. Consideration of the Ukrainian issue was planned at this meeting.

Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Alexei Meshkov said.

"I think, now it is difficult to answer this question (as to the terms - Ed.), therefore, as you know, over recent three weeks, we tried to hold this meeting as soon as possible, and were ready to hold it, if you like, yesterday or today. We, naturally, do not refuse

from holding it later, but now it is simply necessary to find a mutually acceptable date. Therefore, I am not ready to say whether it will be the date next week or a bit later," Meshkov said, quoted by the RIA Novosti.

The diplomat stressed that the date of May 27 "is not suitable for the Russian side."

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/russia_refuses_from_meeting_with_nato_on_ukraine_321796

Kolesnikov: Business of Donbas able to build collective security, 23.05.2014

KYIV, May 23 /Ukrinform/. People's deputy, secretary of the political council of the Party of Regions Borys Kolesnikov believes that the so-called "Donetsk People's Republic" (DPR) leads to chaos in the region.

He said on air of the TV channel Ukraine, a Ukrinform correspondent reports.

"Impostors, MMM employees, who robbed Russians and Ukrainians, will not build happiness of Donbas. Donbas will not allow this. I am absolutely sure in the future of Donbas. We can achieve success only as part of a unified country, and business of Donbas is able to build with the help of law enforcement bodies a system of collective security for every resident of our region," Kolesnikov said.

He noted that DPR representatives seize enterprises, intimidate journalists today.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/kolesnikov_business_of_donbas_able_to_build_collective_security_321800

Turchynov says he will not allow involving Ukraine in "post-Soviet empire", 23.05.2014

KYIV, May 23 /Ukrinform/. Acting President Oleksandr Turchynov promises not to allow including the part Ukraine into the "post-Soviet empire."

He said in his statement on air of the Rada TV channel.

"Today, we are building the new European country, whose foundation was laid down by millions of Ukrainians, who proved that they are able to defend their choice and their country. We will never allow depriving us of freedom and independence, and turning our Ukraine into a part of the post-Soviet empire," Turchynov noted.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/turchynov_says_he_will_not_allow_involving_ukraine_in_post_soviet_empire_321808

Russia sees terrorists in Ukraine 'unarmed people', 23.05.2014

KYIV, May 23 /Ukrinform/. Chief of the General Staff of the Russian Armed Forces Valeriy Gerasimov said that terrorists in eastern Ukraine are "unarmed people."

He said this on Friday at the III Moscow International Security Conference, Ukrinform's correspondent in Russia reported.

"In contrast to the Arab states, where government forces were fighting against armed opposition groups, in Ukraine the armed forces are applied against their own unarmed people, who expressed distrust in the illegitimate authorities," Gerasimov said.

He believes that in resolving the situation in Ukraine the determining factor will be an increase of military force and scope of its application. In turn, the military said, it will have "a negative impact on European security."

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/russia_sees_terrorists_in_ukraine_unarmed_people_321810

Merkel: Putin should respect OSCE assessment of Ukrainian elections, 23.05.2014

KYIV, May 23 /Ukrinform/. German Chancellor Angela Merkel expects that Russia will recognize the assessment by the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) of the results of the presidential elections in Ukraine on 25 May.

She said this in an interview with the German newspaper Saarbruecker Zeitung.

"I expect that Russia will respect without doubt the objective assessment by the OSCE, because it belongs to this organization," Merkel said.

She recalled that this week in a phone call with Russian President Vladimir Putin she stressed the importance of the Ukrainian elections. According to her, it is annoying that Russia refused to participate in the OSCE observation mission.

The head of German government once again stressed the right of Ukrainians to choose their way. "It seems that the Russian leadership is difficult to accept that a sovereign Ukraine follows its own path," the Chancellor added.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/merkel_putin_should_respect_osce_assessment_of_ukrainian_elections_321816

Putin hopes to negotiate with Ukraine on gas, 23.05.2014

KYIV, May 23 /Ukrinform/. Russian authorities are hoping to reach an agreement with Ukraine on gas.

This was stated by Russian President Vladimir Putin in his speech at the St. Petersburg International Economic Forum, RIA Novosti reported.

"We hope, I repeat, that we will still manage to agree. Thus, like talking in a family circle, I can say: Well, well, they want discounts, but you, at least, pay the debt for a period, when the discounts were in effect. And they refuse to pay even for this. Well, listen, how to work then?" Putin said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/putin_hopes_to_negotiate_with_ukraine_on_gas_321828

Party of Regions calls on authorities to ensure elections in Ukraine's east and south, 23.05.2014

KYIV, May 23 /Ukrinform/. Party of Regions calls on all Ukrainian citizens to participate in presidential elections on May 25, and calls on the authorities to ensure holding of the elections in south-eastern regions of Ukraine.

A statement of the political forces reads, published on the PR website.

"The Party of Regions calls on the authorities to take decisive measures to ensure holding of the elections in south-eastern regions of Ukraine," a statement reads.

At the same time, the document reads that the Party of Regions considers insufficient those steps that were taken in this direction until now.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/party_of_regions_calls_on_authorities_to_ensure_elections_in_ukraines_east_and_south_321830

Nalyvaichenko calls killing of military near Volnovakha terrorist attack, 23.05.2014

KYIV, May 23 /Ukrinform/. Killing of Ukrainian soldiers near Volnovakha, Donetsk region, is a terrorist attack.

SBU Chairman Valentyn Nalyvaichenko told a briefing on Friday, a Ukrinform correspondent reports.

"This was a terrorist attack, the military fulfilled a task to ensure security of peaceful citizens, they did not act within the ATO frames," Nalyvaichenko said.

According to him, executors and organizers of the crime must be neutralized.

[http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/nalyvaichenko_calls_killing_of_military_near_volnovakha_terrorist_atack_321832](http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/nalyvaichenko_calls_killing_of_military_near_volnovakha_terrorist_attack_321832)

Foreign ministry concerned over Medvedev's visit to Crimea, 25.05.2014

KYIV, May 25 /Ukrinform/. Ukraine's Foreign Ministry expressed a strong protest over the arrival on May 25 of Russian Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev in the occupied territory of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea, the ministry's press office said in a statement.

"The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine expresses its strong protest over another, not agreed with the Ukrainian side, arrival on May 25 of this year of Russian Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev in the temporarily occupied by Russia part of the territory of Ukraine - the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol," reads a statement.

The foreign ministry regarded such actions by the Russian official as a flagrant violation of the current legislation and Ukrainian sovereignty, international law, including the UN Charter and UN General Assembly Resolution "The territorial integrity of Ukraine".

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/foreign_ministry_concerned_over_medvedevs_visit_to_crimea_321915

Elections - Ukraine's most powerful ATO against Putin's aggression, Kravchuk says, 25.05.2014

KYIV, May 25 /Ukrinform/. Ukraine's first president Leonid Kravchuk believes that the current presidential elections are the most powerful "anti-terrorist operation" of Ukraine against Putin's aggression.

He said this after voting at a polling station at the Ukrainian Embassy in Budapest.

"First, when Ukraine found itself in a terrible situation, I vote abroad with a sense of special responsibility. The present voting of Ukrainians is, in fact, the greatest, the most terrible, the most powerful anti-terrorist operation of Ukraine against Russia, against Putin's aggression," Kravchuk said.

The first president also noted that in response to the aggressive actions of Russia there is no other choice but to show our will, power, strength of democracy in a desire to live in peace, in the European Community. Kravchuk said that the current presidential elections are a decisive historic step of Ukraine towards this European community.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/elections_ukraines_most_powerful_ato_against_putins_aggression_kravchuk_says_321910

Poroshenko says talks with Russia possible only through mediation of U.S., EU, 25.05.2014

KYIV, May 25 /Ukrinform/. Ukrainian presidential candidate Petro Poroshenko said that talks with Russia are possible only through the mediation of the United States and the European Union.

He said this at a news briefing at its headquarters on Sunday meeting.

"We have a specific format for negotiations with Russia. This is the Geneva format.

There are two basic positions for Ukraine. First - Ukraine will never recognize the annexation of Crimea. Second - the Ukrainian people will independently decide their strategic direction," Poroshenko said.

He also added that the dialogue with Russia is very important, but "it is important that it runs only through the mediation of the EU and the U.S."

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/poroshenko_says_talks_with_russia_possible_only_through_mediation_of_us_eu_321940

Poroshenko: War will end in Ukraine, 26.05.2014

KYIV, May 26 /Ukrinform/. Peace in Ukraine will be guaranteed to everyone, regardless of their political positions, leader of the presidential elections Petro Poroshenko said on the Elections 2014 televised show on the Ukraina channel.

"In Ukraine, the war will end and peace will be guaranteed to everyone, regardless of political positions. And those who took up arms will be offered the right to amnesty if their hands are not in blood. But those who shot civilians and soldiers should face trial," he said.

The politician noted that his visit to Donbas will be marked by security guarantees for its residents.

"The visit to Donbas will mark the fact that we give security guarantees to all residents, guarantees for the protection of their rights, the right to speak the language which they want, the right to celebrate those holidays that they deem necessary, the right to economic development, but the key position - is security," Poroshenko assured.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/poroshenko_war_will_end_in_ukraine_321954

Poroshenko confirms course for European integration and says about priorities, 26.05.2014

KYIV, May 26 /Ukrinform/. Leader of the presidential campaign Poroshenko said that the priority of the new government is bound to be a course for European integration. He told a briefing at his headquarters, a Ukrinform correspondent reports.

"I confirm that the priority of the new government will be European integration. I remind that it was also supported by election participants, interviewed by us. Before the inauguration, there will be preparation for the agenda. During the first week of my work at the post of President, in the first place, the activities will be active in this respect," Poroshenko said.

He also added that the priorities of the new government will be the return of Crimea to Ukraine, corruption, conflict in the south-eastern region.

Poroshenko added that "even before his inauguration, high level meetings will be held with the EU leadership to discuss Ukraine's European integration."

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/poroshenko_confirms_course_for_european_integration_and_says_about_priorities_321964

Poroshenko will leave Yatseniuk on premier's post, 26.05.2014

KYIV, May 26 /Ukrinform/. Leader of the presidential campaign Petro Poroshenko said that in case of his victory he has no intention to dismiss Arseniy Yatseniuk from the post of Prime Minister of Ukraine.

He told a press conference at his headquarters, a Ukrinform correspondent reports.

"According to the Constitution, the presidential elections have not (such) a result as the Premier's resignation. I think that Arseniy Yatseniuk's activities on this post are rather successful," Poroshenko said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/poroshenko_will_leave_yatseniuk_on_premiers_post_321970

Poroshenko has something to offer Donbas, 26.05.2014

KYIV, May 26 /Ukrinform/. The leader of the presidential campaign Petro Poroshenko is ready to start a dialogue with Donbas and it has a lot to propose to the local population. He said this at a press conference at its headquarters on Monday.

"The dialogue with the people in Donbas will be effective. Believe me, we have something to offer people in Donbas. In addition, negotiations have already begun to create new jobs for Donbas residents," Poroshenko said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/poroshenko_has_something_to_offer_donbas_321976

Kyiv residents elect mayor without violations, 26.05.2014

KYIV, May 26 /Ukrinform/. Not a single claim came to the Kyiv City Election Commission about violation of the law during the elections of the city mayor. Lawyer of the Kyiv City Election Commission Andriy Pisny told a Ukrinform correspondent.

"We have not a single claim about violation of applicable legislation at the elections of the Kyiv city mayor," he said.

According to the lawyer, claims, which came to the commission, concerned mainly violations in voting for deputies of the Kyiv City Council, however, their number was not significant.

"In Kyiv, there are 30 claims on 3,000 candidates - this is all we have. Even not a single of 10 candidates sent a claim," Pisny said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/kyiv_residents_elect_mayor_without_violations_321956

Lavrov against mediation in dialogue with Ukraine, 26.05.2014

KYIV, May 26 /Ukrinform/. Moscow questioned the need for the EU and U.S. mediation in negotiations with Ukraine.

This was stated by Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov, ITAR-TASS informs.

"We are ready to cooperate with the EU and the U.S. with regard to facilitate the implementation of the "road map." But as for relations with Ukraine, that a mediator is needed - I doubt this," the Minister said.

At the same time, according to Lavrov, former Georgian President Mikheil Saakashvili should not be a mediator in a dialogue between Russia and Ukraine.

He also stressed that Moscow "invariably stands for establishing a real dialogue" with Ukraine.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/lavrov_against_mediation_in_dialogue_with_ukraine_321968

Poroshenko will use all measures to return Crimea, 26.05.2014

KYIV, May 26 /Ukrinform/. The Ukrainian authority will take all measures for the return of Crimea.

Leader of the presidential campaign Petro Poroshenko said at a press conference at the Poroshenko-Klitschko united headquarters, a Ukrinform correspondent reports.

"All mechanisms will be used that are at our disposal," Poroshenko stressed.

In particular, he reminded that a working group works, it completes preparation of claims to international judicial instances - "starting with the UN International Court and the European Court of Human Rights and ending with property claims against the Russian Federation."

At the same time, Poroshenko is convinced, economic success of Ukraine will be important in this context. International solidarity also plays an important role. "Russia, Ukraine and the whole world have already paid an extremely high price for the Crimean aggression," he stressed.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/poroshenko_will_use_all_measures_to_return_crimea_321981

Poroshenko will visit Russia in first half of June, 26.05.2014

KYIV, May 26 /Ukrinform/. Leader of the presidential campaign of Ukraine Petro Poroshenko said that a meeting with Russian leaders will be held in the first half of June and will have important consequences.

He told a press conference at his headquarters, a Ukrinform correspondent reports.

"As concerns our relations with Russia - this is our largest neighbor, we should stop the war, ensure peace in Eastern Ukraine. It is impossible to do without the Russian representation. Meetings with Russian leaders should be held in the first half of June," Poroshenko said.

He also stressed that negotiations will have important consequences. "We will create the programs, the agenda in order not only to shake hands. Just the first meeting will have important consequences. People in the East are waiting for these results," the presidential candidate said.

Poroshenko added that now the last argument of Russia that Ukraine allegedly has not a legitimate President is outdated.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/poroshenko_will_visit_russia_in_first_half_of_june_321983

Germany proposes Russia to find approach to Ukraine's new leadership, 26.05.2014

KYIV, May 26 /Ukrinform/. The German government has voiced hope that after Sunday's early presidential elections in Ukraine the situation will stabilize, German government spokesman Steffen told reporters on Monday in Berlin.

"The election results are a clear signal that the Ukrainians want to overcome the crisis through democratic and legal means. This can actually lead to stabilization of the situation," Seibert noted.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/germany_proposes_russia_to_find_approach_to_ukraines_new_leadership_321985

OSCE: Newly elected president legitimate for entire Ukraine, 26.05.2014

KYIV, May 26 /Ukrinform/. The newly elected president of Ukraine is legitimate for the entire country, including those citizens who could not vote in Luhansk and Donetsk regions, Joao Soares, the Special Co-ordinator who led the short-term OSCE observer mission, said at a news conference in Kyiv on Monday.

"Everyone in Ukraine should consider this president a legitimate president, elected with a very high turnout, even in comparison with the elections to the EU parliament. We would be very proud in the EU, if we would have the same turnout," he said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/osce_newly_elected_president_legitimate_for_entire_ukraine_321995

Russia respects choice of Ukrainians and is waiting for lawsuit on Crimea, 26.05.2014

KYIV, May 26 /Ukrinform/. Russia respects a choice of the Ukrainian people.

Head of the Administration of the Russian President Sergey Ivanov said, commenting on the elections of President of Ukraine, held on May 25, ITAR-TASS informs.

"We respect a choice of the Ukrainian people," Ivanov told journalists.

He also noted that the Kremlin is ready for Ukraine's lawsuit on the annexation of Crimea, about which race leader Poroshenko had previously stated. "We will wait for the statement of claim in this case, if he (Poroshenko) had that intention," Ivanov said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/russia_respects_choice_of_ukrainians_and_is_waiting_for_lawsuit_on_crimea_322003

Moscow is ready for a dialogue with Poroshenko, 26.05.2014

Foreign Minister of Russia Sergey Lavrov claims that Russia is ready for a dialogue with Petro Poroshenko, who won May 25 presidential elections.

"We heard what Petro Poroshenko had to say on the relations with the Russian Federation, calling these relations the most important ones. We, as our president repeatedly stated, are ready for a dialogue with Kyiv authorities, ready for a dialogue with Petro Poroshenko," he stated at the press conference in Moscow.

http://24tv.ua/home/showSingleNews.do?moscow_is_ready_for_a_dialogue_with_poroshenko&objectId=447256&lang=en

Russian Foreign Ministry calls Kyiv to stop Anti-terrorist operation in Donbas, 26.05.2014

Due to the military confrontation in Donetsk suburbs, Russia has appealed OSCE to provide the information about events and measures, taken there.

"We expect the representatives of OSCE to provide unbiased and full information on these events and the Kyiv authorities to stop the military operation against their own people," Russian Foreign Ministry statement says.

The Russian side also expressed concern that the actions of Ukrainian security forces and the closure of Donetsk airport for flights complicate the solution of the humanitarian issues, in collaboration with the Italian side, related with the removal of bodies of Russian citizen Mironov and Italian journalist Rocelli, who died near Slovyansk.

http://24tv.ua/home/showSingleNews.do?russian_foreign_ministry_calls_kyiv_to_stop_antiterrorist_operation_in_donbas&objectId=447578&lang=en

Yanukovich respects the choice of Ukrainians, but does not consider it fully legitimate, 26.05.2014

Former Ukrainian President Viktor Yanukovich, who is hiding in Russia, has claimed that he respects the choice of Ukrainian people at presidential elections, but the participation of the southeastern regions is necessary for legitimacy of elections.

Yanukovich made a statement from Rostov on Don, Russia's *ITAR-TASS* news agency reports.

Early Ukraine's presidential elections are over. Despite the voter turnout and the area where the elections were held, despite the very choice – I respect your choice made in the most difficult time of our Homeland, - Yanukovych stated.

“But I would like to mention that involvement of southeastern regions in the voting process is necessary for legitimacy of elections and legitimacy of the president himself. Many voters of these regions were offended and humiliated by actions of illegitimate “authority” which came in power as a result of military coup,” Yanukovych said.

http://24tv.ua/home/showSingleNews.do?yanukovych_respects_the_choice_of_ukrainians_but_does_not_consider_it_fully_legitimate&objectId=447265&lang=en

EU awaits constructive steps from Russia after Ukrainian elections, 27.05.2014

KYIV, May 27 /Ukrinform/. The European Union welcomes Russia's statement on its readiness to negotiate with the newly elected president of Ukraine and calls on it to take concrete steps to de-escalate the situation, Peter Stano, the spokesman for European Commissioner for Enlargement and European Neighborhood Policy Stefan Fule, told reporters on Monday, according to Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty.

"We hope that all parties to the Geneva agreements will continue to fulfill them in the context of the electoral process and its outcome. We welcome the statement of the Russian Federation that it will respect the will of the Ukrainian people and is ready for dialogue with the newly elected president of Ukraine," Fule's spokesman said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/eu_awaits_constructive_steps_from_russia_after_ukrainian_elections_322015

Merkel, Hollande congratulate Poroshenko, 27.05.2014

KYIV, May 27 /Ukrinform/. German Chancellor Angela Merkel held a telephone conversation with Petro Poroshenko on Tuesday, during which she congratulated him on his victory in the presidential elections in Ukraine.

Speaker of the German government Steffen Seibert said, a special correspondent of Ukrinform in Germany reports.

“The Federal Chancellor held a telephone conversation with Petro Poroshenko today, during which she congratulated him on his victory in the presidential elections,” Seibert said.

According to him, the head of the German government wished the newly elected Ukrainian President success and luck in fulfillment of the set tasks.

Both politicians, added Seibert, were unanimous in the view that the way to internal reconciliation in Ukraine must be continued. This, in particular, includes round tables and a constitutional reform.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/merkel_hollande_congratulate_poroshenko_322066

Lukashenko congratulates Poroshenko on his election victory, 28.05.2014

KYIV, May 28 /Ukrinform/. President of Belarus Alexander Lukashenko has congratulated Petro Poroshenko on his election as President of Ukraine, the BELTA news agency reported citing the press office of the Belarusian leader.

"Centuries-old traditions of friendship and mutual support, the historical unity of our peoples constitute a solid foundation for the development of comprehensive and constructive cooperation between our countries," Lukashenko said in his greeting. It is also noted that "Belarus has always been and remains a reliable neighbor for Ukraine."

"For us it is important that Ukraine be a stable and strong state," Lukashenko said.

He also wished Petro Poroshenko success in strengthening a united and prosperous Ukraine.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/lukashenko_congratulates_poroshenko_on_his_election_victory_322088

EU leaders call on Russia to accept outcome of elections in Ukraine, 28.05.2014

KYIV, May 28 /Ukrinform/. Heads of State or Government of the European Union member countries welcome the holding of the elections of President of Ukraine and call on all the parties, including Russia, to accept the outcome of the elections.

This was stressed in the Statement of the EU leaders, adopted the previous night by results of an informal meeting in Brussels, Ukrinform's own correspondent reports.

"We welcome the holding of the elections as an expression of the will of the Ukrainian people. The presidential election was characterized by high turnout and a clear resolve by the authorities to hold what was a genuine election largely in line with international commitments and respecting fundamental freedoms, despite the hostile security environment in two eastern regions of the country. We call on all parties to accept the outcome of the elections and we look forward to working closely with the new President," Heads of State or Government of 28 EU member countries said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/eu_leaders_call_on_russia_to_accept_outcome_of_elections_in_ukraine_322080

EU should make Russia take its mercenaries from Ukraine - Tusk, 28.05.2014

KYIV, May 28 /Ukrinform/. The EU should continue to put pressure on Russia in order that it stopped sending its soldiers to Ukraine, continuing escalation of violence.

Polish Prime Minister Donald Tusk said by results of meetings in Brussels with European Council President Herman Van Rompuy, European Commission President Jose Manuel Barroso, German Chancellor Angela Merkel and British Prime Minister David Cameron, a special correspondent of Ukrinform reports.

"We all have a similar position: it is necessary to put further pressure on Moscow to stop it from escalating violence, saying simply - from sending of mercenaries, soldiers, supporting of separatists (in Ukraine - Ed.), resulting in an acute conflict," Tusk said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/eu_should_make_russia_take_its_mercenaries_from_ukraine_tusk_322074

The Washington Post: Poroshenko wants direct U.S. military aid, 28.05.2014

KYIV, May 28 /Ukrinform/. To protect its independence Ukraine should build up its armed forces and at this stage needs a direct military aid from the U.S. such as Lend-Lease Program during World War II, Ukraine's presidential runner Petro Poroshenko told The Washington Post in an interview .

"Now we should create a new security treaty exactly like Lend-Lease. We should cooperate in military technical assistance and in advising assistance. We are ready to fight for independence, and we should build up the armed forces of Ukraine," Poroshenko said.

According to the leader of the Ukrainian presidential race, more aggression against Ukraine is possible, "and when aggression starts, no sanctions help."

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/the_washington_post_poroshenko_wants_direct_us_military_aid_322108

Commissioner Oettinger: Ukraine should sue Russia for stolen energy assets, 28.05.2014

KYIV, May 28 /Ukrinform/. The European Commission supports Ukraine's international legal efforts to return the energy assets that were misappropriated by Russia as a result of the annexation of Crimea, European Commissioner for Energy Guenther Oettinger said during the presentation of the European energy security strategy in Brussels on Wednesday.

"Energy assets in Crimea for today are stolen from Ukraine, and with these assignments international legal procedures should be implemented. We support Ukraine in this debate,"-Oettinger said.

He noted that this is long-term trials.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/commissioner_oettinger_ukraine_should_sue_russia_for_stolen_energy_assets_322119

Obama, Poroshenko to meet in Poland next week, 28.05.2014

KYIV, May 28 /Ukrinform/. The White House confirmed a meeting of U.S. President Barack Obama with Petro Poroshenko scheduled for next week in Poland, a senior official at the U.S. President's administration has said, according to Ukrinform's Washington correspondent.

"Obama will meet with Poroshenko during a trip to Europe on June 3-6," the source said.

However, the White House official did not elaborate on the particular time and venue of the meeting.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/obama_poroshenko_to_meet_in_poland_next_week_322123

OSCE wants to withdraw its mission from Ukraine, 28.05.2014

KYIV, May 28 /Ukrinform/. If the situation in Ukraine poses threat for observers of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, the OSCE should consider an issue about the withdrawal of the mission from the country.

OSCE Special Representative Wolfgang Ischinger said on air of the German TV channel ZDF .

"If the situation poses threat for the life and health of our employees, than, I am afraid, we will really have to withdraw them," he said. As Ischinger noted, most likely, they are in the hands of separatists.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/osce_wants_to_withdraw_its_mission_from_ukraine_322098

Foreign Ministry confirms that separatists hold OSCE observers, 28.05.2014

KYIV, May 28 /Ukrinform/. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) confirmed that the OSCE observers, who disappeared during a patrol in the Donetsk region, are held by one of separatist groups.

Director of the MFA Information Policy Department Yevhen Perebyinis said at a briefing in Kyiv on Wednesday, a Ukrinform correspondent reports.

"They are held by one of the groups, for example, a pro-Russian group. Currently, we are working to secure their release," he said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/foreign_ministry_confirms_that_separatists_hold_osce_observers_322127

Barroso welcomes Poroshenko's willingness to engage in dialogue with Russia, 28.05.2014

It was said during their telephone talk, the press service of the European Commission reports.

"Barroso spoke with Petro Poroshenko (whom he had previously met in Strasbourg on 12 March) on the phone to congratulate him on the results of the Presidential elections in Ukraine", - it is said in the report.

José Manuel Barroso "praised the high turnout and the fact that the elections took place largely in line with international standards". President of the European Commission José Manuel Barroso "reiterated the EU's commitment to support Ukraine and recalled the concrete action taken so far".

"Furthermore, he underlined the importance of constitutional reform and welcomed Petro Poroshenko's willingness to engage in dialogue with Russia", - it is noted in the report.

<http://www.unian.info/politics/922798-barroso-welcomes-poroshenkos-willingness-to-engage-in-dialogue-with-russia.html>

Terrorists release some OSCE observers, 29.05.2014

KYIV, May 29 /Ukrinform/. OSCE observers, detained by terrorists in the east of Ukraine on Wednesday, were released from captivity.

A message on the organization's Twitter reads.

"All 11 OSCE observers, detained today (Wednesday - Ed.) returned to their permanent base in Donetsk," the OSCE noted.

They said that this group of observers was detained near Marianka, Donetsk region.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/terrorists_release_some_osce_observers_322131

Poroshenko: Association deal may be signed after June 10, 29.05.2014

KYIV, May 29 /Ukrinform/. Petro Poroshenko, the leader of the presidential race, finds it necessary not to delay the signing of the economic part of the Association Agreement between Ukraine and the EU. According to him, the signature could take place immediately after the inauguration of the new president, LIGABusinessInform reported citing Poroshenko's press office.

"The signing and entry into force of the agreement, which in fact is part of the plan for the modernization of Ukraine and its implementation, would provide the possibility of introducing anti-corruption measures and a reform package in the coming time," the statement reads.

"The people of Ukraine, which supported the pro-European program of Poroshenko cannot wait, so the government's actions today should be as active as possible," Poroshenko said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/poroshenko_association_deal_may_be_signed_after_june_10_322137

PM Yatseniuk: Ukraine may pay gas bills to Gazprom in 10 days, 29.05.2014

KYIV, May 29 /Ukrinform/. If Kyiv and Moscow find a compromise solution with respect to the price of gas, Ukraine will be ready within 10 days to pay off all its debts to Gazprom, Ukrainian Prime Minister Arseniy Yatseniuk told the German newspaper Bild in an interview.

"If we reach a compromise on this issue [gas - ed.], then in ten days we will pay off all our debts," he said.

According to Yatseniuk, Kyiv is ready to accept only "fair and transparent market conditions" under which Moscow will not use the price of gas as a political weapon. Otherwise, Ukraine on Thursday may go to the Stockholm arbitration with a claim against Gazprom to revise the terms of the contract for gas supplies.

"The price of Russian gas for Ukraine doubled for the only reason - Ukraine made its own choice in favor of a free state, having signed the agreement with the EU," he explained.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/pm_yatseniuk_ukraine_may_pay_gas_bills_to_gazprom_in_10_days_322141

Turchynov says CEC processes 100% of protocols, 29.05.2014

KYIV, May 29 /Ukrinform/. The Central Election Commission processed 100% of electronic protocols at the elections of the President of Ukraine.

Verkhovna Rada Speaker Oleksandr Turchynov said from the Verkhovna Rada rostrum. By results of the vote count, Petro Poroshenko won the presidential elections of May 25 with 54.7% of votes," Ukrainska Pravda writes.

Turchynov added that according to preliminary calculations, Kyiv has the newly elected mayor and called on the deputies to congratulate Vitali Klitschko.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/turchynov_says_cec_processes_100_of_protocols_322143

Ambassador Serheyev wants Russia to explain how Chechens may 'defend' Ukrainian orthodoxy, 29.05.2014

KYIV, May 29 /Ukrinform/. Ukraine's Ambassador to the UN Yuriy Serheyev called on the Russian side to withdraw armed men from Ukraine and explain how hundreds of Chechens "defend" the Slavic orthodoxy.

He said this at a regular meeting of the UN Security Council in New York, according to Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty.

"Until now we have not received an answer what hundreds of Chechens are doing in Ukraine? They do not hide that they are defending their interests. What interests? They defend Slavic orthodoxy? What hundreds of armed Russian Cossacks are doing in Ukraine?" Serheiyev outraged and invited Russia to ask its citizens to back home.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/ambassador_serheiyev_wants_russia_to_explain_how_chechens_may_defend_ukrainian_orthodoxy_322153

Deshchytsia assures Ukraine did its best to protect OSCE mission, 29.05.2014

According to an UNIAN correspondent, he said this at joint news conference with Foreign Minister of Lithuania Linas Linkevičius in Kyiv.

According to the words of Deshchytsia, a Memorandum on cooperation of Ukraine with the OSCE that gives a diplomatic immunity to employees of this mission in the territory of Ukraine has just been ratified in the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine.

<http://www.unian.info/politics/923210-deshchytsia-assures-ukraine-did-its-best-to-protect-osce-mission.html>

Yatsenyuk: if Russia stops supporting of terrorists, situation in east of Ukraine to be solved in one-two weeks, 29.05.2014

The Information and Public Relations Department of the Secretariat of the Cabinet of Ministers disclosed to UNIAN that he said this at Energy Security Summit in Berlin yesterday.

According to the words of Yatsenyuk, "if Russia drops out of the game, we will solve the situation in east of Ukraine in a week or two. But when Russia supports and finances terrorists, gives them an access to the Ukrainian territory, - it creates huge difficulties".

<http://www.unian.info/politics/923141-yatsenyuk-if-russia-stops-supporting-of-terrorists-situation-in-east-of-ukraine-to-be-solved-in-one-two-weeks.html>

Hungary congratulates Poroshenko, vows to support Ukraine's territorial integrity, 29.05.2014

KYIV, May 29 /Ukrinform/. Hungarian President Janos Ader in a telegram congratulated Petro Poroshenko on his victory in the presidential elections and assured that he would support the territorial integrity of Ukraine, the administration of the President of Hungary said in a statement on Thursday.

"I assure you that Hungary in the future will support the independence, stability, sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine and is ready to further develop extensive cooperation formed between our countries and peoples," Ader said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/hungary_congratulates_poroshenko_vows_to_support_ukraines_territorial_integrity_322162

Turchynov admits imposing of martial law in Donbas, 29.05.2014

KYIV, May 29 /Ukrinform/. Acting President, Verkhovna Rada Speaker Oleksandr Turchynov admits imposing the martial law in Donetsk and Luhansk regions.

He said at the parliament's meeting Thursday, a Ukrinform correspondent reports.

"The state of emergency does not solve anything. It is possible to speak only about the martial law," he said adding that this issue refers to the competence of the National Defense and Security Council.

Turchynov noted that imposing of the martial law in Donbas was not discussed earlier, since this would not allow holding the presidential elections.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/turchynov_admits_imposing_of_martial_law_in_donbas_322172

Pentagon confirms pulling of Russian forces away from Ukraine, 29.05.2014

KYIV, May 30 /Ukrinform/. The Pentagon leaders confirmed pulling of most of Russian forces away from the Ukraine border, stating at the same time that thousands of Russian troops are still there.

Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel said aboard a U.S. military aircraft, going on a 12-day tour of the world countries, Ukrinform reports.

"We do know that thousands of Russian troops have been pulled back and are moving away. But we also know that there are still thousands of Russian troops still there that have not yet moved," Hagel said.

He stressed that Russian troops are not "where they need to be and won't be until all their troops that they positioned along that border a couple of months ago are gone."

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/pentagon_confirms_pulling_of_russian_forces_away_from_ukraine_322200

Fule sees Ukraine, Georgia, Moldova in EU, 29.05.2014

KYIV, May 30 /Ukrinform/. European Commissioner for Enlargement and European Neighborhood Policy Stefan Fule spoke for full membership of Ukraine, Georgia and Moldova in the European Union in the long term.

He told this to the German Die Welt newspaper in an interview .

"If we seriously want transformation in Eastern Europe countries, we should use for the transformation a serious and powerful tool that we have, namely, enlargement," the commissioner said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/fule_sees_ukraine_georgia_moldova_in_eu_322211

Defence Ministry: Terrorists want to use chemical weapons in Sloviansk, 30.05.2014

KYIV, May 30 /Ukrinform/. Terrorists are planning to detonate containers with chemicals in Sloviansk, acting Defence Minister Mykhailo Koval said at a press briefing in Kyiv on Friday.

"Separatists are preparing to blow up a container with poisonous substances in Sloviansk, there are enough such containers," the minister said.

As Ukrinform reported, the anti-terrorist operation (ATO) headquarters obtained operative information about the mining of some facilities in Sloviansk, as well as the mining of the Torelast factory with a sulfuric acid container.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/defence_ministry_terrorists_want_to_use_chemical_weapons_in_sloviansk_322219http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/defence_ministry_terrorists_want_to_use_chemical_weapons_in_sloviansk_322219

Actions of Ukrainian officials

Ukraine expels Russian naval attache, 01.05.2014

KYIV, May 1 /Ukrinform/. The Ukrainian Foreign Ministry declared the Naval Attache of the Russian Embassy in Ukraine persona non grata. The ministry's press office said in a statement on April 30.

"The Naval Attache of the Russian Embassy in Ukraine has been declared persona non grata in connection with his activities incompatible with diplomatic status in accordance with the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations of 1961," the official statement reads.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/ukraine_expels_russian_naval_attache_320949

Law enforcers defeat terrorists' attempt to seize passenger train Moscow - Mariupol, 01.05.2014

KYIV, May 2 /Ukrinform/. Sloviansk terrorists tried to seize the passenger train Moscow - Mariupol during a train stop.

This was reported by coordinator of the Information Resistance group Dmytro Tymchuk on his Facebook page.

"According to live data of the Information Resistance group, terrorists attempted at capturing the passenger train Moscow - Mariupol," Tymchuk writes.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/law_enforcers_defeat_terrorists_attempt_to_seize_passenger_train_moscow_mariupol_facebook_320955

Ukraine renews calling up to military service because of Russian aggression, 02.05.2014

KYIV, May 2 /Ukrinform/. Calling up to the military service was resumed in Ukraine, because of the threat of the Russia aggression and intensification of separatist armed formations in the east.

A decree was signed by Acting President of Ukraine, Chairman of the Verkhovna Rada Oleksandr Turchynov, the press service of the head of state informs.

"Given the further aggravation of the social and political situation in eastern and southern Ukraine, facts of undisguised aggression, intensification of actions of unlawful pro-Russian armed formations, capture and blocking of government buildings, military control bodies, military units, transport communications in Donetsk and Luhansk regions that is a threat of encroachment on territorial integrity and interference in the internal affairs of Ukraine by the Russian Federation, to carry out drafting in the army," the document says.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/ukraine_renews_calling_up_to_military_service_because_of_russian_aggression_320959

Army captures 30 terrorists, some saboteurs eliminated - Liashko, 03.05.2014

KYIV, May 3 /Ukrinform/. Independent Ukrainian MP Oleh Liashko has said that 30 terrorists have been captured in the eastern Ukrainian town of Kramatorsk and several saboteurs have been killed.

He wrote this on his Facebook page.

"I have just talked to National Guard Commander Stepan Poltorak... Today Kramatorsk will be completely cleared of terrorists and saboteurs. Over 30 armed bandits have been taken hostage, several Russian saboteurs have been eliminated, and they are currently being identified," Liashko said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/army_captures_30_terrorists_some_saboteurs_eliminated_liashko_320986

Court extends self-proclaimed Donetsk governor's arrest until June 28, 06.05.2014

KYIV, May 5 /Ukrinform/. Shevchenkivsky District Court in Kyiv has extended the arrest of self-proclaimed Donetsk governor Pavlo Hubarev until June 28, 2014

Such a decision was taken on April 30, Hubarev's lawyer, Oleksandr Horoshynsky, said, according to Ukrainian media.

"The court extended the arrest until June 28," Horoshynsky said.

He also noted that Hubarev's defense team planned to appeal this decision on May 5, because it could not do that because of the May holidays.

Hubarev was detained in Donetsk on March 6, 2014 on suspicion of separatism. On the next day, Shevchenkivsky District Court of Kyiv arrested him for two months. Hubarev is currently in a pre-trial detention center.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/court_extends_self_proclaimed_donetsk_governors_arrest_until_june_28_321049

SBU has information about threat to Tymoshenko's life - press secretary, 06.05.2014

KYIV, May 6 /Ukrinform/. The Security Service of Ukraine (SBU) last night sent an official notification to the State Guard Department, which ensures the protection of Yulia Tymoshenko as a candidate for president of Ukraine, regarding a threat to her life.

Tymoshenko's press secretary, Maryna Soroka, told this to Ukrinform. "Despite this, Yulia Tymoshenko has not interrupted her working trip to Mykolaiv region," she said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/sbu_has_information_about_threat_to_tymoshenkos_life_press_secretary_321051

Turchynov replaces Odesa regional governor, 06.05.2014

KYIV, May 6 /Ukrinform/. Ukraine's acting president and Verkhovna Rada chairman, Oleksandr Turchynov, has dismissed Volodymyr Nemyrovsky as head of the Odesa Regional State Administration, replacing him with Ihor Palytsia.

The decrees to that effect were posted on the website of the head of state on Tuesday.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/turchynov_replaces_odesa_regional_governor_321071

Court in Kyiv considers case on ban of Russian Bloc party, 06.05.2014

KYIV, May 6 /Ukrinform/. The District Administrative Court of Kyiv began the lawsuit of the Justice Ministry to ban the political party Russian Bloc.

To remind, a draft law to ban the activities of the Communist Party of Ukraine has been registered in the Verkhovna Rada in March. Recently, the public movement Spilna Sprava (English: Common Cause) has approached the Justice Ministry to ban the activities of the Party of Regions and the Communist Party.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/court_in_kyiv_considers_case_on_ban_of_russian_bloc_party_321073

Bryhynets: Communists expelled from VR meeting due to separatist statements, 06.05.2014

KYIV, May 6 /Ukrinform/. Members of the Communist Party faction were removed from the session hall of the Verkhovna Rada because of separatist statements of their leader Petro Symonenko.

MP from the Batkivshchyna faction Oleksandr Bryhynets wrote about this on his Facebook page.

"According to the Rules of Procedure, the Communist Party faction was removed from the hall. The reason was separatist statements by Symonenko," Bryhynets has said.

According to him, Oleh Liashko initiated the removal of Communists from the hall.

"There are no Communists in the hall," Bryhynets said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/bryhynets_communists_expelled_from_vr_meeting_due_to_separatist_statements_321079

SBU protects presidential candidates to avoid possible threats - Nalyvaichenko, 06.05.2014

KYIV, May 6 /Ukrinform/. Security Service Chairman Valentyn Nalyvaichenko said that the SBU, jointly with other law enforcement bodies protect presidential candidates to avoid possible threats and to ensure holding of the election.

He has said this at a briefing in the Verkhovna Rada, a Ukrinform correspondent reports.

"The Security Service of Ukraine, jointly with other law enforcement workers, cooperates with the headquarters of main contenders for presidency. We study all threats, about which we receive information, so that there was no danger for the lives of presidential candidates and that the presidential election was held on May 25," Nalyvaichenko said.

At the same time, he said that thanks to the established work on the protection of presidential candidates, they managed to respond to the threat from unknown persons to Petro Poroshenko and Yulia Tymoshenko.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/sbu_protects_presidential_candidates_to_avoid_possible_threats_nalyvaichenko_321083

Ukraine's presidential administration not ruling out terrorist attacks on May 9, 06.05.2014

KYIV, May 6 /Ukrinform/. According to security forces, militants are planning to commit provocations and terrorist attacks in Ukraine on May 9 to destabilize the situation in the country.

Acting deputy chief of the presidential administration Andriy Senchenko said this at a briefing in parliament on Tuesday, a Ukrinform correspondent reported.

"Recent events have led to increased tensions in society. Using information of security agencies, including intelligence agencies, we know that all sorts of actions are planned to destabilize the situation and possibly terrorist attacks on May 9," Senchenko said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/ukraines_presidential_administration_not_ruling_out_terrorist_attacks_on_may_9_321099

Military parade on May 9th cancelled in Kyiv due to possible provocations of separatists, 06.05.2014

A mass procession and military parade are not planned in Kyiv due to possible provocations, TSN reports.

Mayor's office said that the measures will include a wreath-laying ceremony, honoring memory of victims in districts, entertainment of veterans of the war with sweet porridge and concert program.

Organizers are concerned about possible provocations of separatists.

<http://www.unian.info/politics/915141-military-parade-on-may-9th-cancelled-in-kyiv-due-to-possible-provocations-of-separatists.html>

Verkhovna Rada adopts law on partial mobilization, 06.05.2014

The Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine adopted a law "On approval of decree of President of Ukraine "On partial mobilization" (№ 4814).

The web site of the parliament reports this.

The law approved the decree from May 6 № 454 "On partial mobilization".

<http://www.unian.info/politics/915233-verkhovna-rada-adopts-law-on-partial-mobilization.html>

Alfa officers released from captivity, 07.05.2014

KYIV, May 7 /Ukrinform/. Three officers of the Alfa special police unit were released from captivity on Wednesday, the press center of the Security Service of Ukraine (SBU) told Ukrinform on Wednesday.

"We confirm the reports of the release of our employees who were previously captured by terrorists in Sloviansk," the press center said.

SBU said that the Alfa officers were currently are in a safe place.

"SBU is taking all measures to release the remaining hostages," the press center reported.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/alfa_officers_released_from_captivity_321156

Parliament adopts law on partial mobilization, 07.05.2014

KYIV, May 7 /Ukrinform/. The Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine has adopted a Ukrainian presidential decree on partial mobilization, reads a statement posted on the website of the Ukrainian parliament.

According to the document, partial mobilization is carried out in all regions of Ukraine and Kyiv within 45 days from the day the decree takes effect.

"The conscription of persons liable to military service, including reservists, and the delivery of vehicles to meet the needs of the Armed Forces of Ukraine, the National Guard of Ukraine, the Security Service of Ukraine and other military formations of Ukraine will be carried out in the volume determined by mobilization plans, taking into account the reserve," reads the decree.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/parliament_adoptsLaw_on_partial_mobilization_321108

SBU releases evidence of preparations for separatist 'referendum' on instructions from Russia, 07.05.2014

KYIV, May 7 /Ukrinform/. The Security Service of Ukraine (SBU) has received irrefutable evidence proving that the Russian side is preparing for and coordinating activities on the holding in Ukraine's eastern regions of the so-called "referendum" on the creation of the "Donetsk People's Republic," with the results that are known in advance, the SBU press service has reported.

SBU posted on its YouTube channel an audio recording of a conversation between the head of the Russian Unity movement, Alexander Barkashov (Moscow), and the leader of the unregistered Orthodox Donbass organization, Dmytro Boitsov (Donetsk).

During the conversation Boitsov asks for Russian military support for the successful holding of the so-called referendum on May 11. Barkashov, in turn, proposes falsifying the results of the referendum.

Obscene language is used during the conversation.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/sbu_releases_evidence_of_preparations_for_separatist_referendum_on_instructions_from_russia_audio_321124

ATO continues in Slavyansk – Interior Ministry, 07.05.2014

An antiterrorist operation continues in Slavyansk of the Donetsk Oblast, the Interior Ministry of Ukraine reports this.

"Within carrying of operation Ukrainian soldiers use combat equipment and helicopters", - the web site of the ministry reports.

The Interior Ministry posted the corresponding video.

<http://www.unian.info/politics/915632-ato-continues-in-slavyansk-interior-ministry.html>

Prosecutor General's Office appeals against decision of Luhansk regional council presidium on referendum, 08.05.2014

KYIV, May 8 /Ukrinform/. The Prosecutor General's Office appealed against a decision of the Presidium of the Luhansk Regional Council to support a local referendum and on the calls not to hold presidential elections.

The PGO press service told Ukrinform about this.

"May 7, the Prosecutor General's Office filed a lawsuit with the District Administrative Court of Kyiv on recognition of actions of officials of the Luhansk Regional Council as illegal, which published a statement on the official website of the Presidium with appeals not to conduct the presidential elections and to support the initiatives of local residents for a referendum on the status of Luhansk region," the press service noted.

"Such actions of the Presidium officials impinge on the principles of the constitutional order in Ukraine and led to an escalation of social and political tension in the region," the PGO said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/prosecutor_generals_office_appeals_against_decision_of_luhansk_regional_council_presidium_on_referendum_321184

<http://www.unian.info/politics/915904-prosecutor-of-kyiv-calls-on-militia-to-use-arms-against-terrorist-without-hesitation-on-may-9.html>

Turchynov dismisses head of Luhansk regional state administration, 10.05.2014

KYIV, May 10 /Ukrinform/. Acting President Oleksandr Turchynov releases Mykhailo Bolotskykh from office of head of the Luhansk Regional State Administration.

It is noted in the decree number 462/2014, posted on the presidential website.

By another decree, the duties of head of the Luhansk Regional State Administration are temporarily assigned to Iryna Veryhina - First Deputy Chairman of the Luhansk Regional State Administration.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/turchynov_dismisses_head_of_luhansk_regional_state_administration_321232

Nationwide unity dialogue to be held throughout Ukraine, 13.05.2014

KYIV, May 13 /Ukrinform/. All-Ukrainian unity dialogue roundtables will be held in all regions of Ukraine, Ukraine's deputy foreign minister Danylo Lubkivsky told reporters in Kyiv on Tuesday.

"Roundtables will be continued in all regions of Ukraine," the diplomat said.

According to him, the Foreign Ministry hopes that the first roundtable, which will be held in the Verkhovna Rada on Wednesday, will start "a broad discussion to find a compromise on key issues of our society."

"Dialogue is a key to understanding. But it is crucial that this is our internal dialogue, in the center of which there are not the problems of changing the borders or the Russian geopolitical searchlights, but our sharp, painful, economic, social and political issues," Lubkivsky said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/nationwide_unity_dialogue_to_be_held_throughout_ukraine_321359
<http://www.unian.info/politics/917419-sitting-of-round-table-of-national-unity-to-take-place-in-vr-tomorrow.html>

Yanukovych quits Party of Regions faction in parliament, 13.05.2014

KYIV, May 13 /Ukrinform/. MP Viktor Yanukovych, a son of former Ukrainian President Viktor Yanukovych, has quit the Party of Regions faction in the Verkhovna Rada.

Ukraine's interim president and parliament speaker, Oleksandr Turchynov, said this in parliament on Tuesday, a Ukrinform correspondent reported.

"I have an application from Viktor Viktorovych Yanukovych on his leaving the Party of Regions faction," Turchynov said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/yanukovych_quits_party_of_regions_faction_in_parliament_321378

Turchynov signs law on Public television and radio broadcast of Ukraine, 13.05.2014

Acting President of Ukraine, Speaker of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine Oleksandr Turchynov signed a law № 1227-VII "On Public Television and Radio Broadcast".

The press service of the head of the state disclosed this to UNIAN.

As UNIAN reported earlier, the Verkhovna Rada adopted the law of Ukraine "On Public Television and Radio Broadcast" on April 17.

<http://www.unian.info/politics/917313-turchynov-signs-law-on-public-television-and-radio-broadcast-of-ukraine.html>

Budgetary payments complicated in Sloviansk district, 14.05.2014

KYIV, May 14 /Ukrinform/. Budgetary payments in Sloviansk district of Donetsk region are complicated, but made.

The press service of the regional state administration informed about this with reference to a speech of director of the regional finance department Mykhailo Skarha at a meeting with the regional state administration chairman.

"Due to the fact that the treasury department, servicing rural district councils, is located in Sloviansk, and entrances to this city are partially closed, the local authorities had substantial problems with execution of budgetary payments over recent weeks. We constantly keep this situation under control. By common efforts, we have organized the delivery and processing of payment orders in alternative ways," a statement reads.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/budgetary_payments_complicated_in_sloviansk_district_321421

Law enforcement officers, guilty of escape of "people's governor" of Luhansk region, will be punished, 15.05.2014

KYIV, May 15 /Ukrinform/. The Prosecutor General's Office will assess the actions of the Interior Ministry employees, who allowed self-proclaimed "people's governor" of Luhansk region Valeriy Bolotov to escape abroad.

The PGO press service told Ukrinform about this.

"In the case that the police officers are established guilty that Bolotov has illegally crossed the Ukrainian border, the PGO will take all measures to bring the perpetrators to justice," the press service said.

In this regard, the Prosecutor General's Office instructed the Interior Ministry to check carefully the circumstances under which a separatist has freely left the territory of Ukraine, the PGO added.

The ministry reminded that on April 22, the SBU Investigation Department in Luhansk region announced so-called "people's governor of Luhansk region " Bolotov suspected under Part 2 of Article 110 of the Criminal Code of Ukraine (encroachment on the territorial integrity and inviolability of Ukraine) and a court permission was obtained to detain him. Despite this, May 13, Bolotov has freely crossed the border at the checkpoint "Dolzhansky" and left Ukraine for Russia.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/law_enforcement_officers_guilty_of_escape_of_peoples_governor_of_luhansk_region_will_be_punished_321499

Russian army stops provocations - border guards, 16.05.2014

The State Border Service of Ukraine states that as of now the Russian soldiers stopped committing provocations near the state border.

According to an UNIAN correspondent, chief of the press service of STAU Serhiy Astakhov said this at news conference in Kyiv today.

"Now there is no direct approach to the border", - he said.

<http://www.unian.info/politics/918746-russian-army-stops-provocations-border-guards.html>

Ukraine is ready to close border with RF - border guards, 16.05.2014

The State Border Service of Ukraine is ready to close border crossing checkpoints on border with Russia in case of attempts of its blocking or seizure by local residents or fighters.

According to an UNIAN correspondent, chief of the SBSU Serhiy Astakhov said this at news conference in Kyiv today.

"If attempts of blocking or seizure of border crossing checkpoints are continued, the border service has no choice but to close these border crossing checkpoints", - he said.

<http://www.unian.info/politics/918813-ukraine-is-ready-to-close-border-with-rf-border-guards.html>

National unity roundtable to convene in Kharkiv on Saturday, 17.05.2014

KYIV, May 17 /Ukrinform/. The second all-Ukrainian roundtable of national unity will be held on Saturday in Kharkiv, the press office of the Cabinet of Ministers reported.

The event will be attended by former Ukrainian presidents Leonid Kravchuk and Leonid Kuchma, Prime Minister Arseniy Yatseniuk, Verkhovna Rada Deputy Speaker Ruslan Koshulynsky, Deputy Prime Minister/Minister of Regional Development, Construction and Housing and Utility Services Volodymyr Hroisman, acting Foreign Minister Andriy Deshchytsia, Interior Minister Arsen Avakov, MPs, representatives of local government, public figures, representatives of religious organizations, business community of the region.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/national_unity_roundtable_to_convene_in_kharkiv_on_saturday_321569

Siumar: Ukraine preparing punishment for Russian 'journalists', 19.05.2014

KYIV, May 19 /Ukrinform/. Ukrainian law enforcement agencies are preparing to charge so-called "journalists" from Russia Oleg Sidyakin and Marat Saychenko detained in Donbass, who, instead of covering the real events, were involved in information support of terrorist groups.

Deputy Secretary of the National Security and Defence Council Viktoriya Siumar wrote this on her Facebook page.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/siumar_ukraine_preparing_punishment_for_russian_journalists_321610

Interior ministry divides Ukraine into zones, 19.05.2014

KYIV, May 19 /Ukrinform/. The Interior Ministry divided the territory of Ukraine into zones in which the police will maintain law and order during the elections, Interior Minister Arsen Avakov told a conference call on the preparation and conduct of the early presidential elections in Ukraine in Kyiv on Monday.

"The working schedule of the Interior Ministry and all units for the time - on Friday and ending with the counting of votes - will be special. We have identified three zones - white zone where we do not see problems, pink zone - where provocations are possible, and red zone - where we understand that there will be difficulties. We will act appropriately in relation to these zones," he said.

The red zone includes approximately 14 district centers, Avakov added.

"Promoting terrorism, conspiracy with terrorists, terrorism assistance - is not journalism. "Win-win cooperation" with the people who kill and take hostages is a crime. And the corresponding conclusions regarding Sidiyakin and Saychenko are being now prepared by Ukrainian law enforcement agencies. Unlike Ukrainian journalists who remain captive, they will be treated in accordance with laws. But things should be called as they are, it's not journalists, this is the information support of terrorist groups," she said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/siumar_ukraine_preparing_punishment_for_russian_journalists_321610

Special services say how many attempts on presidential candidates were prepared, 19.05.2014

KYIV, May 19 /Ukrinform/. The Security Service of Ukraine received five messages about possible attempts on presidential candidates of Ukraine.

SBU Deputy Chairman Viktor Yahun has said about this at a teleconference on Monday, in Kyiv, to ensure preparation and holding of early presidential elections in Ukraine, a Ukrinform correspondent reports.

"Currently, the SBU received five messages regarding possible attempts on registered presidential candidates," Yahun said.

According to him, the SBU set a 24-hour guard for one presidential candidate.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/special_services_say_how_many_attempts_on_presidential_candidates_were_prepared_321633

Verkhovna Rada passes unity memorandum, 21.05.2014

KYIV, May 21 /Ukrinform/. The Verkhovna Rada adopted the Memorandum of Peace and Consent.

After long discussions, the decision has been supported by 252 MPs with the Communist Party and Svoboda factions not voting.

"For the sake of de-escalation of tension in some regions, the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine calls on all citizens to lend a hand to each other, abandon radical actions, hatred, return together to joint work to protect, promote and build a democratic, sovereign and united Ukraine, where people of all nationalities, political opinion and faiths will be living freely and friendly," the document says.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/verkhovna_rada_passes_unity_memorandum_321687

Law enforcers detain seven killers of Euromaidan participants, 21.05.2014

KYIV, May 21 /Ukrinform/. Seven persons were detained on a suspicion of killing people during protest actions on November 2013 - February 2014 in Kyiv.

First Deputy Vice Prime Minister Vitaliy Yarema said at a meeting with families of the dead, the press service of the government official told a Ukrinform correspondent.

"Identity of killers was installed on 46 murders. And those people are attracted to criminal responsibility today. Seven suspects were arrested," Yarema said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/law_enforcers_detain_seven_killers_of_euromaidan_participants_321699

NBU advises banks to leave three cities in east, 21.05.2014

KYIV, May 21 /Ukrinform/. The National Bank of Ukraine recommends Ukrainian banks to temporarily suspend work of bank departments in Sloviansk and Kramatorsk (Donetsk region) and Antratsit (Luhansk region).

The National Bank told Ukrinform.

"Yesterday (May 20), the NBU telegram was spread. It is recommended to temporarily, until the settlement of the situation, suspend work of bank departments in Kramatorsk, Sloviansk and Antratsit," the regulator's press service informed.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/nbu_advices_banks_to_leave_three_cities_in_east_321723

Self-proclaimed "mayor" of Torez arrested by SBU, 21.05.2014

KYIV, May 21 /Ukrinform/. The SBU detained so-called "people's mayor" of Torez, Donetsk region, Iryna Poltoratska for separatist actions and participation in a terrorist organization.

The SBU press center told Ukrinform.

"May 21, self-proclaimed "mayor" of the town of Torez Iryna Poltoratska was detained, who despite an official warning supported the structures on preparation and organization of holding a pseudo-referendum on May 11," the press center informs.

Currently, Poltoratska is delivered to Kyiv for carrying out investigatory actions. A suspicion of an offence will be announced to her under Part 2, Article 110 (encroachment on the territorial integrity and inviolability of Ukraine) and Article 258-3 (participation in a terrorist organization) of the Criminal Code of Ukraine, the special service noted.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/self_proclaimed_mayor_of_torez_arrested_by_sbu_321721

Police looking for bombs at Prosecutor General's Office, Ministry of Justice and Supreme Court, 23.05.2014

KYIV, May 23 /Ukrinform/. Friday morning, information came about alleged mining of buildings of the Prosecutor General' Office, the Justice Ministry and the Supreme Court. The Interior Ministry press service told Ukrinform.

"Information came to the police (from all three institutions - Ed.) about the receipt of e-mail messages on mining," the agency interlocutor said.

A team of investigators and bomb technicians work on-site.

Since the message of "mining" repeatedly arrived to the PGO, the Ministry of Justice and the Supreme Court, a decision was taken not to evacuate the staff.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/police_looking_for_bombs_at_prosecutor_generals_office_ministry_of_justice_and_supreme_court_321814

SBU neutralizes virus intended to destroy election results, 23.05.2014

KYIV, May 23 /Ukrinform/. The Security Service of Ukraine (SBU) liquidated a virus-infected program on the server of the Central Election Commission (CEC) that was supposed to destroy the results of the presidential elections in Ukraine, SBU chief Valentyn Nalyvaichenko told reporters on Friday.

"Yesterday we destroyed an infected program on the CEC server. On May 25 this virus should have destroyed the election results," Nalyvaichenko said.

According to him, the program was offered to the Central Election Commission by Azarov's government.

"The previous government proposed this program to the CEC illegally," he said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/sbu_neutralizes_virus_intended_to_destroy_election_results_321822

PGO ready to prove that Russia finances "people's republics", 23.05.2014

KYIV, May 23 /Ukrinform/. The Prosecutor General's Office has evidences that funding of self-proclaimed "people's republics" on the east of Ukraine is carried out from Russia.

First Deputy Prosecutor General of Ukraine Mykola Holomsha told a briefing Friday, a Ukrinform correspondent reports.

"So-called "Donetsk People's Republic" and "Luhansk People's Republic" are terrorist organizations according to all the attributes of the Criminal Code. They get weapons and are governed and funded from the Russian Federation. We have evidences," Holomsha said.

He said that 25 criminal proceedings on terrorism were entered in the Unified Register of pretrial investigation. Currently, they are united into two proceedings - against self-proclaimed Donetsk and Luhansk people's republics.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/pgo_ready_to_prove_that_russia_finance_peoples_republics_321836

Donetsk railway terminal operates as usual, 27.05.2014

KYIV, May 27 /Ukrinform/. The railway station in Donetsk works in the normal regime, passenger trains are moving. For security, some restrictions were imposed.

The press service of the Donetsk railway informs.

"The Donetsk railway station works and continues servicing passengers. Passenger and suburban trains are moving according to a schedule. For security of passengers and railway workers, transit and suburban terminals were closed, as well as the great concourse for long-distance passengers," a statement reads. The passengers are serviced in the central building of the Donetsk terminal.

For security of passengers and railway workers, strengthened police patrols are at the railway station.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/donetsk_railway_terminal_operates_as_usual_322032

Russian diplomat gets note for breakthrough of KAMAZ trucks with terrorists into Ukraine, 28.05.2014

KYIV, May 28 /Ukrinform/. Ukraine's Foreign Ministry handed a note of protest to minister-counselor of the Russian Embassy in Ukraine Andrey Vorobiev in connection with another breakthrough from Russia of a group of armed terrorists into the Ukrainian territory, the ministry's press office said in a statement Tuesday.

"The Ukrainian side expressed strong protest due to the inaction of Russian government agencies, in particular the Border Service of the Federal Security Service, and noted that such actions is a grave breach of the Treaty of Friendship, Cooperation and Partnership between Ukraine and the Russian Federation of 1997, the UN Charter and UN General Assembly Resolution A/RES/68/262 "The territorial integrity of Ukraine" and the Geneva agreements of April 17," reads a report.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/russian_diplomat_gets_note_for_breakthrough_of_kamaz_trucks_with_terrorists_into_ukraine_322076

SBU detains saboteurs recruited by Russian secret services, 28.05.2014

KYIV, May 28 /Ukrinform/. The Security Service of Ukraine (SBU) detained eight residents of Odesa region, recruited by Russian secret services for terrorist and subversive acts on the territory of Ukraine.

"SBU agents detained eight saboteurs at the Odesa railway station, including their coordinator "D", who were going to a training camp of militants in Russia," the report reads.

Future saboteurs planned to travel to Moscow for training at one of the undercover special schools of the Main Intelligence Directorate (GRU) of the General Staff of the Russian Defence Ministry.

The sabotage group was headed by 45-year-old citizen of Ukraine, a former airborne major, parachute training instructor. Most members of the terrorist group had served in special units of the armed forces.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/sbu_detains_saboteurs_recruited_by_russian_secret_services_322117

SBU: Drone downed by ATO forces produced in Russia, 30.05.2014

KYIV, May 30 /Ukrinform/. An unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) that was shot down on May 28 in the area of the anti-terrorist operation (ATO) was produced in Russia, the press center of the Security Service of Ukraine (SBU) reported on Friday.

"According to preliminary expert findings, the device is one of the serial modifications of the Russian-made unmanned aerial vehicle Orlan-10 with the parachute landing system," the secret service said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/sbu_drone_downed_by_ato_forces_produced_in_russia_see_photos_322229

Terrorism / Separatism

Sloviansk terrorists release two SBU officers, 01.05.2014

KYIV, May 1 /Ukrinform/. Militants in Sloviansk have released two of the three officers of the Alpha SBU special force unit in exchange for their supporters, Interfax reported citing the militants' headquarters on Thursday. "We have managed to agree with the other party on the exchange of these two special force officers for our supporters, we have released them," a representative of the militants said on the phone.

According to him, they concluded an agreement with the freed men on their future non-participation in military operations in the south-east of the country.

A reminder that on April 25 near Sloviansk pro-Russian militants stopped a bus with an inspection team of the OSCE and took them hostages. The group includes four representatives of Germany and one each from Sweden, Poland, Denmark and the Czech Republic. Later, a Swedish citizen, who suffers from diabetes, was released. On April 27, it became known that the militants in Horlivka of Donetsk region stripped and tortured three officers of the Alpha SBU special force unit. The officers were on a mission to detain a Russian suspected of killing local town council deputy Volodymyr Rybak

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/sloviansk_terrorists_release_two_sbu_officers_320942

Sloviansk "mayor" removes his family to safe place, and he does not care for citizens, 02.05.2014

KYIV, May 2 /Ukrinform/. Self-proclaimed "mayor of Sloviansk" Viacheslav Ponomariov personally brings civilians to the streets to use them as "human shields." At the same time, he had already brought his family to a safe place.

Head of the Center for Military and Political Studies, coordinator of the Information Resistance group Dmytro Tymchuk has said about this on his Facebook page.

"According to live data of the Information Resistance group, self-proclaimed mayor of Sloviansk Viacheslav Ponomariov personally organizes bringing of civilians to the streets for "protection" of Sloviansk from Ukrainian law enforcers. The task is to provide the terrorists with a human shield, primarily of women and children," Tymchuk said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/sloviansk_mayor_removes_his_family_to_safe_place_and_he_does_n_ot_care_for_citizens_320961

Movement of entire public transport suspended in Kramatorsk, 02.05.2014

KYIV, May 2 /Ukrinform/. In Kramatorsk, the neighboring city of Sloviansk, movement of all kinds of public transport was suspended.

According to the city council of Kramatorsk, any public transport is not working now.

Road connections with Sloviansk are temporarily ceased. The rail traffic through the station Kramatorsk is also stopped in all directions. Long-distance road transport from the station Kramatorsk will not operate today.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/movement_of_entire_public_transport_suspended_in_kramatorsk_320965

Sloviansk actually cleared of terrorists - Commander of National Guard, 02.05.2014

KYIV, May 2 /Ukrinform/. The city of Sloviansk is actually cleared of terrorists. Commander of the National Guard Stepan Poltorak has said about this, the press service of the Interior Ministry informs.

"By their professional actions, soldiers of the National Guard have almost cleared Sloviansk from the terrorists, many of whom had professional training," Poltorak said, adding that there were no killed or wounded soldiers during the operation among the National Guard personnel.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/sloviansk_actually_cleared_of_terrorists_commander_of_national_guard_320969

Anti-Terrorist Center takes control of all checkpoints in Kramatorsk, 03.05.2014

KYIV, May 3 /Ukrinform/. All checkpoints around the town of Kramatorsk in Donetsk region, as well as a local airport, are under full control of the SBU Anti-Terrorist Center, Ukrainian National Guard Commander Stepan Poltorak has said.

"The forces of the Anti-Terrorist Center have taken full control of the airport in Kramatorsk and all checkpoints around the town," the press service of the Interior Ministry quoted him as saying.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/anti_terrorist_center_takes_control_of_all_checkpoints_in_kramatorsk_320981

Terrorists steal 20 cars from sales center in Horlivka, 03.05.2014

KYIV, May 3 /Ukrinform/. Masked gunmen attacked the Horlivka Automobile Center on May 2, stealing about 20 new Opel, Chevrolet and Kia cars, Gorlovka.ua has reported, citing the sales center's manager.

He said that about 15 people arrived at the center in cars with police license plates, smashed the front door and pushed two security guards to the ground. Being threatened, the security guards gave the attackers the keys to the safe in which there was a bunch of car keys.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/terrorists_steal_20_cars_from_sales_center_in_horlivka_320982

All OSCE observers captured in Sloviansk released – Deshchytsia, 03.05.2014

KYIV, May 3 /Ukrinform/. All OSCE observers who were taken hostage by separatists in Sloviansk, Donetsk region, have been released and have already left the town.

Acting Ukrainian Foreign Minister Andriy Deshchytsia wrote this on his Twitter page on Saturday.

"OSCE mission members have been released through joint efforts. All 12 have left Sloviansk. This is more evidence that the terrorists there are listening only to Russia," he said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/all_osce_observers_captured_in_sloviansk_released_deshchytsia_320983

Five Ukrainian soldiers killed, 12 injured during anti-terrorist operation, 03.05.2014

KYIV, May 3 /Ukrinform/. Five Ukrainian servicemen have been killed and 12 more injured as part of an anti-terrorist operation in eastern Ukraine.

SBU First Deputy Head and Chief of the SBU Anti-Terrorist Center Vasyl Krutov said this at a briefing on Saturday, a Ukrinform correspondent reported.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/five_ukrainian_soldiers_killed_12_injured_during_anti_terrorist_operation_320987

Fights near TV tower begin in Slaviansk, 05.05.2014

Hostilities near the TV tower in Slaviansk began this morning, on May 5, TSN.Ranok reports.

TSN correspondents confirm information about armed conflict; however, there have been no verified data yet about victims and injured people during a shooting.

At the same time in social networks people write about at least one victim from the side of separatists and some injured people.

<http://www.unian.info/politics/914511-fights-near-tv-tower-begin-in-slaviansk.html>

Terrorists negotiate with militia in Luhansk Oblast, they knock chief down and beat him, 05.05.2014

Armed fighters of "Southern-eastern army" attacked Slavianserbskiy militia district department.

They knocked chief of militia district department, colonel Hennadiy Victorovych Bakhtizin down and beat him when he came over to them for negotiations.

Public Relations Department of the Main Department of the Interior Ministry of Ukraine in the Luhansk Oblast disclosed this to UNIAN.

<http://www.unian.info/politics/914602-terrorists-negotiate-with-militia-in-luhansk-oblast-they-knock-chief-down-and-beat-him.html>

Roadblocks mounted around Kyiv to prevent provocations – Turchynov, 05.05.2014

The roadblocks were mounted around Kyiv because provocations may take place on the eve of May 9.

According to the press service of the acting President of Ukraine, acting President of Ukraine, Speaker of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine Oleksandr Turchynov said his in an interview with 5 Kanal.

"The roadblock were mounted around our capital, because we expect that provocative actions may take place by May 9", - underlined Turchynov.

<http://www.unian.info/politics/914611-roadblocks-mounted-around-kyiv-to-prevent-provocations-turchynov.html>

More than 70% of residents of Donbass support territorial integrity of Ukraine – "National referendum", 05.05.2014

Some 72.8% of residents of the Donetsk Oblast and some 70.1% of residents of the Luhansk Oblast support the territorial integrity of Ukraine.

These are results of the "National referendum" that took place in mentioned Oblasts on May 4, it is said in a press release of representatives of initiative groups on carrying out of referendum.

According to an UNIAN correspondent, in accordance with the results of this poll, some 24.75% of those polled in the Donetsk Oblast and some 26.9% of those polled in the Luhansk Oblast are against the territorial integrity of Ukraine.

<http://www.unian.info/politics/914685-more-than-70-of-residents-of-donbass-support-territorial-integrity-of-ukraine-national-referendum.html>

BBC: Ukrainian soldiers killed in battle near Slaviansk, 05.05.2014

A battle is taking place in a kilometer from a roadblock at town gates in direction of Izyum.

At least eight Ukrainian soldiers are injured in the battle near Slaviansk. Interior Minister of Ukraine Arsen Avakov and commander of the National Guard Stepan Poltorak are in Slaviansk now. Avakov said that there are victims among the Ukrainian soldiers, but a number of casualties remains unknown.

According to the words of correspondent, the battle is taking place in a kilometer from a roadblock at town gates in direction of Izyum.

<http://www.unian.info/politics/914698-bbc-ukrainian-soldiers-killed-in-battle-near-slaviansk.html>

Avakov: Battle with 800 terrorists takes place in Slaviansk; there are injured people from both sides, 05.05.2014

A battle in Slaviansk (Donetsk Oblast) is taking place, there are injured people from both sides, said said Interior Minister of Ukraine Arsen Avakov, being at the place of

carrying out of the Antiterrorist operation in Slaviansk.

"A new battle in Slaviansk, there are injured people from both sides", - said Avakov, the press service of the Interior Ministry disclosed to UNIAN.

"This morning a detachment of the ATO discovered an ambush – a combat group of terrorists. They use weapons, shoot from large-calibre arms, use mortars and other equipment", - said Avakov.

<http://www.unian.info/politics/914720-avakov-battle-with-800-terrorists-takes-place-in-slaviansk-there-are-injured-people-from-both-sides.html>

4 law-enforcement officers died, about 30 – got injuries in Slaviansk, 05.05.2014

4 law-enforcement officers died and about 30 law-enforcement officers got injuries in Slaviansk of the Donetsk Oblast, where the battle with terrorists is taking place.

<http://www.unian.info/politics/914758-4-law-enforcement-officers-died-about-30-got-injuries-in-slaviansk.html>

Fighters shoot down one more military helicopter in Slaviansk, 05.05.2014

Terrorists shot down Ukrainian military helicopter Mi-24 from a large-calibre machinegun in Slaviansk.

Acting chief of the Press and Information Department of the Defense Ministry of Ukraine Bohdan Senik said this to UNIAN.

"Helicopter Mi-24 of Air Forces of the Armed Forces of Ukraine was shot down from a large-calibre machinegun", - said Senik.

<http://www.unian.info/politics/914811-fighters-shoot-down-one-more-military-helicopter-in-slaviansk.html>

More money paid for separatists' arms: Kalashnikov gun - USD 3,000, grenade launcher - USD 5,000, 05.05.2014

KYIV, May 5 /Ukrinform/. In Dnipropetrovsk, remuneration was increased for surrendered weapons of separatist saboteurs. Now, the Kalshnikov gun is estimated at USD 3,000, a grenade launcher or a machine gun - USD 5,000.

The press service of the national defense headquarters of Dnipropetrovsk region told a Ukrinform correspondent about this.

"On May 3, 2014, the following rates have been set: Kalashnikov gun - USD 3,000, machine gun, grenade launcher - USD 5,000. Weapons are taken at three checkpoints on the territory of Dnipropetrovsk region, such as Oleksandropil, Slovianka - Border and Pokrovka. It is not necessary to present identity documents for the surrender of weapons. The remuneration is paid on the spot. Anonymity of the deal is guaranteed," the headquarters reported.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/more_money_paid_for_separatists_arms_kalashnikov_gun_usd_3000_grenade_launcher_usd_5000_321007

One killed in shooting in Dzerzhynsk, 05.05.2014

KYIV, May 5 /Ukrinform/. One person was killed in a shooting that began in the town of Dzerzhynsk, Donetsk region, as a result of a conflict between a group of unidentified gunmen and supporters of a local entrepreneur, the press service of the Ukrainian Interior Ministry has reported.

"One participant in the conflict was killed, and ten persons sustained gunshot wounds and were hospitalized," reads the report.

The circumstances of the event and its participants are being established.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/one_killed_in_shooting_in_dzerzhynsk_321009

Separatists release Ukrainian pilot, 05.05.2014

KYIV, May 5 /Ukrinform/. A pilot of a Mi-24 helicopter of the Ukrainian Armed Forces, Captain Yevhen Krasnokutsky, which was on a patrol mission over Sloviansk and shot down by separatists, has been released from captivity, the press service of the

Ukrainian Defense Ministry has reported.

The officer is being treated at the Military Medical Clinical Center of the Northern Region. Doctors say his health is satisfactory.

The center also keeps the bodies of five pilots who died in the shooting at Ukrainian military helicopters by militants, and three bodies are being identified, the ministry said. As reported, two Mi-24 helicopters of the Ukrainian Armed Forces were shot down near Sloviansk early on May 2. They were shot down by unknown persons using man-portable air-defense systems (MANPADS). Several servicemen died in the shooting, and one was injured. In addition, a Mi-8 helicopter was damaged from small arms. There were no casualties, and one soldier was wounded.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/separatists_release_ukrainian_pilot_321025

Terrorists machine-gun minibus with security forces near Sloviansk, 05.05.2014

KYIV, May 5 /Ukrinform/. Terrorists have machine-gunned a minibus with security forces near Sloviansk, Donetsk region, a spokesperson for the Ukrainian Interior Ministry has told reporters, according to the News of Donbas online newspaper. He said that an armored van was shot with Russian-made machine guns on both sides of the road, about a kilometer from Sloviansk, between two Ukrainian checkpoints. Nobody was injured or killed in the incident.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/terrorists_machine_gun_minibus_with_security_forces_near_sloviansk_321027

Tymchuk: To avoid civil war, we need adequate antiterrorist operation, 05.05.2014

KYIV, May 5 /Ukrinform/. To avoid a civil war in Ukraine, the government should immediately conduct an adequate antiterrorist operation.

Head of the Information Resistance group Dmytro Tymchuk expressed this opinion at a press conference Monday, a Ukrinform correspondent reports.

"We expect adequate solutions from the Ukrainian military-political leadership in the conduct of this antiterrorist operation. If not now, then tomorrow we will have a result, to which, in general, Russia strongly pushes us, it is a civil war," he said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/tymchuk_to_avoid_civil_war_we_need_adequate_antiterrorist_operation_321029

Kyiv center will be cordoned off on May 9, 05.05.2014

KYIV, May 5 /Ukrinform/. In Kyiv, May 9, during the national and citywide events, dedicated to the Victory Day, movement of transport will be banned in the city center. The press service of the Kyiv city state administration reported this.

"In particular, the Interior Ministry's Main Department in Kyiv, from 7:00 a.m. to 23:00, will limit the movement of all modes of transport other than the ground urban passenger transport, in Lavrska Street, from Tsytadelna Street to the Square of Heroes of the Great Patriotic War," a message reads.

Moreover, in case of need from 8:00 a.m. to the completion of the events on laying flowers, the movement of all types of transport will be suspended in Hrushevskoho Street, Victory Square and Victory Avenue near the monument to tank men-heroes.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/kyiv_center_will_be_cordoned_off_on_may_9_321037

Sloviansk militants shot down another Ukrainian helicopter, 05.05.2014

KYIV, May 5 /Ukrinform/. Militants in Sloviansk, Donetsk region, have shot down one more Mi-24 military helicopter, and nobody was killed in the crash, the press service of the Ukrainian Defense Ministry has reported.

"Today, on May 5, at about 14.30, a Mi-24 helicopter of the Ukrainian Armed Forces was shot down when performing a combat mission and approaching the target area. Military pilots survived the helicopter's crash into the river. An operational brigade of the anti-terrorist center evacuated them to the camp," reads the statement.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/sloviansk_militants_shot_down_another_ukrainian_helicopter_321041

Over 30 militants killed in Sloviansk on Monday - Avakov, 05.05.2014

KYIV, May 6 /Ukrinform/. According to Ukrainian law enforcers, over 30 terrorists were killed during an anti-terrorist operation in Sloviansk on Monday, Interior Minister Arsen Avakov has reported on his page on Facebook.

"As far as our losses [Ukrainian Armed Forces] are concerned, four soldiers have been killed, and 20 have been wounded. According to our calculations, over 30 terrorists have been killed. Dozens have been wounded," he said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/over_30_militants_killed_in_sloviansk_on_monday_avakov_321053

Six Ukrainian banks temporarily closed in Donetsk region, 06.05.2014

KYIV, May 6 /Ukrinform/. Six Ukrainian banks, after clashes in Donetsk region, have temporarily closed their branches in the region, according to their press services, a Ukrinform correspondent has reported.

"UkrSibbank suspended the activity of its branches in Sloviansk, Kramatorsk and Kostiantynivka for security reasons," the bank's press service reported.

UniCredit Bank also closed its offices in Sloviansk. Ukraine's state-owned Oschadbank closed its branches in Kramatorsk and Sloviansk. Alfa-Bank is operating, but not servicing its clients in Kramatorsk. PrivatBank earlier suspended the work of its branches in Donetsk and Luhansk regions. All banks and their branches tightened their security.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/six_ukrainian_banks_temporarily_closed_in_donetsk_region_321067

Luhansk Regional Council supports separatist 'referendum', 06.05.2014

KYIV, May 6 /Ukrinform/. The presidium of the Luhansk Regional Council has supported the idea of holding a separatist "referendum" in the region on May 11, according to a statement adopted at a council meeting on May 5.

"We are backing Luhansk residents' initiative to hold a referendum on the status of Luhansk region in accordance with the requirements adopted at the meetings of our region's territorial communities," the presidium said.

The regional council also demanded that the Ukrainian authorities stop "punitive operations," bring troops back from the separatists, grant amnesty to them, return to the agreements of February 21 and disarm Right Sector activists.

"Only after all the mentioned decisions are adopted, the situation in the country gets stabilized and people are firmly convinced they are not in danger in their own country, it will be possible to start preparing for the presidential elections. In current circumstances their holding is senseless and irresponsible," reads the statement.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/luhansk_regional_council_supports_separatist_referendum_321093

During today's ATO in Slaviansk 8 people confirmed dead – Donetsk OSA, 06.05.2014

16 people got bullet wounds.

"Novosti Donbassa" reports this with a reference to Health Department of the Oblast State Administration.

It is said in the report that as of 16.00 pm, on May 6, in a result of carrying out of antiterrorist operation in Slaviansk 8 people confirmed dead.

Moreover, 16 people have been hospitalized with bullet wounds.

<http://www.unian.info/politics/915225-during-todays-ato-in-slaviansk-8-people-confirmed-dead-donetsk-osa.html>

Terrorists in Donetsk prepare to storm military unit of interior forces, 6.05.2014

According to an UNIAN correspondent, in accordance with the words of eyewitnesses, who are near the military unit, "a big number of terrorists in balaclavas are putting on bullet-proof vests, are giving each other the Kalashnikov guns and are about to storm one of the military units, which is situated at Kuprin Street 1 (a military unit of interior forces №3037 – UNIAN)".

<http://www.unian.info/politics/915240-terrorists-in-donetsk-prepare-to-storm-military-unit-of-interior-forces.html>

Terrorists want 300 machine guns in exchange for captured officers, 07.05.2014

KYIV, May 7 /Ukrinform/. Terrorists have captured two officers of a military registration and enlistment office in Donetsk region and want to get machine guns in exchange for them.

The head of the Information Resistance group, Dmytro Tymchuk, wrote this on his page on Facebook.

"In the Dobropillia district of Donetsk region terrorists captured two officers of a local military registration and enlistment office. In exchange for their release the terrorists are demanding 300 machine guns," he wrote.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/terrorists_want_300_machine_guns_in_exchange_for_captured_officers_321110

Battle continues in Sloviansk, 07.05.2014

KYIV, May 7 /Ukrinform/. In Sloviansk, where at night the security forces resumed the battle with terrorists, the battle continues in the morning.

Head of the Information Resistance group Dmytro Tymchuk writes on Facebook.

"The battle continues on the outskirts of Sloviansk. A group of terrorists tried to escape from the city in the morning. This attempt was thwarted by the antiterrorist operation forces. Currently, the confrontation continues near one of the checkpoints," he wrote.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/battle_continues_in_sloviansk_321112

Separatists ready to storm Interior Ministry department in Luhansk region - mass media, 07.05.2014

KYIV, May 7 /Ukrinform/. Wednesday, May 7, separatists may storm the Interior Ministry department in Luhansk region.

Activist Pavlo Zharov told this, Ukrainska Pravda writes.

"On May 7, at 12:00 a.m., separatists will gather near the building of the Interior Ministry department in Luhansk region. If General Anatoliy Naumenko fails to take the oath of allegiance to the people of Luhansk, a new assault is expected, and Naumenko's resignation and his "deportation" to Kyiv," he said.

Zharov, who had previously published videos of the seizure of administrative buildings in Luhansk, added that "separatist leader Valery Bolotov plans to appoint a fully controlled police chief."

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/separatists_ready_to_storm_interior_ministry_department_in_luhansk_region_mass_media_321116

Servicemen for whom terrorists demanded 300 machine guns released, 07.05.2014

KYIV, May 7 /Ukrinform/. The servicemen captured by terrorists in Dobropillia district, Donetsk region, have been released from captivity, the press service of the Ukrainian Defense Ministry has reported.

"As a result of lengthy negotiations involving the chief of the Donetsk military garrison, Colonel Serhiy Kamesha, today, on May 7, three servicemen were released from captivity at night," reads the report.

As reported, on May 6, armed militants of the so-called Donetsk People's Republic broke into the building of the Dobropillia military registration and enlistment office and captured three servicemen, including two senior officers of the Ukrainian Armed Forces. They held the hostages in the building of the Donetsk Regional State Administration and demanded 300 machine guns for their release.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/servicemen_for_whom_terrorists_demanded_300_machine_guns_released_321120

Administrative buildings may be blown up in Sloviansk, 07.05.2014

KYIV, May 7 /Ukrinform/. Terrorists in Sloviansk lay explosives in administrative buildings to blow them up in the case of a repeated attack of Ukrainian law enforcers. The Interior Ministry informs about this with reference to information from local residents.

"Information that terrorists at night began to lay explosives in administrative buildings in Sloviansk is being spread among the locals now. This is reported by the Antiterrorist Center," the Ministry notes.

According to the Interior Ministry, a large amount of explosives was brought into the buildings of the regional SBU, prosecutors, police and the city council.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/administrative_buildings_may_be_blow_n_up_in_sloviansk_321138

Big column of military vehicles drives into Berdyansk – mass media, 07.05.2014

A big column of military vehicles drove from the side of Novovasiljevka into Berdyansk (the Zaporizhzhya Oblast) at 9.30 am.

A column strengthened by military hardware, also includes cars and truck with personnel.

Probably, reinforcements of the border service are connected with upheaval, which, according to unofficial data, may take place in Berdyansk on May 8-9, portal notes.

<http://www.unian.info/politics/915554-big-column-of-military-vehicles-drives-into-berdyansk-mass-media.html#ad-image-0>

Terrorist install “Fagot” rocket complex at roadblocks of Slaviansk, 07.05.2014

“Peaceful” separatists installed antitank guided rocket complexes “Fagot” (“bassoon”) at the roadblocks of Slaviansk of the Donetsk Oblast, the Press and Information Department of the Defense Ministry of Ukraine disclosed to UNIAN.

It is noted in the report that separatists threaten local residents of Slaviansk to blow up all the buildings, where the State Emblem of Ukraine is placed, during the storm by the soldiers of the Armed Forces of Ukraine and other law-enforcement officers, who carry out antiterrorist operation.

The main roads in the city are under control of separatists. They check not only documents, but also mobile phones (photo, video). People are scared and intimidated, schools, kindergartens and shops do not work. Eyewitnesses say that even utility poles are brought down. Separatists installed antitank guided rocket complexes “Fagot” (“bassoon”) at the roadblocks.

Crimean Cossacks appeared in Slaviansk.

<http://www.unian.info/politics/915562-terrorist-install-fagot-rocket-complex-at-roadblocks-of-slaviansk.html>

Donetsk not planning to cancel May 11 'referendum', 08.05.2014

KYIV, May 8 /Ukrinform/. Donetsk is not planning to cancel the so-called referendum on Donetsk region's status, which is scheduled for May 11.

A representative of the so-called Donetsk People's Republic said this on the square opposite the building of the Donetsk Regional State Administration, a Ukrinform correspondent reported.

Russian President Vladimir Putin on Wednesday called for the postponement of the May 11 referendum on the status of Luhansk and Donetsk regions.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/donetsk_not_planning_to_cancel_may_11_referendum_321182

<http://www.unian.info/politics/915963-fighters-decide-not-to-cancel-referendum-on-may-11.html>

So-called Luhansk People’s Council made decision on carrying out of “referendum” on May 11, 08.05.2014

According to an UNIAN correspondent, activists of pro-Russian movement said this near seized building of the SBU.

According to the words of one of separatists, “referendum” will take place in planned terms.

<http://www.unian.info/politics/915971-so-called-luhansk-peoples-council-made-decision-on-carrying-out-of-referendum-on-may-11.html>

Ukrainian soldiers mount 10 roadblocks around Mariupol, 08.05.2014

10 roadblocks were mounted around Mariupol. The roadblocks were installed by participants of the antiterrorist operation. Militia and civil activists are on duty there. Interior Minister of Ukraine Arsen Avakov said this at press conference in airport after a field sitting of the Cabinet of Ministers in Kharkiv, OstroV with a reference to the press service of the Interior Ministry of Ukraine reports.

<http://www.unian.info/politics/915853-ukrainian-soldiers-mount-10-roadblocks-around-mariupol.html>

Separatists kidnap Tyagnybok’s trustee in Makeevka, 08.05.2014

In Makeevka of the Donetsk Oblast separatists kidnapped Oleksiy Demko – a trustee of candidate for post of President of Ukraine Oleg Tyagnybok, member of Svoboda All-Ukrainian Union.

One of the members of the party Pavlo Derkachenko said this to an UNIAN correspondent.

According to the words of Derkachenko, Demko called him about at 11.30 am and said that he is being taken prisoner, because he sees that “Mercedes” car drove to his house and armed people got out of the car.

Derkachenko explained that Demko did not turn off his mobile phone, he put it in a pocket and that is why Derkachenko became a witness of the talks that took place among separatists and his kidnapped friend.

<http://www.unian.info/politics/916008-separatists-kidnap-tyagnyboks-trustee-in-makeevka.html>

Terrorists gather near city council of Mariupol, 08.05.2014

About 100 fighters in camouflage armed with guns are standing on perimeter of the city council.

It is noted that besides armed fighters, there are about 200 protesting residents of Mariupol near the building, they are shouting: “Shame!”, “Fascists”.

Militia officers are also near the building, they try to calm down residents of the city.

<http://www.unian.info/politics/916024-terrorists-gather-near-city-council-of-mariupol.html>

UkrTelecom collector fire disrupts UT-1, Inter broadcast, 09.05.2014

KYIV, May 9 /Ukrinform/. Interruptions in the broadcasting of the First National and Inter television channels on Friday, May 9, occurred due to a fire in the collector of Ukrtelecom, a source told Ukrinform.

At this moment, the First National resumed the broadcasting, and Inter specialists are dealing with the problem.

A reminder that UT-1 will host a televised debate among the candidates for the president of Ukraine. In the first round on May 9 the debate will see candidates Anatoliy Hrytsenko, Olha Bohomolets and Oleksandr Klymenko.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/ukrtelecom_collector_fire_disrupts_ut_1_inter_broadcast_321202

Siumar says fire at Kyiv TV tower a Russian diversion, 09.05.2014

KYIV, May 9 /Ukrinform/. Deputy Secretary of the National Security and Defence Council (NSDC) Viktoria Siumar believes the fire at the TV tower in Kyiv was a Russian sabotage.

She wrote this on her Facebook page on Friday. "The logic of Russian special services is still based on Lenin's teachings about priority "post, telephone, telegraph." Even yesterday, law enforcement agencies took under heavy guard the TV tower and other

critical infrastructure in Kyiv. The saboteurs failed to reach the territory of the tower in Syrets. Therefore, according to preliminary reports, they burned the cables in the well, accessible from the street, throwing an incendiary mixture inside," Siumar wrote.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/siumar_says_fire_at_kyiv_tv_tower_a_russian_diversion_321204

Shooting reported in central Mariupol, several injured, 09.05.2014

KYIV, May 9 /Ukrinform/. A shooting has occurred near a local police station and a military unit of the National Guard in Mariupol on May 9, the Novosti Mariupolia newspaper and eyewitnesses reported.

The shooting lasted at least 20 minutes, resulting in at least four people injured. They have been hospitalized with gunshot wounds.

Now the city center is closed for transport and pedestrians. People in social networks report that armored vehicles with Ukrainian flags are moving from an airport to the city.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/shooting_reported_in_central_mariupol_several_injured_321208

Donetsk militants vow to put down arms after 'referendum', 09.05.2014

KYIV, May 9 /Ukrinform/. Donetsk militants promised to disarm themselves after the so-called referendum separatists want to hold May 11, co-chairman of the so-called "People's Republic of Donetsk" Oleksandr Khriakov said at a rally on the occasion of Victory Day on Friday. "Immediately after the "referendum" we cease fire and all the work goes into the political arena," he said.

Participants in the rally proclaimed toasts in honor of Putin and Stalin.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/donetsk_militants_vow_to_put_down_arms_after_referendum_321210

Mourning in Mariupol today, 10.05.2014

KYIV, May 10 /Ukrinform/. In connection with tragic events on Friday that led to the death of people in Mariupol, May 10 was declared a day of mourning.

The press service of the City Council informs.

"The Mariupol City Council expresses its sincere condolences to the families and relatives of the victims," the report says.

To remind, about 60 terrorists with firearms have attacked the Mariupol city police department on May 9. Their attack was repulsed. Seven people were killed, 39 injured. Another four people were injured that night.

According to the medical service of the city, medical assistance was provided to all affected persons. Medicaments and blood products are enough.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/mourning_in_mariupol_today_321220

Self-proclaimed "mayor" of Sloviansk: We take no prisoners, kill everyone, 10.05.2014

KYIV, May 10 /Ukrinform/. Self-proclaimed "mayor" of Sloviansk Ponomariov said that the separatists will not capture the Ukrainian military, and will kill everyone.

This was reported by Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty.

"We had an agreement that we do not shoot to kill the soldiers of the Army. Once on silent inactivity of soldiers of the 95th Airborne Brigade the civilians were killed, we decided to take no prisoners, we will kill everyone," the terrorist said.

Ponomariov said that "the harder we will treat them (Ukrainian military - Ed.), the sooner they will respect us."

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/self_proclaimed_mayor_of_sloviansk_we_take_no_prisoners_kill_everyone_321236

Four polls underway in Donetsk region, each of them called 'referendum', 11.05.2014

KYIV, May 11 /Ukrinform/. Four opinion polls of citizens began in Donetsk region on Sunday, May 11. All polls are unofficial, but their organizers claim these are "referendums," the Novosti Donbassa (News of Donbas) online newspaper has reported.

"Four polls are simultaneously being held in Donetsk region, and each of them is called 'referendum,'" reads the report.

The first poll is being conducted by the self-proclaimed "Donetsk People's Republic," during which citizens are asked whether they want independence of the "republic." According to the "republic's" co-chairman, Borys Lytvynov, separatists managed to open 1,540 polling stations in the region. However, local media reports say that people are not in a hurry to participate in the "referendum," and many residents of Donetsk region do not even know exactly where they are invited to vote.

The second poll is being held by an initiative group of citizens called "For Peace, Order and Unity." According to the initiative group, residents of territorial communities of Donetsk and Luhansk regions will express their opinion on a possible change in the administrative-territorial structure of the state, followed by the inclusion of these communities in Dnipropetrovsk region.

The central election commission of this "referendum" has currently received the copies of addresses of more than 70 territorial communities of Luhansk and Donetsk regions to the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine on amendments to the relevant legislation and changes in their administrative and territorial subordination. The poll will take place in the following populated centers of Donetsk region: Debaltseve, Yenakiyev, Yasynuvata, Avdiivka, Volnovakha, Novoazovsk, and Mariupol. In Luhansk region, the poll will be held in Alchevsk, Stakhanov, Brianka, Severodonetsk, Rubizhne, Kreminna, Starobilsk, and Svatove. Ballot boxes will be mobile.

In addition, polling stations will be open in all areas of Donetsk and Luhansk regions that are controlled by the Ukrainian army, the National Guard or law enforcement agencies.

The third poll is dedicated to preserving Ukraine's integrity. The fourth poll concerns the desire or reluctance of residents of Donetsk to join Britain, because British businessman John Hughes is the founder of the city of Donetsk. The city was originally named Yuzivka.

These two polls of citizens are being conducted in special tents put up in different areas of Donetsk region. All four polls do not have legal force and do not represent the opinion of the majority of residents of Donetsk region.

The Committee of Patriotic Forces of Donbas public initiative urged residents of the regions to ignore all polls on May 11.

"The so-called 'referendum' is being held illegally. Separatists have no voter lists and technologies for its holding. This is just a reason to declare your region independent of Ukraine and join it to Russia. The truth is that Russia does not need either Luhansk or Donetsk. It has no money to keep these regions as well. Russia is planning to create in them in the buffer zones for the placement of weapons, drug trafficking and the deployment of terrorists. You will live on the wasted land," the committee said in a statement.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/four_polls_underway_in_donetsk_region_each_of_them_called_referendum_321240

New active phase of anti-terrorist operation begins in Donbas - Tymchuk, 11.05.2014

KYIV, May 11 /Ukrinform/. Ukrainian security forces have begun a new active phase of the anti-terrorist operation in Donetsk region, the head of the Information Resistance

group, Dmytro Tymchuk, has reported on his Facebook page.

"According to latest data of the Information Resistance group, the next active phase of the anti-terrorist operation has begun in the Donbas. The actions of security forces cover not only Sloviansk, but also other populated centers in the region in which pro-Russian terrorists entrenched themselves," Tymchuk wrote.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/new_active_phase_of_anti_terrorist_operation_begins_in_donbas_tymchuk_321244

People vote for others at 'referendum' in Luhansk - media, 11.05.2014

KYIV, May 11 /Ukrinform/. People can vote for others at the so-called "referendum," which is taking place in Luhansk on Sunday, Luhansk media have reported.

"At polling stations where the vote on the status of Luhansk region is underway, it's possible to vote for two persons at once," a 0642.ua online news site reporter said. He said that the situation at polling stations was currently calm and that people keep coming.

"In particular, it's possible to vote for a person who cannot visit the polling station. It's just necessary to show this person's passport. Such cases have already been recorded," media reported.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/people_vote_for_others_at_referendum_in_luhansk_media_321250

Separatists kidnap chief of airfield in Kramatorsk, 11.05.2014

KYIV, May 11 /Ukrinform/. Terrorists kidnapped the chief of the airfield in Kramatorsk, Donetsk region, early on Sunday, the leader of the Information Resistance group, Dmytro Tymchuk, has reported on his Facebook page.

"Three employees of the airfield service were kidnapped along with him. All three are women. Terrorists have currently release one woman. Following torture by pro-Russian terrorists, she has a broken rib was diagnosed with a concussion," Tymchuk wrote. The fate of other abductees is unknown.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/separatists_kidnap_chief_of_airfield_in_kramatorsk_321252

Only four polling stations open for 'referendum' in Mariupol, 11.05.2014

KYIV, May 11 /Ukrinform/. The "central election commission" of the self-proclaimed "Donetsk People's Republic" has opened only four polling stations for a "referendum" in Mariupol, home to 460,000 people, Ukrinform reports.

There are long queues at these polling stations, which are located in the premises of district administrations.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/only_four_polling_stations_open_for_referendum_in_mariupol_321254

Self-proclaimed Sloviansk 'mayor' states full cooperation with Russia, 12.05.2014

KYIV, May 12 /Ukrinform/. Separatists are closely cooperating with Russia in east Ukraine and their next "joint project" should be the accession of the so-called "Donetsk People's Republic" to the Customs Union.

This was stated by self-proclaimed Sloviansk mayor Viacheslav Ponomariov, media reported.

"Russia is our brother, and there is full cooperation with Russia, including on accession to the Customs Union," Ponomariov said.

He said that the decision on the "accession" of Donetsk region to Russia had not been made.

"If necessary, we can hold any elections, any referendum in three days," Ponomariov said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/self_proclaimed_sloviansk_mayor_states_full_cooperation_with_russia_321264

Separatist 'central election commission': 96% vote for independence of Luhansk region, 12.05.2014

KYIV, May 12 /Ukrinform/. Ninety-six percent of participants in a "referendum" in Luhansk region have voted for the state independence of the self-proclaimed Luhansk People's Republic.

The head of the so-called central election commission in charge of the referendum, Oleksandr Malykhin, said this at an improvised press conference in the open air. He said that 1.298 million people, or 96% of those who participated in the "referendum," had voted for the state independence of the region, and 3.8% had voted against it. Over 1.8 million "ballots" were published, over 1.3 million of them were given to voters, and the turnout reached about 75%, Malykhin said.

He also admitted that his "commission" had received 102 complaints.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/separatist_central_election_commission_96_vote_for_independence_of_luhansk_region_321301

Sloviansk separatists again attack TV tower, 12.05.2014

KYIV, May 12 /Ukrinform/. Separatists in Sloviansk opened fire on the TV tower and security forces guarding it early on Monday, Ukrainian Interior Minister Arsen Avakov has reported on his Facebook page.

"The 'peaceful' Sloviansk separatists again opened fire on the TV tower and the Ukrainian servicemen guarding it last night; as always, they shot at the TV tower from behind residential buildings. We have no casualties," he said.

Separatists have already attacked the TV tower in Sloviansk on Sunday, May 11. Two Ukrainian servicemen were injured.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/sloviansk_separatists_again_attack_tv_tower_321272

<http://www.unian.info/politics/916801-terrorists-fire-at-tv-tower-from-mortars-in-slaviansk-again-avakov.html>

Expert: Separatists to be eliminated in a few days without Putin's support, 12.05.2014

KYIV, May 12 /Ukrinform/. If Russian President Vladimir Putin refuses to support separatists in eastern Ukraine, their liquidation is a matter of several days.

Director of the Center for Army Conversion and Disarmament Studies Valentyn Badrak said this at a press conference in Kyiv on Monday.

"I think they [separatists - ed.] are very weak, they are looking for means of influence through chaos and criminals. So if, let's say, Putin refuses to support separatists, their liquidation is a matter of several days," he said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/expert_separatists_to_be_eliminated_in_a_few_days_without_putins_support_321299

Donetsk separatists waiting for new instruction from Kremlin? , 12.05.2014

KYIV, May 12 /Ukrinform/. Representatives of the so-called "People's Republic of Donetsk" are not planning another "referendum", and now they are consulting with unnamed experts what to do next.

Denis Pushilin, who calls himself co-chairman of the "People's Republic of Donetsk", said this during the second act of a tragicomedy called the "announcement of the returns of the May 11 "referendum".

"We will consult with experts what to do next," he said, adding that they have several models of "development of the state."

Earlier, Donetsk separatists claimed the second stage of the "referendum" on May 18 where they planned to raise the issue of joining the Russian Federation.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/donetsk_separatists_waiting_for_new_instruction_from_kremlin_321313

"People's governor" of Luhansk region wounded, 13.05.2014

KYIV, May 13 /Ukrinform/. Luhansk separatist leader Valeriy Bolotov has sustained a gunshot wound, spokesman for the self-proclaimed "Luhansk People's Republic," Vasyly Nikitin, has told Russian news agency ITAR-TASS.

He said that the "people's governor" was currently in a hospital, and "his life is not in danger."

"An attempt on his life was made at about 11.00. He is alive, healthy, the wound was light," Nikitin said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/peoples_governor_of_luhansk_region_wounded_321370

Terrorists fire at positions of military men from mortars at night in Slaviansk, 13.05.2014

According to operative data of "Information Resistance" group, terrorists fired at positions of Ukrainian soldiers and TV tower several times at night in Slaviansk. They fired from mortars.

Dmytro Tymchuk wrote this on his Facebook page.

<http://www.unian.info/politics/917267-terrorists-fire-at-positions-of-military-men-from-mortars-at-night-in-slaviansk.html>

Interior Ministry: Snipers near Kramatorsk finished off wounded paratroopers, 14.05.2014

KYIV, May 14 /Ukrinform/. A motorcade of Ukrainian paratroopers, who carried water and food from one checkpoint to another, was ambushed at 12.15 on May 13 near the village of Zhovtneve (20 km from Kramatorsk), and attacked by a group of terrorists, which included snipers that finished off the wounded paratroopers.

The spokesman for the chief of the General Staff, Lieutenant Colonel Oleksiy Dmytrashkovsky, said that there were about 30-40 attackers. According to locals, they arrived in two Gazelle vans and a Zhiguli car.

"The first shot was made with a grenade launcher, and it was fired directly into the engine of an armored vehicle that was second in the motorcade, and the battle began. The battle lasted an hour. Six paratroopers were killed and nine injured in the battle, two of the nine have concussion, and seven were wounded. They were all taken to hospital," Dmytrashkovsky said, adding that the paratroopers lost an armored vehicle and a GAZ-66 with a mortar launcher.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/interior_ministry_snipers_near_kramatorsk_finished_off_wounded_paratroopers_321415

Leader of Luhansk separatists leaves for Russia - State Border Guard Service, 14.05.2014

KYIV, May 14 /Ukrinform/. Self-proclaimed "people's governor" of the virtual "Luhansk People's Republic" Valeriy Bolotov officially left for the Russian Federation.

Assistant head of the State Border Guard Service of Ukraine Serhiy Astakhov told Ukrinform about this.

"He did not escape, he officially went via the Dolzhanka checkpoint as a citizen of Ukraine," Astakhov has commented in mass media about an escape of leader of Luhansk separatists to Russia.

As the State Border Guard Service explained, no instruction was on Bolotov from law-enforcement bodies of Ukraine. "There was not a ban for his trip abroad," Astakhov said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/leader_of_luhansk_separatists_leaves_for_russia_state_border_guard_service_321417

Militants blocking military unit in Donetsk, 14.05.2014

KYIV, May 14 /Ukrinform/. Militants of the so-called "Donetsk People's Republic" were blockading military unit No. 3037 in Donetsk on Wednesday, a source in the Ukrainian Defense Ministry has told Ukrinform.

"About 20 armed men arrived at the checkpoint and blocked the entrance to the military unit with a KamAZ [truck]," the source said.

The commander of the unit is holding negotiations with militants.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/militants_blocking_military_unit_in_donetsk_321423

Self-proclaimed 'Luhansk People's Republic' producing passports, 14.05.2014

KYIV, May 14 /Ukrinform/. The leaders of the self-proclaimed "Luhansk People's Republic" are already producing passports of their sample, and now they intend to put special stamps in Ukrainian passports.

The spokesman for the "people's governor," Vasyl Nikitin, said this at a briefing on Wednesday.

"Since the work is ongoing on the production of passports, it will be necessary to put the stamps of the Luhansk People's Republic in old passports. Moreover, all 'wet' stamps of major government agencies will soon be produced for replacement," Nikitin told reporters.

He assured car owners that Ukrainian driving licenses would remain in use, because they are international.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/self_proclaimed_luhansk_peoples_republic_producing_passports_321433

Election workers face dangers in eastern Ukraine's Luhansk Oblast, 15.05.2014

LUHANSK, Ukraine – Antonina Melnykova comes to work every day wearing comfortable trainers so that she can run as fast as she can, if necessary. She has good reason.

As head of a district election commission in Luhansk Oblast, infected by Kremlin-backed separatists, she has been threatened by armed men. She even saw a colleague get briefly kidnapped.

<http://www.kyivpost.com/content/ukraine/election-workers-face-dangers-in-eastern-ukraines-luhansk-oblast-348074.html>

Armed Don Cossacks seize election committee in Krasnyi Lutch, 15.05.2014

They demand from the District Election Commission to stop preparation for elections. Chairman of the board of Voters Committee of Ukraine Oleksandr Chernenko wrote this on his Facebook page.

"Right now armed Don Cossacks are seizing District Election Commission 109 in Krasnyi Lutch. They demand from the commission to stop preparation for presidential elections", - he wrote.

<http://www.unian.info/politics/918178-armed-don-cossacks-seize-election-committee-in-krasnyi-lutch.html>

Terrorists in Ukraine's east threaten election commission members with violence, 15.05.2014

KYIV, May 15 /Ukrinform/. Terrorists in eastern Ukraine threaten election commission members and their families with violence, head of the Center for Military-Political Studies Dmytro Tymchuk wrote on his Facebook page.

"Separatists in Donbas threaten election committee members and their families with violence. In Antratsyt in Luhansk region they captured a district election commission.

The purpose is clear - to disrupt the May 25 elections," he said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/terrorists_in_ukraines_east_threaten_election_commission_members_with_violence_321455

Terrorists storming election commission in Luhansk region, 15.05.2014

KYIV, May 15 /Ukrinform/. Armed terrorists are trying to capture the constituency election commission in Krasny Luch in Luhansk region.

Chairman of the Board of the Committee of Voters of Ukraine Oleksandr Chernenko wrote on his page on Twitter.

"Just now, Cossacks, armed with machine guns, are capturing the constituency election commission No. 109 in Krasny Luch," Chernenko wrote.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/terrorists_storming_election_commission_in_luhansk_region_321479

ATO forces fully destroy terrorist base near Kramatorsk, 15.05.2014

KYIV, May 15 /Ukrinform/. A terrorist disguised military base has been completely destroyed by the Ukrainian special forces last night near Kramatorsk as part the anti-terrorist operation (ATO), Verkhovna Rada Speaker Oleksandr Turchynov said in his opening speech in the parliament on Thursday.

"A terrorist disguised military base has been completely destroyed tonight near Kramatorsk as part of the anti-terrorist operation," Turchynov said.

He also added that the Ukrainian military last night in Sloviansk cleaned up a five-kilometer zone around a TV tower, broadcasting Ukrainian TV channels.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/ato_forces_fully_destroy_terrorist_base_near_kramatorsk_321463

<http://www.unian.info/politics/918169-forces-of-ato-destroy-military-base-of-terrorist-near-kramatorsk-turchynov.html>

Miners in Donbas asking to give them weapons, 15.05.2014

KYIV, May 15 /Ukrinform/. Head of the Independent Trade Union of Miners of Ukraine Mykhailo Volynets asks the Ukrainian authorities to issue weapons to miners to protect the cities of Donbas against separatists and terrorists.

"The time has come when miners need to give a rebuff to the separatists," "The press of Ukraine" quoted him as saying.

Pro-Russian advances lead to the fact that today a significant portion of the mines stop, operate at the limit, coal is not exported, there is a risk of non-payment of wages, which can lead to hunger riots, the Trade Union chairman says.

Volynets said that the miners are very courageous people, they are not afraid of bullets and the people, who will come out against them with machine guns.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/miners_in_donbas_asking_to_give_them_weapons_321469

Ukrainian security forces start ATO final stage near Kramatorsk, Tymchuk says, 15.05.2014

KYIV, May 15 /Ukrinform/. The Ukrainian security forces have begun the final stage of operation against pro-Russian terrorists (anti-terrorist operation - ATO) in the area of Starovarvarivka village, 30 km from Kramatorsk, coordinator of the Information Resistance Group Dmytro Tymchuk wrote on his Facebook page on Thursday.

"In particular, at the moment the village where a group of terrorists settled down has been sealed off by Ukrainian law enforcers. Terrorists take up defensive positions at homes where there are also locals," he wrote.

According to Tymchuk, the ATO command is taking corrective measures of the security forces in order to ensure that civilians are not injured during the elimination of the militants.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/ukrainian_security_forces_start_ato_final_stage_near_kramatorsk_tymchuk_says_321471

<http://www.unian.info/politics/918174-ukrainian-soldiers-start-final-stage-of-operation-near-kramatorsk-tymchuk.html>

Ukraine takes gas pipeline under heavy guard, 15.05.2014

KYIV, May 15 /Ukrinform/. A special protection regime was enacted throughout the territory of Ukraine for security purposes.

Ukrtransgaz CEO Ihor Lohman gave appropriate instructions on the basis of an operational meeting with departmental heads of main gas pipelines, the company said. "PJSC Ukrtransgaz strengthened the protection regime of the gas transportation system objects (GTS) due to manifestations of illegal activities, aimed at destabilizing their work in Ivano-Frankivsk region," a press release reads.

According to Lohman, "over recent few days, in western Ukraine, the cases have been documented of interference of other persons in work of main pipelines, which were detected, localized and did not affect the performance of gas supply services and transportation of natural gas under existing contracts."

"Ukrtransgaz's internal resources were maximum mobilized, active communication was organized with special local state bodies, territorial defense headquarters were set up in Ivano-Frankivsk region in order to address and prevent destabilization of the GTS facilities," the company noted.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/ukraine_takes_gas_pipeline_under_heavy_guard_321475

Terrorists in Ukraine's east kill 78, take 125 hostages, 15.05.2014

KYIV, May 15 /Ukrinform/. 78 people have been killed by terrorists in the east of Ukraine.

Chief of Department for Supervision over the Observance of Laws in Criminal Proceedings of the Prosecutor General's Office (PGO) Mykola Hoshovsky told Channel 5 on Wednesday.

"Because of the irresponsible attitude [of police - ed.] towards their official duties, a lot of weapons went to separatists and terrorists. We have a situation where in Luhansk region more than two thousand weapons have been seized. These weapons started to be actively used. Currently we can say that 78 people died from the use of firearms, which fell into the hands of terrorists," he said.

"We also have 125 cases of hostage-taking. There are facts of appropriation of various kinds of tangible assets, ranging from cash and ending with oil products," the prosecutor said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/terrorists_in_ukraines_east_kill_78_take_125_hostages_321481

ATO forces moving closer to Sloviansk, 16.05.2014

KYIV, May 16 /Ukrinform/. Combined anti-terrorist operation (ATO) forces are concentrating on the outskirts of Sloviansk, journalist Artem Shevchenko told Espresso.TV.

According to him, the Ukrainian troops want to expand the territory to the junction on the road to the city of Krasny Lyman. They are gathering out there and bringing armored vehicles.

"Because of this a roadblock near the petrol station is still closed. On the road we can see many vehicles, because civilians are trying to avoid the ATO area," Shevchenko said.

He also added that the Ukrainian forces hold one of the checkpoints near the feed mill. "They are periodically shelled, fortunately unsuccessfully, only slight injuries," the journalist said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/ato_forces_moving_closer_to_sloviansk_321518

Separatists take wages of over 3,000 miners and budgetary workers in Yenakievo, 16.05.2014

KYIV, May 16 /Ukrinform/. Terrorists captured the Privatbank collector car with salary for state employees and miners of Yenakievo.

This was reported by the TSN.

"UAH 1.5 million was in the seized car, so more than 3,000 miners, doctors and teachers will not get their salaries and wages," the bank press service informed.

As reported, Privatbank complains that it cannot deliver money to Donetsk region, as militants of the so-called "Donetsk People's Republic" capture collector cars of the financial institution.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/separatists_take_wages_of_over_3000_miners_and_budgetary_workers_in_yenakievo_321520

Separatists capture another two territorial election commissions in Luhansk region, 16.05.2014

KYIV, May 16 /Ukrinform/. Representatives of the so-called "Luhansk People's Republic" captured territorial election commissions No. 105 and No. 106.

Head of the territorial election commission No. 105 Valentyn Tkalych said by phone. "As of the morning, the fate of Chairman of the election commission No. 106 Dmytro Naboka is unknown. Today, at 5:00 a.m., armed people broke into my house, tortured my wife, turned everything upside down and seized all documents and office equipment. And in the evening, I was warned against spending a night at home," he said.

According to Tkalych, these were the people of the "Luhansk People's Republic."

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/separatists_capture_another_two_territorial_election_commissions_in_luhansk_region_321524

South-East Army 'commander' detained in Luhansk, 16.05.2014

KYIV, May 16 /Ukrinform/. A commander of the so-called South-East Army, terrorist Alexei Rilke has been detained in Luhansk on Friday, Interior Minister Arsen Avakov told reporters in Vinnytsia.

"Today, Interior Ministry officials detained commander of the South-East Army Alexei Aleksandrovich Rilke. He was convoyed to another region to conduct investigations and choose the best of preventive measures. He is charged with Article 109 and 208 of the Criminal Code," the minister said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/south_east_army_commander_detained_in_luhansk_321560

Escaping death at a now-closed Luhansk Oblast border checkpoint with Russia, 16.05.2014

Ukrainian officers at a far eastern border checkpoint near Izvaryne in Luhansk Oblast say they are lucky to be alive. On May 8, some 40 armed Russian-backed militiamen came to their work station about 6 p.m. and demanded their weapons.

When Ukraine's border guards refused to give them up, the insurgents got angry and threw Molotov cocktails at them and fired warning shots in the air.

The confrontation lasted some 30 minutes, witnessed by hundreds of civilians, on both the Ukrainian and Russian sides of the border.

"Thank God none of us lost their nerve and didn't shot anyone as otherwise that would be the end to all," said the border guard, who didn't want to be identified because he was not authorized to give public statements.

<http://www.kyivpost.com/content/ukraine/escaping-death-at-a-now-closed-luhansk-oblast-border-checkpoint-with-russia-348193.html>

Right Sector did not capture Zaporizhzhia NPP - statement, 16.05.2014

KYIV, May 16 /Ukrinform/. The Right Sector has no relation to an incident near Zaporizhzhia, where security forces have blocked a group of armed men.

An official statement of the Dnipropetrovsk regional center of the Right Sector reads.

"There was misinformation that the group was the Right Sector, "which captured the Zaporozhzhia nuclear power plant." The Right Sector officially announces that it has not planned, plans and is not going to plan and carry out the seizure of the Zaporizhzhia NPP, any other nuclear power plant, Moscow, the Pentagon, the island of Madagascar, or any other object that may seem to press as strategically important for the Right Sector," the press service noted.

To remind, this night, the guard of the Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant surrounded about 40 unknown armed men at the entrance to the town of Enerhodar, who said they are from the Right Sector.

According to law enforcement officials, it is likely that they are the "little green men," sent to Enerhodar to destabilize the situation.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/right_sector_did_not_capture_zaporizhzhia_npp_statement_321565

Luhansk separatist leader Bolotov free in Ukraine after suspicious 'shootout', 17.05.2014

LUHANSK, Ukraine -- Despite being under criminal investigation, Valery Bolotov, leader of self-proclaimed Luhansk Republic, managed over this week to cross the border with Russia and come back to Ukraine, according to reports by both the insurgents and country's border service.

Bolotov, who called himself the "people's governor," was reportedly shot on May 13 in assassination attempt and had to travel to Russia for medical treatment.

Early on May 17, when crossing into Ukraine, he was arrested by border guards on an arrest warrant issued by a Luhansk court. He is under criminal investigation for promoting separatism. But Bolotov's allies, who call themselves the Army of Southeast, said they managed to fight to win his release.

<http://www.kyivpost.com/content/ukraine/luhansk-separatist-leader-bolotov-free-in-ukraine-after-suspicious-shootout-348247.html>

Ukraine loses 24 militaries in battles with terrorists, Tymchuk says, 17.05.2014

KYIV, May 17 /Ukrinform/. Ukraine during the anti-terrorist operation (ATO) lost 24 militaries, about 70 wounded, coordinator of the Information Resistance Group Dmytro Tymchuk wrote on his Facebook page.

"During the ATO the following losses were recorded: the Armed Forces of Ukraine - 16 people; SBU - 3 persons; Interior Ministry troops (National Guard) - 5 persons; (a total of about 70 people wounded)," he wrote.

Meanwhile, the so-called "people's mayor" of Sloviansk Viacheslav Ponomariov said 650 ATO militaries have been killed.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/ukraine_loses_24_militaries_in_battles_with_terrorists_tymchuk_says_321570

ATO forces keep situation around Sloviansk under control, 17.05.2014

KYIV, May 17 /Ukrinform/. The Ukrainian militaries who are involved in the anti-terrorist operation (ATO) continue to control the situation around Sloviansk, the press office of the Defence Ministry said in a statement on Saturday.

"As part of the ATO, the militaries of the Armed Forces of Ukraine continue to fully control the situation around Sloviansk. The town on all sides around the perimeter is surrounded by roadblocks. Several administrative buildings remain captured in the town. Specifically, town council, municipal department of the Interior Ministry and the Security Service, local court, UkrTelecom and central post office. In the town there are 27 barricades and "roadblocks" of separatists," the ministry said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/ato_forces_keep_situation_around_sloviansk_under_control_321578

Terrorists getting to Sloviansk TV tower again, law enforcer killed, 19.05.2014

KYIV, May 19 /Ukrinform/. Terrorists in Sloviansk bombarded the TV tower on the Mountain Karachun, as a result, one Ukrainian law enforcer was killed.

Coordinator of the Information Resistance group Dmytro Tymchuk wrote on Facebook.

"Terrorists undertook a mortar attack at positions of Ukrainian law enforcers on the Mountain Karachun near Sloviansk, where the TV tower is located. As a result of the shelling, one law enforcer was killed and three wounded," he wrote.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/terrorists_getting_to_sloviansk_tv_tower_again_law_enforcer_killed_321584

Sloviansk's morgue full of corpses, militants dug in forests, 19.05.2014

KYIV, May 19 /Ukrinform/. Sloviansk's morgue is full of corpses of terrorists. Militants are buried in forest plantations near the town, the TSN news service reported Sunday. "Sloviansk's morgue is full of corpses of the killed terrorists. Currently, many militants are buried just in forest plantations near the town. Among them there are many Chechens (Kadyrov's fighters) and Ossetians," the report says. Many terrorists were killed by State Guard Department (UDO) snipers for the last two weeks.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/sloviansks_morgue_full_of_corpses_militants_dug_in_forests_321586

Terrorists blocking Donetsk railway administration, 19.05.2014

KYIV, May 19 /Ukrinform/. Armed militants from the so-called "Donetsk People's Republic" blocked a building of the Donetsk Railway Administration, located in the center of Donetsk.

"Submachine gunners stay on all sides of the building in 68 Artem Street. Answering a question of the Ostrov publication about what is happening there, a representative of the so-called "Donetsk People's Republic" said: "We are blocking the Donetsk Railway Administration," a statement reads.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/terrorists_blocking_donetsk_railway_administration_321600

24 Ukrainian militaries killed in ATO, 19.05.2014

KYIV, May 19 /Ukrinform/. 24 Ukrainian militaries have been killed as part of the anti-terrorist operation (ATO) in Donetsk region, chief of the Security Service of Ukraine (SBU) Valentyn Nalyvaichenko told a press briefing on Monday.

"Overall, as of May 19, 24 militaries have been killed in the ATO," Nalyvaichenko noted.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/24_ukrainian_militaries_killed_in_ato_321631

Separatists of so-called "Luhansk People's Republic" adopt "constitution", appoint "head of LPR" and head of "government", 19.05.2014

Representatives of so-called "Luhansk People's Republic" held the "first republican meeting" on Sunday in Luhansk.

According to an UNIAN correspondent, lawmakers gathered in the session hall of Luhansk Oblast Council at 20.00 pm.

During the meeting they adopted "constitution of Luhansk People's Republic" as interim law of self-proclaimed republic. They read each item of document and after that voted by show of hands.

"Head" of LPR was elected at the meeting. Valeriy Bolotov became the "head" of LPR.

Vasyl Nikitin was elected as "chairman" of republican council of "Luhansk People's Republic", after that his was appointed "head of the government of LPR".

<http://www.unian.info/politics/919321-separatists-of-so-called-luhansk-peoples-republic-adopt-constitution-appoint-head-of-lpr-and-head-of-government.html>

More than 2.5 thousand people from Caucasus were brought in Luhansk on eve of elections-mass media, 19.05.2014

More than 2.5 thousand people from the Caucasus were brought in Luhansk on the eve of elections, TSN reports.

It is said in the report that members of district committees get undisguised threats and intimidation, they are threaten to be beaten and kidnapped. Moreover, due to total control of the city by terrorists it is very difficult to deliver ballot papers.

Local separatists say that in case of danger they will receive weapons immediately, and it is a serious problem for organization of elections.

It is noted that the main goal Chechens is breakdown of elections.

<http://www.unian.info/politics/919339-more-than-25-thousand-people-from-caucasus-were-brought-in-luhansk-on-eve-of-elections-mass-media.html>

Pensions, wages will not be paid in Sloviansk, Kramatorsk yet, 20.05.2014

KYIV, May 20 /Ukrinform/. There is no possibility to pay pensions and wages in Sloviansk and Kramatorsk of Donetsk region due to the terroristic threat.

Interior Minister Arsen Avakov said at a briefing Monday.

"Performance of state functions to provide population became impossible on the territory of Sloviansk and Kramatorsk. Therefore, payments of state obligations, in particular, pensions and wages are likely to be suspended," Avakov said.

According to him, in the designated cities, seizures of mail departments and bank institutions take place, as well as attacks on cash-in-transit vehicles.

"We will not risk the lives of government employees, sent there with money," the Minister said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/pensions_wages_will_not_be_paid_in_sloviansk_kramatorsk_yet_321645

Terrorists in Ukraine's east capture Hungarian, 20.05.2014

KYIV, May 20 /Ukrinform/. In eastern Ukraine, unknown gunmen captured a citizen of Hungary, public relations department of Hungary's Counter-Terrorism Centre (TEK) reported on Tuesday, Ukrinform's Budapest correspondent said.

"A Hungarian citizen has been captured in unknown circumstances in eastern Ukraine. According to confirmed information, a man who was traveling in the conflict area by a Hungarian car is held captive by unknown armed men," the Hungarian anti-terrorist center said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/terrorists_in_ukraines_east_capture_hungarian_321647

Terrorists fire at helicopter in center of Donetsk, 20.05.2014

Fighters fired at a helicopter every time it was flying over the center of Donetsk.

Fighters of self-proclaimed "Donetsk People's Republic" fired from small arms at a helicopter that is flying over the center of Donetsk. The helicopter made two circles and every time it was flying over the center of the city, they fired at it.

<http://www.unian.info/politics/919849-terrorists-fire-at-helicopter-in-center-of-donetsk.html>

Militants' attack on roadblock near Sloviansk repelled, 21.05.2014

KYIV, May 21 /Ukrinform/. Ukrainian law enforcers beat off an assault of 40 militants on a roadblock near Sloviansk.

Head of the ATO information operations group Vladyslav Selezniiov wrote on his Facebook page.

"On May 20, at 20:40, bandits numbering up to 40 people, armed with small arms and sniper rifles, made an attempt to attack a checkpoint in the area of Ukrainian law enforcers near Sloviansk. The bandits tried to circumvent the roadblock by the hills on the left, but as a result of decisive actions of Ukrainian soldiers they retreated, conducting bombardment of the roadblock positions," Selezniiov wrote.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/militants_attack_on_roadblock_near_sloviansk_repelled_321691

City council in Krasny Luch captured by separatists, 21.05.2014

KYIV, May 21 /Ukrinform/. The building of the City Council in Krasny Luch was captured by armed separatists.

The press service of the Luhansk regional department of the Committee of Voters of Ukraine informs.

"May 20, the Territorial Election Commission 109 held a meeting, where it registered observers and adopted an appeal to the Central Election Commission on the need to provide protection to election commissions. Today, the commission members could not get into the commission premises, since the building of the Krasny Luch City Council was occupied by separatists, armed with submachine guns," a statement reads.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/city_council_in_krasny_luch_captured_by_separatists_321701

Sniping spots set up in Sloviansk apartment buildings, 21.05.2014

KYIV, May 21 /Ukrinform/. Terrorists prepared sniping positions in apartment buildings in Sloviansk, spokesman for the anti-terrorist operation (ATO) Vladyslav Selezniiov wrote on his Facebook page on Wednesday.

"There are reports that separatists prepared sniping spots on the upper floors and roofs of apartment houses in Sloviansk," Selezniiov wrote.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/sniping_spots_set_up_in_sloviansk_apartment_buildings_321711

More than third of election commissions in Donetsk, Luhansk regions blocked, 21.05.2014

KYIV, May 21 /Ukrinform/. In Donetsk and Luhansk regions the work of 13 constituency election commissions of 34 remain blocked, the Central Election Commission (CEC) reported on Wednesday.

"The total number of the blocked constituency election commissions in Donetsk and Luhansk regions is 13 commissions as of 13-00, May 21. This is more than a third of the total constituency election commissions (34) formed in these two regions," the report says. In particular, polling stations in the districts Nos 42 and 45 (Donetsk), 48 (Kramatorsk), 51 and 52 (Horlivka), 53 (Yenakiyev) and 54 (Torez) remain captured. Currently, constituency election commissions Nos 44 (Donetsk), 55 (Shakhtarsk) and 62 (Starobesheve) are operating but under threat of seizure.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/more_than_third_of_election_commissions_in_donetsk_luhansk_regions_blocked_321729

Pro-Russian terrorists free captive Hungarian in Donbas, 21.05.2014

KYIV, May 21 /Ukrinform/. Pro-Russian terrorists in eastern Ukraine released from captivity a Hungarian national, whom they captured on Sunday, public relations department of Hungary's Counter-Terrorism Centre (TEK) reported on Wednesday.

"Hungary's Counter-Terrorism Centre in cooperation with a Ukrainian partner service as a result of negotiations managed to secure the release from captivity of a Hungarian working in Ukraine," the TEK said.

The anti-terrorism agency added that the Hungarian citizen has left the conflict area.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/pro_russian_terrorists_free_captive_hungarian_in_donbas_321737

Two Nigerian students held captive by Luhansk terrorists, OSCE says, 22.05.2014

KYIV, May 22 /Ukrinform/. Two of the Nigerian students detained on May 17 by the "South-Eastern Army" in Luhansk region for alleged possession of weapons and drugs are still being held captive, the OSCE Special Monitoring Mission (SMM) to Ukraine said in its latest report on the situation in Ukraine < <http://www.osce.org/node/118856>>.

"In Luhansk region the situation remained volatile. Two of the Nigerian students detained on 17 May by the "South-Eastern Army" for alleged possession of weapons and drugs are still being held captive (see Daily Reports of 19 and 20 May). According to the spokesperson of "Luhansk People's Republic Parliament", they are being interrogated by members of the "South-Eastern Army". SMM was denied access to the two students," reads the report.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/two_nigerian_students_held_captive_by_luhansk_terrorists_osce_says_321755

Leader of Luhansk terrorists asking Putin to send troops, 22.05.2014

KYIV, May 22 /Ukrinform/. Valeriy Bolotov, naming himself "governor of the Luhansk People's Republic" asks President of Russia Vladimir Putin to help separatists and bring troops to the territory of the so-called "Luhansk People's Republic" (LPR).

A statement is posted on the website of this "republic." "Leaders of the Luhansk People's Republic appeal to you, asking to bring the peacekeeping forces to the territory of the Luhansk People's Republic," Bolotov's statement reads.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/leader_of_luhansk_terrorists_asking_putin_to_send_troops_321761

Terrorists capture 4 coal mines in Lysychansk, demand explosives, 22.05.2014
KYIV, May 22 /Ukrinform/. In Lysychansk, Luhansk region, a group of armed men seized four coal mines operated by PJSC LysychanskVuhillia. Terrorists demand that the administration give them all the explosive materials available in the coal mines, the Ministry of Energy and Coal Industry said in a statement on Thursday.

The terrorists captured the following mines: D.F. Melnikov Mine, G.G. Kapustin Mine, Novodruzhivska Mine and Pryvolnianska Mine. Today, these companies have been forced to temporarily suspend production.

The energy ministry urged the Security Service of Ukraine to take urgent response measures.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/terrorists_capture_4_coal_mines_in_lysyhansk_demand_explosives_321781

Terrorists capture more than half of territorial election commissions in Donetsk, Luhansk regions, 22.05.2014

KYIV, May 22 /Ukrinform/. Thursday, terrorists from the so-called "Donetsk People's Republic" captured the premises of territorial commissions, No. 56 and No. 57, in Horlivka.

Zerkalo Nedeli informs with reference to live data of the Central Election Commission. As reported, militants have taken all the computer and office equipment and election documents from the premises. The invaders demand from the commission chairman to give them a seal. Work of both commissions is completely blocked.

On the whole, as of 15:30, Thursday, 18 commissions out of 34 were fully or partially blocked, in other words, more than half, the CEC notes.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/terrorists_capture_more_than_half_of_territorial_election_commissions_in_donetsk_luhansk_regions_321783

'The war HAS started': Pro-Russian militants storm checkpoint and kill 14 Ukrainian soldiers in deadliest clash yet, 22.05.2014

At least 14 Ukrainian soldiers were killed and dozens more were wounded when rebels stormed their checkpoint in east Ukraine today.

It is the deadliest clash yet in the conflict in Ukraine and saw three armoured vehicles destroyed and a series of other lorries and vans burned out.

A group of rebels in the town of Horlivka claimed responsibility for the attack near the village of Blahodatne, near the town of Volnovakha, Donetsk. They produced an array of weapons they said they had seized from the soldiers, in what is the deadliest raid in weeks of fighting in the region.

But a Ukrainian commander said shortly after the attack: 'The war has started.'

The destruction of armoured vehicles shows that the rebels have access to heavy weaponry and are not lightly-armed freelance operators. It is likely to raise fears that they have been armed by Moscow.

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2636194/Pro-Russian-militants-storm-checkpoint-kill-11-soldiers-loyal-Kiev-deadliest-clash-east-Ukraine-insurgency.html>

Fighters block almost 50% of DEC's in Donetsk and Luhansk Oblasts – CEC, 22.05.2014

Head of the press center of the CEC Konstyantyn Hivrenko said this to UNIAN.

According to his words, as of 11.00 am a work of 16 out of 34 DEC in the Donetsk and Luhansk Oblasts is blocked.

<http://www.unian.info/politics/920683-fighters-block-almost-50-of-decs-in-donetsk-and-luhansk-oblasts-cec.html>

Terrorists explode railway in Donetsk region, 23.05.2014

KYIV, May 23 /Ukrinform/. Terrorists blew up on a section on the span Shterivka-Shchotove of Donetsk railway, therefore suburban trains traffic has been changed, the Ministry of Infrastructure said in a statement on Friday.

"Yesterday, May 22, 2014, at 21-30 on the 57 km of the span Shterivka-Shchotove unidentified persons blew up the twin-track section, as a result the section is blocked, and there are changes in the schedule of more than 10 suburban trains. The size of railroad tracks damage is being set," the ministry said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/terrorists_explode_railway_in_donetsk_region_321818

ATO continues: soldiers annihilate 20 fighters for twenty-four hours, army loses 2 soldiers, 23.05.2014

2 Ukrainian military men perished and 20 fighters were annihilated for the last twenty-four hours.

Head of operative group on informing about ATO Vladyslav Seleznev wrote this on his Facebook page.

<http://www.unian.info/politics/921018-ato-continues-soldiers-annihilate-20-fighters-for-twenty-four-hours-army-loses-2-soldiers.html>

20 out of 34 DECes remain blocked by terrorists in Donetsk and Luhansk Oblast – CEC, 23.05.2014

As of this morning 20 out of 34 district election commissions remain blocked by terrorists in the Donetsk and Luhansk Oblasts.

Spokesman for the CEC Konstyantyn Hivrenko said this to UNIAN.

<http://www.unian.info/politics/921034-20-out-of-34-decs-remain-blocked-by-terrorists-in-donetsk-and-luhansk-oblast-cec.html>

Donbas battalion breaks out of encirclement, Tymchuk says, 23.05.2014

KYIV, May 23 /Ukrinform/. The Donbas territorial defence battalion, which fell into the terrorist ambush in the village of Karlivka, Donetsk region, has managed to break out, director of the Center for Political-Military Studies Dmytro Tymchuk wrote on his Facebook page.

"I've just been told - the Donbas battalion seems to have broken out, they are now concentrated near the army checkpoint. This is preliminary reports. If any details - I'll immediately report," he wrote.

A reminder that according to the battalion commander Semen Semenchenko, the battalion has been attacked by sub-machine gunners, snipers and light anti-tank weapons. 9 injured soldiers have been taken to hospital. A separatist armored personnel carrier came to the battlefield with heavy machine guns, grenades.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/donbas_battalion_breaks_out_of_encirclement_tymchuk_says_321794

Commander: Half of Donbas battalion fighters wounded, others keep on fighting, 23.05.2014

KYIV, May 23 /Ukrinform/. Half of the soldiers of the Donbas battalion, the bulk of which managed to break out near the village of Karlivka in Donetsk region, have been wounded, the battalion commander Semen Semenchenko wrote on his Facebook page.

"The bulk of the Donbas battalion has broken out. 50% of personnel have been wounded, many have lost a lot of blood. The wounded have been taken to the army checkpoint in Krasnoarmiysk," Semenchenko wrote.

He also said that telephone connection has been interrupted with the surrounded group of the battalion, who stay in one of the buildings, they run out of ammo. "It's impossible to approach them - snipers are working. An APC is needed to drive up to the building and take out the guys. We can't move beyond the filling station. Guards put up near the hospital with the wounded. Remaining survivors are coming back. Almost everyone is wounded in the surrounded group," Semenchenko said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/commander_half_of_donbas_battalion_fighters_wounded_others_keep_on_fighting_321804

Terrorists threaten Akhmetov: talks about taxes will “get practical realization”, 23.05.2014

KYIV, May 23 /Ukrinform/. Self-proclaimed “prime minister” of the terrorist organization “Donetsk People's Republic” (DPR) Oleksandr Boroday believes that Rinat Akhmetov must pay taxes to the DPR.

He said in an interview to the Echo of Moscow.

"Rinat Akhmetov, as every serious businessman, possessing large economic assets on the DPR territory, must pay taxes to the DPR. This is natural. And it is not subject to a special discussion ... And if he refuses to do so, the talk will get practical realization," Boroday threatened.

“The “premier” noted that he understands Akhmetov's motivation, who refused to pay the terrorists. “This is very simple, it is the motivation of a normal businessman: he wants to save his money.”

In addition, Boroday believes, Akhmetov risks "of being once the richest man in Ukraine, to become somewhat less well-off."

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/terrorists_threaten_akhmetov_talks_about_taxes_will_get_practical_realization_321824

Lysychansk: no battles, all services work, 24.05.2014

KYIV, May 24 /Ukrinform/. As of the morning, the life activities of the regional center were not broken: all the city emergency services, educational and health facilities, social and cultural sphere and large industrial enterprises operate in normal mode.

The press service of the Luhansk city council informs.

Public transport and passenger conveyance services are completely ensured.

Luhansk is provided with all the necessary food, medicines and fuel.

The city authority encourages Luhansk residents not to panic, not to trust unverified information, and to remain unprovoked.

To date, there are problems with the pressure in the water supply network of the private sector of Kamennobrodsky district and the village of Vydne, but the Luhanskvoda Company is engaged in their resolving.

The Ukrtelecom Company fully restored communication with Donetsk and Luhansk regions.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/lynychansk_no_battles_all_services_work_321850

DPR appoints ministers in Internet, 24.05.2014

KYIV, May 24 /Ukrinform/. Ex-head of the Department on fighting economic crimes in Donetsk region Viacheslav Pysarenko was surprised, having seen himself in a list of the "government" of the so-called "Donetsk People's Republic" (DPR) in the Internet.

Therefore, he decided to deny this information, the TSN informs.

According to local media, Pysarenko was "appointed" to a post of the "justice minister."

"I do not occupy any positions in the so-called republic, I came to know from the Internet about my appointment to a post of "minister," and was surprised," Viacheslav Pysarenko commented on his "appointment."

Viacheslav Pysarenko officially said that the last post occupied by him was head of the Interior Ministry Department in Kherson region, and now he is in the Interior Ministry of Ukraine system and has nothing to do with the "DPR," the press service of the Donetsk regional police informs.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/dpr_appoints_ministers_in_internet_321854

Only half of election commissions operating in Donetsk, Luhansk regions - Interior Ministry, 24.05.2014

KYIV, May 24 /Ukrinform/. 17 out of 34 constituency election commissions were sized by separatists and cannot ensure a normal election process.

Head of the Interior Ministry department of public security Volodymyr Hryniak told a briefing Saturday, a Ukrinform correspondent reports.

"22 constituency election commissions were set up in Donetsk region, nine of them are not operating, in Luhansk region - eight commissions are not operating out of 12 constituency election commissions due to the lack of premises and office equipment," the Interior Ministry representative said.

According to him, on the rest of Ukraine's territory, the election process is held in normal mode.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/only_half_of_election_commissions_operating_in_donetsk_luhansk_regions_interior_ministry_321858

Artemivsk: Machine gun set at entrance to city council, election commission does not work, 24.05.2014

KYIV, May 24 /Ukrinform/. In Artemivsk, activists of the self-proclaimed "Donetsk People's Republic" (DPR) captured and blocked work of the election commission. It is reported by UNIAN with reference to residents.

According to them, this morning, a group of unidentified armed men broke into the building, where the city council is located. Currently, the armed men continue staying in the room.

The main entrance of the building is equipped with a machine gun point, and a machine gun is set.

Thus work of the election commission (the 46th constituency), which is located on the first floor of the building, was completely blocked.

Militants also built a barricade of tires in the adjacent street.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/artemivsk_machine_gun_set_at_entrance_to_city_council_election_commission_does_not_work_321864

Document signed on Tsariov's initiative on creation of "Novorossia", 24.05.2014

KYIV, May 24 /Ukrinform/. Self-proclaimed Donetsk and Luhank people's republics signed a document on uniting within a single state "Novorossia."

Novosti Donbassa (News of Donbas) informs.

Signing of the document was held at the Shakhtar Plaza hotel today, May 24, in Donetsk, following completion of the congress of "people' representatives." The latter was organized by head of the South-East movement Oleh Tsariov.

On behalf of the so-called "Donetsk People's Republic" (DPR), the document on uniting was signed by its "prime minister" Oleksandr Boroday, on the part of the so-called "Luhansk People's Republic" (LPR) - by head of the self-proclaimed republic Oleksiy Kariakin. A process of signing was held behind closed doors, the entry to the room was guarded by several submachine gunners. Only journalists of the TV channel Russia-24 were allowed to fix the signing of the document.

During the event, it was announced that a split took place in the self-proclaimed "Donetsk People's Republic." Leaders of the DPR split into two groups, supporting different views on development of the "republics."

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/document_signed_on_tsariovs_initiative_on_creation_of_novorossia_321866

Terrorists disrupt elections at 4 polling stations in Donetsk region, 25.05.2014

KYIV, May 25 /Ukrinform/. Representatives of the so-called "People's Donetsk Republic" are blocking the work of precinct election commissions in the region. The presidential elections have been disrupted at 4 polling stations.

Observers with the joint monitoring campaign of the Committee of Voters of Ukraine and Opora Civic Network in Donetsk reported.

In particular, terrorists seized the precinct election commissions Nos. 140792, 140803, 140800 in Dokuchayivsk (6th constituency) and precinct election commission No.

140061 in the village Kalinino (Artemivsk district). Voting at these polling stations will not be available.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/terrorists_disrupt_elections_at_4_polling_stations_in_donetsk_region_321872

One in six polling stations open in Donetsk region, 25.05.2014

KYIV, May 25 /Ukrinform/. In Donetsk region as of 09.30 more than 17% polling stations have opened.

Such conclusions can be drawn from the data presented by Donetsk Regional State Administration, Ukrinform reported.

"According to reports, as of 09.30 in Donetsk region people can vote at 426 polling stations of 2,430, officials said.

The largest number of electoral commissions work in Mariupol (the second largest city of Donetsk region), as well as in southern and western rural districts of the region with low population density and few voters.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/one_in_six_polling_stations_open_in_donetsk_region_321874

Terrorists want to smash up Akhmetov's palace in Donetsk, 25.05.2014

KYIV, May 25 /Ukrinform/. Supporters of the "People's Republic of Donetsk" are going to storm the residence of businessman Rinat Akhmetov in Donetsk, the Ostrov online publication wrote on its Twitter page.

"The crowd is going to smash up Akhmetov's residence in Donetsk," the publication writes.

This news has already received dozens of comments. In particular, people write that Akhmetov can "end up in a bad way", "normal people go to the polls and People's Republic of Donetsk patriots go to smash up," "Mezhyhiria No. 2!".

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/terrorists_want_to_smash_up_akhmetovs_palace_in_donetsk_321898

French photojournalist wounded after mortar attack near Sloviansk, 25.05.2014

KYIV, May 25 /Ukrinform/. French freelance photographer William Roguelon miraculously survived after a mortar attack in the village of Andriyivka near Sloviansk. He told this to the Agence France-Presse.

"We were travelling by a car to the village of Andriyivka near Sloviansk when heard first Kalashnikov shots. We left the car and hid in a ditch. Then the mortar shells rained down all around, we heard up 60 explosions, one of the shells hit straight the ditch where we were hiding. I was wounded in both legs, and my colleagues [Italian photojournalist Andy Rocchelli and his translator Andrei Mironov - ed.] were killed," Roguelon said.

According to the Frenchman, he does not know exactly who fired them. He said that the locals helped him get to the hospital in Sloviansk.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/french_photojournalist_wounded_after_mortar_attack_near_sloviansk_321900

Akhmetov hiding in Kyiv, 25.05.2014

KYIV, May 25 /Ukrinform/. Businessman Rinat Akhmetov is in Kyiv and is not going to travel to Donetsk yet, the oligarch's press office told chief editor of the Novosti Donbassa publication Oleksiy Matsuka.

"Comments from the press office of Akhmetov: Rinat Akhmetov is in Kyiv. In recent days, he has done everything possible to help hold the elections in Donbas. Today he was supposed to leave for Donetsk to vote. But as you can see, there is no possibility to vote in the city," Matsuka wrote on his Facebook page.

Earlier, Tsenzor.Net chief editor Yuriy Butusov said that Akhmetov together with Borys Kolesnikov are hiding in Kyiv from terrorists and will not vote in Donetsk.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/akhmetov_hiding_in_kyiv_321913

4 polling stations destroyed in Novoaidar, severe fighting reported, 25.05.2014

KYIV, May 25 /Ukrinform/. Four polling stations have been destroyed in Novoaidar, Luhansk region as severe fighting broke out between the Ukrainian forces and militants, the press office of Luhansk's regional branch of the Committee of Voters of Ukraine (CVU) reported.

"According to preliminary reports, in Novoaidar district separatists destroyed four polling stations in Hrechyshkino, Bakhmutovka and two in the district center. A fierce battle is taking place between Ukrainian forces and militants in Novoaidar," the report reads.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/4_polling_stations_destroyed_in_novoaidar_severe_fighting_reported_321921

14 militants detained in Luhansk region in attempted terror attack, 25.05.2014

KYIV, May 25 /Ukrinform/. 14 armed men have been detained in Luhansk region as they prepared a terror attack, head of the Poroshenko-Klitschko election headquarters Vitaliy Kovalchuk told reporters.

"14 citizens have been detained in Luhansk region, they stole ballots at the polling stations Nos. 263, 264, 265, 266. They were armed. At the polling station No. 259 they attempted a terrorist act. They were detained," Kovalchuk said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/14_militants_detained_in_luhansk_region_in_attempted_terror_attack_321923

Police probe into death of Italian journalist, 25.05.2014

KYIV, May 25 /Ukrinform/. Ukraine's Interior Ministry opened criminal proceedings upon the death of Italian journalist Andy Rocchelli, Prosecutor General's Office official Mykola Hoshovskiy told reporters in Kyiv on Sunday.

"Police registered criminal proceedings under Article 115, Part 2 "Aggravated Murder", Hoshovskiy said.

According to him, at the moment the killing scene has not been inspected. Police are doing everything possible to investigate the case.

A reminder that the Italian journalist and his translator Andrei Mironov were killed on May 24 in the village of Andriyivka near Sloviansk. Both of them, according to representatives of the self-proclaimed "Donetsk People's Republic", were killed in a mortar attack.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/police_probe_into_death_of_italian_journalist_321932

Donetsk airport closed because of separatists, 26.05.2014

KYIV, May 26 /Ukrinform/. The Donetsk Prokofiev International Airport suspended work since 7:00 a.m. on May 26, following the armed representatives of the so-called "Donetsk People's Republic" (DPR) came there.

The airport's press service informs.

"About 3:00 a.m. several tens of armed DPR representatives came to the territory of the airport, demanding withdrawal of the Ukrainian military, guarding the internal parameter of the airport. There were no shots and the armed stand-off. Since 7:00 a.m., the Donetsk airport temporarily suspended servicing of flights," the press service informed.

As reported, this measure was taken proceeding from security considerations, although the DPR control was not set over the airport.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/donetsk_airport_closed_because_of_separatists_321946

Okhendovsky: Ukrainian election turnout over 60%, 26.05.2014

KYIV, May 26 /Ukrinform/. The turnout in the early presidential elections in Ukraine was more than 60 percent, Central Election Commission (CEC) chairman Mykhailo Okhendovsky said at a briefing on Monday.

"Already at the moment we can say that the turnout was more than 60%. And this is an adequate response of the people to the attempts to disrupt the presidential elections in Ukraine," Okhendovsky said.

In particular, according to him, 62.70% of the voters went to the polls in Kyiv in the extraordinary presidential elections, and in the troubled regions - Donetsk and Luhansk - 15.37 % and 38.94 % of voters respectively.

At the same time, the CEC chairman said that the queues at polling stations on the election day could be avoided if the Ukrainian were to elect only president. "So I think that Ukraine should never return to the conduct of local elections and presidential elections simultaneously," Okhendovsky noted.

At the moment, the CEC processed 63.76% of ballots with Petro Poroshenko taking the lead - 53.75 %, followed by Yulia Tymoshenko - 13.08% and Oleh Liashko - 8.48%.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/okhendovsky_ukrainian_election_turnout_over_60_321974

Two terrorists killed near Sloviansk, 26.05.2014

KYIV, May 26 /Ukrinform/. Ukrainian troops as part of the anti-terrorist operation (ATO) in Donbas killed two gunmen who fired a military checkpoint near Sloviansk this morning, ATO spokesman Vladyslav Selezniyov wrote on his Facebook page.

"At dawn on May 26 gunmen fired one of the roadblocks near Sloviansk. In response, the Ukrainian security forces used firearms. During search and raid operations near the roadblock two dead militants were found," the report reads.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/two_terrorists_killed_near_sloviansk_321972

12 automatic rifles with "Crimean history" were seized from Luhansk insurgents, Seleznyov states, 26.05.2014

Yesterday, May 25, Ukrainian law enforcers neutralized a group of militants who were trying to disrupt voting process at one of Luhansk districts.

"During Ukrainian military operation, thirteen terrorists were arrested, and two more were killed," ATO spokesperson Vladislav Seleznyov wrote on his Facebook page.

"Twelve automatic rifles and one Kalashnikov rifle were seized from insurgents.

According to preliminary data, the weapons of terrorists have "Crimean" history, which means it was stolen during attack on a military base in Crimea," Seleznyov pointed out.

http://24tv.ua/home/showSingleNews.do?12_automatic_rifles_with_crimean_history_were_sized_from_luhansk_insurgents_seleznyov_states&objectId=447252&lang=en

ATO in Donetsk airport: Paratroopers, fighters, 26.05.2014

KYIV, May 26 /Ukrinform/. Ukrainian paratroopers are clearing the Donetsk International Airport of terrorists who have blocked its work since 03.00.

Press officer of the anti-terrorist operation (ATO) Oleksiy Dmytrazhevsky told Ukrinform.

"After the expiration of the ultimatum to terrorists from ATO leadership, the Ukrainian forces began clearing the airport of the militants. The Su-25 has made a preliminary shot at their disposition. Paratroopers landed from helicopters to perform an operation to liberate the occupied territory," the press officer said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/ato_in_donetsk_airport_paratroopers_fighters_321987

ATO helicopters smash up terrorist anti-aircraft gun in Donetsk airport, 26.05.2014

KYIV, May 26 /Ukrinform/. Helicopters of the ATO (anti-terrorist operation) forces destroyed an anti-aircraft gun that terrorists mounted in the Donetsk airport, ATO spokesman Vladyslav Selezniyov wrote on his Facebook page.

"An attack helicopter destroyed the anti-aircraft gun, which "worked " in Donetsk airport against the ATO forces," the report says .

Selezniiov also denied reports that terrorists allegedly downed a Ukrainian helicopter. "Information about the Ukrainian helicopter downed by terrorists is not confirmed. Would like to remind you, colleagues, please use the verified information. Misinformers are working," he emphasized.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/ato_helicopters_smash_up_terrorist_anti_aircraft_gun_in_donetsk_airport_321993

ATO spokesman: Today Donetsk militants will either surrender, or be killed, 27.05.2014

KYIV, May 27 /Ukrinform/. As of midnight May 27 all terrorist targets in Donetsk are explored, and if the rebels do not surrender, the explored objects will be hit from precision weapons, spokesman for the anti-terrorist operation (ATO) Vladyslav Seleznoiiv wrote on his Facebook page.

"For today, all the militants' objects are explored. If the militants do not surrender, the explored objects will be hit from special high-precision weapons.

"The objectives of the anti-terrorist operation continue to be implemented," Selezniiov said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/ato_spokesman_today_donetsk_militants_will_either_surrender_or_be_killed_322011

Column of trucks broke through border - State Border Guard Service of Ukraine, 27.05.2014

KYIV, May 27 /Ukrinform/. Several trucks with armed men broke from Russia to Ukraine with fights on a night of May 27.

The press service of the State Border Guard Service of Ukraine informs.

About 3:30 a.m., the border patrol of the Biriukove border guard unit of the Luhansk detachment noticed a column of several trucks, cars and minibuses, which moved from Russia to the state border of Ukraine.

At 3:40 a.m., the column crossed the state border, where the border squad met them with fire. A fight broke out.

The frontier violators, leaving the protect force, partially broke in Ukraine in the direction of Antratsit.

During the fight, the border guards managed to damage and capture one minibus and two cars, as well as one militant was badly wounded.

"The detained cars were filled with Kalashnikov assault rifles, light anti-tank weapons and explosives," a statement notes.

As already reported by the State Border Guard Service, on the opposite side of the responsibility area of the Dmytrivka border guard unit (Donetsk region), to a depth of 10 km from the Russian side, up to 40 Kamaz trucks with armed men are concentrated, ready to cross the state border of Ukraine.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/column_of_trucks_broke_through_border_state_border_guard_service_of_ukraine_322013

Chief of Luhansk terrorists declares war against 'head' of 'Donetsk People's Republic', 27.05.2014

KYIV, May 27 /Ukrinform/. Self-proclaimed "chairman" of the so-called "Luhansk People's Republic" Valeriy Bolotov accused "head" of the so-called "Donetsk People's Republic" Denis Pushilin of treason and threatened liquidation, Bolotov's press office reported.

Bolotov considers Donetsk's clearing by the ATO forces and surrender of the city to the Ukrainian army a crime of Denis Pushilin against his own people.

"On the territory of Luhansk People's Republic Denis Pushilin and his entourage are considered traitors and persona non grata. According to the laws of war, as traitors of

their own people, they are subject to liquidation," Bolotov noted. He added that he regards Pushilin outlaw and declares war on him.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/chief_of_luhansk_terrorists_declares_war_against_head_of_donetsk_peoples_republic_322029

ATO forces smash up two KAMAZ trucks with militants in Donetsk, 27.05.2014

KYIV, May 27 /Ukrinform/. In Donetsk, Ukraine's anti-terrorist operation (ATO) forces destroyed two KAMAZ truck that were transporting separatists, the OSTROV online edition reported citing eyewitnesses.

"There were two KAMAZ trucks. The first blasted stands in Zlitna Street. The second lies on Kyiv Avenue near children's hospital," the eyewitness told the publication.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/ato_forces_smash_up_two_kamaz_trucks_with_militants_in_donetsk_see_images_322034

Lufthansa cancels flights to Donetsk until June 2, 27.05.2014

KYIV, May 27 /Ukrinform/. Due to the temporary closure of the airport in Donetsk, German airlines Lufthansa cancelled flights from Munich to Donetsk and back until June 2 inclusive.

Speaker of the airlines Martin Rieken told a special correspondent of Ukrinform in Germany.

"Due to the closure of the airport, Lufthansa decided to cancel not only the today's flight, but all the flights to Donetsk until June 2," he said.

As reported, Lufthansa already cancelled flights on the route Munich-Donetsk-Munich on May 7-12.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/lufthansa_cancels_flights_to_donetsk_until_june_2_322039

Law enforcers control Donetsk airport, 27.05.2014

KYIV, May 27 /Ukrinform/. The International Airport Donetsk, which was seized by separatists, is now controlled by the Ukrainian military.

Interior Minister Arsen Avakov said.

"The airport is fully controlled. The enemy incurred serious losses, we have no losses. The operation continued in the morning," the ministry's press service quoted the minister.

Avakov added that he has not exact information as to the number of disarmed terrorists, but admits that there are dozens of them.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/law_enforcers_control_donetsk_airport_322043

Terrorist camp destroyed by airstrike in Luhansk region, 27.05.2014

KYIV, May 27 /Ukrinform/. An airstrike destroyed a terrorist training camp at the Yaseny camp site near Sverdlovsk in Luhansk region, Interior Minister Arsen Avakov wrote on its Facebook page Tuesday.

The presidential press service confirmed this report.

"This morning, in the north of Luhansk region a center for training terrorists with militants to carry out sabotage operations in the territory of Donbas and in other regions of Ukraine has been completely destroyed," Avakov said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/terrorist_camp_destroyed_by_airstrike_in_luhansk_region_322047

Exams cancelled for Donetsk schoolchildren, 27.05.2014

KYIV, May 27 /Ukrinform/. Donetsk schoolchildren, where combat operations are held, related to the ATO, will not pass final examinations.

City mayor Oleksandr Lukianchenko told a Ukrinform correspondent.

"Since now schoolchildren pass final exams, on coordination with the Ministry of Education, final annual estimates were put for Donetsk schoolchildren. They will not pass final exams," Lukianchenko said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/exams_cancelled_for_donetsk_schoolchildren_322049

Militants lose no less than 200 persons, 27.05.2014

KYIV, May 27 /Ukrinform/. As a result of the ATO active phase in Donetsk, militants lost no less than 200 persons.

ATO press officer Oleksiy Mishlayevsky told on Tuesday, hromadske.tv informs.

"The ATO in Donetsk will continue until all terrorists are killed or until they surrender. There are not accurate data about the losses, but there are no less than 200 killed persons. An investigation group continues work, and accurate data will be informed today in the evening," Mishlayevsky noted.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/militants_lose_no_less_than_200_persons_322058

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/at_least_200_militants_killed_in_ato_in_donetsk_322078

Ponomaryov prepares for evacuation, 27.05.2014

So-called "people's mayor" of Slovyansk Vyacheslav Ponomaryov has proposed to evacuate everybody, who wants to leave the town.

At the moment, he says, the question of further Slovyansk inhabitants' location is considered.

"We propose you to prepare to the evacuation. We have an opportunity to move to Svyatohorsk area, Brusino, or to Russia and Crimea," Ponomaryov told.

http://24tv.ua/home/showSingleNews.do?ponomaryov_prepares_for_evacuation_video&objectId=447898&lang=en

Muscovites, Chechens among injured in Donetsk, 27.05.2014

KYIV, May 27 /Ukrinform/. Eight Russian citizens, including residents of Grozny, Gudermes of Chechnya and Moscow have been wounded during the May 26-27 clashes in Donetsk and taken to the hospital, Donetsk Mayor Oleksandr Lukianchenko said at an emergency press conference on Tuesday.

"In hospitals there are eight residents of Donetsk, eight Russian citizens, including residents of Grozny, Gudermes and Moscow. 18 persons have not been identified yet," Lukianchenko emphasized.

According to him, in the hospital today there are 43 injured, including a woman.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/muscovites_chechens_among_injured_in_donetsk_322060

Terrorists seize Donetsk school, 27.05.2014

KYIV, May 27 /Ukrinform/. The Interior Ministry confirmed the seizure of a school by terrorists in Donetsk.

Deputy Interior Minister Serhiy Yarovy told a briefing, a Ukrinform correspondent reports.

Terrorists simply captured this school with the aim, possibly, to organize a headquarters there," he said.

Yarovy added that according to his information, currently, up to 40 militants are in the school premises.

The Interior Ministry will inform the details of the incident later.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/terrorists_seize_donetsk_school_322061

National Guard forms another battalion of volunteers, 27.05.2014

KYIV, May 27 /Ukrinform/. The Interior Ministry of Ukraine started formation of the third battalion of the National Guard for participation in the ATO.

Deputy Interior Minister Serhiy Yarovy told a briefing, a Ukrinform correspondent reports.

“Currently, preparation started for formation of the third battalion of the National Guard,” Yarovy said, adding that the battalion is formed of volunteers.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/national_guard_forms_another_battalion_of_volunteers_322063

OSCE loses contact with monitors in Donbas, 27.05.2014

KYIV, May 27 /Ukrinform/. The OSCE Special Monitoring Mission has lost contact with one of its teams of monitors near the city of Donetsk in eastern Ukraine, the official OSCE website reported on Tuesday.

“On Monday evening at around 18:00 OSCE Special Monitoring Mission lost contact with one of its Donetsk-based teams. The team was on a routine patrol east of Donetsk when contact was lost. We have been unable to re-establish communication until now. The team consists of four international SMM members,” the report reads.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/osce_loses_contact_with_monitors_in_donbas_322065

Another column of military vehicles with Russian fighters moves to Ukrainian border, 27.05.2014

KYIV, May 27 /Ukrinform/. A large column of military vehicles moves from the Russian border in the direction of Rovenky, Luhansk region.

Informator.lg.ua reports, citing local residents.

“About 50 vehicles bring well-equipped armed men in unmarked military uniforms. The column moves in the direction of Rovenky,” residents inform.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/another_column_of_military_vehicles_with_russian_fighters_moves_to_ukrainian_border_322068

Terrorists use ambulances to transport fighters and weapons - Tymchuk, 28.05.2014

KYIV, May 28 /Ukrinform/. Terrorists in Donbas use ambulance cars to transport fighters to terrorist acts, as well as for transportation of arms and ammunition.

Leader of the Information Resistance group Dmytro Tymchuk wrote on his Facebook page.

“According to live data of the Information Resistance group, terrorist groups, operating in the ATO area in Donbas, actively use stolen ambulance cars. These vehicles are used to transport arms and ammunition, as well as to transport fighters to the places of terrorist acts,” he wrote.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/terrorists_use_ambulances_to_transport_fighters_and_weapons_ty_mchuk_322086

OSCE still has no reports from missing observers, 28.05.2014

KYIV, May 28 /Ukrinform/. The OSCE has not yet received any new information on the fate of its observers that missed during a patrol in Donetsk region, spokesperson for the OSCE Special Monitoring Mission in Ukraine Iryna Hudyma told reporters on Wednesday.

“Unfortunately, no news since the information has been published,”

Hudyma noted that the missing OSCE observers are citizens of Estonia, Switzerland, Turkey and Denmark.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/osce_still_has_no_reports_from_missing_observers_322096

Part of militants ready to cooperate with ATO - Selezniiov, 28.05.2014

KYIV, May 28 /Ukrinform/. Head of the information department of the Antiterrorist Operation Vladyslav Selezniiov confirms that a part of terrorists in Donbas is ready to

cooperate with Ukrainian law enforcers, he said at a briefing, Wednesday, answering a question of a Ukrinform correspondent.

"I confirm this information. A part of militants is ready for cooperation (with the ATO forces - Ed.)," he said.

In particular, Selezniiov pointed out to the fact that during the ATO in Donetsk, one of the militants' leaders Serhiy Zdryliuk, nicknamed Abver, personally tried to connect with the ATO leaders for negotiations on the personal security and retreat of militants.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/part_of_militants_ready_to_cooperate_with_ato_selezniiov_322102

5 terrorists killed on border with Russia, SBGS chief says, 28.05.2014

KYIV, May 28 /Ukrinform/. Five terrorists have been killed and one wounded in a clash on the Ukrainian-Russian border in Luhansk region on May 27, Chairman of the State Border Guard Service (SBGS) Mykola Lytvyn told reporters on Wednesday.

He said that the clashes with militants occurred on May 27 near Dmytrivka in Luhansk region. The Ukrainian border guards managed to shoot three cars, killing five terrorists. One wounded terrorist was detained.

After that, for the purpose of taking revenge on the border guards, five Kamaz trucks with armed bandits and an APC moved from Antratsyt and about 300 terrorists from Yaseny to destroy the border guard detachment. The Ukrainian border guards prepared to fight off the attack.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/5_terrorists_killed_on_border_with_russia_sbgs_chief_says_322104

Cistern with sulfuric acid mined in Sloviansk, 28.05.2014

KYIV, May 28 /Ukrinform/. Latest information was received at the ATO headquarters about mining of certain dangerous objects in Sloviansk.

ATO chief information officer, Lieutenant Colonel Vladyslav Selezniiov told a press briefing on Wednesday, a Ukrinform correspondent reports.

"Yes, there is operation information on mining of certain hazardous objects by terrorists to create a tight control over the territory of Sloviansk," Selezniiov said, answering journalists' questions about the alleged mining of a plant in Sloviansk.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/cistern_with_sulfuric_acid_mined_in_sloviansk_322106

SBGS chief says Abkhazians identified among terrorists in Donbas, 28.05.2014

KYIV, May 28 /Ukrinform/. Chairman of the State Border Guard Service (SBGS) Mykola Lytvyn says there are Abkhazians among terrorists in the east and now he knows nothing about Chechens.

"Today there are a lot of false reports, particularly on terrorists. We know that there are Abkhazians indeed, and today they can come to Ukraine through official channels, and then pour into terrorist groups. According to our data, now there are people from Abkhazia. Many of those who do not shave can be considered Chechens," he said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/sbgs_chief_says_abkhazians_identified_among_terrorists_in_donbas_322115

German media withdraw ENG crews from Donetsk, 28.05.2014

KYIV, May 28 /Ukrinform/. German public-law TV channels ARD and ZDF recalled their ENG crews from Donetsk for security considerations.

A joint press release of TV companies reads, Ukrinform's own correspondent from Germany reports.

"Since the situation in Donetsk has considerably deteriorated, the ARD and ZDF jointly took a decision to temporarily withdraw their ENG crews from the city," a statement reads.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/german_media_withdraw_eng_crews_from_donetsk_322112

Terrorists fire at residential districts in Sloviansk. There are injured people among peaceful residents, 28.05.2014

He wrote this **on his Facebook page**.

According to his words, there is a confirmed information about firing by terrorists at residential districts and territory of school in Sloviansk. "There are reports about injured peaceful residents", - added Seleznev.

<http://www.unian.info/politics/922955-terrorists-fire-at-residential-districts-in-sloviansk-there-are-injured-people-among-peaceful-residents.html>

Terrorists blackmail and force National Guard soldiers to surrender weapons in Luhansk, 29.05.2014

KYIV, May 29 /Ukrinform/. Terrorists forced the National Guard soldiers to surrender their weapons in a military unit in Luhansk, having put soldiers' parents ahead them.

MP Oleh Liashko wrote on his Facebook page.

"The militants put parents of soldiers ahead of them. The latter were forced to lay down arms and left the military unit. The officers barricaded a room on the 5th floor and shot at attackers. The forces are clearly not equal," Liashko writes.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/terrorists_blackmail_and_force_national_guard_soldiers_to_surrender_weapons_in_luhansk_322133

Ukrainian paratroopers shoot down Russian unmanned plane, capture cargo, 29.05.2014

KYIV, May 29 /Ukrinform/. Ukraine's airborne and special unit militaries involved in the anti-terrorist operation (ATO) on May 28 shot down an unmanned aerial vehicle over one of the roadblocks using high-tech weaponry, the Defence Ministry reported.

"As a result, the aircraft was captured. Payload was removed. The obtained information is being analyzed. In addition to fuel, on board there was a capsule with a caustic substance of unknown chemical composition, which was sent for testing," the report reads.

The ministry added that in the aircraft there were also some marking elements found, which can be identified as made in one of the other neighboring large states."

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/ukrainian_paratroopers_shoot_down_russian_unmanned_plane_capture_cargo_322135

Sloviansk terrorists say they hold OSCE observers, 29.05.2014

KYIV, May 29 /Ukrinform/. So-called "people's mayor" of Sloviansk Viacheslav Ponomariov said that his fighters hold a group of four observers of the OSCE Monitoring Mission. He promised to release them in the nearest time.

Ponomariov told the Associated Press on Thursday.

"The leader of the rebels in Ukraine's east said on Thursday that his fighters hold four observers of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe and promised that they will be released in the nearest future," the agency writes.

According to Ponomariov, observers are safe. However, Ponomariov did not name any concrete dates of the release or any conditions.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/sloviansk_terrorists_say_they_hold_osce_observers_322156

Former Crimean Alfa employees fighting on side of terrorist groups - Tymchuk, 29.05.2014

KYIV, May 29 /Ukrinform/. Former employees of the Crimean branch of the SBU special forces Alpha are really fighting on the side of terrorist groups, operating in the east of Ukraine.

Head of the Center of Military and Political Studies, coordinator of the Information Resistance group Dmytro Tymchuk told a briefing in Kyiv on Thursday.

"With regard to information that former employees of the SBU special forces unit Alpha from Crimea are actively used on the side of terrorists, according to our data, this is really so, after the occupation of Crimea, a recruiting process was actively carried out, a number of special forces employees have sided with Russia, to work in its interests," he said.

In particular, according to Tymchuk, groups were formed of them in Balashikha (Moscow region), at the FSB center, which hosted the training under the supervision of Russian instructors.

"Now they are actively sent to the territory of Donbas," Tymchuk emphasizes.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/former_crimean_alfa_employees_fighting_on_side_of_terrorist_groups_tymchuk_322160

One of Russia's most dangerous mercenaries killed in Donetsk, 29.05.2014

KYIV, May 29 /Ukrinform/. In the battle for the Donetsk airport Ukrainian troops killed one of the most dangerous terrorists of the so-called "Donetsk People's Republic", Russian mercenary Sergei Zhdanovich, journalist Yuriy Butusov wrote on his Facebook page on Thursday.

"According to the Russian magazine "Specnaz", Zhdanovich was a veteran of Afghanistan and Chechnya wars, recently was one of the instructors at the Special Forces Center of the Russian FSB. This is an elite military unit. On May 19 Zhdanovich came from Russian Elektrogorsk to Rostov-on-Don, from there he illegally crossed the Ukrainian border. On May 26 at the airport Zhdanovich was killed by Ukrainian special forces," Butusov says.

The information has been confirmed by LiveJournal users. The original text was as follows:

"There're reports that our comrade, Airborne officer Sergei Zhdanovich was killed by our enemies. The man fought in Afghanistan, Chechen Republic, was an instructor with the FSB. He could not leave without attention the war against its own people. On May 19 he went to the training camp in Rostov- on-Don. On May 26 he was killed in a battle in Donetsk."

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/one_of_russias_most_dangerous_mercenaries_killed_in_donetsk_322166

ATO forces not using Grad systems against terrorists, 29.05.2014

KYIV, May 29 /Ukrinform/. The headquarters of the anti-terrorist operation (ATO) denied the possibility of using the Grad multiple rocket launchers by Ukrainian security forces in the ATO area, ATO spokesman Vladyslav Selezniiov told reporters on Thursday.

"No. No Grad systems. The ATO forces are controlling the situation in the region. The task of terrorists is making constant provocations with victims. The ATO task is to destroy the militants with minimal losses among civilians, I stress - with minimal losses. Therefore saying that the Grad system are used is at least incorrect," the Ukrayinska Pravda quoted Selezniiov as saying.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/ato_forces_not_using_grad_systems_against_terrorists_322174

Sloviansk self-proclaimed mayor calls detained OSCE monitors spies, 29.05.2014

KYIV, May 29 /Ukrinform/. Self-proclaimed mayor of Sloviansk Viacheslav Ponomariiov explained that OSCE officials are detained as spies.

He told this to the Russian TV Rain (Dozhd).

"They have been detained on suspicion of gathering intelligence information. I called up with my leadership, I have been told that they are now dealing with it," Ponomariiov added.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/sloviansk_self_proclaimed_mayor_calls_detained_osce_monitors_spies_322184

Ukrainian helicopter shot down in Sloviansk, 14 killed, 29.05.2014

KYIV, May 29 /Ukrinform/. In Sloviansk, Donetsk region, terrorists shot down a Ukrainian helicopter with 14 militaries killed, acting President/Verkhovna Rada Speaker Oleksandr Turchynov has reported on Thursday.

"I've just got information directly from Sloviansk: terrorists using Russian weapons shot down our helicopter which was carrying the military just for rotation. 14 our soldiers were killed along with General Kulchytsky," he said.

Later it was reported 12 dead.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/ukrainian_helicopter_shot_down_in_sloviansk_14_killed_322168

One law enforcer from shot down helicopter alive, 29.05.2014

KYIV, May 29 /Ukrinform/. One law enforcer from the helicopter Mi-8, shot down near Sloviansk, succeeded to survive.

The press service of the National Guard reports.

"One law enforcer of the National Guard of Ukraine remained alive and is in critical condition," the agency noted.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/one_law_enforcer_from_shot_down_helicopter_alive_322188

ATO forces annihilate terrorists involved in downing Mi-8 helicopter, 29.05.2014

KYIV, May 29 /Ukrinform/. Ukraine's anti-terrorist forces after artillery and air bombardment destroyed the terrorists shot down the Mi-8 helicopter with our security forces on board on Thursday, the National Guard of Ukraine (NGU) said in a statement.

"In response to terrorist acts the ATO [anti-terrorist operation - ed.] forces carried out artillery and air bombardments of the territory, from which the terrorists fired. As a result, a group of criminals involved in the fire, has been annihilated. Detailed information about those killed is being specified," the report reads.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/ato_forces_annihilate_terrorists_involved_in_downing_mi_8_helicopter_322190

DPR terrorists send 34 bodies of killed militants to Russia, 30.05.2014

KYIV, May 30 /Ukrinform/. Bodies of 34 citizens of Russia have been sent home from Donetsk. Overall, in the battles for the Donetsk airport Ukrainian troops killed 60 militias, Russian political scientist Aleksandr Boroday, who in the terrorist organization "Donetsk People's Republic" is considered "prime minister", told reporters at a news conference on Thursday.

"We have sent 34 bodies," he said.

Boroday said that the killed arrived in Donbass as "volunteers." So he called the professional militant with an extensive experience of staying in hot spots, hidden behind the callsign "Igor Strelkov". In Ukraine he was identified as the Russian military intelligence officer, and Russian journalists claim that he belongs to another secret service of the Russian Federation - FSB. Anyway, he fancies himself the most important "warlord" in Sloviansk and the surrounding area.

Also part of the bodies are still in the airport, Boroday said.

Overall, according to him, about 60 militants were killed in Donetsk in the battles on May 26-27.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/dpr_terrorists_send_34_bodies_of_killed_militants_to_russia_322204

Terrorists fire from grenade launchers at frontier department in Luhansk Oblast at night, 30.05.2014

Terrorists fired from grenade launchers at department of State Border Service of Ukraine "Stanichno-Luhanskoe" in Luhansk Oblast at night.

Head of the Center of Military-Political Studies, coordinator of "Information Resistance" group Dmytro Tymchuk wrote this on his Facebook page.

“According to operative data of “Information Resistance”, the department of State Border Service of Ukraine “Stanichno-Luhanskoe” underwent a firing last night. Terrorists were firing from grenade launchers. Border guards blazed into action in response”, - he wrote.

There are no losses among border guards.

<http://www.unian.info/politics/923606-terrorists-fire-from-grenade-launchers-at-frontier-department-in-luhansk-oblast-at-night.html>

More than 20 Ukrainian military men die during ATO in east of Ukraine – Koval, 30.05.2014

According to an UNIAN correspondent, acting Defense Minister of Ukraine Mykhaylo Koval said this during press conference in the Cabinet of Ministers.

“There are losses in the Armed Forces. Losses include crews of our helicopters.

Actually, 2 crews of helicopters perished, there are also losses among paratroopers. Unfortunately, we do have losses”, - he said.

Koval did not specify a number of perished military men, but answering question whether it is dozens or hundreds of perished people, he said: “God forbid! Slightly more than two dozen”.

<http://www.unian.info/politics/923635-more-than-20-ukrainian-military-men-die-during-ato-in-east-of-ukraine-koval.html>

Another four OSCE monitors, interpreter go missing in Luhansk region, 30.05.2014

KYIV, May 30 /Ukrinform/. Four more foreign observers from the OSCE Special Monitoring Mission in Ukraine and a Ukrainian interpreter who worked in Luhansk disappeared on Thursday, the OSCE press office reported.

"Yesterday at about 19.00 the Special OSCE Special Monitoring Mission in Ukraine lost contact with several members of its team, who work in Luhansk region," the report reads.

The OSCE mission noted that in Severodonetsk (100 km from Luhansk) the observers were detained by armed men.

In addition, the OSCE reported that the organization still has no contact with the four observers who went missing in Donetsk region in the evening on May 26. Earlier, some media reported that the militants released the group of observers.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/another_four_osce_monitors_interpreter_go_missing_in_luhansk_region_322221

Up to 500 Kadyrovites in Donbas, Kavkaz Center writes, 30.05.2014

KYIV, May 30 /Ukrinform/. Some 400-500 militants linked to Chechen leader Ramzan Kadyrov are members of terrorist groups acting in the east of Ukraine, according to the website of Chechen separatists Kavkaz Center.

"Sources report that the total number of Kadyrovites acting as part of Russian gangs in Donetsk and Luhansk regions ranges from 400 to 500 people," the report reads.

It is noted that almost all of them are members of the various military and police units of the Chechen Republic subordinated to the Russian authorities.

A reminder that at least 43 Kadyrovites were killed in Ukraine and already buried in various parts of Chechnya. 32 more Chechen militants are still missing.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/up_to_500_kadyrovites_in_donbas_kavkaz_center_writes_322224

ATO headquarters knows nothing about where militants carried 200 children from Sloviansk, 30.05.2014

KYIV, May 30 /Ukrinform/. It is currently unknown where there is a column of about 200 children from Sloviansk, about their removal the militants said yesterday. On Thursday evening, they were seen on the outskirts of the city.

Head of the Task Force to inform about the ATO Vladyslav Selezniiov said by a telephone during a briefing at the Ukrainian crisis media center, a Ukrinform correspondent reports.

"The situation around withdrawal of children from Sloviansk is quite incomprehensible. Currently it is unknown where about 200 children are," Selezniiov said.

According to information the ATO headquarters had yesterday, the column consisting of about five buses accompanied by vehicles with flashing lights was trying to get out of Sloviansk. "The militants' roadblock on the outskirts of Sloviansk was the last point where it was seen," Selezniiov said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/ato_headquarters_knows_nothing_about_where_militants_carried_200_children_from_sloviansk_322226

Fighting renews in Donetsk, 30.05.2014

KYIV, May 31 /Ukrinform/. In the Donetsk outskirts, not far from the settlement of Khoroshovo and the Kirsh ponds, there was a fight about 5:00 a.m.

According to Interfax-Ukraine with reference to witnesses, not far from the Kirsh ponds, gunfire and explosions were heard. A helicopter circled over the ponds, near the air defense military unit of the Air Defense Forces.

Simultaneously, confrontation intensified at the Donetsk airport - sounds of explosions and gunfire were heard on the side of Zlitna Street.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/fighting_renews_in_donetsk_322243

Troopers repulse two militants' attacks at airport in Donetsk, 30.05.2014

KYIV, May 31 /Ukrinform/. Militants of the self-proclaimed "Donetsk People's Republic" (DPR) made two attempts to attack the international airport of Donetsk on Saturday morning. Troopers repulsed both attacks.

ATO press officer Oleksiy Dmytrashkovsky said, Ostrov reports.

"Twice in the period from 5:00 a.m. to 7:00 a.m. in the morning, there were attempts by terrorists to seize the airport. They ran into a hard fire of paratroopers, who made it clear that the terrorists have nothing to do here," Dmytrashkovsky said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/troopers_repulse_two_militants_attacks_at_airport_in_donetsk_322245

Ukrainian border guards mined, 30.05.2014

KYIV, May 31 /Ukrinform/. According to live data of the Information Resistance group, following a night fight near the border guard unit Diakove and the defeat of the terrorists' attack, the Ukrainian border guards were trapped.

Information Resistance group coordinator Dmytro Tymchuk said.

"In particular, according to the border guards, while departing, the fighters mined the area around the border service department. At the same time, the border guards did not have at their disposal specialists and equipment for examination and mine clearance," he wrote on Facebook.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/ukrainian_border_guards_mined_322247

Terrorists can exchange OSCE observers for their henchmen, 30.05.2014

KYIV, May 31 /Ukrinform/. The terrorist organization "Donetsk People's Republic" (DPR) is considering possibility to exchange the OSCE representatives, detained a few days ago near Donetsk, for their henchmen.

The so-called "DPR self-defense" headquarters told the Russian Interfax.

"Various options are considered, including the option to exchange them for our associates. A decision has not been taken yet," the agency interlocutor said.

He added that the OSCE representatives remain on the territory, controlled by the DPR militants.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/terrorists_can_exchange_osce_observers_for_their_henchmen_322249

Four KamAZ trucks break through Ukrainian border, 30.05.2014

KYIV, May 31 /Ukrinform/. After the yesterday's attack on the Diakove border guard outpost, the Ukrainian border was crossed by four KamAZ trucks of separatists. Deputy Commander of the Azov battalion Yaroslav Honchar wrote on his Facebook page.

"Four KamAZ trucks crossed our border near the sign No. 7. During the battle, a group of separatists went out to meet them," he said.

Honchar also specified that the border guards at the Diakove outpost were not mined, and a panic in the media started over three mines from the 82 mm mortar that did not explode.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/four_kamaz_trucks_break_through_ukrainian_border_322255

Fighters fire at residential quarters from "Nona" self-propelled artillery in Slaviansk – ATO representative, 30.05.2014

Head of operative group on informing about ATO Vladyslav Seleznev disclosed this to UNIAN.

"Active phase of antiterrorist operation continues, all means for ensuring of set tasks in concrete districts are being used", - he said.

"We have some problems with Slaviansk connected with actions of subversive groups of gunmen, who established Nona" self-propelled artillery on automobile platform and are firing at residential quarters of Slaviansk", - he noted.

<http://www.unian.info/politics/923760-fighters-fire-at-residential-quarters-from-nona-self-propelled-artillery-in-slaviansk-ato-representative.html>

Peaceful residents' bodies found in hypermarket destroyed by terrorists in Donetsk, 30.05.2014

Among 5 perished people, who got gunshot wounds in chest and hands, there are peaceful residents, the press service of Donetsk Department of the Interior Ministry reports.

One of them is an old man, his personality has not been identified yet. Other victims are young people of 25-35 age. A criminal proceeding on fact of murder of people was instituted. Terrorists will face up to 15 years of imprisonment or life imprisonment.

<http://www.unian.info/politics/923861-peaceful-residents-bodies-found-in-hypermarket-destroyed-by-terrorists-in-donetsk.html>

Odessa Tragedy (May 2)

174 seek medical assistance after clashes in Odesa, 03.05.2014

KYIV, May 3 /Ukrinform/. As many as 174 people have sought medical assistance after clashes between pro-Russian and pro-Ukrainian activists in Odesa on May 2, reads a statement posted on the website of the Odesa City Council.

"Some 174 people sought medical assistance, and 77 of them were hospitalized, including 25 in a very grave condition. Two persons died in hospitals," reads the statement.

The Ukrainian Interior Ministry reported earlier that at least 31 people had been found dead after a fire at the Trade Unions House in Odesa.

According to eyewitnesses, pro-Russian protesters, who hid in the Trade Unions House, were throwing Molotov cocktails from the roof of the building.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/174_seek_medical_assistance_after_clashes_in_odesa_320977

36 people found dead after Odesa fire, 03.05.2014

KYIV, May 3 /Ukrinform/. Rescuers have found 36 people dead following yesterday's fire at the Trade Unions House in Odesa, the State Service for Emergency Situations office in Odesa region has reported.

"Some 210 people individually left the building when the fire was extinguished. Another 120 people were rescued by employees of the State Service for Emergency Situations. The fire was extinguished at 20.50. Thirty-six people were found dead at the scene of the clashes," reads the report.

Over 40 people died following mass disturbances and a fire in Odesa on May 2.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/36_people_found_dead_after_odesa_fire_320978

Police open ten criminal cases, detain over 130 activists after disorder in Odesa, 03.05.2014

KYIV, May 3 /Ukrinform/. Law enforcement agencies have opened ten criminal cases over the deaths of over 40 people due to clashes and a fire at the Trade Unions House in Odesa, Odesa regional police chief Petro Lutsiuk has said.

"I express my sincere condolences to the families of the deceased citizens and those who sustained bodily injuries during the events in Odesa, in which 37 people were killed and over 200 were injured, including 22 police officers," he said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/police_open_ten_criminal_cases_detain_over_130_activists_after_disorder_in_odesa_320979

Death toll from Odesa clashes rises to 46, 03.05.2014

KYIV, May 3 /Ukrinform/. Forty-six people have already died as a result of the May 2 clashes in Odesa, and more than 200 have sought medical assistance, Odesa Regional Prosecutor Ihor Borshuliak said at a briefing on Saturday.

"Unfortunately, yesterday's events led to the deaths of 46 people... I ask all residents and guests of the city to stay calm and not to succumb to provocations. Now the city is under the control of law enforcement agencies," the Dumskaya online newspaper quoted him as saying.

Criminal proceedings have already been launched over yesterday's events, and an interdepartmental group consisting of representatives of the Interior Ministry, the prosecutor's office and the Security Service was set up to investigate the crimes. "They are investigating the organization of mass disturbances, intentional destruction of property, killings of people, the seizure of buildings and disorderly conduct," Borshuliak said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/death_toll_from_odesa_clashes_rises_to_46_320984

Odesa clashes provoked by Russia - Tymchuk, 03.05.2014

KYIV, May 3 /Ukrinform/. The casualties during mass disturbances in Odesa on May 2 were the result of a special operation conducted by Russia, the leader of the Information Resistance group, Dmytro Tymchuk, has reported on his Facebook page.

"Yesterday's provocations in Odesa, which caused numerous casualties, were the result of an operation that was carried out and coordinated by Russia," he said.

According to Tymchuk, since late April, subversive groups of Russian special units sent to Ukraine, as well as groups of provocateurs, have been ordered, in cooperation with local pro-Russian separatists, to destabilize the situation in southern Ukraine, first and foremost, in Odesa.

"The active phase of the operation aimed at seizing local government agencies was scheduled for May 9 – when, under the ideological slogans of the Victory Day, there would be an opportunity to initiate the activity of pro-Russian population. After tactical

successes in Odesa, similar actions, with the assistance of 'Putin's tourists,' were to be initiated in Mykolaiv and Kherson," the military expert said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/odesa_clashes_provoked_by_russia_tymchuk_320985

Turchynov signs decree on two-day mourning in Ukraine, 03.05.2014

KYIV, May 3 /Ukrinform/. Interim President and Verkhovna Rada Speaker Oleksandr Turchynov has signed a decree on a two-day mourning for the people killed during mass disturbances in Odesa and an anti-terrorist operation in eastern Ukraine, the Ukrainian parliament's press service has reported.

Three days of mourning were declared in Odesa for the victims of the clashes initiated by pro-Russian separatists. The death toll has currently reached 46.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/turchynov_signs_decree_on_two_day_mourning_in_ukraine_320989

SBU calls another five names of Russians - participants in Odesa provocations, 05.05.2014

KYIV, May 5 /Ukrinform/. The Security Service of Ukraine expanded a list of citizens, involved in disorders in Odesa on May 2 with mass human victims.

In particular, according to the SBU, Article 294, Part 2 "Mass disorders that caused deaths of people or other grave consequences" - Russian citizens were detainees (from their words) - Demilov Konstantin Borisovich, born in 1972, Pavlov Sergey Gennadyevich, born in 1971, Vdovin Aleksandr Alekseyevich, born in 1971.

In addition, among those arrested are Sidorenko Sergey Nikolayevich, born in 1978 (a copy of a passport) and Bormotov Dmitry Viktorovich, 1977, passport 7204020246 issued by the Baikitski district department of the Evenk Autonomous Okrug on September 14, 2006.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/sbu_calls_another_five_names_of_russians_participants_in_odesa_provocations_320993

Special battalion comes to defend Odesa, 05.05.2014

KYIV, May 5 /Ukrinform/. A special division of the National Guard, named Kyiv-1, formed of volunteers and patriots, arrives in Odesa.

Interior Minister Arsen Avakov wrote about this on Facebook.

"A special battalion of the Interior Ministry Kyiv-1 arrived in Odesa. This is one of the units, recently created on the basis of civil activists. The battalion heads origin from Odesa, as a substantial part of the battalion strength. A decision was taken to send this unit to Odesa, given their desire to help Odesa in these difficult days," he said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/special_battalion_comes_to_defend_odesa_320995

<http://www.unian.info/politics/914506-national-guards-special-subdivision-arrives-in-odessa-avakov.html>

42 separatists moved from Odesa to detention center in central Ukraine, 05.05.2014

KYIV, May 5 /Ukrinform/. Forty-two separatists detained during deadly clashes in Odesa on May 2 have been sent to a pre-trial detention center in a central region of Ukraine early on May 5, the press service of the Ukrainian Interior Ministry has quoted Interior Minister Arsen Avakov as saying.

"Last night 42 suspects in the organization of and participation in mass disturbances riots in Odesa on May 2 were sent to a detention facility in a central region of Ukraine," reads the statement.

There were much more pro-Russian activists detained in Odesa, but 67 people were released from the local police department on May 4 under the decision of the regional prosecutor's office.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/42_separatists_moved_from_odesa_to_detention_center_in_central_ukraine_320997

Odessa to commemorate May 2 tragedy victims annually, 05.05.2014

The acting mayor of Odessa, Oleh Bryndak, has signed a decree declaring May 2 as the day of memory for those killed in the tragic events on May 2, 2014, the city council said. Each year on this day, Ukrainian flags and those of Odessa with mourning ribbons will be lowered half-mast on government, public and residential buildings, according to the document.

<http://www.kyivpost.com/content/ukraine/odessa-to-commemorate-may-2-tragedy-victims-annually-346369.html>

Interior Ministry and SBU heads in Odesa should incur responsibility - Poroshenko, 05.05.2014

KYIV, May 5 /Ukrinform/. Heads of regional and city Interior Ministry bodies and the SBU should incur responsibility due to tragic events in Odesa on May 2 that caused human victims.

Presidential candidate Petro Poroshenko has said about this, his press service informs. "We are convinced that heads of regional and city Interior Ministry bodies and the SBU should incur responsibility, which had to stop the bloodshed, remove the armed people from the streets and to adequately respond to armed militants," Poroshenko said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/interior_ministry_and_sbu_heads_in_odesa_should_incur_responsibility_poroshenko_321005

Relatives take 24 dead bodies in Odesa, 06.05.2014

KYIV, May 6 /Ukrinform/. Relatives took the bodies of 24 out of 46 people, who died in the riots on the Kulykove Pole Square in Odesa on May 2.

Head of the media relations department of the Odesa City Council Natalia Maltseva told a Ukrinform correspondent about this.

"Relatives took the bodies of 24 people. Six people have been buried yesterday. Today, 10 people will be buried," she said.

According to her, a process of identification and forensic work is continuing.

"There will be no mass funerals," Maltseva said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/relatives_take_24_dead_bodies_in_odesa_321061

Two extremists involved in Odesa tragedy detained, 08.05.2014

KYIV, May 8 /Ukrinform/. Two members of extremist organizations involved in the tragic events in Odesa on May 2 have been detained.

Ukrainian Deputy Interior Minister Serhiy Chebotar said this on Thursday, Ukrinform reported.

"Law enforcement officers detained two members of extremist organizations, Davydchenko and Dolzhenkov, who acted in Odesa on May 2," Chebotar said.

He said that the wrongdoers had been sent to Kyiv for investigative procedures.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/two_extremists_involved_in_odesa_tragedy_detained_321192

Death toll from Odesa unrest grows to 47, 11.05.2014

KYIV, May 11 /Ukrinform/. One more participant in clashes in Odesa on May 2 has died at hospital, increasing the death toll to 47 people. Yevhen Losynsky, 34, died at hospital on May 11.

This was stated by the deceased's father, Luka Losynsky, local media reported.

"Yevhen Losynsky sustained a gunshot wound to the stomach during a clash on Hretska Square. He was hospitalized at the surgical department of City Clinical Hospital No. 11. Doctors were fighting for the man's life for nine days, but could not do anything," reads the report.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/death_toll_from_odesa_unrest_grows_to_47_321256

Odesa residents collect UAH 100,000 for persons affected in riots on May 2, 14.05.2014

KYIV, May 14 /Ukrinform/. Purchase of medicines for UAH 100,000, collected by Odesa residents for those, who have suffered on May 2 during the riots in the city, complemented the supply of expensive medicaments through the Health Ministry. The media liaison department of the Odesa city council informs, a Ukrinform correspondent reports.

"Expensive medicaments for persons affected in Odesa were also handed over from Kyiv through the Health Ministry of Ukraine. The regional health department handed over five lungmotors to city hospitals," a statement reads.

For donations of Odesa residents, surgical lights, stands, dressings and other materials were purchased.

Currently, at Odesa hospitals, there are 43 injured in the riots on May 2, of whom two persons are in a serious condition at intensive care units.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/odesa_residents_collect_uah_100000_for_persons_affected_in_riots_on_may_2_321395

Ukraine - Worldwide

EU to send more than hundred observers to elections of President of Ukraine, 02.05.2014

KYIV, May 2 /Ukrinform/. The European Union plans to send a large group of observers to the presidential elections in Ukraine.

Spokesperson of the EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy Maja Kosijancic has announced on Friday, a special correspondent of Ukrinform in Brussels reports.

She said she does not possess specific figures. But the European Union will participate in observation of the elections, according to her. Kosijancic said about more than 100 observers from the EU.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/eu_to_send_more_than_hundred_observers_to_elections_of_president_of_ukraine_320967

Putin arrives in occupied Crimea, 09.05.2014

KYIV, May 9 /Ukrinform/. Russian President Vladimir Putin on Friday arrived in Crimea that Russian troops occupied in early March, according to one of the mouthpieces of the Kremlin propaganda RIA-Novosti.

"Russian President Vladimir Putin arrived in Crimea on Friday, where he is expected to take part in the celebrations in Sevastopol, dedicated the 69th anniversary of the Victory in the Great Patriotic War and the 70th anniversary of liberation of the city from Nazi invaders," the agency said.

Putin is also expected to address the parade with a congratulatory speech and then lay together with veterans wreaths at the monument to the defenders of Sevastopol 1941-1942 on Nakhimov Square. After that, the main aggressor "will go to atone for sins" at the Cathedral of St. Vladimir in Sevastopol.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/putin_arrives_in_occupied_crimea_321214

German Foreign Office advises its citizens to leave southeast Ukraine, 06.05.2014

KYIV, May 6 /Ukrinform/. The German Federal Foreign Office, for the first time since the beginning of the conflict in Ukraine, has advised its citizens to leave the eastern and southern regions of Ukraine.

The ministry said this in a statement, a Ukrinform correspondent in Germany reported.

"German citizens, who are now in eastern and southern Ukraine, are recommended to leave these regions," reads the statement.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/german_foreign_office_advises_its_citizens_to_leave_southeast_ukraine_321077

Russian media attacks National Guard with provocations about Mariupol, 10.05.2014

KYIV, May 10 /Ukrinform/. The press service of the National Guard of Ukraine distributed a piece of video, filmed on the scene of yesterday's events in Mariupol, where it is seen as a thug from the crowd shoots towards civilians and the law enforcement personnel.

"The National Guard Command denies the libel, promulgated in the media about the "involvement of servicemen in the shots toward civilians in Mariupol on May 9." A purpose of the dissemination of such false and cynical information is to discredit the military, as well as twisting their role in efforts to stabilize the criminal situation in Mariupol, deliberate fomenting of tensions among the population of the city," a statement reads.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/russian_media_attacks_national_guard_with_provocations_about_mariupol_321238

Over 1,000 Crimean residents want to vote in May 25 elections - Mahera, 12.05.2014

KYIV, May 12 /Ukrinform/. Over 1,000 residents of Crimea and Sevastopol have expressed their desire to vote in the Ukrainian presidential elections Ukraine on May 25. Central Election Commission Deputy Head Andriy Mahera said this at a briefing at the Ukrainian Crisis Media Center on Monday, a Ukrinform correspondent reported.

"More than 800 residents of Crimea and 300 residents of Sevastopol have already expressed their desire to vote in this election of the Ukrainian president," Mahera said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/over_1000_crimean_residents_want_to_vote_in_may_25_elections_mahera_321293

Canada expands list of sanctions against Russia, 13.05.2014

KYIV, May 13 /Ukrinform/. Canada has imposed additional sanctions on 12 citizens of Russia and Ukraine, reads a statement made by Prime Minister Stephen Harper. In particular, Canada announced sanctions against an additional six Russian and six Ukrainian individuals who have facilitated Russia's violation of Ukrainian sovereignty and territorial integrity.

The prime minister also said that Russia's illegal occupation of Ukraine and provocative military activity remains a serious concern to the international

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/canada_expands_list_of_sanctions_against_russia_321321

Crimea cut off North-Crimean Canal water, 13.05.2014

KYIV, May 13 /Ukrinform/. The State Water Resources Agency of Ukraine reports that the North Crimean Canal is currently operating for users in Kherson region, whereas Crimea still does not want to pay for the Dnieper water delivered last year.

The agency said in a statement on Tuesday.

"The North Crimean Canal is working in an operational mode, which is adjusted according to the needs of water users in Kherson region, due to the lack of constructive proposals on contractual arrangements to meet water needs of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea for drinking water supply and irrigation," the report reads.

It is also noted that "the issue of repayment of a UAH 1.7 million debt in 2013 by Crimean water users to the North-Crimean Canal administration remains unresolved."

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/crimea_cut_off_north_crimean_canal_water_321384

EU opens market for Ukraine, 15.05.2014

KYIV, May 15 /Ukrinform/. The European Union has fully opened its market for Ukrainian goods and services with about 98% of duties nullified, LIGABusinessInform reported.

The measures will be in effect until November 1. The European Commission hopes that by this time a free trade agreement will be signed with Ukraine, which is part of the Association Agreement.

According to EU estimates, the free trade agreement can save Ukraine about EUR 500 million on duties a year.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/eu_opens_market_for_ukraine_321457

Info Resist: Ukrainian helicopter with UN symbols in Slovyansk turned out to be from Congo, 17.05.2014

Russian media reported false information about the anti-terrorist operation in Donbas, using video recording, which was almost two years old to compromise Ukrainian helicopters in Slovyansk. This information is provided by the regional media centre of the Ministry of Defence of Ukraine in Chernigiv on Friday, May 17, reports Correspondent.

<http://www.kyivpost.com/content/ukraine/info-resist-ukrainian-helicopter-with-un-symbols-in-slovyansk-turned-out-to-be-from-congo-348225.html>

European Parliament sends 7 MEPs to monitor Ukrainian elections, 20.05.2014

KYIV, May 20 /Ukrinform/. A European Union delegation of seven MEPs from different factions and countries will observe the presidential elections in Ukraine on May 25.

The monitoring mission of the European Parliament, headed by Swedish MP Goran Farm, is composed of representatives of the political groups of the Progressive Alliance of Socialists and Democrats, the European People's Party, the European Conservatives and Reformists, as well as an independent MEP. In addition to Sweden the delegation also includes representatives of Poland, Estonia, Denmark, Germany and Romania. The observation mission for the presidential elections will stay in Ukraine May 23-26 at the invitation of our state.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/european_parliament_sends_7_meps_to_monitor_ukrainian_elections_321662

Russia decides not to send observers to elections in Ukraine, 21.05.2014

KYIV, May 21 /Ukrinform/. The Russian authorities will not send observers to the elections of the President of Ukraine on May 25.

Chairman of the Russian State Duma Committee on CIS Affairs Leonid Slutsky said, RIA Novosti reports.

“For today, there are no decisions to send observers from any Russian authorities. We with you know that these are the elections, to which we have a very peculiar attitude, and in principle, it is difficult to call the elections an event, in which many regions of the country do not participate,” Slutsky said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/russia_decides_not_to_send_observers_to_elections_in_ukraine_321695

Ukraine moves to 2nd phase of visa liberalization with EU, 28.05.2014

KYIV, May 28 /Ukrinform/. Ukraine completed the legislative phase and moves to the second - implementation - phase of the Visa Liberalization Action Plan (VLAP) with the European Union, according to the fourth progress report on VLAP implementation by Ukraine adopted by the European Commission on May 27 <

http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-14-613_en.htm>.

“The Commission adopted today its fourth progress report on the implementation by Ukraine of the Visa Liberalization Action Plan (VLAP). It concludes that Ukraine has put

in place the necessary legislative, policy and institutional framework and meets the first-phase requirements of the visa dialogue. The second phase, where the Commission will be checking the implementation of all these rules, can therefore be launched," reads the report.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/ukraine_moves_to_2nd_phase_of_visa_liberalization_with_eu_322082

Russian forces on Ukrainian border continue to represent threat, Pentagon says, 29.05.2014

KYIV, May 29 /Ukrinform/. Tens of thousands of Russian troops remain encamped on the Ukrainian border after Russian President Vladimir Putin declared their pullback and return to permanent bases, Pentagon spokesman, Army Col. Steve Warren said on Wednesday.

"Some troop withdrawals have been observed, but the movements aren't yet significant in comparison with the large numbers of troops left behind in the border region," Warren told reporters.

In addition to personnel, the withdrawals include some heavy equipment such as tanks and armored vehicles, the colonel said. "Of the forces that remain, some are conducting operations that appear to be preparations for withdrawal," he added.

"We have seen a continued repositioning of Russian forces and equipment away from the border. ... This is encouraging and we hope they continue to do so," Warren noted.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/russian_forces_on_ukrainian_border_continue_to_represent_threat_pentagon_says_322145

Russian Federation preparing draft law "On occupation of Russian regions by Ukraine", 30.05.2014

KYIV, May 30 /Ukrinform/. The ultranationalist Liberal Democratic Party of Russia, led by Vladimir Zhirinovskiy, believes that southeast Ukraine allegedly is the occupied Russian territory and intends to submit to the State Duma a draft law on occupied territories of Russia.

The Liberal Democratic Party said in a statement, posted on the official website of the party.

"The Kyiv government has illegally occupied all eight regions of southeast Ukraine. Crimea has returned to Russia forever. We hope that others can follow suit. The Russian flag should fly over all the territories, where ever the Russian or Soviet flag waved, especially in those regions, where the Russians always lived, where all the lands were mastered by them, and the towns were founded and built by the Russian people. Primarily, these are eight regions, which want to be Novorossia and wish that Ukraine had nothing to do with them," a statement reads.

However, as noted, due to the unstable situation in southeast Ukraine, the Liberal Democratic Party faction plans "to submit a draft law on occupied territories of Russia in the nearest future."

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/russian_federation_preparing_draft_law_on_occupation_of_russian_regions_by_ukraine_322235

National Minorities

Ukrainian anthem translated into Crimean Tatar language, 01.05.2014

KYIV, May 1 /Ukrinform/. Crimean poetess Maye Safet translated the text of the national anthem of Ukraine into the Crimean Tatar language, Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty reported.

According to the poetess, she was inspired by a conversation with a Ukrainian journalist.

"During a rally in March, a journalist from Kyiv approached me and asked: there is the text of the Ukrainian anthem, has it been translated into Crimean Tatar? I used to do a translation of the Crimean Tatar national anthem "Ant Etkenmen" into Ukrainian. So I decided to try," the poetess says.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/ukrainian_anthem_translated_into_crimean_tatar_language_320939

Chief Rabbi of Odesa denies evacuation of Jews from city, 08.05.2014

KYIV, May 8 /Ukrinform/. There is not a plan for evacuation of the Jewish community of Odesa due to the situation in the city.

On May 8, Chief Rabbi of Odesa and southern Ukraine Avraham Wolff told through his press service, a Ukrinform correspondent reports.

"The publication on the existence of plans for the evacuation of the Jewish community from the city or even the country caused a serious panic among the Jews of Odesa. Meanwhile, in recent months, we observed no anti-Jewish activities, and in the debate between pro-Russian activists and supporters of the Kyiv authorities "the Jewish issue" is not raised. There were no Jews among those, who died during these tragic events, and the wounded Jews received their wounds not because of their Jewishness, but because they expressed their civil position and were in the thick of things," Wolff said. In addition, he said that even if the community planned something in case of aggravation of the situation and of danger, they would not publish this information in advance.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/chief_rabbi_of_odesa_denies_evacuation_of_jews_from_city_321190

Over 1,000 Crimean residents want to vote in May 25 elections - Mahera, 12.05.2014

KYIV, May 12 /Ukrinform/. Over 1,000 residents of Crimea and Sevastopol have expressed their desire to vote in the Ukrainian presidential elections Ukraine on May 25. Central Election Commission Deputy Head Andriy Mahera said this at a briefing at the Ukrainian Crisis Media Center on Monday, a Ukrinform correspondent reported.

"More than 800 residents of Crimea and 300 residents of Sevastopol have already expressed their desire to vote in this election of the Ukrainian president," Mahera said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/over_1000_crimean_residents_want_to_vote_in_may_25_elections_mahera_321293

OSCE worried with violation of rights of Crimean Tatars and Ukrainians in Crimea, 13.05.2014

KYIV, May 13 /Ukrinform/. Mission to assess the situation of human rights in Ukraine of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) said about a number of significant violations of these rights. In particular, this applies to the Crimean Tatars and Ukrainians in Crimea.

The Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty reports on Tuesday.

"Events in Ukraine have seriously affected the situation of national minorities, especially in Crimea. Crimean Tatars were in a particularly dangerous situation, besides the position of Ukrainians by nationality has become a new source of concern," a statement reads.

As stated in the Mission, in Ukraine, there was a significant number of serious violations such as murder, physical attacks and intimidation and kidnapping. Victims were mostly activists, who stood for the Euromaidan and journalists in Crimea, occupied by Russians, and also the Ukrainian military and Crimean Tatars.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/osce_worried_with_violation_of_rights_of_crimean_tatars_and_ukrainians_in_crimea_321333

Terrorists Started Genocide in Donbass, 14.05.2014

No matter how much Donbass separatists, as well as Ukrainian and Russian politicians supporting the terrorists' armed "protest", try to convince the global community that their actions mean defending their rights, in reality, this is just a rampant of impunity-crazed thugs.

The Government of a self-proclaimed "People's Republic of Donetsk" is situated in a now-captured building of the regional administration. This is where non-conformists, those who think of Ukraine as of their Homeland, are being tortured. Images for Russian television of detained "militants from Praviy Sector" are also made there. Anyone not sharing their point of view is an enemy for these people.

According to witnesses in Donetsk events, there is a lot of weaponry - rifles, pistols and even rocket launchers in the regional administration building.

Witnesses in Donetsk events tell us that one can be captured not only for pro-Ukrainian beliefs and patriotism, but also just because some Russian journalist needs a fitting image for Russian TV at that moment. Residents of Donetsk note that, apparently, journalists from the Russian "Life News" TV channel practically live at the regional administration building. "They "surface" at any time of day in a place where "militants from Praviy Sector" have been already prepared for yet another video shoot," say local residents.

By the way, separatists always have available freshly printed business cards of Dmitro Yarosh in sufficient quantity, and the needed amount of guns, gloves, anything else that may be suitable for airing the necessary images.

<http://www.unian.info/politics/918040-terrorists-started-genocide-in-donbass.html>

Crimean Tatar houses searched by Russian authorities, 15.05.2014

KYIV, May 15 /Ukrinform/. Crimean Tatars every day are under increasing harassment by Russian officials in Crimea. In particular, under the pretext of terrorism charges they began mass searches of Crimean Tatars houses, Ali Khamsin, spokesman for the Mejlis of Crimean Tatar people told reporters on Thursday.

"Now, the Crimean Tatars, as never before, have run into danger. Yesterday there was a search of the house of our leader Mustafa Jemilev without his presence. Tonight mass searches have been made at homes of Crimean Tatars. Under one prosecution - involvement or suspicion of terrorism," Khamsin said.

At the same time, he added, this "punitive action" affected him personally: "When I was driving here, they searched my house at five o'clock in the morning."

Also, according to the Mejlis spokesman, a few days ago over 150 Muslims were fingerprinted, photographed, and required an explanation why they visit mosques.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/crimean_tatar_houses_searched_by_russian_authorities_321497

Victims of deportation of Crimean Tatars will be commemorated in Kyiv, 15.05.2014

KYIV, May 15 /Ukrinform/. May 16, Kyiv will host an evening-requiem, dedicated to the memory of victims of deportation of Crimean Tatars and other deported peoples of Crimea.

According to the press service of the Ministry of Culture of Ukraine, the event will be held at the National Opera Theater of Ukraine.

The initiators, in addition to the Culture Ministry, will also be Social Policy Ministry of Ukraine, Mejlis of the Crimean Tatar people and NGO "Community of Crimean Tatars in Kyiv."

Folk artists of Ukraine will perform at the National Opera Theater, well-known Ukrainian and Crimean Tatar artists, including national actress Ada Rohovtseva, People's Artist of Ukraine Oleksiy Bohdanovych, singer Jamala, the duo "Telniuk Sisters" and other performers.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/victims_of_deportation_of_crimean_tatars_will_be_commemorated_in_kyiv_321473

Crimean Tatars say Russia expels dissatisfied persons from Peninsula, 16.05.2014

KYIV, May 16 /Ukrinform/. Russia wants to change the ethnic composition of the Crimean peninsula and settle only "its people."

Chairwoman of the media department of the Crimean Tatars community in Kyiv Tamila Tasheva has said about this on air of Espresso.TV.

"Russia wants to change the ethnic composition of Crimea. They displace not only the Tatars, but also Ukrainians, Russians, who do not share their opinion, are being evicted. They want to settle their people, who would never shout," Tasheva said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/crimean_tatars_say_russia_expels_dissatisfied_persons_from_peninsula_321514

Aksionov bans all public events in Crimea until June 6, 16.05.2014

KYIV, May 16 /Ukrinform/. Self-proclaimed Crimean authorities banned all public events on the peninsula until June 6, reads an order of the illegal prime minister of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea Sergei Aksionov.

"Ban mass actions on the territory of the Republic of Crimea until June 6, 2014," the document reads.

As explained, the decision was made in connection with the ongoing developments in the cities of the south-east of Ukraine, as a result of which there are victims and injured civilians, "in order to eliminate possible provocations by extremists who are able to enter the territory of the Republic of Crimea, in order to avoid disruption of the holiday season in the Republic of Crimea."

Aksionov proposes cultural institutions to cancel scheduled public events during this period.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/aksionov_bans_all_public_events_in_crimea_until_june_6_321546

Crimean Tatar rallies banned in Sevastopol, 17.05.2014

KYIV, May 17 /Ukrinform/. So-called "governor" of the city of Sevastopol Sergei Menyailo following self-proclaimed Crimean Prime Minister Sergei Aksionov banned the May 17 and 18 mourning rallies to mark the 70th anniversary of deportation of Crimean Tatars, according to a Ukrinform reporter.

As in the case with Crimea, Sevastopol's "governor" says the ban is due to the events in the south-east of Ukraine and "provocations of extremists."

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/crimean_tatar_rallies_banned_in_sevastopol_321571

Jemilev won't go to Crimea to mark 70th anniversary of deportation, 17.05.2014

KYIV, May 17 /Ukrinform/. The leader of the Crimean Tatar people, Mustafa Jemilev, refused to travel to Crimea for celebrations to mark the 70th anniversary of the deportation of the Crimean Tatars.

He said this at an emergency meeting of regional mejlises, which convened because of the ban by self-proclaimed prime minister of Crimea Sergei Akseniov to hold mass actions on the peninsula until June 6, TSN reported.

The leader of the Crimean Tatars knows that he will not be allowed, and if the community comes out to meet him, there will be an open confrontation with the armed Russian militaries. To avoid casualties and conflicts, Jemilev will not go the peninsula.
http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/jemilev_wont_go_to_crimea_to_mark_70th_anniversary_of_deportation_321577

Aksionov blames Jemilev for stirring up interethnic hostility, 19.05.2014

KYIV, May 19 /Ukrinform/. So-called "acting head of the self-proclaimed "Republic of Crimea" Sergei Aksionov accused the leader of the Crimean Tatars, Mustafa Jemilev, of stirring up ethnic hatred, inciting individual representatives of his people to break the law and "gross violations Russian laws by Jemilev."

Aksionov wrote this on his Facebook page.

"If the violation of law can be regarded as an act of cynicism, so it is cynicism on the part of Jemilev. The reaction of the authorities to the actions of a provocateur and instigator of any nationality would be exactly the same," Aksionov said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/aksionov_blames_jemilev_for_stirring_up_interethnic_hostility_321616

Ukrainian chief rabbi's residence attacked again, 26.05.2014

Moscow, May 26, Interfax - A group of armed criminals attacked the residence of Chief Rabbi of Kiev and Ukraine Yaakov Dov Bleich located not far from Kiev in Belgorodka. The incident took place at night on May 23. The criminals tried to attack military security guards, located near the fence of the house, executive director of the country's Jewish Confederation Inna Ioffe told *112 Ukraine* TV channel.

"They were attacked by people who came up to the house in a jeep. They wore camouflage uniform, masks and had automates. As everything was quiet, our security guards were staying in a car. They were thrown out of their car, automates were focused on their chests, then they were laid down to the ground. Then a security guard who was behind the fence heard the noise and called the militia," Ioffe said.

According to her, it is the third attack to the residence for less than a month. She considers it an attempt to intimidate the Jewish community on the eve of elections.

<http://www.interfax-religion.com/?act=news&div=11278>

Presidential Elections May 25, 25.05.2014

Ukrainians electing president, deputies and mayors, 25.05.2014

KYIV, May 25 /Ukrinform/. Citizens of Ukraine after nearly four years of the authoritarian regime of Yanukovich finally got the opportunity to elect a new president. Polling stations are opening, so it's time to vote for the desired candidate.

Today's elections are not limited to the race for the post of the head of state - Ukrainians will also elect the mayor of Kyiv and Kyiv City Council deputies and mayors in six regional centers - Mykolaiv, Odesa, Sumy, Kherson, Cherkasy and Chernivtsi. The president is elected by the majoritarian system of absolute majority, in which the candidate has a chance to win in the first round, given that he/she gains 50% plus 1 vote. However, if this does not happen in the first round, the second one is held on the system of relative majority - who of the two candidates receives more becomes the president.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/ukrainians_electing_president_deputies_and_mayors_321868

Polling stations open in Donetsk, Luhansk, Kharkiv regions, Avakov says, 25.05.2014

KYIV, May 25 /Ukrinform/. Interior Minister Arsen Avakov says that polling stations in Donetsk, Luhansk and Kharkiv regions have opened.

He wrote this on his Facebook page.

"Polling stations have opened and are working in Donetsk and Luhansk regions ... I'm in Kyiv, and in my native Kharkiv all polling stations have opened. Without accidents. We're watching," Avakov wrote.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/polling_stations_open_in_donetsk_luhansk_kharkiv_regions_avakov_says_321870

Most Crimeans voting in Kyiv, 25.05.2014

KYIV, May 25 /Ukrinform/. The greatest number of residents of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea, occupied by the Russian Federation, have expressed a desire to participate in the early presidential elections and vote in Kyiv, Central Election Commission (CEC) chairman Mykhailo Okhendovsky told reporters on Sunday.

"The largest number of Crimean residents during the elections expressed a desire to vote in the city of Kyiv," Okhendovsky said.

The official recalled that residents of Crimea have the opportunity to vote through the mechanism of the temporary change of the voting site at any convenient for them polling station throughout Ukraine.

The CEC chairman also denied reports that the Central Election Commission opened special polling stations for the residents of Crimea in Kherson region.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/most_crimeans_voting_in_kyiv_321880

Police report 76 election irregularities, 25.05.2014

KYIV, May 25 /Ukrinform/. Police have recorded 76 violations in the presidential elections, Deputy Interior Minister Serhiy Yarovy said at a press briefing in Kyiv.

"As of 18.00 the Interior Ministry has received 76 reports of violations relating to the electoral process. All these developments are recorded in the online system," the deputy minister said.

He noted that of the 76 violations the most resonant are 31. 15 such cases have been recorded in Donetsk, 4 - in Luhansk, 3 - in Kharkiv, one in Vinnitsa, Odesa, Volyn, Dnipropetrovsk, Ternopil, Khmelnytsky and Ternopil regions each.

According to Yarovy, police have registered 7 facts of damage to the property of election commissions, three of them - in Donetsk, 2 - in Luhansk and 1 case in Kherson and Odesa regions each. Also, there have been nine cases of seizure of polling stations, ballot boxes, etc.: 8 in Donetsk region and one in Luhansk region.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/police_probe_into_death_of_italian_journalist_321932

Poroshenko already calls himself president, 25.05.2014

KYIV, May 25 /Ukrinform/. Presidential runner Petro Poroshenko said that the presidential elections in Ukraine have been held in one round.

He said this at a press briefing on Sunday evening, according to the LB.ua online edition.

"All without exception exit polls indicate that the elections have ended in one round, and the country has a new president," Poroshenko said.

As Ukrinform reported, according to preliminary results of the National Exit Poll 2014, Poroshenko leads the presidential elections. He gained 55.9% of the vote and is followed by Yulia Tymoshenko with 12.9% of voters.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/poroshenko_already_calls_himself_president_321934

TV exit poll also calls Poroshenko president, 25.05.2014

KYIV, May 25 /Ukrinform/. 57.3 % of Ukrainians voted for candidate Petro Poroshenko in the presidential elections, according to the results of the Ukrainian television exit poll conducted by TNS at the order of television channels 1+1, ICTV, Ukraina and Inter. 12.4% supported the former prime minister, leader of the All-Ukrainian Union Batkivshchyna Yulia Tymoshenko.

The three leaders are also head of the Radical Party Oleh Liashko - 8.7% of voters, Anatoliy Hrytsenko with 6.0% and Serhiy Tihipko with 4.4% of voters.

The greatest number of those who supported Poroshenko are in western Ukraine: Lviv region - 70%, Zakarpattia region - 68.1%, Vinnytsia - 67.6% , Ivano-Frankivsk - 66%, Kyiv - 61.7%, Kirovohrad - 61,4 % , Kyiv region - 60.1%.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/tv_exit_poll_also_calls_poroshenko_president_321936

Justice ministry says presidential elections legitimate, 25.05.2014

KYIV, May 25 /Ukrinform/. The Ministry of Justice said that the elections in Ukraine has taken place: they are legitimate, Justice Minister Pavlo Petrenko said at a press briefing on Sunday evening.

"There have been no mass violations at polling stations that could affect the outcome of the national vote," he said.

The elections were fair, transparent and democratic, Petrenko stated.

According to him, this is the first election in the history of Ukraine, which took place without the use of the administrative resource.

"The fact that elections were held on the basis of law, recognized both by the Venice Commission and international observers, they will also be recognized by the international community as fair, transparent and democratic," he added.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/justice_ministry_says_presidential_elections_legitimate_321938

CEC head says Vybory system's failure due to communication disruption, 26.05.2014

KYIV, May 26 /Ukrinform/. Data of the Vybory analytical system for a long time did not update on the election night because of problems with the communication system, Central Election Commission (CEC) chairman Mykhailo Okhendovsky said at a briefing on Monday.

"Tonight, there have been technical problems with the operation of communication channels that service the Vybory system. At the same, the hardware and software package of the system both at the level of the Central Election Commission and at the level of district electoral commissions worked properly," the CEC head noted.

Okhendovsky reassured that these problems were quickly solved thanks to the assistance, including from Ukrtelecom, so no significant influence on the course of informing the public about the results of the vote.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/cec_head_says_vybory_systems_failure_due_to_communication_disruption_321966

Okhendovsky: Ukrainian election turnout over 60%, 26.05.2014

KYIV, May 26 /Ukrinform/. The turnout in the early presidential elections in Ukraine was more than 60 percent, Central Election Commission (CEC) chairman Mykhailo Okhendovsky said at a briefing on Monday.

"Already at the moment we can say that the turnout was more than 60%. And this is an adequate response of the people to the attempts to disrupt the presidential elections in Ukraine," Okhendovsky said.

In particular, according to him, 62.70% of the voters went to the polls in Kyiv in the extraordinary presidential elections, and in the troubled regions - Donetsk and Luhansk - 15.37 % and 38.94 % of voters respectively.

At the same time, the CEC chairman said that the queues at polling stations on the election day could be avoided if the Ukrainian were to elect only president. "So I think that Ukraine should never return to the conduct of local elections and presidential elections simultaneously," Okhendovsky noted.

At the moment, the CEC processed 63.76% of ballots with Petro Poroshenko taking the lead - 53.75 %, followed by Yulia Tymoshenko - 13.08% and Oleh Liashko - 8.48%.
http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/okhendovsky_ukrainian_election_turnout_over_60_321974

CEC processes 100% of electronic voting reports with 54.7% for Poroshenko, 29.05.2014

KYIV, May 29 /Ukrinform/. The Central Election Commission (CEC) has processed 100% of electronic voting reports. Presidential candidate, independent MP Petro Poroshenko polled 54.7% (9,856,911 voters), according to data published on the CEC official website.

The leader of the Batkivshchyna party, former Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko, gained 12.81% of votes, independent MP, Radical Party leader Oleh Liashko - 8.32%, MP, leader of the Civil Position party Anatoliy Hrytsenko - 5.48%. They are followed by the MP Serhiy Tihipko - 5.23% and ex-governor of Kharkiv region, representative of the Party of Regions Mykhailo Dobkin - 3.03%.

According to the CEC, overall the voting was attended by 18,019,456 voters, 1.35% of the ballots have been declared invalid.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/cec_processes_100_of_electronic_voting_reports_with_547_for_poroshenko_322178

Inauguration of newly-elected President to take place on June 7, 29.05.2014

Lawmaker Yuri Stets wrote this on his Facebook page.

"Inauguration –7... Source from AP", - he wrote.

Head of information department of the HQ of Petro Poroshenko Iryna Friz confirmed this information.

Answering question whether some measures are planned at Maidan Nezhdzhnosti in Kyiv, she said that a plan of events connected with inauguration does not stipulate any measures at Maidan.

<http://www.unian.info/politics/923474-inauguration-of-newly-elected-president-to-take-place-on-june-7.html>

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