



Monitoring of Xenophobia and Extremism in Ukraine December 2014

Content

Introduction
Prognosis
Statements of officials
Actions of Ukrainian Authorities
Terrorism / Separatism
Pilot Savchenko
National Minorities
Ukraine Worldwide

Introduction

December did not bring long-awaited peace to Ukraine and did not improve the economic situation in the country.

The truce was constantly violated and as a result soldiers and civilians were killed. Contact Group meeting was postponed several times.

Exchange of prisoners continued. As of December 27 about 490 people are still in captivity of separatists in eastern Ukraine are.

According to the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs the number of victims of the conflict in eastern Ukraine has exceeded 4,600 people. The organization estimates that since mid-April in the east of the country 4,634 persons were killed, including 298 who died in the crash of a Boeing. Number of wounded made 10,342 persons.

The report also indicates that during the armed conflict, 568 thousand people received refugee status.

Rada approved a number of laws, which were later signed by the President.

In the end of December the President signed the budget for 2015, and the Prime Minister promised a difficult year.

Prognosis

Polish expert on foreigners in government: 'There is an easier solution', 02.11.2014

KYIV, December 2 /Ukrinform/. The possible appearance of foreigners in the Ukrainian government could be "exotics" uncommon for developed Western countries.

Polish expert and lecturer at Warsaw University Andrzej Szeptycki told this to Ukrinform's correspondent in Poland.

"I think that at the level of constitutional government officials, such as ministers or deputy ministers, such appointments would seem exotic, as it's not practiced in the West and it seems to be contradicting Ukrainian legislation," the expert said.

However, he believes that a much easier solution that is often practiced in the West is the employment of people to the posts of advisors to prime ministers or individual ministers, or the formation of a group of advisors from among the foreigners.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/polish_expert_on_foreigners_in_government_there_is_an_easier_solution_327480

Ukrainian Finance Ministry expects zero GDP growth in 2015, 17.11.2014

KYIV, December 17 /Ukrinform/. The Ukrainian Finance Ministry expects zero GDP growth when drafting Ukraine's state budget for 2015.

Ukrainian Finance Minister Natalie Jaresko said this in an interview with U.S. newspaper The Wall Street Journal, the ministry's press service reported.

"The budget package is based around a forecast of zero growth in real terms for 2015," reads the statement.

Jaresko added that the Finance Ministry's team was sprinting to put together three pieces of legislation aimed at reforming the economy and serving as the key building blocks for the new budget: tax legislation, a law on social security contributions and one on decentralizing fiscal powers to the regions.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/ukrainian_finance_ministry_expects_zero_gdp_growth_in_2015_327802

Moody's predicts 6% drop in Ukrainian economy, 23.12.2014

KYIV, December 23 /Ukrinform/. Moody's international rating agency has predicted a slowdown in the fall of Ukraine's GDP in 2015 to 6%, according to statement posted on Moody's website.

"Moody's expects Ukraine's economy to contract by 7.5% in 2014 and by a further 6% in 2015, although the latter is subject to a high level of uncertainty depending on if and how the crisis is resolved," reads the statement.

Moody's expects the central government deficit to come in at around 5% of GDP in 2014.

Moreover, Ukraine's debt burden continues to rise. Moody's estimates that the national currency depreciation would increase the country's debt stock to 76% in 2014 and 79% in 2015.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/moodys_predicts_6_drop_in_ukrainian_economy_327923

Expert predicts \$4 billion as investment in Ukraine, 25.12.2014

KYIV, December 25 /Ukrinform/. The raising of \$4 billion as foreign investment in Ukraine is expected next year.

"We expect that the inflow of investment in Ukraine will begin next year. It is driven by international financial institutions that declared and signed a corresponding agreement to invest \$3 billion in Ukraine. The inflow of another \$1 billion is expected from a private investor," Vice-President of the Private Investors Association of Ukraine Ihor Tiutiushkin said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/expert_predicts_4_billion_as_investment_in_ukraine_327990

One in four Ukrainians expects improvement in a year - survey, 30.12.2014

KYIV, December 30 /Ukrinform/. Almost one in four residents of Ukraine - 24.1% - expects drastic changes in the country in not earlier than a year, according to a survey conducted by Kyiv International Institute of Sociology at the request of ZN.UA.

One in five citizens of Ukraine - 21.5% - has lost faith that some order could be brought to the country.

According to 26.7% of respondents, it is hard to say when improvement can be expected in the country.

The country's central and western regions reduced the degree of frustration - 11.4% and 12.1% respectively. The mood in the southeast is more pessimistic: 33.7% of Ukrainians do not believe in improvement in the country. The highest degree of frustration was recorded in Donetsk region - 40.5%.

Some 7.3% of Ukrainians are ready to wait for improvement for six more months. Most of these people are from Chernivtsi (18.5%) and Mykolaiv (15.4%), and the smallest number is from Kherson (4.9%), Zaporizhzhia (3.2%), Odesa (3.2%), Donetsk (2.3%) and Luhansk (0.7%).

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/one_in_four_ukrainians_expects_improvement_in_a_year_survey_328072

Statements of officials

Ukraine to apply for EU membership in 2020 – president, 01.12.2014

KYIV, December 1 /Ukrinform/. Ukraine plans to apply for EU membership in 2020.

Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko said this in an interview with German television channel ARD, the press service of the head of state reported.

"We need to reform the country, improve the investment climate and implement the Association Agreement with the European Union. Seventy-five percent of Ukrainians want that," he said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/ukraine_to_apply_for_eu_membership_in_2020_president_327437

Semenchenko: Lutsenko is coalition coordinator, 01.12.2014

"The coalition council is finished. Yuriy Lutsenko has been elected as the coordinator of the coalition for the coming period," MP from the Samopomich party Semen Semenchenko wrote on Facebook.

"We have consulted on the parliament leadership. The principled position of the Samopomich party is not to give leadership positions to those people who voted for the infamous laws of January 16."

<http://www.unian.info/politics/1015935-semenchenko-lutsenko-is-coalition-coordinator.html>

Pope and Ecumenical Patriarch call for peace in Ukraine, 01.12.2014

Pope Francis and the Ecumenical Patriarch of Constantinople Bartholomew I have called for peace in Ukraine and appealed to all parties in the conflict to resolve it on the basis of international law.

The church officials published a joint declaration and stressed on the importance of achieving peace in Ukraine, during the visit of Pope in Turkey from November 28-30, according to Ukrainian radio station Svoboda.

"We call on all stakeholders to have a dialogue and to respect international law, so that the conflict in the east of Ukraine can be resolved and all Ukrainians can live in harmony," the statement reads.

<http://www.unian.info/society/1015942-pope-and-ecumenical-patriarch-call-for-peace-in-ukraine.html>

Ukraine resumes coal imports from Russia - Prodan, 01.12.2014

KYIV, December 1 /Ukrinform/. Ukraine has partially resumed coal imports from Russia after a one-week break.

Acting Energy and Coal Industry Minister Yuriy Prodan said this on Monday.

"Imports of Russian coal are carried out with some problems. Some part of coal products is supplied, whereas the other is being delayed with no reason. Let's say so: supplies are conducted irregularly," Radio Liberty quoted him as saying.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/ukraine_resumes_coal_imports_from_russia_prodan_327443

Poroshenko: Ukraine doing all it can not to leave Donbas people in trouble, 01.12.2014

Ukraine has fulfilled not only all its obligations under the Minsk Protocol, but is doing everything possible not to leave the people of the Donbas in trouble, Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko said on Sunday in an interview with German television and radio broadcast company ARD.

Poroshenko said he was convinced that the people who live in the territories occupied by Russian-backed insurgents have become more aware of who is actually defending their interests.

"People see that these armed men are simply bandits. They come, take goods, rob, kill, while they cannot provide some basic needs of the people," Poroshenko said.

"The residents of the occupied territories are increasingly protesting, demanding that the bandits leave their native land. People say they lack food, water and heat, the banking system has been destroyed and they do not have money, because the terrorists stole everything," he said.

"Ukraine has not received a kopiyyka (penny) from the Donbas region, but it provides it with gas and electricity, the cost of which is amounted to \$700 million, and sends humanitarian aid, including food and medicine," the president said.

"The violations of the Minsk Protocol by the Russian-backed insurgents have resulted in numerous casualties. As of today, all international missions, including the OSCE monitoring mission, have officially confirmed that the terrorists have violated the agreements, firing on peaceful neighborhoods or on international observers, and they have prevented there being peace in the Donbas," he said.

"As of today, more than 600 Ukrainian soldiers and citizens, including women and children, remain in the captivity of the Russian-backed insurgents. I would insist on the implementation of the Minsk Protocol by all parties who signed it on September 5," he added.

<http://www.unian.info/politics/1015941-poroshenko-ukraine-doing-all-it-can-not-to-leave-donbas-people-in-trouble.html>

Pentagon sees Russia as major threat to national security, 01.12.2014

KYIV, December 1 /Ukrinform/. The United States sees regional and sometimes global claims by Russia and China as the biggest challenge in the context of global security. U.S. Assistant Secretary of Defense Robert Work said in an interview with U.S. edition Defense News.

When asked about the biggest threats and trends for which the Pentagon should be ready, Work said: "The first, of course, are state powers, like China and Russia, both of them on the UN Security Council, both with nuclear weapons, both with regional aspirations and some global aspirations."

He noted that this question was going to increasingly take a lot of attention of the United States.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/pentagon_sees_russia_as_major_threat_to_national_security_327446

Russia undermined Euro-Atlantic security - NATO secretary general, 01.12.2014

KYIV, December 1 /Ukrinform/. "2014 has been a year of aggression, crisis and conflict. But NATO stands strong. Russia's aggressive actions have undermined Euro-Atlantic security," Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg said this at his monthly press conference on Monday.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/russia_undermined_euro_atlantic_security_nato_secretary_general_327449

NATO membership for Ukraine not on agenda- Steinmeier, 01.12.2014

KYIV, December 1 /Ukrinform/. Any discussions about Ukraine's membership of NATO are currently premature. German Foreign Minister Frank-Walter-Steinmeier said this in an interview with German television channel ZDF on Sunday, Radio Liberty reported.

"As far as I'm concerned, NATO membership for Ukraine is not on the agenda now. At least I do not see Ukraine on the way to joining NATO," Steinmeier said.

The German minister said that the current conflict with pro-Russian militants in the Donbas might be interesting for Ukrainian leaders in political support which NATO membership would give.

"But we have to stay realistic. We are in the center of a dangerous conflict," Steinmeier said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/nato_membership_for_ukraine_not_on_agenda_steinmeier_327451

Ukraine needs integration into NATO - Kravchuk, 01.12.2014

KYIV, December 1 /Ukrinform/. Ukraine should seek protection from the outside as it has an aggressive neighbor - Russia.

"I do not exclude the possibility that we have to prepare ourselves - to prepare force, weapons, people and switch the entire economy to the protection of Ukraine, rather than talk about it, and to work every day. But NATO integration is necessary," First Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk said.

He recalled that the Budapest Memorandum states that the doors for accession to NATO are open for Ukraine and Georgia. Therefore, it is necessary to determine the opinion of the people - to hold a referendum and then work on specific steps, he said.

"If people want so, nobody will say no to us," the politician said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/ukraine_needs_integration_into_nato_kravchuk_327462

EU admits strengthening of sanctions against Russia, 01.12.2014

KYIV, December 1 /Ukrinform/. The European Union will strengthen sanctions against Russia if the situation in eastern Ukraine deteriorates.

EU Commissioner for European Neighborhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiations Johannes Hahn said this at a meeting of the European Parliament's Committee on Foreign Affairs, which was held in Brussels on Monday

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/eu_admits_strengthening_of_sanctions_against_russia_327463

Interior Ministry illegally privatizes more than hundred official apartments - Avakov, 01.12.2014

KYIV, December 1 /Ukrinform/. During the period from 2010 to 2013, 107 Interior Ministry departmental apartments were illegally privatized.

Interior Minister Arsen Avakov wrote on his Facebook page.

"Lack of control over the use of service apartments in the Interior Ministry resulted in the illegal alienation (privatization) of 107 flats, worth UAH 40 million, the title to which belongs to the state of Ukraine, represented by the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine," Avakov said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/interior_ministry_illegally_privatizes_more_than_hundred_official_apartments_avakov_327457

South Stream project closed - Miller, 02.12.2014

KYIV, December 2 /Ukrinform/. Gazprom CEO Alexei Miller has said that there will be no return to the South Stream gas pipeline project, according to RIA Novosti.

"The project is closed. This is it," Miller said, when asked whether any final decision on South Stream will be made.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/south_stream_project_closed_miller_327474

Neither oil, nor sanctions, nor entourage will stop Putin - Illarionov, 02.12.2014

KYIV, December 2 /Ukrinform/. Neither sanctions from the West, nor a drop in oil prices and the weakening of the ruble, nor the closest entourage of Russian President Vladimir Putin will stop the leader of the aggressor country.

President of the Institute of Economic Analysis and former Russian presidential advisor Andrei Illarionov said this at a press conference in Kyiv.

"Forget about that, don't hope for that. That won't happen. At least in the near future for sure," he said, while commenting on the possibility that Putin's entourage may influence his aggressive policy towards Ukraine.

The economist also advised not to hope that the decline in oil prices "would cause any cataclysms in Russia, which will make the Russian government abandon the campaign against Ukraine, including aggression."

"Regardless of price levels, this aggression will still continue. Do not wait for this. The reality of an authoritarian regime with elements of totalitarianism is that there is a small chance of any significant social protests or political protests, and their success is close to zero," Illarionov said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/neither_oil_nor_sanctions_nor_entourage_will_stop_putin_illarionov_327482

Moscow prepares ninth “humanitarian convoy”, 02.12.2014

KYIV, December 2 /Ukrinform/. The Russian Emergency Ministry prepares the next batch of the so-called humanitarian aid for Donbas.

Deputy Chief of the National Crisis Management Center for emergency response of the Ministry of the Russian Federation for Civil Defense, Emergencies and Elimination of Consequences of Natural Disasters Sergey Vorontsov told this at the teleconference, TASS informs.

"Work on formation of the humanitarian aid continues," the official said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/moscow_prepares_ninth_humanitarian_convoy_327470

Ukraine remains most corrupt country in Europe - Transparency International, 03.12.2014

KYIV, December 3 /Ukrinform/. A year after the events on Independence Square in Kyiv, Ukraine remains the most corrupt country in Europe.

International non-governmental organization Transparency International made such a conclusion on the basis of the Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI) 2014.

"The new Corruption Perception Index (CPI) 2014 by Transparency International showed that Ukraine did not overcome the threshold of 'corruption disgrace.' Having received only one additional point, in comparison with 2013, Ukraine remains in the club of the most corrupt countries," the organization said in a press release.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/ukraine_remains_most_corrupt_country_in_europe_transparency_international_327498

Natalie Jaresko: Government is a team of professionals and technocrats, 03.12.2014

KYIV, December 3 /Ukrinform/. Newly appointed Ukrainian Finance Minister Natalie Jaresko believes that the new Cabinet of Ministers is a team of professionals and technocrats.

She said this at a briefing in the Verkhovna Rada on Tuesday after the formation of a new government.

"The team is to change the country, improve transparency and eliminate corruption. The team is ready to cope with the challenges facing Ukraine. This is a government of professionals and technocrats, and we intend to work," Jaresko said.

She added that she had lived in Ukraine for 22 years and that until now she had led a large company managing three investment funds.

"I am honored today to be appointed minister of finance. My experience and my understanding of the situation give me the opportunity, desire and inspiration to work for the benefit of Ukraine," Jaresko said, adding that she is grateful for the opportunity to serve the people of Ukraine.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/natalie_jaresko_government_is_a_team_of_professionals_and_technocrats_327501

Yatsenyuk calls on Rada to adopt ‘extremely austere’ budget for 2015, 03.12.2014

The adoption of an extremely austere budget for 2015, along with changes in tax legislation and the budget code are at the top of governmental and parliamentary agendas for the rest of this year, Prime Minister Arseniy Yatseniuk said in parliament on Tuesday.

He said that next year will be harder than the current one due to the slowdown in the economy.

"The first task is the adoption of a new Budget Code, which provides for transferring certain powers to local government," Yatseniuk said.

"Second is the adoption of amendments to the Tax Code envisaging a reduction in the number of taxes and changes in the tax base.

"The third task is the reduction of the single social contribution and the introduction of a progressive tax scale. The fourth task, resulting from the previous ones, is the adoption of the law on the state budget - a very austere one - with cuts in budget expenditures on all possible items.

"The developments in the Donbas are very expensive in terms of costs for Ukraine, and above all irrecoverable human losses. As for the economy, during the first six months of next year, the negative economic trend will continue."

<http://www.unian.info/politics/1017061-yatsenyuk-calls-on-rada-to-adopt-extremely-austere-budget-for-2015.html>

Yatseniuk says accident happened at nuclear plant, 03.12.2014

There has been an accident at the Zaporizhia nuclear plant in the south-east of Ukraine, Ukrainian Prime Minister Arseniy Yatseniuk said on Wednesday.

He said he had ordered the newly appointed energy minister to hold a news conference on the incident soon, according to news agency Reuters.

He gave no other information about the nature or severity of the accident. However, it appears from initial reports that Yatseniuk was referring to a drop in power output in the country in connection to a minor accident at the plant.

<http://www.unian.info/society/1017094-yatseniuk-says-accident-happened-at-nuclear-plant.html>

U.S., EU to support energy reform in Ukraine - statement, 04.12.2014

KYIV, December 4 /Ukrinform/. The United States and the European Union will support reforms in Ukraine's energy sector that were outlined by the government.

This is stated in a joint statement of the 6th EU-U.S. Energy Council meeting, which was held in Brussels on Wednesday.

"The Council reiterated the resolve of the EU and the United States to stand shoulder-to-shoulder in their support for Ukraine's new government, and underlined the necessity of continuing the reforms in Ukraine's energy sector in line with its Energy Community commitments to integrate progressively the Ukrainian energy market with that of the EU, while highlighting the need to protect vulnerable segments of the population," reads the document.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/us_eu_to_support_energy_reform_in_ukraine_statement_327532

Opposition Bloc creates its own government and budget, 04.12.2014

KYIV, December 4 /Ukrinform/. "We will not vote for the government program. The Opposition Bloc will create an opposition government, and next week it will be presented. An alternative action plan and budget will be presented," Opposition Bloc MP Serhiy Liovochkin said.

"This issue is still to be resolved, but it was preliminarily determined that this would be Borys Kolesnikov," Liovochkin said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/opposition_bloc_creates_its_own_government_and_budget_327534

Opposition Bloc claims for three committees, 04.12.2014

KYIV, December 4 /Ukrinform/. The Opposition Bloc claims for three parliamentary committees, such as regulation, freedom of speech and human rights committees.

"Primarily, this is the regulation, freedom of speech and human rights committee," Opposition Bloc MP Serhiy Liovochkin said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/opposition_bloc_claims_for_three_committees_327537

Brok thinks debate on Ukraine's accession to NATO is counterproductive, 04.12.2014

KYIV, December 4 /Ukrinform/. Chairman of the European Parliament's Foreign Affairs Committee Elmar Brok has said that the question of accession of Ukraine, Moldova and Georgia to NATO is now not on the agenda. This is stated in a statement by the German politician.

"Now this is not the time to discuss the membership of NATO of our eastern neighbors - Ukraine, Moldova and Georgia," Brok said.

He believes that such a debate on these states is "counterproductive."

"In any case, the decision on NATO enlargement is not only a sovereign decision of a country that joins [the alliance], but requires the support of all member countries," Brok said.

He also criticized the position of NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg, who said that NATO respects Ukraine's decision to return to the course of Euro-Atlantic integration with the ultimate goal of membership.

"I do not think the remarks by NATO Secretary General Stoltenberg are useful," the German parliamentarian said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/brok_thinks_debate_on_ukraines_accession_to_nato_is_counterproductive_327538

Batkivshchyna gets three committees in Verkhovna Rada, 04.12.2014

KYIV, December 4 /Ukrinform/. Representatives of the All-Ukrainian Association Batkivshchyna will head three parliamentary committees.

"Batkivshchyna got three committees during the distribution," MP Andriy Kozhemiakin told about such an agreement to reporters on the parliament's sidelines.

He specified that the matter concerns the committees on legislative support and law enforcement activities, national minorities and human rights, as well as local self-government.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/batkivshchyna_gets_three_committees_in_verkhovna_rada_327535

Government reserves half a billion hryvnias for IDPs, 04.12.2014

KYIV, December 4 /Ukrinform/. The Ukrainian government has found additional funds to help internally displaced persons (IDPs), reserving half a billion hryvnias for this purpose.

"The government has already spent more than 108 million hryvnias for this. This figure will grow and half a billion hryvnias are reserved for this," Ukrainian Deputy Prime Minister and Culture Minister Viacheslav Kyrylenko said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/government_reserves_half_a_billion_hryvnias_for_idps_327551

Experience of foreign ministers can break on our realities - expert, 04.12.2014

KYIV, December 4 /Ukrinform/. European experience in managing a business space by newly appointed foreign ministers may "break" on Ukrainian realities that require allocation of significant resources to the defense sector.

This opinion was voiced by director of the information-consulting company Defense Express Serhiy Zgurets at a press conference on Thursday.

"The new ministers-foreigners profess American or European standards for managing business space, but wouldn't their experience break on our realities, related to the fact that we need a lot of money to throw in the defense industry," the expert said.

He stressed that Ukraine cannot use the means that are provided as external assistance for the defense sector - they should be found inside the country.

"Therefore, the situation will be extremely difficult next year, because in order to win the war, we need only three things - money, money and money again," Zgurets summed up.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/experience_of_foreign_ministers_can_break_on_our_realities_expert_327545

Russia may never get Mistral helicopter carriers - French defense minister, 05.12.2014

KYIV, December 5 /Ukrinform/. "We may never transfer them [Mistral-class helicopter carriers]. And the Russians are aware of this situation. The transfer cannot be considered in those stressful conditions in which we are today," French Defense Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian said according to Le Figaro.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/russia_may_never_get_mistral_helicopter_carriers_french_defense_minister_327562

Ukraine takes over chairmanship of GUAM, switches meeting language to English, 05.12.2014

The chairmanship of the GUAM Organization for Democracy and Economic Development has been transferred to Ukraine, Ukrainian Foreign Minister Pavlo Klimkin wrote on his Twitter page on Friday.

"I have been studying the principles of the chairmanship of the GUAM," Klimkin wrote.

"It is necessary to fill it with new content. Firstly, I proposed to conduct the meeting in English, not in Russian. Everybody supported my offer."

"A GUAM Secretary General immediately showed that he had not even installed the Cyrillic script on his computer. Therefore, as they say, everything is on the same page," Klimkin said, according to the Ukrainian service of Radio Liberty.

The Ukrainian Foreign Ministry reported on Twitter that the GUAM meeting is being held in Basel, in Switzerland.

<http://www.unian.info/society/1018160-ukraine-takes-over-chairmanship-of-guam-switches-meeting-language-to-english.html>

State Department: Kremlin openly lying about Ukraine, 05.12.2014

KYIV, December 5 /Ukrinform/. The U.S. State Department does not see as a fight for influence the expansion of broadcasting in Ukrainian and Russian languages as part of the resolution that calls for the fight against Kremlin propaganda.

"It's not a fight for influence. It's a fight for the people of Ukraine, and indeed the entire region, to get the truth about what's happening on the ground. We have seen an incredible amount of Russian propaganda - much of it blatant lies, much of it incredibly distorted - put out there about the situation on the ground," State Department deputy spokesperson Marie Harf said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/state_department_kremlin_openly_lying_about_ukraine_327557

Poltorak: Ukrainian army will not leave Donetsk airport, 05.12.2014

KYIV, December 5 /Ukrinform/. Ukrainian military who are defending the Donetsk airport are not planning to leave their positions.

"The situation there is stable, but difficult. In my opinion, we have no right to surrender even a meter of our land," Ukrainian Defense Minister Stepan Poltorak said after the ceremony to present awards to servicemen on the occasion of the Day of the Ukrainian Armed Forces, adding that Ukrainian troops continue to keep their current positions.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/poltorak_ukrainian_army_will_not_leave_donetsk_airport_327559

UEFA: Football clubs from Crimea banned from playing in Russian league, 05.12.2014

UEFA Secretary General Gianni Infantino announced on Thursday a ban on two former Ukrainian top-division clubs from Crimea playing in the Russian league because of Russia's annexation of the peninsula.

The UEFA decision to prohibit Crimean clubs from playing in competitions organized by the Russian Football Union as of January 1, 2015 ends all speculation on the issue.

Any football competitions held in Crimea without the organization's content are also prohibited, according to Infantino.

<http://www.unian.info/society/1018223-uefa-football-clubs-from-crimea-banned-from-playing-in-russian-league-video.html>

Russia Wages Media War on Ukraine - Freedom House, 06.12.2014

International non-governmental organization Freedom House admits that Russia wages media war on Ukraine.

"During 2013-2014, the online sphere in Ukraine faced increasing pressure, though it remained the freest part of the media landscape. The Euromaidan protests, which erupted in November 2013 in response to then-president Viktor Yanukovich's refusal to sign an association agreement with the European Union (EU), grew into a long-term anti-government stand-off, which lasted until the end of February 2014 when the president was ousted and a new government was formed. This period was characterized by a great uptick in civic activity online and the widespread use of internet and social networks for mobilization, grassroots organizing, and coordinating information flows to Ukrainians and those abroad, the report says.

http://en.censor.net.ua/news/315150/russia_wages_media_war_on_ukraine_freedom_house

More Than 1,250 Soldiers Killed During ATO – Poroshenko, 06.12.2014

About 1,250 Ukrainian soldiers were killed since the beginning of the ATO in Eastern Ukraine. This was stated by President Poroshenko during the ceremony of weapons and military equipment transfer to Ukrainian soldiers, at a military airfield in the town of Chuhuiiv.

The President congratulated the soldiers with the Day of the Armed Forces of Ukraine and thanked them for their ultimate courage in defending Ukrainian territories. Poroshenko stressed that soldiers are fighting for the whole Ukraine in the Donetsk and Luhansk regions.

President Poroshenko added that more than 1,250 soldiers (952 of them were from the Army) were killed during the ATO.

http://en.censor.net.ua/news/315199/more_than_1250_soldiers_killed_during_ato_poroshenko

Poroshenko urges OSCE to promote ceasefire in Donbas tomorrow, 08.12.2014

KYIV, December 8 /Ukrinform/. Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko has met with Heidi Tagliavini, special representative of the OSCE chairperson-in-office as part of the trilateral contact group on the implementation of the peace plan in eastern Ukraine, the presidential press service has reported.

Poroshenko noted the important role played by the trilateral contact group and expressed hope that despite the end of the term of the Swiss chairmanship of the OSCE, Tagliavini would continue her important work. The Ukrainian president said that a meeting of the trilateral contact group should take place as soon as possible so as to achieve a ceasefire on December 9.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/poroshenko_urges_osce_to_promote_ceasefire_in_donbas_tomorrow_327575

Turchynov proposes to discuss fate of non-aligned status as soon as possible, 08.12.2014

KYIV, December 8 /Ukrinform/. Leader of the People's Front Oleksandr Turchynov considers that the law on abolishment of Ukraine's non-aligned status should be considered in the Verkhovna Rada Tuesday. He said this at a meeting of the Conciliation Council.

According to Turchynov, it would be appropriate to consider a law abolishing amnesty for those, who participated in the events in Donbas.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/turchynov_proposes_to_discuss_fate_of_non_aligned_status_as_soon_as_possible_327584

Russia must pay for aggression - Yatseniuk, 08.12.2014

KYIV, December 8 /Ukrinform/. "If Russia further continues the aggressive policy against Ukraine and against the whole world, it should further pay its price. Including, it should pay the price through sanctions and our unity: unity of the EU member countries, unity of Ukraine and unity of the U.S.," Prime Minister of Ukraine Arseniy Yatseniuk said by results of his meeting with Belgian Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs Didier Reynders.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/russia_must_pay_for_aggression_yatseniuk_327585

Yatseniuk urges MPs to adopt package of laws for survival, 08.12.2014

KYIV, December 8 /Ukrinform/. Ukrainian Prime Minister Arseniy Yatseniuk has called on the Verkhovna Rada to adopt a package of economic laws that are necessary to save the country in the current situation.

"The situation is extremely difficult. Our revenues fall every month due to the conflict in the east, due to the destroyed infrastructure, and due to destroyed industrial production facilities... I am asking members of the new parliament to adopt a package of economic laws that enable us to survive in 2015," Prime Minister of Ukraine Arseniy Yatseniuk said by results of his meeting with Belgian Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs Didier Reynders.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/yatseniuk_urges_mps_to_adopt_package_of_laws_for_survival_327588

Hroisman offers to promptly abolish parliamentary immunity, 08.12.2014

KYIV, December 8 /Ukrinform/. Verkhovna Rada Chairman Volodymyr Hroisman supports an initiative on the prompt abolition of parliamentary immunity.

"As regards the removal of immunity, I personally, as Chairman of the parliament support it ... I really would like that we reviewed it as soon as possible and finally removed it," he said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/hroisman_offers_to_promptly_abolish_parliamentary_immunity_327589

Russia to resume gas supply to Ukraine on December 11, 08.12.2014

KYIV, December 8 /Ukrinform/. Ukraine will start taking on December 11 the Russian gas for which it paid on December 6, the press service of PJSC Ukrtransgaz has told.

"Ukrtransgaz got the instruction from the [Naftogaz of Ukraine] management to prepare the transport system for the receipt of Russian gas from December 11. The instruction came this morning," a spokesperson said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/russia_to_resume_gas_supply_to_ukraine_on_december_11_327590

Yanukovych changes mind to be president, 08.12.2014

KYIV, December 8 /Ukrinform/. Viktor Yanukovych Jr. resigned as head of the Automobile Federation of Ukraine (AFU). This is stated in his address posted on the AFU website.

"Since my life principle has always been compulsory division between motor racing and politics, in order that the Automobile Federation of Ukraine further developed, I withdraw from the leadership of the Presidium and resign the powers of the AFU President," the publication reads. Recall, Yanukovych Jr. led the Automobile Federation of Ukraine in 2013-2014.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/yanukovych_changes_mind_to_be_president_327591

Minsk agreement is the only way to peace - Belgian foreign minister, 08.12.2014

KYIV, December 8 /Ukrinform/. Belgian Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Didier Reynders has said that a ceasefire in Donbas can be achieved only through the implementation of the Minsk agreement.

"We strongly support the sovereignty and integrity of Ukraine. As for security, especially in eastern Ukraine, we will fight together to implement the truce and ceasefire. This can be achieved only in one way - by returning to the provisions of the Minsk agreement," he said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/minsk_agreement_is_the_only_way_to_peace_belgian_foreign_minister_327596

Ukraine to import electricity from several countries, 08.12.2014

KYIV, December 8 /Ukrinform/. A resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine on electricity imports will be signed soon.

"Today or tomorrow we will sign a government resolution according to which we will be able to import electricity. Imports do not concern only the Russian Federation. These are imports from other countries that can supply additional electricity to Ukraine, including Moldova," Ukrainian Deputy Prime Minister Hennadiy Zubko said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/ukraine_to_import_electricity_from_several_countries_327600

Interpol refusing to put Yanukovych and his entourage on wanted list, 09.12.2014

KYIV, December 9 /Ukrinform/. Interpol is refusing to put former Ukrainian President Viktor Yanukovych, who was hiding in Russia, and six other former senior Ukrainian officials on the international wanted list.

"Seven people, led by Yanukovych, today were not declared wanted by Interpol... They [Interpol] said that they saw signs of political persecution in attempts to put Yanukovych on the wanted list," Ukrainian Prosecutor General Vitaliy Yarema said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/interpol_refusing_to_put_yanukovych_and_his_entourage_on_wanted_list_327601

Canadian defense minister calls for maintaining pressure on Russia, 09.12.2014

KYIV, December 9 /Ukrinform/. Canada and its allies are determined to continue their pressure on Russia, first and foremost, through sanctions, in order to make it respect international law and the sovereignty of Ukraine.

Canadian Defense Minister Robert Nicholson said this at a joint press conference with his Ukrainian counterpart Stepan Poltorak in Kyiv on Monday.

"We have to continue to maintain the pressure on Russia to see that they start to comply with international law and that they start to respect the freedom and independence of Ukraine,"

Nicholson said, while answering a question from an Ukrinform reporter on how to make Russia fulfill the Minsk agreements and stop its aggression.

He said that by saying pressure he meant sanctions, which, according to him, have a long-term effect.

In this regard, Nicholson noted that Russia had had a terrible record over the last year in this regard.

"They [Russia] should discontinue their actions and make amends to Ukraine. And we are determined along with our other allies to stick by and support Ukraine until that happens," he said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/canadian_defense_minister_calls_for_maintaining_pressure_on_russia_327612

Steinmeier hopes situation in Donbas will soon calm, 09.12.2014

KYIV, December 9 /Ukrinform/. German Foreign Minister Frank-Walter Steinmeier has said that tension in eastern Ukraine may ease.

He said this during his visit to Tbilisi on December 8, Deutsche Welle reported.

"There are small signs that we can achieve some calm in the coming days and weeks," Steinmeier said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/steinmeier_hopes_situation_in_donbas_will_soon_calm_327613

Ukraine to cancel its non-bloc status - Yatseniuk, 09.12.2014

KYIV, December 9 /Ukrinform/. Ukraine's non-bloc status will be cancelled and the state will adopt a new law on the foundations of domestic and foreign policy.

"The law that was passed as a bribe to Russians, on the so-called non-bloc status of Ukraine, should be cancelled. Ukraine will adopt a new law on the foundations of domestic and foreign policy, where the non-bloc status will be cancelled and the Ukrainian army should meet NATO standards," Prime Minister Arseniy Yatseniuk said.

To this end, he said, Ukraine will approve every year an annual Ukraine-NATO action plan.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/ukraine_to_cancel_its_non_bloc_status_yatseniuk_327618

Ukraine needs to spend at least 5% of GDP on defense - premier, 09.12.2014

KYIV, December 9 /Ukrinform/. Ukraine should spend about 5% of GDP on ensuring national security and defense.

"The key priority is national security and defense and the financing of law enforcement agencies. We have set rather an ambitious goal for ourselves - up to 5% of GDP should be spent on national security, defense, and law enforcement activity," Prime Minister Arseniy Yatseniuk said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/ukraine_needs_to_spend_at_least_5_of_gdp_on_defense_premier_327619

State expenses will be cut by 10%, 09.12.2014

KYIV, December 9 /Ukrinform/. "We have to go by way of radical reduction of expenses in the state sector. The matter concerns reduction of expenses in the state sector by 10%," Prime Minister Arseniy Yatseniuk said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/state_expenses_will_be_cut_by_10_327623

15,000 new state standards will be introduced in Ukraine - Yatseniuk, 09.12.2014

KYIV, December 9 /Ukrinform/. "We officially say that Ukraine refuses from Russia and Soviet GOSTs and standards. 15,000 new state standards will be introduced in compliance with the Association Agreement with the EU. We set optimistic goals for ourselves until 2016," Prime Minister Arseniy Yatseniuk said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/15000_new_state_standards_will_be_introduced_in_ukraine_yatseniuk_327624

Kyiv fuel oil will be enough for 2-3 weeks, 09.12.2014

KYIV, December 9 /Ukrinform/. The amount of fuel oil, kept at Kyiv thermal power plants, will be enough for 2-3 weeks of the heating season in the case of gas shortages.

"It (oil - Ed.) will be enough for about 2-3 weeks. I believe that this is the time to resolve the issue of stable gas supply if the situation with its lack arises..." Director of the department for housing and communal infrastructure of the Kyiv city state administration Dmytro Novytsky said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/kyiv_fuel_oil_will_be_enough_for_2_3_weeks_327625

Yatseniuk announces new economic policy, 09.12.2014

KYIV, December 9 /Ukrinform/. "Objectively, we will not be able to fund the army, we will not be able to provide social standards, if the economy does not work. In the military economy it is difficult to provide stability. But this is our task. Therefore, after stopping the Russian military aggression, the economy should switch to the new footing - the footing of the new economic policy," Prime Minister Arseniy Yatseniuk said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/yatseniuk_announces_new_economic_policy_327627

Ukraine to introduce health insurance - Yatseniuk, 09.12.2014

KYIV, December 9 /Ukrinform/. "We declare that full-scale health insurance will be introduced in Ukraine," Prime Minister Arseniy Yatseniuk said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/ukraine_to_introduce_health_insurance_yatseniuk_327626

Yatseniuk presents government action program, 09.12.2014

KYIV, December 9 /Ukrinform/. Ukrainian Prime Minister Arseniy Yatseniuk at a government meeting on Tuesday presented an action program of the Cabinet of Ministers.

The program, he said, is based on a coalition agreement: "There are no simple decisions, and quick and simple decisions are not always effective. That's why the new government, along with the new parliament and president, and especially with the Ukrainian people, must fulfill our joint European program."

"Our main course is the European course. Our ultimate goal is Ukraine's membership of the European Union. But in order to achieve this objective we must pass serious tests, bring radical changes and actually change Ukraine, making Ukraine a European state. Then we will get an invitation from our European partners. This is what our program is focused on," he said.

"We offer two simple solutions. The first solution is to halve the single tax for small and medium businesses, and the second solution is not to touch and check them for two years," he said.

He added that the Cabinet would table in parliament a bill envisaging that at the first stage entrepreneurs fill the so-called zero tax declarations and at the second stage they are transferred to a uniform income declaration system.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/yatseniuk_presents_government_action_program_327629

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/small_businesses_may_get_two_year_tax_holidays_government_program_327632

Government has a plan for information security, 09.12.2014

KYIV, December 9 /Ukrinform/. "We already have a clear plan as part of our information security, which is displayed in the coalition agreement, namely the launch of international broadcasting. The world should know what is happening in Ukraine and receive information in English, German, French and other languages," Prime Minister Arseniy Yatseniuk said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/government_has_a_plan_for_information_security_327631

Russia not to change its policy towards Ukraine - Lavrov, 09.12.2014

KYIV, December 9 /Ukrinform/. Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov has said it is offensive that the West, through sanctions, is trying to make Russia change its policy towards Ukraine.

"Nobody gains anything from sanctions, neither those against whom sanctions are imposed, nor those who impose these sanctions. Perhaps, all parties sustain economic losses," he said.

Lavrov also stated that Russia would not change its policy towards Ukraine.

"I can assure you that we will cope with the difficulties that resulted from unfriendly actions by the EU, US, and a number of other countries. It's a pity that Europeans, educated and enlightened people who know history, really hope that these sanctions will help achieve some constructive changes in Ukraine's situation and are trying to put pressure on Russia," he said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/russia_not_to_change_its_policy_towards_ukraine_lavrov_327628

Stets wants to liquidate State Committee on Television and Radio Broadcasting, 10.12.2014

KYIV, December 10 /Ukrinform/. Newly appointed Minister for Information Policy Yuriy Stets has said he supports the liquidation of the State Committee on Television and Radio Broadcasting. He said this at a meeting of the Verkhovna Rada Committee on Freedom of Speech.

"As for a constitutional body, which is the State Committee on Television and Radio Broadcasting, amendments regarding the functioning of this institution are made by the Verkhovna Rada, and 300 votes are required for this... I will be grateful to deputies if they find 300 votes and disband this body," he said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/stets_wants_to_liquidate_state_committee_on_television_and_radio_broadcasting_327656

Poroshenko to Russia: Pull back troops and close border, 11.12.2014

KYIV, December 11 /Ukrinform/. Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko has called on Russia to withdraw its troops from Donbas and close the border with Ukraine.

He said this on Thursday at a joint press conference with Australian Prime Minister Tony Abbott, Channel 5 reported.

"Please withdraw your troops from my territory. Close the border. And I promise that if you close the border, peace and stability will reign in Ukraine within one, two or three weeks. It's very simple," Poroshenko said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/poroshenko_to_russia_pull_back_troops_and_close_border_327662

Premier: Budget deficit - almost UAH 70 billion, 11.12.2014

KYIV, December 11 /Ukrinform/. The government keeps deficit of the state budget within the frames of UAH 68 billion, which is about 4%. Prime Minister Arseniy Yatseniuk said, speaking in the Verkhovna Rada.

He noted that deficit of NJSC Naftogaz of Ukraine is larger than the whole budget of the country.

Earlier, presenting a program of government actions, Yatseniuk said that the forecasted GDP fall is 7% today, whereas earlier 10% was envisaged. Inflation according to the Premier is 19%.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/premier_budget_deficit_almost_uah_70_billion_327671

Russia may cut off Ukraine's access to Black Sea - MEP, 11.12.2014

KYIV, December 11 /Ukrinform/. The possibility that Russia will try to create a corridor from Donbas to Crimea is growing.

MEP Jacek Saryusz-Wolski said this in an interview with Polskie Radio, the Yevropeiska Pravda online newspaper reported.

In addition, he said, a scenario is possible that Russia will try to cut off Ukraine's access to the Black Sea and create a corridor to Transdnistria, but it is less likely.

"At one time research by experts showed that this [probability] is 30% for the Crimea-Transdnistria corridor and 50% for the Crimea-Donbas corridor," he said.

"I think that over time and given actual facts, such as the buildup of Russian troops on Ukrainian territory, the movement of the Black Sea Fleet, the mobilization of Russian troops in Crimea, the probability is growing," Saryusz-Wolski said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/russia_may_cut_off_ukraines_access_to_black_sea_mep_327674

Ukraine should be given weapons to equalize chances with Russia - MEP, 11.12.2014

KYIV, December 11 /Ukrinform/. The West should provide Ukraine with weapons to increase its national defense capability in the event of Russia's possible further aggression and strengthen economical sanctions against Russia.

Polish MEP Jacek Saryusz-Wolski said this in an interview with Polskie Radio.

"It is worth asking whether actions by the West are sufficient to help Ukraine. I think they are not, because, first of all, there should be significant weapon supplies to Ukraine to equalize its chances in the conflict with Russia. In the light of the escalation of the Ukrainian conflict by Russia, there is a need for the next level of sanctions against Russia," Saryusz-Wolski said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/ukraine_should_be_given_weapons_to_equalize_chances_with_russia_mep_327677

Default does not threaten Ukraine - Jaresko, 11.12.2014

KYIV, December 11 /Ukrinform/. Despite the difficult economic situation, default does not threaten Ukraine, such a forecast is not even discussed. New Finance Minister of Ukraine Natalia Jaresko told an interview in Focus.

"We do not have either pre-default or default situation. Today, this issue is not even discussed in the government. Although, nobody conceals that the situation is very difficult, Ukraine needs urgent stabilization of the financial system, including the banking sector," she said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/default_does_not_threaten_ukraine_jaresko_327681

Jaresko expects economic growth in 2016, 11.12.2014

KYIV, December 11 /Ukrinform/. Ukrainian Finance Minister Natalie Jaresko predicts economic growth in Ukraine in 2016. She said this in an interview with the Focus magazine.

"I hope that we will see economic growth in 2016. I think we will also cope with the key tasks - conducting business deregulation, de-monopolization and deregulation of markets, and restoring investors' confidence in the country," Jaresko said.

According to her, it is too early to talk about specific figures.

"I have a lot of ideas. Some of them require an increase in expenses and others a reduction. We certainly need to balance the situation with Naftogaz's budget deficit and utility rates. We also need to reconsider existing benefits for broad layers of the population toward targeted aid to the people who really need it. All this is being discussed," the minister said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/jaresko_expects_economic_growth_in_2016_327682

Moscow not planning to withdraw Russian troops and close border with Ukraine, 11.12.2014

KYIV, December 11 /Ukrinform/. The Russian Foreign Ministry has stated that Russian troops will not be withdrawn from Ukraine, because they are not allegedly there, and that there are no plans to close the Ukrainian-Russian border controlled by pro-Russian militants. Earlier, Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko made such a demand to Russia.

"I saw in the news the statement made by the Ukrainian president at a press conference after negotiations with the Australian prime minister. To be honest, such statements cause surprise and confusion. First of all, we have repeatedly said that there were and there are no Russian military representatives in Ukraine, so we have no one to withdraw. As for the border, it is completely secure on our side, and OSCE observers have been deployed at two border checkpoints. As for the Ukrainian part of the border, which is still not controlled by the Ukrainian authorities, here they need to negotiate with representatives of Donetsk and Luhansk regions," Russian Foreign Ministry spokesperson Alexander Lukashevich said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/moscow_not_planning_to_withdraw_russian_troops_and_close_border_with_ukraine_327686

Exclusive: Gorbachev Blames the U.S. for Provoking 'New Cold War', 11.12.2014

In the offices of Mikhail Gorbachev, still sharp at 83 and plainspoken as ever, the walls are lined with photos from his travels as the leader of the Soviet Union and, in the years after its demise, as a living icon of the Cold War.

"Putin started acting on his own," says Gorbachev, referring to the annexation of Crimea from Ukraine. "And his position was in the interests of the majority."

"People are talking again not only about a new Cold War but a hot one," he says. "It's as if a time of great troubles has arrived. The world is roiling."

But that does not mean that Putin should back down in the face of Western sanctions. "It's hard to belittle the Russians," says Gorbachev. "We know our worth." And if the U.S. does start to seek a new thaw in relations with Russia, he has a fresh bit of advice to offer Putin going forward: "I learned that you can listen to the Americans, but you cannot trust them," he says. "When they get an idea to do something, they'll turn the world onto a different axis to get it done."

"We have to return to dialogue. We have to stop this process," he says warily. "We have to return to what we started with at the end of the Cold War." But so far, he admits, the world is moving in the opposite direction.

<http://time.com/3630352/mikhail-gorbachev-vladimir-putin-cold-war/>

Malaysian Boeing shot down by Russian missile - Poroshenko, 12.12.2014

KYIV, December 12 /Ukrinform/. Preliminary results of the investigation have confirmed that the Malaysia Airlines Flight MH17 was shot down by a Russian missile.

Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko said this during his visit to Australia, the presidential press service reported.

"Intelligence data indicates that the aircraft was downed with a missile launched from a Buk-M system that was brought from Russia into Donbas along with the crew," Poroshenko said. Australian Prime Minister Tony Abbott supported his position.

"In the morning of July 17, Malaysia Airlines MH17 plane was shot down by militants supported by Russia," he said, adding that the Ukrainian government's assistance in organizing the work of Australian experts at the Boeing crash site was very important.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/malaysian_boeing_shot_down_by_russian_missile_poroshenko_327687

Poltorak wants to increase troops in south, 12.12.2014

KYIV, December 12 /Ukrinform/. Poltorak wants to increase the army in the south. Defense Minister Stepan Poltorak said during an hour of questions to the government in the parliament. "The threat is not only in the east, but also in the south. So, the existing military forces there should not be reduced, but enlarged. And the appropriate things are being worked out," he said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/poltorak_wants_to_increase_troops_in_south_327697

Opposition Bloc wants more committees, 12.12.2014

KYIV, December 12 /Ukrinform/. The Opposition Bloc faction is not satisfied with the offer to head only the Verkhovna Rada committee on the rules of procedure and insists on the management of three committees.

Faction representative Serhiy Liovochkin told this to reporters in the Verkhovna Rada on Friday. "We insist that the majority must comply with the laws of Ukraine and the law on the rules of procedure in particular. It clearly says that the number of committees should comply with the number of deputies in the faction. The management of only the committee on rules of procedure does not suit us," Liovochkin said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/opposition_bloc_wants_more_committees_327698

Ukrainian army to be strengthened to 250,000 servicemen next year, 12.12.2014

KYIV, December 12 /Ukrinform/. "The strength of the Ukrainian Armed Forces has increased. Last year we had 130,000 people and now we have 232,000. It is planned to bring the number of Ukrainian Armed Forces servicemen to 250,000," Ukrainian Defense Minister Stepan Poltorak said this in the Verkhovna Rada on Friday.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/ukrainian_army_to_be_strengthened_to_250000_servicemen_next_year_327701

Russia preparing tenth "humanitarian convoy" for Donbas, 13.12.2014

KYIV, December 13 /Ukrinform/. Russia already forms the tenth "humanitarian convoy" to be sent to Donbas.

Deputy Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the UN Dmitry Maksimichev told this, TASS reports.

"Now, we are preparing the tenth convoy. Ukrainian authorities were duly informed of its content and the routes," he said at a meeting of the UN General Assembly.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/russia_preparing_tenth_humanitarian_convoy_for_donbas_327710

United States Calls on All Countries to Cease Contacts with Russia, 13.12.2014

The US calls on all countries not to support the previous business relations with Russia.

US State Department spokesperson Jen Psaki reported at a briefing in Washington. Her speech is published on the official website of the US Department of State.

Psaki made the corresponding statement in connection to the visit of the Russian official delegation to India and signing of a number of contracts there. She noted that the US is not calling for new sanctions against Moscow, Deutsche Welle informs.

Psaki stressed that the US is unhappy over India doing "business as usual" with Russia, but it will have no effect on US President Barack Obama's upcoming visit to India which remains an "important partner."

http://en.censor.net.ua/news/316158/united_states_calls_on_all_countries_to_cease_contacts_with_russia

Ukraine not planning to become nuclear power again - Poroshenko, 15.12.2014

KYIV, December 15 /Ukrinform/. Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko has ruled out the possibility that Ukraine might bring back its nuclear status. He said this in an interview with ABC. Poroshenko said that a return to nuclear status would be absolutely irresponsible.

"We can win the aggressor only when we will be united and when the whole world demonstrates exactly what we have now: solidarity with Ukraine," Poroshenko said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/ukraine_not_planning_to_become_nuclear_power_again_poroshenko_327726

Poroshenko: All captives should return home by Christmas, 15.12.2014

KYIV, December 15 /Ukrinform/. Interagency cooperation on the release of hostages who are in captivity of militants and in Russia should be intensified so that all captives could be able to return home before Christmas.

"I am demanding clear and coordinated work between the Security Service and the Foreign Ministry on speeding up the return of our (citizens) home. The task is that all those who are on the lists and their number currently exceeds 600 should return before Christmas," Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko said this at a meeting with the heads of law enforcement agencies, addressing SBU Chief Valentyn Nalyvaichenko.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/poroshenko_all_captives_should_return_home_by_christmas_327731

IMF representative Lipton impressed by what he saw in Kyiv, 15.12.2014

KYIV, December 15 /Ukrinform/. An IMF mission working in Ukraine will conclude its work by the end of this week.

IMF First Deputy Managing Director David Lipton said this in a statement on his visit to Ukraine, which was released on the IMF website on Sunday.

"I visited Kyiv on December 13, for meetings with the president, prime minister and their new economic team. I was impressed by their vision for an economic transformation of Ukraine, and by their commitment to decisive, front-loaded implementation of their reform agenda," the IMF's press office quoted Lipton as saying.

According to the report, "a Fund team conducting technical discussions is expected to conclude its work by the end of the coming week." A mission to conduct policy discussions in the context of the Fund-supported program is expected to return to Kyiv early next year.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/imf_representative_lipton_impressed_by_what_he_saw_in_kyiv_327741

Most crimes in Donbas committed by militants - Simonovic, 15.12.2014

KYIV, December 15 /Ukrinform/. Illegal armed groups operating in eastern Ukraine are responsible for most crimes and violations of international humanitarian law in Donbas.

UN Assistant Secretary General for Human Rights Ivan Simonovic said this at a briefing in Kyiv on Monday, an Ukrinform correspondent reports.

He said that speaking about the number of crimes and the number of other violations of international humanitarian law and human rights, most of them had been committed by illegal armed groups.

Simonovic said that the human rights situation in the east remained very difficult. "This situation is aggravated by the inflow of heavy and sophisticated weaponry as well as foreign fighters, including from the Russian Federation," he said.

He said that the population in Ukraine's eastern regions was increasingly desperate and willing to abandon their homes, uproot their families and leave their businesses behind to seek survival elsewhere. He said that the situation might be further aggravated as a consequence of the Ukrainian government's decision that by December 1, all state institutions and enterprises in the territory controlled by the armed groups would be relocated and banking services suspended.

"Over the last days, my civil society interlocutors expressed strong concerns about the potential adverse effects of these measures on the population in the East... The effect of the decree may have far-reaching negative humanitarian consequences," he said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/most_crimes_in_donbas_committed_by_militants_simonovic_327755

Chevron wants to quit shale gas project - Chaly, 15.12.2014

KYIV, December 15 /Ukrinform/. Deputy Head of Ukraine's Presidential Administration Valeriy Chaly has confirmed that he received "signals" from U.S. company Chevron regarding its desire to withdraw from the project to extract shale gas at the Oleske area.

He said this at a briefing on Monday, an Ukrinform correspondent reported.

"I personally did not receive such a letter from them, but there is information that they want to take such a decision. If you want to hear my own position, I believe that in the current conditions projects of this kind need to be preserved as much as possible if this can be done," he said.

He said that despite the situation in Donbas Ukraine would try to keep all investment and infrastructure projects as much as possible.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/chevron_wants_to_quit_shale_gas_project_chaly_327750

Deputies receive budget and immediately send it for revision - Leshchenko, 15.12.2014

KYIV, December 15 /Ukrinform/. "Deputies received the draft budget 2015, submitted by the government to the Verkhovna Rada, and according to the procedure it was immediately recalled for revision. The draft budget has not a single kopeck to finance the newly created National Anticorruption Bureau," MP Serhiy Leshchenko told on his Facebook page.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/deputies_receive_budget_and_immediately_send_it_for_revision_leshchenko_327753

EU to strengthen sanctions on Crimea on Thursday - Mogherini, 16.12.2014

KYIV, December 16 /Ukrinform/. Additional EU sanctions on Crimea will be approved on Thursday, December 18.

This was stated by EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy Federica Mogherini.

"I would expect the work at the working group level to be finalized in these very same hours and then a written procedure could finalize their implementation in time for the European Council [meeting] on Thursday," she said at a press conference in Brussels after the first meeting of the EU-Ukraine Association Council.

According to Mogherini, an additional part of EU measures on Crimea require greater legislative framework and technical work, which is still ongoing.

"Today [on December 15] in the Foreign Affairs Council we restated unanimously the political commitment for swift implementation of the part of the sanctions that were already decided," she said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/eu_to_strengthen_sanctions_on_crimea_on_thursday_mogherini_327767

Stoltenberg: NATO supports Ukraine, but cannot give it weapons, 16.12.2014

KYIV, December 16 /Ukrinform/. The North Atlantic Alliance supports Ukraine, both politically and practically, and is ready to strengthen cooperation, but it cannot provide the country with weapons.

NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg said this at a joint press conference with Ukrainian Prime Minister Arseniy Yatseniuk in Brussels on Monday, according to NATO's website.

"NATO doesn't possess weapons or equipment. So NATO does not provide equipment to any partner; because we don't possess them. Then, it's up to each individual NATO Ally to decide what kind of support, what kind of equipment they provide," he said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/stoltenberg_nato_supports_ukraine_but_cannot_give_it_weapons_327771

Ukraine spends UAH 95 mln on defense every day - Yatseniuk, 16.12.2014

KYIV, December 16 /Ukrinform/. Ukraine spends UAH 95 million on national security and defense every day.

"Our military spending is huge. This is about 95 million hryvnias a day. This is a large part of the state budget of Ukraine," Ukrainian Prime Minister Arseniy Yatseniuk said this in Brussels.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/ukraine_spends_uah_95 mln_on_defense_every_day_yatseniuk_327773

Ukraine lost 20% of economy because of Russian aggression - Yatseniuk, 16.12.2014

KYIV, December 16 /Ukrinform/. Ukraine has lost 20% of its economic potential because of Russian aggression.

Ukrainian Prime Minister Arseniy Yatseniuk said this in Brussels on Tuesday.

"In the context of macroeconomics, we expect a 7% drop in GDP. Yes, the drop, rather than growth. Ukraine has lost 20% of its economic potential because of Russian aggression in Crimea, Luhansk and Donetsk. It also significantly affected the industry, and its figures decreased by 10%," he said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/ukraine_lost_20_of_economy_because_of_russian_aggression_yatseniuk_327774

Militants remove up to 25 wagons of coal from Donbas, 16.12.2014

KYIV, December 16 /Ukrinform/. Militants try to illegally remove coal and scrap metal from the ATO area, in particular, over the recent months, border guards detained more than 10,000 tonnes of coal without proper documents.

"In total, over recent two months, border guards detained more than 10,000 tonnes of "black gold" without proper documents," NSDC Information-Analytical Center spokesman Andriy Lysenko said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/militants_remove_up_to_25_wagons_of_coal_from_donbas_327775

Yatseniuk: World must prevent Russia from deploying nuclear weapons in Crimea, 16.12.2014

KYIV, December 16 /Ukrinform/. The international community must take all measures to prevent Russia from deploying nuclear weapons in Crimea.

Ukrainian Prime Minister Arseniy Yatseniuk said this at a conference organized by the European Policy Center in Brussels on Tuesday, the government portal reported.

"This is a challenge to the whole world, and the world must respond by all means and methods so as to prevent Russia from deploying nuclear weapons on Ukrainian territory, because Crimea is Ukrainian territory," he said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/yatseniuk_world_must_prevent_russia_from_deploying_nuclear_weapons_in_crimea_327780

Hontareva expects stabilization on currency market, 17.12.2014

KYIV, December 16 /Ukrinform/. Governor of the National Bank of Ukraine (NBU) Valeriya Hontareva has said he expects the situation on the currency market to stabilize in the near future, according to the official website of the central bank.

According to the report, a meeting was held in the NBU building on December 15 with the leaders of the largest banks in Ukraine. The meeting participants discussed the development of the banking sector and the situation on Ukraine's interbank currency market. Bankers again supported the continuation of the practice of holding currency auctions in order to form an indicative rate.

"Valeriya Hontareva recalled that transactions with Naftogaz of Ukraine now in no way influence the exchange rate, therefore the National Bank expects the stabilization of the situation on the interbank foreign exchange market," reads the statement.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/hontareva_expects_stabilization_on_currency_market_327783

EU insists on implementation of Minsk agreements - Mogherini, 17.12.2014

KYIV, December 17 /Ukrinform/. The European Union will insist on the implementation of all points of the Minsk agreements. EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy Federica Mogherini said.

Mogherini said that the EU would continue to be on the side of Ukraine and would work hard to ensure that the conflict in Donbas ends with full respect for Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/eu_insists_on_implementation_of_minsk_agreements_mogherini_327788

Ukraine to be ready for visa-free regime with EU by Riga summit - Poroshenko, 17.12.2014

KYIV, December 17 /Ukrinform/. Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko expects to complete all preparatory steps for the introduction of a visa-free regime with the European Union by the Riga EU and Eastern Partnership countries summit, which is scheduled for the first half of 2015.

He said this at a joint press conference with EU foreign policy chief Federica Mogherini in Kyiv on Tuesday, the presidential press service reported.

"We have reached agreements, and I am confident that Ukraine will demonstrate its determination to complete the procedure of the implementation of the visa regime liberalization by the Riga summit,"

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/ukraine_to_be_ready_for_visa_free_regime_with_eu_by_riga_summit_poroshenko_327784

Abromavichus names Ukraine most corrupt in Europe, 17.12.2014

KYIV, December 17 /Ukrinform/. Ukraine is the most corrupt country in Europe. The newly formed government intends to vigorously combat this problem, including through the EU and other international partners.

Newly appointed Economic Development and Trade Minister Ayvaras Abromavichus said in an interview with AFP.

"If there are no reforms that will strengthen our economy, sovereignty will be at stake," Hromadske TV quoted the Minister.

Abromavichus considers the "excessive bureaucracy," creating opportunities for corruption, as another problem of Ukraine and his ministry.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/abromavichus_names_ukraine_most_corrupt_in_europe_327797

Russia may start full-scale war at any time - Turchynov, 17.12.2014

KYIV, December 17 /Ukrinform/. Russia may start a full-scale war against Ukraine at any time. of the National Security and Defense Council (Turchynov said this at a briefing on Wednesday. "The Russian Federation may unleash a full-scale war at any time," NSDC quotes NSDC Secretary Oleksandr Turchynov as saying on its Twitter page.

Turchynov said that, taking into account Russian aggression, Ukraine should not save on the army: "Despite the financial saving, we cannot save money on the Armed Forces, National Guard and defense."

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/russia_may_start_full_scale_war_at_any_time_turchynov_327803

Poroshenko to Russia: Pull back troops and crisis will end, 17.12.2014

KYIV, December 17 /Ukrinform/. The war in the east of Ukraine will end within three weeks after the withdrawal of Russian troops from Donbas. A way out of this situation is possible only on the basis of the Minsk agreements.

Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko said this during his visit to Poland on Wednesday.

"If foreign troops are withdrawn from Ukrainian territory, the crisis in the east will be over in three weeks," Poroshenko said.

He said that the de-escalation of the conflict in Donbas was possible only on the basis of the Minsk agreements.

He noted that the West, and especially Poland, was showing solidarity with Ukraine in this issue.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/poroshenko_to_russia_pull_back_troops_and_crisis_will_end_327811

Poroshenko dreams of becoming deputy of European parliament, 17.12.2014

KYIV, December 17 /Ukrinform/. "I dream that following completion of the presidential cadency, or cadencies, I could be elected a deputy of the European Parliament from Ukraine," President of Ukraine Petro Poroshenko said in his speech at the Polish Sejm.

According to him, the Revolution of Dignity will reach its aim only when the Ukrainian language appears on the European Union website.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/poroshenko_dreams_of_becoming_deputy_of_european_parliament_327814

Poroshenko thanks Poland for solidarity and support of Ukraine, 17.12.2014

KYIV, December 17 /Ukrinform/. Poroshenko thanked Poland for solidarity and support to Ukraine during the events on the Maidan, and now, when Ukraine is undergoing complex tests in connection with the Russian aggression. He said in his speech in the Polish Sejm. He stressed that Kyiv expects support of Poland in search of solutions to the conflict, as well as in support of the reforms.

"The past, even dramatic, should not divide the two peoples ... We are resolute to show that we can reform the country, carry out the transformation and protect peace and democracy, if necessary - with the arms in our hands," Poroshenko said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/poroshenko_thanks_poland_for_solidarity_and_support_of_ukraine_327818

Poroshenko expects release of all hostages this year, 17.12.2014

KYIV, December 17 /Ukrinform/. "Talks in the Normandy format [Ukraine, Russia, France and Germany] were held yesterday. The key issues of the discussion were the implementation of the Minsk agreements and the immediate release of hostages, including Nadia Savchenko, who is illegally held in Russia... By the end of the year efforts will be made to release the hostages," President of Ukraine Petro Poroshenko said at a briefing in Warsaw.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/poroshenko_expects_release_of_all_hostages_this_year_327819

SBU says when Zaporizhzhia airport will be opened, 17.12.2014

KYIV, December 17 /Ukrinform/. "Today two airports are already operating. Once the aviation service is sure that planes at Zaporizhzhia Airport are not in danger, its work will also be resumed," SBU spokesperson Olena Hitlianska said.

She said that earlier airports had been closed due to the threat of the deployment of missile systems on the militant-controlled territory.

"This was done on the basis of information that was provided to SBU by a Defense Ministry unit, that today there is a great danger to aircraft. Therefore, it was decided to take preventive measures on the basis of the information that surface-to-air missile systems, in particular, Pantsir and others, are being deployed in Donetsk and Luhansk regions," Hitlianska said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/sbu_says_when_zaporizhzhia_airport_will_be_opened_327821

Putin: Savchenko acted as a fire coordinator, 18.12.2014

KYIV, December 18 /Ukrinform/. Russian President Vladimir Putin believes that Ukrainian pilot Nadia Savchenko, who was imprisoned in Russia for political reasons, acted as a fire coordinator when Russian journalists were killed in eastern Ukraine.

He said this during a press conference on Thursday.

"Savchenko was a fire coordinator," Putin said.

He also noted that the only condition for the release of Ukrainian political prisoners in Russia was an acquittal.

"If it turns out during the trial that she was not involved in that, she will be released. If not, she will serve her punishment in accordance with the court ruling... Let's see how the preliminary investigation proceeds and what conclusions are made by the court," Putin said, when asked about the fate of political prisoners in Russia, in particular, Nadia Savchenko, Oleh Sentsov and 30 more people.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/putin_savchenko_acted_as_a_fire_coordinator_327837

EU now not to impose new sanctions on Russia - Hollande, 19.12.2014

KYIV, December 19 /Ukrinform/. The decision was made at the EU summit in Brussels on December 18 to refrain from imposing new sanctions on Russia, French President Francois Hollande has told reporters after the summit.

"The decision to tighten sanctions was not taken, because the process [of a peace settlement in Ukraine] is ongoing," he said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/eu_now_not_to_impose_new_sanctions_on_russia_hollande_327855

Obama signs Ukraine Freedom Support Act, 19.12.2014

KYIV, December 19 /Ukrinform/. Bill H.R.5859 entitled "Ukraine Freedom Support Act of 2014" has come into force after it was signed on Thursday by U.S. President Barack Obama.

His statement in this regard has been posted on the website of the White House.

"Today, I have signed H.R. 5859, the Ukraine Freedom Support Act of 2014, into law," Obama said.

He also said that "signing this legislation does not signal a change in the Administration's sanctions policy, which we have carefully calibrated in accordance with developments on the ground and coordinated with our allies and partners."

"At this time, the Administration does not intend to impose sanctions under this law, but the Act gives the Administration additional authorities that could be utilized, if circumstances warranted," Obama said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/obama_signs_ukraine_freedom_support_act_327851

EU supports reforms in Ukraine, ready to step up pressure on Russia - conclusions, 19.12.2014

KYIV, December 19 /Ukrinform/. The European Union will continue to support the reform process in Ukraine, is ready to take further steps to resolve the situation in eastern Ukraine and tightened sanctions against the economy of Russian-occupied Crimea.

This is stated in the conclusions on Ukraine approved by the European Council on Thursday.

"The European Council congratulates Ukraine on its new government and welcomes its determination to carry out political and economic reforms. Following the [European] Commission's second disbursement in December of EUR 500 million in macro-financial assistance, the EU and its Member States stand ready to further facilitate and support Ukraine's reform process, together with other donors and in line with IMF conditionality," the EU leaders said.

The European Council noted that the situation in eastern Ukraine remained a serious concern.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/eu_supports_reforms_in_ukraine_ready_to_step_up_pressure_on_russia_conclusions_327852

Russia a strategic problem for EU - Tusk, 19.12.2014

KYIV, December 19 /Ukrinform/. "We need to be realistic. We have to treat this as a long-term game. We must go beyond being reactive and defensive," the president of the European Council, Donald Tusk, said after the EU summit in Brussels, while commenting on the need for the development of a new common EU strategy towards Russia.

"In fact Russia is today our strategic problem, not Ukraine... The biggest challenge today is the Russian approach, not only to Ukraine but also to the EU," Tusk stated.

He also said that there was a problem with the economic situation and that Ukraine was a victim of a certain type of invasion.

He stressed that the EU should be realistic about this situation.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/russia_a_strategic_problem_for_eu_tusk_327853

Lavrov: Obama's Act on Ukraine may harm relations for a long time, 19.12.2014

KYIV, December 19 /Ukrinform/. Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov has said that the Ukraine Freedom Support Act of 2014 signed by U.S. President Barack Obama may harm relations between Moscow and Washington for a long time.

Lavrov said this during phone conversation with U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry, the press service of the Russian Foreign Ministry reported.

"Lavrov pointed that the Ukraine Freedom Support Act signed by the U.S. president, which threatens Russia with new sanctions, can undermine the possibility of normal interaction between our countries for a long time," reads the statement.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/lavrov_obamas_act_on_ukraine_may_harm_relations_for_a_long_time_327856

Russian aggression cannot be stopped by diplomatic means - Turchynov, 19.12.2014

KYIV, December 19 /Ukrinform/. Secretary of the National Security and Defense Council (NSDC) of Ukraine Oleksandr Turchynov does not believe that Russian aggression could be stopped by diplomatic means.

"The only mechanism to make them implement the agreements, including those reached in Minsk, and to make them free the occupied territories is a strong army and a strong country. There is no other mechanism. I do not believe in diplomacy regarding Russia. I do not believe that they will go away, having lost courage because of the pressure of our allies. Only the strong Ukrainian army will make them get out of our territory," Turchynov said.

He described Russian invasion as mean, as it happened in the most difficult time for Ukraine.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/russian_aggression_cannot_be_stopped_by_diplomatic_means_turchynov_327863

Canada supports Ukraine's fight against Putin regime - PM, 20.12.2014

KYIV, December 20 /Ukrinform/. Canada is introducing additional economic sanctions against Russia, does not recognize the occupation of Crimea and will provide steadfast support for the Ukrainian people, Prime Minister Stephen Harper has said.

In particular, he announced additional economic sanctions and travel bans against 20 Russian and Ukrainian individuals, and new export restrictions on technologies used in Russia's oil exploration and extractive sector.

"Since the onset of the conflict, the Putin regime has continuously violated the territorial integrity, sovereignty and independence of Ukraine. Canada will not accept the illegal occupation of Crimea and persistent, provocative military activity in eastern Ukraine," Harper said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/canada_supports_ukraines_fight_against_putin_regime_pm_327872

Yatseniuk: reforms are our last chance, 22.12.2014

KYIV, December 22 /Ukrinform/. In an interview with German magazine Der Spiegel Ukrainian Prime Minister Arseniy Yatseniuk has said that EU membership "remains Ukraine's ultimate dream," and "serious reforms are the last chance" for Kyiv.

"And we know that in order to [join the EU], we certainly need successful reforms in Ukraine, even if they are painful," Yatseniuk said.

He said that young Ukrainian people who want Ukraine to join Europe are the "biggest trump card" in this process.

Yatseniuk also said that the U.S. and the EU demonstrated great unity in their policy towards the Kremlin, including through the introduction of sanctions.

According to Yatseniuk, "the West does what it can" in this situation, given "limited room for maneuver regarding Putin."

"He [Putin] thought he could split the EU, but, on the contrary, the EU introduced and strengthened sanctions [against Russia]," Yatseniuk said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/yatseniuk_reforms_are_our_last_chance_327885

Yatseniuk: Ukraine's foreign debt has not increased this year, 22.12.2014

KYIV, December 22 /Ukrinform/. The Ukrainian government has managed to keep foreign debt at a sustainable level of \$72 billion.

"The government has managed to retain the amount of Ukraine's external debt to foreign creditors at \$72 billion this year ... We have not increased our foreign debt by a single dollar," Yatseniuk said.

However, he stressed that under the previous government Ukraine's external debt had doubled during four years.

"That is, in fact, they borrowed \$40 billion, which we are thinking how to return and service now," the prime minister said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/yatseniuk_ukraines_foreign_debt_has_not_increased_this_year_327895

Yatseniuk not to raise retirement age and cut scholarships, 22.12.2014

KYIV, December 22 /Ukrinform/. The Ukrainian government is currently not planning to raise the retirement age.

"At this stage the government does not propose raising the retirement age. As for the special categories of pensioners, at this stage the government does not propose any review of approaches to calculating pensions for special categories," Ukrainian Prime Minister Arseniy Yatseniuk said during a government meeting on Monday.

According to him, the current system of pensions for working retirees is preserved.

In addition, Yatseniuk said that scholarships would continue to be paid.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/yatseniuk_not_to_raise_retirement_age_and_cut_scholarships_327903

Nazarbayev describes events in Donbas as 'organized civil war', 22.12.2014

KYIV, December 22 /Ukrinform/. At a joint press conference with Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko in Kyiv Kazakh President Nursultan Nazarbayev, who is currently on an official visit to Kyiv, has said that the situation in eastern Ukraine is an "organized civil war."

"Ukraine is our close friend for us and a partner in politics and economy. What happened is horrible for Ukraine, and no one could imagine in a bad dream that such a clash could occur in the country and a civil war could be organized," he said.

Nazarbayev also reminded Ukrainians that in recent years "the Maidan has seen the events" that impeded the development of the country's economy.

"You know that events have permanently occurred on the Maidan in recent years. Instead of improving the economy and people's lives, you had to deal with this," he said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/nazarbayev_describes_events_in_donbas_as_organized_civil_war_327899

NSDC denies joint Ukrainian-Russian patrols in occupied territories, 22.12.2014

KYIV, December 22 /Ukrinform/. Patrols on Ukrainian territory could be carried out only by Ukrainian citizens who are Armed Forces servicemen or Interior Ministry employees.

"Some media spread reports on joint patrols by Ukrainian and Russian servicemen in the temporarily occupied territory. Such reports are untrue. We do not consider it possible to carry out patrols on Ukrainian territory with those who illegally crossed our border with arms," NSDC Secretary Oleksandr Turchynov said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/nsdc_denies_joint_ukrainian_russian_patrols_in_occupied_territories_327905

Ten percent of industrial potential of Ukraine destroyed in occupied territories, 22.12.2014

Some 20% of the industrial potential of Ukraine is located in the occupied territories, and nearly 50% of it has been physically destroyed, the president said.

Poroshenko said that Ukraine needs today to attract technical, financial, economic and political assistance, especially given the amount of destruction that it has suffered in the Donbas.

"In these circumstances, we have very strong support from the IMF, the United States, the European Union, the Group of Seven countries, and a significant part of the G-20 group of countries," he said.

<http://www.unian.info/economics/1024754-ten-percent-of-industrial-potential-of-ukraine-destroyed-in-occupied-territories.html>

Yatseniuk wants to increase taxes for oligarchs, 23.12.2014

KYIV, December 23 /Ukrinform/. The Cabinet of Ministers will submit to the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine the bills envisaging an increase in taxes for oligarchs.

Ukrainian Prime Minister Arseniy Yatseniuk said this, while opening a government meeting on Monday, an Ukrinform correspondent reported.

"As part of tax fairness we are introducing new approaches to the taxation of big business or, as they call it in a populist manner, oligarchic business. First of all, we have increased interest rates on rent, such as ore, oil, gas and [gas] condensate," Yatseniuk said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/yatseniuk_wants_to_increase_taxes_for_oligarchs_327913

Medvedev says Ukraine is Russia's potential military adversary, 23.12.2014

KYIV, December 23 /Ukrinform/. Russian Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev has said that Russia will respond to the cancellation by Ukraine of its non-aligned status.

He wrote this on his Facebook page.

"The U.S. president signed the anti-Russian law that gives any U.S. president the right to use sanctions against our country at any time. As in the case of the Jackson-Vanik law, our relations with the U.S. will be poisoned for decades... The president of Ukraine tabled in the Verkhovna Rada a bill on the cancellation of Ukraine's non-aligned status, in fact, an application for NATO membership, making Ukraine a potential military adversary of Russia. Both of these decisions will have extremely negative consequences. And our country will have to respond to them," Medvedev wrote.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/medvedev_says_ukraine_is_russias_potential_military_adversary_327916

Yatseniuk announces hryvnia rate in budget, 23.12.2014

KYIV, December 23 /Ukrinform/. "The average rate in calculation of the state budget is 17 UAH/USD," Prime Minister Arseniy Yatseniuk said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/yatseniuk_announces_hryvnia_rate_in_budget_327929

Polish defense minister: Ukraine to be in NATO and EU, 23.12.2014

KYIV, December 23 /Ukrinform/. Ukraine will be a member of NATO and the European Union if the country meets alliance standards and if Ukrainian citizens wish so.

"The declaration by Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko on canceling [Ukraine's] non-aligned status is very important. I think it was the first step, and we will wait for the time when Ukraine becomes a member of NATO," Polish Defense Minister Tomasz Siemoniak said.

He said that NATO should be open to potential members and to Ukraine, in particular.

"Ukraine must comply with the standards, but Ukrainian society should also seek membership of NATO. Nobody in the world has the right to stop it. I think it is an inevitable process, and Ukraine will be in NATO and the EU," the Polish minister said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/polish_defense_minister_ukraine_to_be_in_nato_and_eu_327931

Almost third of budget revenues to be spent on defense and debt payments - Jaresko, 23.12.2014

KYIV, December 23 /Ukrinform/. Ukraine's draft state budget for 2015 envisages UAH 82.9 billion for defense. Finance Minister Natalie Jaresko said this while presenting a respective bill to the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine.

"Expenditures on defense and security, which are the number one priority, taking into account aggression in eastern Ukraine, have been significantly increased in relation to GDP and in relation to total expenditures. We include UAH 82.9 billion and an additional UAH 6 billion in guarantees in the budget. We also add UAH 1.5 billion from the social fund and from the sale of confiscated property," she said.

According to Jaresko, Ukraine will see a difficult year, "in which 30% of expenditures are directed at defense and servicing debts."

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/almost_third_of_budget_revenues_to_be_spent_on_defense_and_debt_payments_jaresko_327934

Lavrov unhappy with cancellation of Ukraine's non-bloc status, 23.12.2014

KYIV, December 23 /Ukrinform/. Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov has said that the cancellation of Ukraine's non-bloc status is counterproductive.

"It is a counterproductive [move]. It only escalates the confrontation and creates an illusion that a deep domestic crisis in Ukraine can be settled by the adoption of such laws," he said.

Instead of canceling the non-bloc status, Lavrov advised Kyiv to negotiate with separatists.

"A much more productive and reasonable way would be to start a dialogue with that part of their own people, which was fully ignored during the state coup," Lavrov said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/lavrov_unhappy_with_cancellation_of_ukraines_non_bloc_status_327933

Russia to cancel act that transferred Crimea to Ukraine, 23.12.2014

Russia's Federation Council is preparing a bill to cancel the Soviet-era decision to transfer Crimea from Russia to Ukraine, Russian news agency RIA Novosti reported on Monday, quoting the speaker of the Federation Council, Valentina Matvienko.

<http://www.unian.info/politics/1025007-russia-to-cancel-act-that-transferred-crimea-to-ukraine.html>

Ukraine is sovereign state and decides itself where to go - UN Secretary-General, 24.12.2014

KYIV, December 24 /Ukrinform/. UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon notes that Ukraine, as a sovereign country, has the right to decide on its own future.

"Looking at the vote, just at the vote itself, I don't want to predict what will happen or may not happen. I think the Secretary-General notes that Ukraine, just like any other UN Member State, has the sovereign right to decide on its own future," Secretary-General Spokesperson Stephane Dujarric said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/ukraine_is_sovereign_state_and_decides_itself_where_to_go_un_secretary_general_327944

United States expresses support for NATO's 'open door' policy for Ukraine, 24.12.2014

KYIV, December 24 /Ukrinform/. The United States supports the policy of accession to NATO by countries that want to join collaborative efforts in ensuring Euro-Atlantic security.

U.S. Department of State deputy spokesperson Marie Harf said this on Tuesday, while commenting on the adoption by the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine's non-bloc status.

"We fully support the open-door policy [by the North Atlantic Treaty Organization]," Harf said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/united_states_expresses_support_for_natos_open_door_policy_for_ukraine_327946

West has allowed Russia to start war in Ukraine – Estonian president, 24.12.2014

KYIV, December 24 /Ukrinform/. Estonian President Toomas Ilves believes that the West has not adequately responded to Russian occupation of Crimea and Russian aggression in Donbas. He said this in an interview with the American Interest online news site.

"Since the invasion and annexation of Crimea, we've seen the collapse of the Transatlantic security environment as we've known it. We could start with the UN charter, which forbids aggression, but in the Transatlantic space the basis for security has been the 1975 Helsinki Final Act, which specifically forbids a change in borders through force or threat of force. That no longer holds," Ilves said.

According to him, Moscow has repeatedly stated its aggressive intentions, but the EU and the United States didn't react to this and allowed Russia to behave aggressively. The Estonian president recalled that Russia had violated all international agreements prohibiting military aggression already in 2008, when it invaded Georgia.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/west_has_allowed_russia_to_start_war_in_ukraine_estonian_president_327961

Gazprom confirms receipt of \$1.65 billion from Naftogaz, 25.12.2014

KYIV, December 25 /Ukrinform/. Russian monopoly OJSC Gazprom has received \$1.65 billion from NJSC Naftogaz of Ukraine.

"We have received \$1.65 billion from Naftogaz on our account," Russian gas holding company spokesperson Sergei Kupriyanov said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/gazprom_confirms_receipt_of_165_billion_from_naftogaz_327970

Zguladze vows to double salaries of police officers, 25.12.2014

KYIV, December 25 /Ukrinform/. The salaries of police officers will grow significantly after the introduction of European standards.

"We will increase wages, and we will increase them significantly, by at least two times," First Deputy Interior Minister Eka Zguladze said.

She said that she had announced this on the basis of the calculations already made.

"There are calculations, so we can guarantee an increase in salaries," she said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/zguladze_vows_to_double_salaries_of_police_officers_327984

Opposition Bloc will vote for Hontareva's resignation - Shufrych, 25.12.2014

KYIV, December 25 /Ukrinform/. The Opposition Block will vote for resignation of National Bank governor Valeria Hontareva, provided this issue is considered Friday.

"We will immediately vote for Hontareva's resignation," representative of the Opposition Block Nestor Shufrych said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/opposition_bloc_will_vote_for_hontarevas_resignation_shufrych_327977

NSDC introduces strict regime of control on border with occupied territories, 25.12.2014

KYIV, December 25 /Ukrinform/. Ukraine's NSDC, after an attempt on the lives of MPs in Kyiv, is planning to strengthen controls at crossing points on the border with occupied territories.

It is currently necessary "to block any possibility of the penetration of terrorist and subversive groups from the occupied territories of Donetsk and Luhansk regions and Crimea."

"The number of checkpoints through defensive lines will be reduced, and anyone who crosses them will be closely checked, whereas any bypasses will be completely closed," NSDC Secretary Oleksandr Turchynov said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/nsdc_introduces_strict_regime_of_control_on_border_with_occupied_territories_327985

Contact group will not meet today - Belarusian Foreign Ministry, 26.12.2014

KYIV, December 26 /Ukrinform/. A meeting of the contact group on Ukraine, which was planned to be held in Minsk today, will not take place.

BELTA informs with reference to head of the information department - Press Secretary of the Belarusian Foreign Ministry Dmitry Mironchik.

"A meeting of the contact group on Ukraine will not be held in Minsk today," he said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/contact_group_will_not_meet_today_belarusian_foreign_ministry_328001

Head of Russian Red Cross calls Putin's 'convoys' invasion of Ukraine, 26.12.2014

KYIV, December 26 /Ukrinform/. Russia violates the norms of the international humanitarian law by providing "humanitarian convoys" of the Russian Emergencies Ministry to the areas in Donbas occupied by Russian soldiers and militants.

"Ten convoys were absolutely truly regarded [the West and the Ukrainian authorities consider Russian "humanitarian convoys" delivered to the areas in Donbas occupied by pro-Russian militants as illegal]. I do not want to accuse our structures and our state. I am a law-abiding citizen of Russia. But there is the international law. What is the Ministry of Emergency Situations? It is a paramilitary structure of the Russian state. How could the paramilitary structure appear on the territory of another state? No matter what country - a self-proclaimed state or Ukraine, it is a foreign state, it is not Russia. How has it [the paramilitary structure] got there? Is it a subject of international humanitarian law? No. Is it regulated by any convention? No. Then what is it? It's an invasion, a violation, this cannot be done," Head of the Moscow branch of the Russian Red Cross Igor Trunov said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/head_of_russian_red_cross_calls_putins_convoys_invasion_of_ukraine_328005

Terrorist attacks in Kharkiv and Odesa 'intended to worsen situation in Ukraine', 26.12.2014

"Kharkiv and Odessa have recently become the cities that are used by terrorists to stress the situation," Ukrainian Interior Ministry Advisor Zorian Shkiriak said.

"It is not only due to an elementary component of destructive activities in our country, but also to [these cities'] geographical location," he said.

As reported earlier, a series of explosions have gone off in the last few months in Kharkiv and Odessa that the law enforcement officers have already classified as terrorist acts. Most of the attacks were aimed at military objects and volunteer centers for aiding the Ukrainian army.

In addition, on December 24, there was an explosion on a railway track near the Zastava One station in Odessa. Police classified the explosion as a terrorist act.

In Kharkiv on December 25 night a blast rocked the Azhur furniture studio on Rymarska Street.

<http://www.unian.info/society/1026509-terrorist-attacks-in-kharkiv-and-odesa-intended-to-worsen-situation-in-ukraine.html>

No wage rise without reforms - Social Policy Ministry, 26.12.2014

KYIV, December 26 /Ukrinform/. The government plans to increase by 13% all types of social payments, however, only when reforms are implemented.

"We undertook an ambitious, difficult task in the current situation - to raise all social standards approximately by 13% from December. We will raise wages and pensions. This should become just a result of the reforms. People and people's deputies should understand: either we conduct reforms in all economy sectors, including in the social sphere, and receive rising of minimal wages, pensions and all types of social aid by 13% or we again waste time and will not receive anything in December," Social Policy Minister Pavlo Rozenko said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/no_wage_rise_without_reforms_social_policy_ministry_328014

Turchynov explains task of mobilization and reserve army, 26.12.2014

KYIV, December 27 /Ukrinform/. Secretary of National Security and Defense Council (NSDC) of Ukraine Oleksandr Turchynov addressed Ukrainians with an appeal to be ready for mobilization and for fulfilling the duty of defending their Motherland, because there is possibility that Russia unleashes the continental war.

"Friends, I appeal to you. We can win together, only together, by mobilizing all our efforts. And this is the challenge which we must realize not some day in the future, but now," he said.

According to him, everyone in Ukraine should be ready to fulfil one's civic duty to defend the Motherland.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/turchynov_explains_task_of_mobilization_and_reserve_army_328024

Budget envisages capital investments of UAH 1 bln - Yatseniuk, 29.12.2014

KYIV, December 29/Ukrinform/. Ukraine's state budget for 2015 envisages capital investments of UAH 1 billion. Ukrainian Prime Minister Yatseniuk said this early on Monday.

"Capital investment of UAH 1 billion, which will be allocated and distributed for the implementation of infrastructure projects, will also be envisaged [in the budget]... We will allocate an additional UAH 200 million for the purchase of fire-fighting equipment, and this equipment will be produced in Ukraine," Yatseniuk said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/budget_envisages_capital_investments_of_uah_1_bln_yatseniuk_328036

Yatseniuk promises to allocate UAH 90 bln to finance security and defense spheres, 29.12.2014

KYIV, December 29 /Ukrinform/. "The total amount of funding for security and defense is UAH 90 billion," Ukrainian Prime Minister Arseniy Yatseniuk said this during the presentation of amendments to the draft budget for 2015 in the parliament.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/yatseniuk_promises_to_allocate_uah_90_bln_to_finance_security_and_defense_spheres_328037

Poroshenko: Martial law to be declared if hostilities worsen, 29.12.2014

Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko said on Monday he "would not hesitate to declare martial law" if the fighting in the east of Ukraine worsens.

Speaking at a press conference in Kyiv, Poroshenko however said he was confident that there was no military solution, but only a political way out of the crisis in Donbas.

But he stressed that martial law would be introduced immediately by his decree, if hostilities along the front line intensified. "No one will hesitate for a minute," Poroshenko said.

According to Poroshenko, the ceasefire regime has been effective.

He noted that the last two meetings of the NSDC have been devoted to discussing the issue of government actions in case of violations of the ceasefire.

"In this case, martial law will be introduced immediately. That is why we have insisted on adoption of the Ukrainian budget now, because we believe that the risks are high," he said.

"I, as the commander-in-chief, have to defend my country against subversion and terrorist groups. Therefore, much is being done now to make various elements of our defense more effective."

<http://www.unian.info/politics/1027563-poroshenko-martial-law-to-be-declared-if-hostilities-worsen.html>

Poland vows to support Ukraine at NATO forum, 29.12.2014

KYIV, December 29 /Ukrinform/. Poland will support partnership with Ukraine at the NATO forum in the context of the country's cancellation of its non-bloc status.

Polish Deputy Prime Minister and National Defense Minister Tomasz Siemoniak said this in a telephone conversation with Ukrainian Defense Minister Stepan Poltorak.

"This decision by the Ukrainian authorities is clear to us, as it turned out that the non-bloc status has not provided Ukraine with security and integrity. It is no surprise that Ukraine will seek new opportunities. Regardless of the path it chooses, it seems to me that this decision has the context of pro-European and pro-NATO aspirations," Siemoniak said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/poland_vows_to_support_ukraine_at_nato_forum_328038

Global security system destroyed - Poroshenko, 29.12.2014

KYIV, December 29 /Ukrinform/. A global post-war security system was destroyed in 2014, so the world has become less safe.

"The world has become less safe, less predictable, and a global post-war security system has been destroyed. It no longer works," Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko said this at a press conference on Monday.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/global_security_system_destroyed_poroshenko_328046

Risk of frozen conflict in Donbas really exists - president, 29.12.2014

KYIV, December 29 /Ukrinform/. Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko has suggested that the threat of a frozen conflict in Donbas really exists.

He said this at a press conference on Monday, an Ukrinform correspondent reported.

"As for the freezing of the conflict, indeed, such a risk exists, and we are doing everything we can to prevent it. We are making every effort to fight for every Ukrainian citizen who stayed there and does not support separatism... We created a weekly staff, and the agenda of this staff includes the issue of preventing a frozen conflict scenario," Poroshenko said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/risk_of_frozen_conflict_in_donbas_really_exists_president_328053

Decision on Ukraine's membership of NATO takes some time - Washington, 30.12.2014

KYIV, December 30 /Ukrinform/. The United States has called Ukraine's decision to cancel its non-bloc status a "sovereign right" and has declared its support for the "open door" policy of NATO, though it also recalls the duration of the process of integration into the alliance.

U.S. State Department Press Office Director Jeff Rathke said this on Monday, commenting on the signing of the law on the cancellation of Ukraine's non-bloc status by President Poroshenko. "The United States along with our NATO partners will continue working with Ukraine. And it's Ukraine's sovereign decision what kind of a relationship it wants to pursue with NATO," Rathke said.

However, he said, the decision to be taken by NATO and Ukraine lies in the sphere of many external issues.

According to him, the U.S. policy on the future of NATO enlargement has not changed.

"The door is open, and countries that are willing and able to contribute to the security of the Euro-Atlantic area are welcome to apply for membership," Rathke said, adding that the application will be considered and adopted by all the members of the organization.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/decision_on_ukraines_membership_of_nato_takes_some_time_washington_328059

Hontareva believes National Bank - in forefront of country's reconstruction, 30.12.2014

KYIV, December 30 /Ukrinform/. NBU governor Valeria Hontareva believes that the National Bank moves in the forefront of reforms. She said at a press conference on Tuesday.

"We started reforms at once because the difficult state of our economy is, just on the opposite, a reason to move quicker, this is a real accelerator of the speed in holding reforms. And the National Bank is today in the forefront of this movement and reconstruction of our country as a whole," the National Bank quotes Hontareva on Facebook.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/hontareva_believes_national_bank_in_forefront_of_countrys_reconstruction_328060

Hontareva expects hryvnia strengthening, 30.12.2014

KYIV, December 30 /Ukrinform/. NBU governor Valeria Hontareva forecasts the hryvnia strengthening on condition of the stable situation. She said at a press conference on Tuesday. "Today, a substantial increase of the aid from all international organizations and donors is discussed. And therefore, we do not prognosticate the hryvnia depreciation in the future, and with stabilization of the situation, we hope even for its strengthening," Hontareva noted, quoted by the NBU on Facebook.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/hontareva_expects_hryvnia_strengthening_328061

NBU names systemically important banks, 30.12.2014

KYIV, December 30 /Ukrinform/. The National Bank of Ukraine (NBU) has approved methods for determining systemically important banks and included eight financial institutions in such a list, the central bank's press service has reported.

"In accordance with resolution No. 863, eight banks were systemically important as of December 1, 2014: PJSC PrivatBank, JSC Oschadbank, Ukreximbank, JSC Delta Bank, JSC Raiffeisen Bank Aval, PJSC UkrSotsbank, PJSC Prominvestbank, JSC Sberbank of Russia," reads the statement.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/nbu_names_systemically_important_banks_328069

Yatseniuk announces Russia's exclusion from list of Ukraine's main trading partners, 30.12.2014

KYIV, December 30 /Ukrinform/. "Russia will stop being one of Ukraine's main trading partners in the near future," Ukrainian Prime Minister Arseniy Yatseniuk said at a press conference.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/yatseniuk_announces_russias_exclusion_from_list_of_ukraines_main_trading_partners_328071

Yatseniuk expects gas price at \$340 and even lower, 30.12.2014

KYIV, December 30 /Ukrinform/. "Now we are expecting the gas price at \$340 [per 1,000 cubic meters] for the first quarter of the next year, and possibly even lower," Ukrainian Prime Minister Arseniy Yatseniuk said, linking a potential drop in gas prices to the reduction of its value in Russia due to lower prices for Brent oil.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/yatseniuk_expects_gas_price_at_340_and_even_lower_328073

Foreign Ministry demands Russia immediately disclose location of kidnapped Ukrainians, 31.12.2014

KYIV, December 31 /Ukrinform/. The Main Investigation Department of the Russian Investigative Committee for the North Caucasian Federal District has rejected the request by a consul of the Ukrainian Consulate General in Rostov-on-Don to meet with Ukrainian citizens Mykola Karpiuk and Stanislav Klykh, who are held in Russia. It is a gross violation of the human rights of Ukrainian citizens, as well as the right of consular officers to unimpeded access to Ukrainians, and the actual blocking of the possibility of providing protection to Ukrainian citizens.

Ukrainian Foreign Ministry spokesman Yevhen Perebyinis said this in his comment on December 30, the Foreign Ministry's press service reported.

"The Ukrainian Foreign Ministry demands that the Russian side immediately provide information about the place of detention of M. Karpiuk and S. Klykh and ensure unhindered access of Ukrainian consular officers to Ukrainian citizens at the place of their detention, and that that the practice of torture to them be stopped," he said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/foreign_ministry_demands_russia_immediately_disclose_location_of_kidnapped_ukrainians_328082

Yatseniuk sure it will be better tomorrow, 31.12.2014

KYIV, December 31 /Ukrinform/. Ukrainian Prime Minister Arseniy Yatseniuk has said he is optimistic about the situation in Ukraine next year.

In his New Year and Orthodox Christmas congratulations to Ukrainians, he expressed confidence that "it will be better tomorrow," the government portal reported.

"Everyone now thinks what will happen tomorrow, and this is natural. People want to know what life will be like, and whether there is any confidence that tomorrow it will be better. There is such confidence. There are confidence and belief that we will overcome everything together, that we will all win, that our country will be a model country in the European Union, that our Ukrainian family will be a worthy European family, with a Ukrainian passport, with Ukrainian citizenship, and that with this passport it will be easy to move freely across the European Union," Yatseniuk said.

"Belief, confidence and hard work are the key to our Ukrainian success. Together we will win," he added.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/yatseniuk_sure_it_will_be_better_tomorrow_328083

Actions of Ukrainian Authorities

Sadovy offered post of first deputy prime minister, 01.12.2014

KYIV, December 1 /Ukrinform/. The parliamentary factions of the Bloc of Petro Poroshenko and the People's Front have called for Andriy Sadovy's appointment as Ukrainian first deputy prime minister.

This is stipulated in a statement published on the official website of the People's Front.

"We believe that all effective managers in the country today have to join the creation of changes as part of the joint work of the Cabinet of Ministers, the president and the Verkhovna Rada. We believe that Lviv Mayor Andriy Sadovy should work for the implementation of decentralization in government at the post of first deputy prime minister. He is a well-known expert in this sphere of local government for whom, along with the Samopomich Union Party, Ukrainians expressed strong support at parliamentary elections," reads the statement.

Lviv Mayor Andriy Sadovy has rejected an offer from the parliamentary factions of the People's Front and Bloc of Petro Poroshenko parties to occupy the post of first deputy prime minister.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/sadovy_offered_post_of_first_deputy_prime_minister_327439

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/sadovy_unwilling_to_work_in_cabinet_327452

NBU extends foreign currency sales requirements by another three months, 01.12.2014

The National Bank of Ukraine has extended the requirement that exporters sell 75% of their export receipts on the interbank foreign exchange market, which was to expire on December 2, by another three months, the NBU press service told UNIAN on Monday.

The NBU has also extended the requirement that foreign exchange receipts be returned within 90 days, as well as some other limitations imposed by NBU Resolution 540.

The resolution also imposes other restrictions, such as a ceiling of UAH 150,000 on the amount of cash customers are allowed to take out per day, a ceiling of UAH 3,000 on the amount of foreign exchange cash an individual is permitted to buy per day, and a ceiling of UAH 15,000 on the amount of foreign exchange customers are allowed to take out through bank pay desks and ATMs per day.

The NBU has also introduced the requirement that banks purchase foreign exchange on behalf of their customers no sooner than the third business day after the day that a customer puts in a bid and domestic currency is credited to a transit account.

<http://www.unian.info/economics/1016166-nbu-extends-foreign-currency-sales-requirements-by-another-three-months.html>

Government dismisses Ukrzaliznytsia director general, 01.12.2014

KYIV, December 1 /Ukrinform/. The Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine has dismissed Borys Ostapiuk as director general of the State Administration of Railway Transport of Ukraine (Ukrzaliznytsia). This is stated in order No. 1154-r of November 26, 2014, which was posted on the government portal.

Ostapiuk headed Ukrzaliznytsia from April 1, 2014, replacing Serhiy Bolobolin at the post.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/government_dismisses_ukrzaliznytsia_director_general_327459

Poroshenko liquidates Constitutional Assembly, 01.12.2014

KYIV, December 1 /Ukrinform/. President of Ukraine Petro Poroshenko eliminated the Constitutional Assembly.

A relevant decree was published on the website of the Head of state.

"Taking into consideration a decision of the Coordination Bureau of the Constitutional Assembly of July 15, 2014, No. 22, on stopping the activities of the Constitutional Assembly, in compliance with Item 28, Part I, Article 106 of the Constitution of Ukraine it is resolved to liquidate the Constitutional Assembly," the document reads.

The decree takes effect from the date of publication.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/poroshenko_liquidates_constitutional_assembly_327448

Ukrainian, Russian military come to airport to negotiate on "silence", 01.12.2014

KYIV, December 1 /Ukrinform/. With the aim of the settlement of the crisis situation that formed in the area of the Donetsk airport, measures are taken by the common center for control and coordination of the ceasefire. The ATO press center informed.

"Today, in the morning, heads of Ukrainian and Russian sides of the common center went to the designated district. The Ukrainian side is represented by Lieutenant-General Volodymyr Askarov, Russia - by Lieutenant-General Alexander Lentsov. The purpose of the trip is termination of the storming of the strategic facility and reducing the degree of tension on both sides," a statement reads.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/ukrainian_russian_military_come_to_airport_to_negotiate_on_silence_327460

Samopomich determines candidature for Agrarian Policy Minister, 01.12.2014

KYIV, December 1 /Ukrinform/. A meeting of the Samopomich Association faction took a decision to support a candidature of Oleksiy Pavlenko to a position of Agrarian Policy Minister. Faction head Oleh Bereziuk said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/samopomich_determines_candidature_for_agrarian_policy_minister_327461

Poroshenko Bloc approves nine candidates for posts of ministers, 02.12.2014

KYIV, December 2 /Ukrinform/. The Bloc of Petro Poroshenko faction in parliament has approved nine candidates for the posts of ministers, several faction members have told the Apostrophe online news site.

In particular, Volodymyr Demchyshyn is proposed to be appointed minister for energy and coal industry, Alexander Kvitashvili health minister, Aivaras Abromavicius minister for economic development and trade, Natalie Jaresko minister for finance, Pavlo Rozenko minister for social policy, Serhiy Kvit minister for education and science, and Hennadiy Zubko first deputy prime minister.

The candidacy of Eki Zguladze was approved for the post of deputy interior minister.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/poroshenko_bloc_approves_nine_candidates_for_posts_of_ministers_327468

Jaresko, Kvitashvili, Abromavicius become Ukrainian citizens, 02.12.2014

KYIV, December 2 /Ukrinform/. Natalie Jaresko, Alexander Kvitashvili and Aivaras Abromavicius have become Ukrainian citizens as persons the granting of Ukrainian citizenship to whom is of state interest.

Ukrainian presidential press secretary Sviatoslav Tseholko reported this on his Facebook page.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/jaresko_kvitchashvili_abromavicius_become_ukrainian_citizens_327485

Ukraine has new government, 03.12.2014

KYIV, December 3 /Ukrinform/. The Verkhovna Rada has approved candidates for the posts of members of the Cabinet of Ministers.

A total of 288 MPs on Tuesday evening supported the decision to vote for government resolution No. 1008 as a basis and as a whole.

Klimkin, Poltorak retain posts of foreign and defense ministers.

Thus, the Verkhovna Rada approved:

Valeriy Voshchevsky as deputy prime minister,
Viacheslav Kyrylenko as deputy prime minister and culture minister,
Hennadiy Zubko as deputy prime minister and minister of regional development, construction, housing and utilities,
Hanna Onyshchenko as minister of the Cabinet of Ministers,
Oleksiy Pavlenko as minister of agricultural policy and food,
Arsen Avakov as interior minister,
Ihor Shevchenko as minister of environment and natural resources,
Aivaras Abromavicius as minister of economic development and trade,
Volodymyr Demchyshyn as minister of energy and coal industry,
Andriy Pyvovarsky as minister of infrastructure,
Yuriy Stets as minister of information policy,
Ihor Zhdanov as minister of youth and sports,
Serhiy Kvit as minister of education and science,
Alexander Kvitashvili as health minister,
Pavlo Rozenko as minister of social policy,
Natalie Jaresko as finance minister,
and Pavlo Petrenko as justice minister.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/ukraine_has_new_government_327492

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/klimkin_poltorak_retain_posts_of_foreign_and_defense_ministers_327493

Another three MPs sworn in, 04.12.2014

KYIV, December 4 /Ukrinform/. In parliament on Thursday, three more people's deputies took the oath of allegiance to Ukraine.

The oath was made by Davyd Makarian (Bloc of Petro Poroshenko), Dmytro Stetsenko (People's Front) and Yuriy Chyzhmar (Radical Party by Oleh Liashko).

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/another_three_mps_sworn_in_327552

Poroshenko orders law enforcement officers to ensure 'day of silence', 04.12.2014

KYIV, December 4 /Ukrinform/. Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko has discussed with the heads of law enforcement agencies the measures to ensure the implementation of the Minsk agreements on a "day of silence" in Donbas, which is due to start on December 9.

The meeting took place on the eve of the Day of the Armed Forces of Ukraine, which is marked on December 6, the presidential press service reported.

"The meeting participants discussed the fulfillment of assigned tasks in the anti-terrorist operation area and outlined measures to ensure compliance with the Minsk agreements on the day of silence, which is due to start December 9," reads the statement.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/poroshenko_ordersLaw_enforcement_officers_to_ensure_day_of_silence_327553

Foreign Ministry calls on signatories of Budapest Memorandum to immediately restore Ukraine's territorial integrity, 05.12.2014

KYIV, December 5 /Ukrinform/. The Ukrainian Foreign Ministry has called on the signatory countries of the Budapest Memorandum to take immediate measures to restore the territorial integrity, sovereignty and peace in Ukraine, which have been violated by one of the signatories of the document - Russia.

On the 20th anniversary of the signing of this memorandum the Ukrainian Foreign Ministry also urged the signatories to hold a practical discussion of legally binding security assurances to countries that gave up or plan to give up nuclear weapons, the press service of the Ukrainian Foreign Ministry reported on Friday.

"On the day of the 20th anniversary of the Budapest Memorandum we call on the guarantors of Ukraine's security to take urgent steps for the restoration of the territorial integrity, sovereignty and peace in Ukraine, as well as to begin a practical discussion of legally binding security assurances to countries that made or are planning to make a historic decision to give up nuclear weapons," reads the report.

The ministry described the violation by Russia of its security guarantees as "an act of open aggression against Ukraine" and "a threat to the entire international system of nuclear security."
http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/foreign_ministry_calls_on_signatories_of_budapest_memorandum_to_immediately_restore_ukraines_territorial_integrity_327564

Cancelling of additional pensions to MPs and officials proposed to Rada, 05.12.2014

KYIV, December 5 /Ukrinform/. A draft law registered in the Verkhovna Rada, which envisages abolishment of additional pensions to MPs, government members, persons, who were awarded a title of "Merited." The parliamentary website informs.

As it is said in the explanatory note, the aim of the project is "renewal of social justice and overcoming of discrimination in the sphere of pension provision."

The draft law No. 1239 proposes to abolish additional pensions, envisaged by the law "On pensions for special merits to Ukraine," to people's deputies, government members, persons, who were awarded the title of "Merited."

Authors of the document are seven independent MPs, Svoboda Party members, among whom Andriy Illienko, Oleh Osukhovsky and Yuriy Levchenko.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/cancelling_of_additional_pensions_to_mps_and_officials_proposed_to_rada_327566

Cabinet simplifies procedure for recognition of ATO participants, 05.12.2014

KYIV, December 5 /Ukrinform/. Government maximally simplified a somewhat tightened procedure for obtaining the status of ATO participant.

"The decision has already been made ... The mechanism was a bit lengthy, an appropriate decision was taken by the Cabinet. The procedure is maximally simplified," Defense Minister Stepan Poltorak said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/cabinet_simplifies_procedure_for_recognition_of_ato_participants_327565

Ukraine loses a quarter of international reserves in November, 05.12.2014

KYIV, December 5 /Ukrinform/. Ukraine's foreign exchange reserves as of December 1, 2014 amounted to \$9.966 billion compared to \$12.587 billion a month earlier, the National Bank of Ukraine (NBU) has reported.

"According to preliminary data as of December 1, 2014, Ukraine's international reserves amounted to 9.966 billion U.S. dollars in equivalent," reads the statement.

NBU said that the dynamics of reserves in November had been largely influenced by the transfer of \$1.45 billion to Naftogaz of Ukraine, which paid the debt in favor of Gazprom for the natural gas imported in November and December 2013.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/ukraine_loses_a_quarter_of_international_reserves_in_november_327569

President Poroshenko Awarded Title of Hero of Ukraine to Oleksandr Petrakivskyi and Serhii Kryvonosov, and Dmytro Maiboroda Posthumously, 06.12.2014

President Poroshenko awarded the title of Hero of Ukraine to Oleksandr Petrakivskyi and Serhii Kryvonosov, and Dmytro Maiboroda posthumously. President's press-servicereports.

http://en.censor.net.ua/news/315211/president_poroshenko_awarded_title_of_hero_of_ukraine_to_oleksandr_petrakivskyi_and_serhii_kryvonosov

Hontareva requests banks to keep rate at 16 UAH/USD, 08.12.2014

KYIV, December 8 /Ukrinform/. The National Bank of Ukraine states the absence of improvement of the situation on the financial market of Ukraine, but requests the banks not to weaken the rate lower than 16 UAH/USD.

The source in financial circles informs, referring to results of a meeting of NBU governor Valeria Hontareva with representatives of largest banks, Apostrophe reports.

"The NBU states the absence of improvement of the situation on the financial market of Ukraine. Completion of the Cabinet formation did not bring the expected improvement..."

According to estimates of the National Bank, the fair rate on the market in the pair dollar/hryvnia is 15.30 - 15.50 UAH/USD, and its fluctuations are possible to 16.0 UAH/USD in the nearest perspective," the interlocutor said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/hontareva_requests_banks_to_keep_rate_at_16_uahusd_327594

Ukraine resumes Russian gas imports, 09.12.2014

KYIV, December 9 /Ukrinform/. Ukraine has resumed natural gas imports from Russia in the amount of 43.5 million cubic meters per day, the press service of the operator of the Ukrainian gas transport system, Ukrtransgaz, has told Reuters.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/ukraine_resumes_russian_gas_imports_327604

Poroshenko meets with Singaporean president, 09.12.2014

KYIV, December 9 /Ukrinform/. Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko has met with Singaporean President Tony Tan Keng Yam as part of his working visit to the country, according to the Twitter page of Ukraine's Presidential Administration.

Poroshenko expressed gratitude for Singapore's firm stand in support of Ukraine. The president of Singapore, in turn, said that the territorial integrity, sovereignty and inviolability of borders were principles that are unacceptable to violate.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/poroshenko_meets_with_singaporean_president_327607

A number of interfactional associations created in Rada, 09.12.2014

KYIV, December 9 /Ukrinform/. A number of interfactional associations were created in the Verkhovna Rada. Verkhovna Rada Chairman Volodymyr Hroisman told from the VR rostrum. He noted that the deputies created the following associations: Bukovyna, headed by Oksana Prodan, For the future of Ukraine - headed by Olena Dotsenko, Equal Opportunities, headed by Maria Ionova and Lilia Hrynevych and For completion of construction of Okhmatdyt, headed by Natalia Korchynska.

In addition, people's deputy Oleksandr Romanovsky took an oath in the parliament. Oleksandr Romanovsky is included into the voting list of the People's Front.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/a_number_of_interfactional_associations_created_in_rada_327610

Rada will revoke leading positions in committees, 09.12.2014

KYIV, December 9 /Ukrinform/. People's deputies included into the agenda a draft resolution on removal of former members of the Party of Regions from leading positions in committees, involved in voting for "dictatorial laws."

278 parliamentarians voted for the resolution No. 1291, a Ukrinform correspondent reports.

The draft resolution envisages that all deputies, who voted for the laws of January 16, are released from leading positions in parliamentary committees.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/rada_will_revoke_leading_positions_in_committees_327611

Yevhen Marchuk to coordinate security cooperation with EU and NATO, 11.12.2014

KYIV, December 10 /Ukrinform/. Former Ukrainian Prime Minister Yevhen Marchuk will coordinate cooperation with NATO and the EU on security issues.

Chief of the Security Service of Ukraine (SBU) Valentyn Nalyvaichenko said this at a briefing on Wednesday, an Ukrinform correspondent reported.

"An international secretariat on security and civil cooperation between Ukraine and NATO and between Ukraine and the EU is beginning work in Ukraine. The person who will head it and coordinate its activity is Yevhen Marchuk," Nalyvaichenko said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/yevhen_marchuk_to_coordinate_security_cooperation_with_eu_and_nato_327650

National Bank lowers hryvnia rate by 7 kopecks, 11.12.2014

KYIV, December 10 /Ukrinform/. The National Bank of Ukraine lowered the official hryvnia rate against the dollar by 7 kopecks to 15.64 UAH/USD on Wednesday, December 10, against Tuesday. This is said on the regulator's website.

The official hryvnia rate against the euro made up 19.35 UAH/EUR against 19.09 on Tuesday, it did not change against the Russian ruble - 0.29 UAH/RUB.

The average weighted hryvnia rate on the interbank currency market on Wednesday as of 11:30 a.m. was 15.62 UAH/USD.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/national_bank_lowers_hryvnia_rate_by_7_kopecks_327651

Another two deputy groups created in Rada, 11.12.2014

KYIV, December 11 /Ukrinform/. Two new interfactional deputy groups were created in the Verkhovna Rada and a deputy of the All-Ukrainian Association Batkivshchyna was elected, Parliament Speaker Volodymyr Hroisman announced.

In particular, the deputies set up a group Agrarian Association, headed by Leonid Kozachenko and a group Deputy Control, which included Stepan Barna, Hennadiy Kryvosheya, Ihor Popov and others.

In addition, Serhiy Sobolev was elected deputy head of the faction, headed by Yulia Tymoshenko.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/another_two_deputy_groups_created_in_rada_327670

Ukrainian parliament adopts government action program, 11.12.2014

KYIV, December 11 /Ukrinform/. The Verkhovna Rada has adopted an action program of the Cabinet of Ministers.

A total of 269 lawmakers voted for this decision at a parliament meeting on Thursday.

As reported, on December 9, the Cabinet of Ministers approved its action program for 2015-2016.

According to Prime Minister Arseniy Yatseniuk, "the ultimate goal is Ukraine's membership of the EU. But in order to achieve this goal we need to undergo serious tests, make radical changes, change Ukraine and make it European."

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/ukrainian_parliament_adopts_government_action_program_327676

Bloc of Liovochkin gathers signatures for Constitutional Court, 11.12.2014

KYIV, December 11 /Ukrinform/. The Opposition Bloc initiated gathering of signatures and in the nearest future will apply to the Constitutional Court against the anti-crisis laws of Arseniy Yatseniuk, approved by the Verkhovna Rada March 23.

Member of the Opposition Bloc faction Natalia Korolevska told a briefing, Ukrinform's correspondent reports.

"Our Opposition Bloc prepared an appeal to the Constitutional Court, we collected 45 signatures of the MPs. The appeal concerns a decision of the Verkhovna Rada of March 23 this year on a package of anti-crisis laws that, according to the government, were as such. In our opinion, these laws have led to the fact that the state aid stopped to be paid to children up to three years of age in our country and a number of other benefits were blocked," Korolevska said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/bloc_of_liovochkin_gathers_signatures_for_constitutional_court_327678

Verkhovna Rada urges Kremlin to release Savchenko, 11.12.2014

KYIV, December 11 /Ukrinform/. The Verkhovna Rada has approved an address to the Russian leadership demanding that Ukrainian pilot and parliamentarian Nadia Savchenko and all other Ukrainian hostages be released.

A total of 321 MPs voted for this decision on Thursday, an Ukrinform correspondent reported.

In its resolution No. 1095 the Verkhovna Rada demands the release of Savchenko and all Ukrainian prisoners who have been illegally captured and are being held in Russia.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/verkhovna_rada_urges_kremlin_to_release_savchenko_327683

Another four deputy associations appear in Rada, 12.12.2014

KYIV, December 12 /Ukrinform/. Another four inter-factional deputy associations set up in the Verkhovna Rada.

Parliament Speaker Volodymyr Hroisman told a parliament meeting Friday, Ukrinform's correspondent reports.

In particular, the association Zaporizhzhia Sich was created, headed by Andriy Yakushenko, Friendship with the European Union, headed by Andriy Lopushansky, Prykarpattia, headed by Anatoliy Matviyenko and Volodymyr Shkvaruk, and also For Sicheslavshchyna, headed by Borys Filatov.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/another_four_deputy_associations_appear_in_rada_327694

Ukraine's aviation regulator bans flights to Kharkiv, Dnipropetrovsk, Zaporizhia, 13.12.2014

The State Aviation Service of Ukraine has banned flights to the airports of Kharkiv, Dnipropetrovsk and Zaporizhia from 00.00 Kyiv time on Saturday, service head Denys Antoniuk said.

The ban was imposed for security reasons, he said.

The date for lifting the ban hasn't been fixed, and departures and arrivals at the three airports have been cancelled until it is lifted, he added.

<http://en.interfax.com.ua/news/general/239676.html>

National Bank lowers hryvnia rate to 15.76 UAH/USD, 15.12.2014

KYIV, December 15 /Ukrinform/. The National Bank of Ukraine lowered the official hryvnia rate against the dollar by 5 kopecks on Monday, as compared to December 12 to 15.76 UAH/USD. This is said on the NBU website.

The official hryvnia rate against the euro made up 19.6216 UAH/EUR against 19.5252 UAH/EUR on Friday.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/national_bank_lowers_hryvnia_rate_to_1576_uahusd_327745

Turchynov appointed secretary of National Security and Defense Council - decree, 16.12.2014

KYIV, December 16 /Ukrinform/. Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko has signed a decree appointing Oleksandr Turchynov as secretary of the National Security and Defense Council (NSDC) of Ukraine.

The text of the decree has been posted on the official website of the head of state.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/turchynov_appointed_secretary_of_national_security_and_defense_council_decree_327768

Poroshenko talks with Merkel, Hollande and Putin, 17.12.2014

KYIV, December 17 /Ukrinform/. Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko has talked with French President Francois Hollande, German Chancellor Angela Merkel and Russian President Vladimir Putin on the phone, the press service of the head of state has reported.

"The sides discussed the situation in Donbas and the implementation of the Minsk protocol of September 5 and the Minsk memorandum of September 19. Petro Poroshenko, Francois Hollande, Angela Merkel and Vladimir Putin agreed on the need to comply with all provisions of these agreements for the sake of a peaceful settlement in Donbas," reads the statement.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/poroshenko_talks_with_merkel_hollande_and_putin_327793

Government appoints chairman of Pension Fund, 17.12.2014

KYIV, December 17 /Ukrinform/. Oleksiy Zarudny by a decision of the government was appointed head of the Pension Fund of Ukraine.

Social Policy Minister Pavlo Rozenko told journalists following the Cabinet's meeting.

"Oleksiy Zarudny was appointed head of the Pension Fund. He is an experienced person, has a history of working in the Pension Fund," Rozenko said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/government_appoints_chairman_of_pension_fund_327813

Turchynov inspecting ATO frontline, 18.12.2014

KYIV, December 18 /Ukrinform/. Today, Secretary of the National Security and Defense Council Oleksandr Turchynov is on a working visit to the area of holding the antiterrorist operation in the east of Ukraine. The NSDC press service informs.

During Turchynov's visit, a meeting with heads of power ministries and departments is scheduled, as well as inspection of the forefront and units of the Armed Forces, located along the contact line.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/turchynov_inspecting_ato_frontline_327830

Poroshenko submits bill cancelling Ukraine's non-bloc status, 19.12.2014

KYIV, December 19 /Ukrinform/. Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko has submitted for consideration by the Verkhovna Rada a draft law introducing amendments to certain laws of Ukraine on Ukraine's refusal to implement non-alignment policy, the presidential press service has reported.

"The non-aligned status of Ukraine, which was secured in the law of Ukraine on domestic and foreign policy, proved to be ineffective in the context of securing the state from external aggression and pressure. Ukraine's prolonged presence in a 'gray' buffer zone between powerful systems of collective defense is an additional challenge to Ukraine," reads an explanatory note to the bill.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/poroshenko_submits_bill_cancelling_ukraines_non_bloc_status_327850

SBU prevents terrorist attack in central Kyiv, 19.12.2014

KYIV, December 19 /Ukrinform/. "SBU has managed to prevent an awful tragedy in downtown Kyiv, a terror attack that was to be perpetrated just recently," SBU chairman advisor Markiyanyan Lubkivsky said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/sbu_prevents_terrorist_attack_in_central_kyiv_327858

Killer of three police officers detained, 19.12.2014

KYIV, December 19 /Ukrinform/. A man who killed three police officers in Kyiv on December 18 has been detained.

Ukrainian Interior Minister Arsen Avakov wrote this on his Facebook page.

"The killer, a drug dealer who committed the murder of three police officers yesterday, has been detained. He fired back during the arrest, but a ballistic shield used during the assault on the apartment where the criminal was hiding saved our fighters. Under the cover of special forces the killer was hospitalized with serious injuries," Avakov wrote.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/killer_of_three_police_officers_detained_327867

Defense Ministry to be reformed under volunteers' concept - president's advisor, 22.12.2014

KYIV, December 22 /Ukrinform/. A presidential advisor, assistant to the defense minister and coordinator of the Wings of the Phoenix volunteer project, Yuriy Biriukov, reported on his Facebook page on Monday, December 22, that a Defense Ministry reform concept proposed by a group of volunteers has been approved.

"Our reform concept has been adopted as a working version. Now the concept is being improved, and testing algorithms are being created. And we have a term of three to four days," he said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/defense_ministry_to_be_reformed_under_volunteers_concept_presidents_advisor_327901

Official hryvnia exchange rate weakens again, 22.12.2014

KYIV, December 22 /Ukrinform/. The National Bank of Ukraine (NBU) on Monday, December 22, lowered the official exchange rate of the hryvnia against the U.S. dollar by eight kopecks compared to December 19, to UAH 15.8544 per U.S. dollar, according to the official website of the central bank.

The official exchange rate of the hryvnia against the euro is UAH 19.4676/EUR 1 (UAH 15.7694/EUR 1 on December 19).

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/official_hryvnia_exchange_rate_weakens_again_327902

Cabinet submits to Rada amendments to budget, tax and customs codes, 23.12.2014

KYIV, December 23 /Ukrinform/. The Cabinet submitted to the Verkhovna Rada the draft laws on amendments to the Budget, Tax and Customs Codes.

Respective resolutions under the numbers 1574, 1575, 1576 and 1578 are published on the VR website.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/cabinet_submits_to_rada_amendments_to_budget_tax_and_customs_codes_327911

Budget with deficit of UAH 64 billion proposed to Rada, 23.12.2014

KYIV, December 23 /Ukrinform/. The government proposes to the Verkhovna Rada to consider the draft state budget with revenues of UAH 475 billion and expenditures of UAH 527 billion. A text of the document is posted on the parliament's website.

"To determine for 2015: revenues of the state budget of Ukraine to the amount of UAH 475.23 billion, including revenues of the general fund of the state budget of Ukraine - to the amount of 452.77 billion, and revenues of the special fund of the state budget of Ukraine - to the amount of UAH 22.46 billion; expenditures of the state budget of Ukraine to the amount of UAH 527.19 billion, including expenditures of the general fund of the state budget of Ukraine - to the amount of UAH 502.93 billion and expenditures of the special fund of the state budget of Ukraine - to the amount of UAH 24.25 billion," the draft law notes.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/budget_with_deficit_of_uah_64_billion_proposed_to_rada_327912

Rada fails amendments to law on NSDC, 23.12.2014

KYIV, December 23 /Ukrinform/. People's deputies did not accept the second reading of the presidential amendments to the bill No.1343 "On Amendments to the Law of Ukraine "On the National Security and Defense Council of Ukraine," which improves coordination and monitoring of national security and defense.

223 deputies voted for this decision.

Then the deputies sent the bill to the relevant committee to prepare a second reading.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/rada_fails_amendments_to_law_on_nsd_327920

Deputies decide to work seven days a week, 23.12.2014

KYIV, December 23 /Ukrinform/. People's deputies supported a proposal of the deputy head of the procedural committee to amend the schedule of the first parliamentary session.

In particular, the deputies will work in committees December 24, December 25 and a plenary session will be held December 26; they will work in committees December 27, Saturday, and a plenary session will be held December 28, Sunday.

247 deputies voted for this decision.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/deputies_decide_to_work_seven_days_a_week_327932

Ukrainian parliament scraps Ukraine's non-aligned status, 23.12.2014

The Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine on Tuesday approved a draft law on Ukraine's abandoning its non-alignment policy.

As previously reported by the presidential press service, the draft law is aimed at "providing an additional mechanism for ensuring the sovereignty, territorial integrity and protection of the independence of Ukraine."

"The non-aligned status of Ukraine, which was enshrined in the Law of Ukraine 'On the basis of domestic and foreign policy' has proved to be ineffective in the context of state security from external aggression and pressure," read the explanatory note to the draft bill.

"Ukraine's prolonged presence in a 'gray' buffer zone between powerful systems of collective defense is an additional challenge to Ukraine."

<http://www.unian.info/politics/1025068-ukrainian-parliament-cancels-ukraines-non-aligned-status.html>

Naftogaz transfers second tranche of \$1.65 billion to Gazprom, 24.12.2014

KYIV, December 24 /Ukrinform/. NJSC Naftogaz of Ukraine transferred \$1.65 billion to Gazprom as payment for the gas that was earlier delivered and not paid for, the company announced on Tuesday, December 23.

"NJSC Naftogaz of Ukraine transferred to OJSC Gazprom \$1.65 billion as payment for the gas that was earlier delivered and not paid for. Thus, in accordance with the agreements reached in Brussels, Naftogaz paid \$3.1 billion in two tranches as payment for 11.5 billion cubic meters of gas delivered by OJSC Gazprom in November-December 2013 and April-June 2014," reads the statement.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/naftogaz_transfers_second_tranche_of_165_billion_to_gazprom_327948

Yatseniuk orders energy ministry to tackle power outages more quickly, 24.12.2014

KYIV, December 24 /Ukrinform/. Ukraine's Ministry of Energy and Coal Industry should accelerate the resolution of problems with energy supply and the provision of Ukrainian power plants with coal.

"Mr. Minister, I'm asking you to accelerate the resolution of problems with energy supply and the provision of Ukrainian power plants with coal," Ukrainian Prime Minister Arseniy Yatseniuk made this request at a cabinet meeting.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/yatseniuk_orders_energy_ministry_to_tackle_power_outages_more_quickly_327953

Contact Group on Ukraine meets in Minsk, 24.12.2014

KYIV, December 24 /Ukrinform/. A meeting of the Contact Group on Ukraine, involving representatives of the OSCE, Kyiv and the self-proclaimed Donetsk and Luhansk "people's republics," has begun in Minsk.

The meeting of the trilateral contact group is being held in the center of Minsk at Dipservice Hall (Reception House).

"It is attended by Russian Ambassador to Ukraine Mikhail Zurabov, representatives of the self-proclaimed Donetsk and Luhansk 'people's republics' Denis Pushilin and Vladislav Deinego, former Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma, and the delegation of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) led by special envoy Heidi Tagliavini," reads the statement.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/contact_group_on_ukraine_meets_in_minsk_327960

NBU cuts official hryvnia exchange rate by 11 kopecks, 24.12.2014

KYIV, December 24 /Ukrinform/. The official exchange rate of the hryvnia against the U.S. dollar on Wednesday, December 24, shrank by 11 kopecks compared to Tuesday, from UAH 15.6617 per dollar to UAH 15.7702 per dollar, according to the National Bank (NBU) of Ukraine website. The official exchange rate of the hryvnia against the euro amounted to UAH 19.2602 per euro against UAH 19.1997 per euro on the previous day, whereas hryvnia-ruble quotations stood at 0.289 against 0.277.

As reported, the average exchange rate of the hryvnia against the U.S. dollar on Ukraine's interbank currency market was UAH 15.7635 as of 14.00.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/nbu_cuts_official_hryvnia_exchange_rate_by_11_kopecks_327963

Poroshenko sacks 78 heads of district state administrations in 18 regions, 24.12.2014

KYIV, December 24 /Ukrinform/. Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko has dismissed 78 heads of district state administrations in 18 regions of Ukraine.

The respective orders have been posted on the website of the head of state.

In particular, Poroshenko dismissed 11 heads of district state administrations in Ivano-Frankivsk region, seven heads of district state administrations each in Ternopil, Rivne, Lviv and Kirovohrad regions, six each in Poltava, Chernihiv and Kherson regions, five each in Kyiv and Khmelnytsky regions, three in Vinnytsia region, two each in Mykolaiv, Volyn and Cherkasy regions, and one each in Kharkiv, Sumy, Luhansk and Zhytomyr regions.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/poroshenko_sacks_78_heads_of_district_state_administrations_in_18_regions_327943

Deputies vote for appeal to international organizations on Savchenko, 25.12.2014

KYIV, December 25 /Ukrinform/. People's deputies approved an appeal of the parliament to international organizations on the release of their counterpart Nadia Savchenko, who is kept in the Russian pretrial detention facility.

321 deputies voted for the resolution "On the appeal of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine to international organizations and inter-parliamentary assemblies on the release of Ukrainian aviatrix and people's deputy of Ukraine of the VIII convocation Nadia Viktorivna Savchenko." According to one of the authors of the document Hryhoriy Nemyria (Batkivshchyna), the text also says about the release of other Ukrainians, kept in Russia.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/deputies_vote_for_appeal_to_international_organizations_on_savchenko_327972

Rada approves amendments to law on National Security and Defense Council, 25.12.2014

KYIV, December 25 /Ukrinform/. Ukrainian MPs have adopted presidential amendments to bill No. 1343 introducing amendments to the law of Ukraine on the National Security and Defense Council (NSDC) of Ukraine.

A total of 253 lawmakers supported the document at a parliament meeting on Thursday.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/rada_approves_amendments_to_law_on_national_security_and_defense_council_327973

Ukraine sends more than 300 tonnes of humanitarian aid to Donbas, 25.12.2014

KYIV, December 25 /Ukrinform/. The government sent 326 tonnes of humanitarian aid worth about UAH 2 million from Kharkiv to Donbas. The Cabinet's press service informs.

"326 tonnes of humanitarian cargo worth about UAH 2 million were sent to the east of Ukraine," a statement reads.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/ukraine_sends_more_than_300_tonnes_of_humanitarian_aid_to_donbas_327975

Foreign currency loans to be converted into hryvnia at last year's exchange rate

KYIV, December 25 /Ukrinform/. The National Bank of Ukraine, along with banks and banking associations, has agreed on basic provisions regarding the restructuring of consumer loans in foreign currency.

The National Bank reported this on its Facebook page.

"The National Bank of Ukraine (NBU) held a meeting, during which the main provisions of the draft memorandum regarding the restructuring of consumer loans in foreign currency have been agreed on. Thus the draft memorandum acquired the status of a full-fledged document that remains in the process of signing by all the parties," reads the statement.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/foreign_currency_loans_to_be Converted_into_hryvnia_at_last_years_exchange_rate_327976

Fireworks banned in Kyiv until end of anti-terrorist operation, 25.12.2014

KYIV, December 25 /Ukrinform/. Kyiv City Council deputies at a meeting on Thursday decided to ban the use of fireworks in Kyiv until the end of the anti-terrorist operation in eastern Ukraine. A total of 87 Kyiv City Council deputies voted for this decision.

The explanatory note to this decision states that the extension of the ban on the use of fireworks is stipulated by the need to remove social tension among residents and guests of the Ukrainian capital.

"Any fireworks, even celebratory explosions, are regarded with concern and can lead to undesirable conflicts against the backdrop of the ongoing anti-terrorist operation in Donbas," the document reads.

Earlier, Kyiv City Council deputies banned fireworks for the period of the New Year and Christmas holidays.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/fireworks_banned_in_kyiv_until_end_of_anti_terrorist_operation_327983

Poroshenko creates national investment council, 25.12.2014

KYIV, December 25 /Ukrinform/. President of Ukraine Petro Poroshenko signed a decree on creation of the National Investment Council. The presidential press service informed.

"The Council was created to intensify work on development of Ukraine's investment potential, increase of foreign investments, improvement of the investment climate in the country and ensuring protection of investors' rights," the Presidential Administration noted.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/poroshenko_creates_national_investment_council_327989

Verkhovna Rada starts fighting offshore transactions, 25.12.2014

KYIV, December 25 /Ukrinform/. The Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine has adopted at first reading a draft law on amendments to the Tax Code of Ukraine on the improvement of tax control over transfer pricing.

A total of 275 MPs voted for this decision, an Ukrinform correspondent reported.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/verkhovna_rada_starts_fighting_offshore_transactions_327991

Poroshenko orders tightening of security at strategic facilities, 25.12.2014

KYIV, December 25 /Ukrinform/. Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko has ordered the tightening of security at strategic facilities following the military and economic exercises "Concentration - 2014," the presidential press office has reported.

"The head of state set a number of priority tasks, first and foremost, ordered the tightening of security at strategic and socially important facilities," reads the statement.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/poroshenko_orders_tightening_of_security_at_strategic_facilities_327992

New 100-hryvnia banknotes will be introduced in Ukraine, 26.12.2014

KYIV, December 26 /Ukrinform/. The National Bank of Ukraine puts into circulation new UAH 100 banknotes, the banknotes of 2014 will be better protected.

It is reported by depo.ua with reference to the press service of the regulator.

Banknotes are issued to improve the organization of cash circulation and, within the frames of the planned issue for 2015, to replace worn, damaged and withdrawn from circulation banknotes.

New banknotes will be presented December 29 with participation of National Bank governor Valeria Hontareva.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/new_100_hryvnia_banknotes_will_be_introduced_in_ukraine_327999

Law on civil service to take effect in 2016, 26.12.2014

KYIV, December 26 /Ukrinform/. The Verkhovna Rada has postponed the entry into force of the law of Ukraine on civil service until January 1, 2016.

A total of 268 deputies voted for this decision on Thursday.

According to Radical Party leader Oleh Liashko, the entry into force of this law will require additional state funds to increase the salaries of civil servants.

"Spending on the implementation of this law will reach UAH 37 billion in 2015... It is absolutely untimely," he said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/law_on_civil_service_to_take_effect_in_2016_328010

Piatnytsky becomes Adviser to Prime Minister, 26.12.2014

KYIV, December 26 /Ukrinform/. The Cabinet appoints Valeriy Piatnytsky Adviser of the Prime Minister on the import stabilization. The Cabinet's press service told journalists.

"In several minutes a briefing of Prime Minister's Adviser on stabilization of imports Valeriy Piatnytsky will be held," Oksana Herasymova, head of the media liaison department said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/piatnytsky_becomes_adviser_to_prime_minister_328011

Uniform patrol service will replace state traffic police, patrol-duty service, 27.12.2014

KYIV, December 27 /Ukrinform/. In Kyiv, the uniform patrol service will work instead of the state traffic police and the patrol-duty service from January 20, 2015.

Advisor to the Interior Minister Zorian Shkiriak said, the Interior Ministry press service informs.

"On January 20, in Kyiv, the transition and reformatting of the state traffic police and the patrol-duty service will begin into a uniform patrol service in Ukraine. The changes will affect both the visual upgrade of the patrol police and functionally they will be much more efficient," Shkiriak said.

He added that fairly serious principles of professional selection will be applied for this.

"I would not like to say in advance, but I think that from the beginning to the appearance of any real objective results - 4-6 months are needed, possibly less. We will do this in a fairly short period of time, because the society demands reforms," the Adviser to the Interior Minister stressed.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/uniform_patrol_service_will_replace_state_traffic_police_patrol_duty_service_328026

MPS ADOPT UKRAINE'S STATE BUDGET FOR 2015, 29.12.2014

KYIV, December 29 /Ukrinform/. MPs adopted Ukraine's state budget for 2015, envisaging the country's GDP at minus 4.3%, nominal GDP at UAH 1.721 trillion, inflation at 13.1%, and the exchange rate at UAH 17 per U.S. dollar.

Law of Ukraine No. 1000 on Ukraine's state budget for 2015 was supported by 233 lawmakers early on Monday.

"There is a proposal to vote for the draft law of Ukraine on the state budget, taking into account all that has been said [amendments], adjusting the parameters according to the revenue base. The [budget] committee should envisage respective amendments and submit them for signature by the [parliament] chairman, and we'll adopt a new draft budget by February 15," Prime Minister Arseniy Yatseniuk said before the vote.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/mps_adopt_ukraines_state_budget_for_2015_328031

MPs cut number of taxes in Ukraine from 22 to 9, 29.12.2014

KYIV, December 29 /Ukrinform/. The Verkhovna Rada, Ukraine's parliament, has adopted amendments to the Tax Code of Ukraine envisaging a reduction in the number of taxes from 22 to 9.

A total of 250 MPs voted for bill No. 1578 on the introduction of amendments to the Tax Code of Ukraine and some laws of Ukraine (on tax reform).

The electronic VAT administration system will operate in a test mode from February 1, 2015.

The mechanism may operate in full in the second half of 2015 only with the consent of the Verkhovna Rada.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/mps_cut_number_of_taxes_in_ukraine_from_22_to_9_328039

Ukrainian humanitarian aid delivered to Telmanivsky district, 29.12.2014

KYIV, December 29 /Ukrinform/. Sunday, representatives of the ATO headquarters and Donetsk regional state administration delivered six trucks with products to front-line villages in the south of the region.

The press service of Donetsk regional state administration informs.

"Cereals, macaroni products, potatoes, onions, carrots, beets, apples, tangerines, oranges, flour, meat and canned fish were delivered to Chermalyk, Starohnativka, Noveselivka and other settlements. Representatives of the military and regional authorities brought the New Year trees and New Year gifts for local children," a statement reads.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/ukrainian_humanitarian_aid_delivered_to_telmanivsky_district_328045

President signs law cancelling Ukraine's non-bloc status, 29.12.2014

KYIV, December 29 /Ukrinform/. Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko has signed the law cancelling Ukraine's non-bloc status.

"Now, during a press conference, I am planning to sign the law, which introduces amendments to certain legislative acts regarding Ukraine's refusal to implement the policy of non-alignment and which was voted for by a constitutional majority. This law was introduced by me as president of Ukraine and supported by parliament," Poroshenko said.

In addition, he said when a referendum on Ukraine's accession to NATO could be tentatively held.

"Secondly, I am planning to reform the country so that it meets EU and NATO standards. I can say that these standards 99 percent coincide. And then, when the country meets these criteria - it will most likely be done as part of the implementation of the Strategy 2020, over the next five or six years the people of Ukraine will decide on NATO membership," he said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/president_signs_law_cancelling_ukraines_non_bloc_status_328049

Terrorism

Donetsk airport stormed by Russian special forces, 01.12.2014

KYIV, December 1 /Ukrinform/. Russian special forces have tried to attack the Donetsk airport, but retreated with significant losses, the ATO press center has reported.

"Bandits continue to attack the Donetsk airport. Fighters of the Russian special purpose squad were used for the assault. Our guys again repulsed the enemy's attack. The attackers retreated, suffering heavy losses," reads the statement.

Fighting over the last 36 hours in Donetsk airport was very intense, with two Ukrainian soldiers being killed and another 18 injured, according to preliminary reports, Assistant Secretary of Defense Yuriy Biriukov wrote on his Facebook page late on Sunday evening.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/donetsk_airport_stormed_by_russian_special_forces_327438

<http://www.unian.info/society/1015949-russian-special-forces-suffer-losses-as-they-attack-donetsk-airport.html>

<http://www.unian.info/society/1015951-heavy-fighting-in-donetsk-airport-for-36-hours-two-ukrainians-killed.html>

Militants attack Ukrainian positions over 40 times, 01.12.2014

KYIV, December 1 /Ukrinform/. "Terrorists have tried to attack the positions of the anti-terrorist operation forces 41 times over the past 24 hours, using cannon artillery, mortars and multiple rocket launchers," reads the report of the press center for the anti-terrorist operation.

According to the report, hostile activity was recorded in the Luhansk, Donetsk, Mariupol and Debaltseve directions. Volleys of artillery and mortar rounds were heard in the vicinity of Sokolnyky, Kriakivka, Krymske, Artema, Nyzhnioteple, Stanytsia Luhanska, Makarove, Triokhizbenka, Shchastia, Heyivka, Pisky, Donetsk, Avdiyivka, Tonenke, Opytne, Bohdanivka, Nikishyne, Maloorlivka, Debaltseve, Novolaspa, Mykolaivka, and Pavlopil.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/militants_attack_ukrainian_positions_over_40_times_327440

Ukraine loses another three soldiers, 01.12.2014

KYIV, December 1 /Ukrinform/. "Over the previous 24 hours, as a result of combat actions, we lost our three Ukrainian heroes, another 14 got injured," NSDC spokesman Andriy Lysenko said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/ukraine_loses_another_three_soldiers_327447

ATO forces repel attack on Bakhmutivka highway, 01.12.2014

KYIV, December 1 /Ukrinform/. The ATO forces repelled the terrorists' attack on the Bakhmutivka highway near the village of Sokolnyky.

"On the Bakhmutivka highway, terrorists after shelling our positions three times from Grad rocket launchers near the village of Sokolnyky attempted at attacking our positions. The attack was repelled," NSDC Information-Analytical Center spokesman Andriy Lysenko said..

On the Debaltseve direction, terrorists from mortars and small arms shelled positions of military near the villages of Nikishyne, Maloorlivka and Debaltseve, the Spokesman added.

He also said that on the Mariupol direction, terrorists shelled positions of the law enforcers from Grad rocket launchers near the village of Starohnativka.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/ato_forces_repel_attack_on_bakhmutivka_highway_327450

Russia pulls tanks to Stanytsia Luhanska, 01.12.2014

KYIV, December 2 /Ukrinform/. The enemy is sending "batches" of three or four armored vehicles, including tanks, into the area of Stanytsia Luhanska, close to the border with Russia. Information Resistance group leader Dmytro Tymchuk reported this on his Facebook page.

"Armored vehicles are moving from the border with Russia, under the cover of artillery shelling of the positions of Ukrainian troops," he wrote.

At the same time, in this area the enemy's mobile groups reinforced by armor are attempting to push Ukrainian troops from the Siversky Donets River, alternately using shelling with attempts of attack. "The enemy's tanks are used separately, mainly as a means of the fire strengthening of an infantry group (up to one or two units). There is a high activity of the mortar teams of terrorists," he added.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/russia_pulls_tanks_to_stanytsia_luhanska_327464

NSDC denies reports of blasts at Donetsk airport terminal, 01.12.2014

KYIV, December 1 /Ukrinform/. The Ukrainian anti-terrorist operation forces that are defending the Donetsk airport did not blow up the old terminal.

NSDC information and analytical center spokesman Andriy Lysenko said this at a briefing in Kyiv on Monday, a Ukrinform correspondent reported.

"There was no specially planned blasting of the old terminal," Lysenko said.

He said that Ukrainian military use as the old terminal as a fortification, so it makes no sense to destroy it.

"Very fierce fighting is going on at the airport, and the old terminal is a protective structure for our military, and it makes no sense to blow up your defense," he said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/nsdc_denies_reports_of_blasts_at_donetsk_airport_terminal_327456

Militants shell Ukrainian positions 52 times over past 24 hours, 02.12.2014

KYIV, December 2 /Ukrinform/. Terrorists have made 52 attacks on the positions of the Ukrainian anti-terrorist operation forces over the past 24 hours, using artillery and mortars, the press center for the anti-terrorist operation has reported.

According to the ATO headquarters, active hostilities were not reported in the area of the Donetsk airport last night.

According to NSDC inhabited areas in Luhansk region, controlled by the Ukrainian power, again got under concentrated fire from heavy artillery of pro-Russian terrorists.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/militants_shell_ukrainian_positions_52_times_over_past_24_hours_327467

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/terrorists_shell_inhabited_areas_in_luhansk_region_again_327484

Ukrainian armed forces, militants agree on ceasefire from December 5 - OSCE, 02.12.2014

KYIV, December 2 /Ukrinform/. Ukrainian military at a meeting with representatives of the Russian Armed Forces and LPR militants in Luhansk on November 29 agreed on a ceasefire, which is to take effect from December 5. This is stated in a daily report of the OSCE Special Monitoring Mission (OSCE SMM) to Ukraine for December 1.

"On November 29, in Luhansk, the SMM was present at a meeting of the head of the Ukrainian contingent to the Joint Center for Control and Coordination (JCCC), Lt Gen Askarov; the head of the Russian Representation in south-east Ukraine, Lt Gen Lentsov; and members of the 'LPR.' Participants continued to dispute aspects of the disengagement phase of the Generals' plan of November 14... All agreed in principle to a total ceasefire along the entire line of contact between Ukrainian Armed Forces and those under control of the 'LPR,' to be effective from December 5," reads the report.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/ukrainian_armed_forces_militants_agree_on_ceasefire_from_december_5_osce_327469

OSCE reports on eight convoys with military equipment near Snizhne, 02.12.2014

KYIV, December 2 /Ukrinform/. The OSCE Special Monitoring Mission (OSCE SMM) to Ukraine has spotted near Snizhne eight different convoys with military equipment, which moved in the direction from and to the city of Donetsk.

This is stated in a daily report by the OSCE SMM published on December 1.

"Whilst travelling to the city of Snizhne, 'Donetsk People's Republic' ('DPR')-controlled territory (80km east of Donetsk city), the SMM saw a large number of military-painted trucks on the move to and from the Donetsk direction. The SMM observed the movement of eight different convoys from 10.48 until 14.55, including several military trucks," reads the statement.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/osce_reports_on_eight_convoys_with_military_equipment_near_snizhne_327471

Two more soldiers killed in anti-terrorist operation zone, 02.12.2014

KYIV, December 2 /Ukrinform/. "Two Ukrainian servicemen have been killed over the past 24 hours, and four have sustained injuries," NSDC spokesman Andriy Lysenko said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/two_more_soldiers_killed_in_anti_terrorist_operation_zone_327478

Stormtroopers of Donetsk airport restore combat capability - Tymchuk, 03.12.2014

KYIV, December 3 /Ukrinform/. Russian forces and terrorists, who are struggling to capture the Donetsk airport, retreated and restore combat capability.

Head of the Center of Political and Military Studies Dmytro Tymchuk wrote on Facebook.

"Subdivisions of Russian-terrorist troops, who took part in the assault the Donetsk airport, are withdrawn deep into military dispositions to restore combat capability," he said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/stormtroopers_of_donetsk_airport_restore_combat_capability_tymchuk_327494

NSDC reports significant losses among militants near Donetsk airport, 03.12.2014

KYIV, December 3 /Ukrinform/. Militants have sustained significant losses near the Donetsk airport when they tried to attack it and eventually retreated.

"Despite active efforts by terrorists and Russian forces to seize the airport, this strategic facility remains under the control of the anti-terrorist operation forces. Ukrainian military successfully repelled all attacks by militants, the enemy sustained significant losses and was forced to withdraw its groups to restore combat capability," NSDC information and analytical center spokesman Andriy Lysenko.

The losses of militants and Russian mercenaries who are terrorizing the population in Donbas have reached about 8,000 people since the beginning of the anti-terrorist operation, the ATO press center reported.

"The losses of militants since the beginning of the anti-terrorist operation are estimated at about 8,000 people," reads the statement.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/nsdc_reports_significant_losses_among_militants_near_donetsk_airport_327511

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/about_8000_terrorists_killed_in_donbas_327513

Militants attack ATO forces 19 times today, 03.12.2014

KYIV, December 3 /Ukrinform/. As of 13:00, 19 unsuccessful attacks of militants were recorded at the ATO forces with the use of various types of weapons. The ATO press center informs.

"Shelling was carried in the direction of inhabited areas, as such as Zolote, Stanytsia Luhanska, Donetsky, Novobakhmutivka, Opytne, Tonenke, Donetsk, Avdiyivka, Mius, Nikishyne, Artemove, Vynohradne, Talakivka, Lomakine, Vodiane, Mariupol," the headquarters specified.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/militants_attack_ato_forces_19_times_today_327516

Tymchuk: Warring sides agree to evacuate dead and wounded, 03.12.2014

Talks between the warring sides at Donetsk airport have resulted in an agreement on evacuating the dead and wounded, head of the Information Resistance group Dmytro Tymchuk wrote on Facebook on Wednesday.

"During talks between the Ukrainian armed forces and the terrorists and Russian-backed insurgents, the mutual evacuation of the dead and wounded was agreed on. However, to the north of this territory artillery attacks are still continuing," he said.

The divisions of Russian-backed insurgents earlier storming Donetsk airport have been withdrawn from the front line to restore their fighting capability, Tymchuk said.

<http://www.unian.info/society/1017070-tymchuk-warring-sides-agree-to-evacuate-dead-and-wounded.html>

Terrorists shell Orlivka, among wounded - 6-year-old child, 03.12.2014

KYIV, December 3 /Ukrinform/. When terrorists attacked Orlivka, Donetsk region, four people were injured, including a six-year-old child.

This was reported by the press service of the Interior Ministry's regional department.

"The city police department in Avdiyivka received a report from a hospital that four people with injuries of varying severity were delivered to them, including a six-year-old child, who suffered as a result of a terrorist attack at the village of Orlivka, Yasynuvatsky district. A 52-year-old man was injured with shrapnel on his birthday and two of his family members, while a 27-year-old girl got an eye-injury," a statement reads.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/terrorists_shell_orlivka_among_wounded_6_year_old_child_327523

Militants control all prisons in Luhansk region - Moskal, 03.12.2014

KYIV, December 3 /Ukrinform/. "The day before yesterday, on December 1, militants from the so-called LPR armed with machineguns deprived of freedom the entire leadership of the State Penitentiary Service office in Luhansk region, including its head, first deputy head, deputy head, the chief the personnel department, and the chief of the headquarters. Their location is unknown," Luhansk regional governor Hennadiy Moskal reported this on his website on Wednesday.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/militants_control_all_prisons_in_luhansk_region_moskal_327524

Guerrilla group kills over 100 militants in Donetsk region, 04.12.2014

KYIV, December 4 /Ukrinform/. A guerrilla group operating in Donetsk region has cleared the region of 110 militants over the past two days, the ATO press center reported.

"On December 1, in cooperation with the Armed Forces of Ukraine, soldiers of the guerrilla group killed about 50 militants at a farm in the area of Staromykhailivka. On the next day, they played a cruel joke with the 'great warriors of Russkiy Mir' by reducing their number by ten more people. On the same day, continuing to 'play' with terrorists and in close cooperation with the Ukrainian military in the area of Petrivka, guerrillas killed 50 more militants," reads the statement.

According to the ATO headquarters, over the past 24 hours the artillery of the ATO forces has launched 45 fire strikes to eliminate the firing positions of mercenaries.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/guerrilla_group_kills_over_100_militants_in_donetsk_region_327525

Russian troops continue arriving in Debaltseve area, 04.12.2014

KYIV, December 4 /Ukrinform/. The strengthening of Russian-terrorist groups is continuing in the area of Debaltseve, as well as in the area of Pervomaisk-Stakhanov-Alchevsk. Additional armored vehicles and artillery systems (up to 20 pieces of conventional artillery) are arriving. Information Resistance group leader Dmytro Tymchuk reported this on Facebook.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/russian_troops_continue_arriving_in_debaltseve_area_327526

Truce in full swing: Donetsk shaken by explosions overnight, 04.12.2014

KYIV, December 4 /Ukrinform/. Despite the ceasefire, Donetsk was shaken by volleys and explosions over the whole night. Artillery bombardment and work of various systems were heard in all parts of the city.

Shelling subsided in the morning. The situation is tense. No information yet about the casualties and wounded.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/truce_in_full_swing_donetsk_shaken_by_explosions_overnight_327527

Russian airborne troops and "Caucasian group" near Stakhanov supplied with weapons, 04.12.2014

KYIV, December 4 /Ukrinform/. "The "Caucasian group" and company tactical group of Russian Airborne Troops, acting to the north of Stahanov, were supplied with fuel and ammunition during the day," Head of the Information Resistance group Dmytro Tymchuk wrote on Facebook.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/russian_airborne_troops_and_caucasian_group_near_stakhanov_supplied_with_weapons_327530

Russia used cluster munitions in Ukraine - General Staff, 04.12.2014

KYIV, December 4 /Ukrinform/. "The Russian Federation at one time, due to the intensification of actions after August 24, 2014, actively used Smerch artillery systems that fire cluster munitions," a representative of the General Staff of the Ukrainian Armed Forces, Major-General Oleksandr Rozmazin said.

He added that the 12th territorial defense battalion of Kyiv had been fired with such shells at that time.

Russia wants to cover up its crimes, so it is trying to accuse Ukraine, the general said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/russia_used_cluster_munitions_in_ukraine_general_staff_327544

6,000-10,000 Russian troops fighting in Donbas, 04.12.2014

KYIV, December 4 /Ukrinform/. Some 6,000-10,000 Russian servicemen are fighting against Ukrainian troops in Donbas.

"Today 32,400 people are fighting in Donbas, of which 6,000-10,000 are servicemen of the Russian Armed Forces, and the rest are representatives of the so-called illegal armed groups," a representative of the General Staff of the Ukrainian Armed Forces, Major-General Oleksandr Rozmaznin said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/6000_10000_russian_troops_fighting_in_donbas_327541

Almost thousand foreigners fighting on Ukraine's side - General Staff, 04.12.2014

KYIV, December 4 /Ukrinform/. A thousand foreigners are fighting on the side of Ukraine in the antiterrorist operation in the east of the country and all of them are members of volunteer battalions.

"There are people who are sympathizing with our country, who came to provide direct assistance to us... It's probably a thousand or maybe more people who made a choice in favor of our country," a representative of the General Staff of the Ukrainian Armed Forces, Major-General Oleksandr Rozmaznin said

He added that among those fighting on the side of Ukraine were citizens of the United States, France, and Russia, from where, he said, there are even officers and soldiers in active service.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/almost_thousand_foreigners_fighting_on_ukraines_side_general_staff_327547

Next column of Russian tanks crosses border, 04.12.2014

KYIV, December 4 /Ukrinform/. Next column of Russian armored vehicles, consisting of eight tanks and three self-propelled vehicles, probably Akatsia, crossed the Ukrainian-Russian border in Donetsk region, at the sector not controlled by the Ukrainian side. A witness told Ukrinform.

"This morning, about 10:00 a.m., a column of military vehicles of eight tanks and three Akatsia crossed the border and continued movement deeper into territory. Self-propelled vehicles, likely, went to Yenakiyev. It is unknown where the tanks went," the agency's interlocutor said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/next_column_of_russian_tanks_crosses_border_327548

Militants kill three civilians in Donbas, 05.12.2014

KYIV, December 5 /Ukrinform/. Three civilians have been killed due to shelling in Donbas in the past 24 hours, the press center for the anti-terrorist operation has reported.

"Reports of three civilians killed and three more injured have been received over the past 24 hours," the anti-terrorist operation headquarters reported.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/militants_kill_three_civilians_in_donbas_327554

Tank attack of terrorists repulsed near Luhansk, 05.12.2014

KYIV, December 5 /Ukrinform/. The militants stepped up firing positions of ATO forces to the north and northwest of Luhansk.

"Intensity of shelling positions of Ukrainian troops in the north and northwest of Luhansk increased. Before, a considerable artillery group of militants came to the area - at least two divisions of cannon and rocket artillery," Head of the Information Resistance group Dmytro Tymchuk wrote.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/tank_attack_of_terrorists_repulsed_near_luhansk_327555

Bodies of Russian military removed from Donbas by trucks, 05.12.2014

KYIV, December 5 /Ukrinform/. Bodies of militants and Russian military are removed from Donbas by trucks.

"A convoy with militants, wounded during clashes near Schastia (up to 80 persons) arrived in Luhansk. The majority of the wounded will be further evacuated to Rostov-on-Don (Russia). A convoy with corpses of militants and Russian military drove from Horlivka to Yenakiyev (three Ural trucks)," Head of the Information Resistance group Dmytro Tymchuk wrote on Facebook.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/bodies_of_russian_military_removed_from_donbas_by_trucks_327558

Militants arrange shelling near Mariupol, 05.12.2014

KYIV, December 5 /Ukrinform/. Terrorist attacks have already reached Mariupol, controlled by Ukrainian troops.

"The settlement of Chermalyk was shelled twice near Mariupol," the ATO press center informs.
http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/militants_arrange_shelling_near_mariupol_327556

Terrorists Shelled Towns and Villages with Russian 'Humanitarian Aid', 06.12.2014

There were 45 enemy attacks registered over the past 24 hours. The militants shelled the ATO forces positions with mortars and Grad rocket systems - so-called 'humanitarian convoy' content.

According to the report, the largest number of attacks occurred in the Luhansk, Donetsk and Debaltseve sectors. During the day the militants attacked civilians in Krymske, Triokhizbenka, Makarove, Marinka, Chornukhyne, Orlovo-Ivanivka, Mius, Vilkhivka, Berezivka, Opytne, Nova Hryhorivka villages as well as the towns of Shchastia and Avdiivka.

"Two civilians suffered from the terrorists attack in Donetsk city during the day," the ATO headquarters informed.

http://en.censor.net.ua/news/315152/terrorists_shelled_towns_and_villages_with_russian_humanitarian_aid

Terrorists Shelled Ukrainian Soldiers Positions with Grad Rocket System near Mariupol, 06.12.2014

This morning, the militants shelled the ATO positions near Mariupol city with Grad rocket systems, mortars and anti-tank guided missiles four times.

The explosions were heard on the skirts of the town of Mykolaivka.

There are no casualties among civil populations and Ukrainian soldiers," the ATO headquarters reports.

http://en.censor.net.ua/news/315169/terrorists_shelled_ukrainian_soldiers_positions_with_grad_rocket_system_near_mariupol

There Are no Losses, Seven Soldiers Wounded Over Last 24 Hours, 06.12.2014

"Fortunately, we suffered no losses, nevertheless seven soldiers were wounded over the last 24 hours," Volodymyr Poliovyi, the NSDC Information Analysis Center representative said.

http://en.censor.net.ua/news/315185/there_are_no_losses_seven_soldiers_wounded_over_last_24_hours

120 Pieces of Military Equipment Were Moved to Ukraine from Russia, 06.12.2014

"We spotted two columns of Russian military equipment (120 vehicles) crossed the border," NSDC Information Analysis Center representative Volodymyr Poliovyi said.

According to Poliovyi, two IFVs and 103 Ural and Kamaz trucks came from Russian territory and moved toward Dmytrivka village in the Donetsk region at 5:30, on Dec 5. Seven tanks and eight self-propelled howitzers crossed the border in Izvaryne checkpoint and headed to Luhansk city two hours after. Three Grad systems were spotted near Dzerzhynske village in Donetsk region.

http://en.censor.net.ua/news/315188/120_pieces_of_military_equipment_were_moved_to_ukraine_from_russia

Ukrainian Artillery Annihilated Terrorists' Mortar Detachment and Military Hardware near Mariupol. Militants' Subversive Unit Eliminated, 07.12.2014

The ATO forces' artillery reprised 72 times during the day.

"A lot of the terrorists and Russian mercenaries will never discuss 'Novorossia' issues again. In particular, the terrorists' mortar detachment and a lot of military equipment were annihilated in the Mariupol sector. The militants' subversive unit was eliminated as well," the report says.

http://en.censor.net.ua/news/315247/ukrainian_artillery_annihilated_terrorists_mortar_detachment_and_military硬件_near_mariupol_militants

Two Soldiers Died, Eight Injured Over Last 24 Hours, 07.12.2014

Two soldiers were killed and eight were injured in the ATO zone on Dec. 6.

"Over the past 24 hours we lost two Ukrainian soldiers, eight were injured," NSDC Information Analysis speaker Andrii Lysenko said.

http://en.censor.net.ua/news/315272/two_soldiers_died_eight_injured_over_last_24_hours

Three Civilians Killed in Donetsk - City Hall, 07.12.2014

Saturday night was extremely dramatic in Donetsk city. Kirov and Kuibyshev districts of Donetsk suffered the most.

According to the report, urban utility services communication and buildings were damaged by shells.

"Three civilians killed, ten injured. Because of the shelling high-voltage line was damaged in the Kirov district of Donetsk, leaving 15 transformer substations de-energized. We are trying to eliminate the consequences at the moment. As of 10:30 a.m. situation in Donetsk city remains tense," the report says.

http://en.censor.net.ua/news/315261/three_civilians_killed_in_donetsk_city_hall

Terrorists Attacked 'Cyborgs' in Donetsk Airport Eight Times. All Attacks Were Repulsed, 07.12.2014

The militants fired at the ATO forces' positions in the Donetsk airport with artillery, mortars, grenade launchers and small arms eight times.

"Our troops continue to defense this strategic target. All enemy attacks were repulsed ," speaker of the NSDC Information Analysis Andrii Lysenko added.

http://en.censor.net.ua/news/315275/terrorists_attacked_cyborgs_in_donetsk_airport_eight_times_all_attacks_were_repulsed

Six civilians killed in Donbas in past 24 hours, 08.12.2014

KYIV, December 8 /Ukrinform/. Six civilians have been killed and three more have been injured as a result of shelling by militants in the Donbas conflict zone in the past 24 hours, the press center for the anti-terrorist operation has reported.

"In the past 24 hours the anti-terrorist operation headquarters has received reports of the deaths of six civilians and injuries sustained by three civilians," reads the statement.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/six_civilians_killed_in_donbas_in_past_24_hours_327576

Militants shell Ukrainian positions 55 times in past 24 hours, 08.12.2014

KYIV, December 8 /Ukrinform/. Militants have shelled the positions and fortified areas of the anti-terrorist operation forces with artillery and multiple launch rocket systems 55 times in the past 24 hours, the press center for the anti-terrorist operation has reported.

"So, the zone of particular activity of bandits moved to the area of Debaltseve. They again shelled the area of the settlements of Mius, Chornukhyne, Debaltseve, Orlovo-Ivanivka, Poltavaska mine, Nikishyne, Olkhovatka, Fashchivka, Artemove, Ridkodub, and Kodema. In the Luhansk and Donetsk bridgeheads terrorists fired on the settlements of Verkhnia Vilkhova, Sokolnyky, Artema, Shchastia, Stary Aidar, Stanytsia Luhanska, Triokhizbenka, Frunze, Opytne, Maryinka, Avdiyivka, and Mykolaivka," reads the statement.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/militants_shell_ukrainian_positions_55_times_in_past_24_hours_327579

Several thousand Russian soldiers remain in Ukraine - NSDC, 08.12.2014

KYIV, December 8 /Ukrinform/. The number of Russian troops in Ukraine remains unchanged and amounts to several thousand servicemen.

"We do not have the exact number, but these are several thousand [troops]. We make no order as to how many of them should be transferred here," NSDC information and analytical center spokesman Andriy Lysenko said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/several_thousand_russian_soldiers_remain_in_ukraine_nsd_327593

10 persons killed in Donetsk due to "showdowns" of militants, 08.12.2014

KYIV, December 8 /Ukrinform/. "Clashes continue between different bandit groups of militants, which pose considerable threat to local residents. Yesterday, as a result of mortar/artillery fire among terrorist groups, 10 peaceful residents were killed in Donetsk," NSDC information and analytical center spokesman Andriy Lysenko said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/10_persons_killed_in_donetsk_due_to_showdowns_of_militants_327597

Militants shell railway crossing, kill woman, 08.12.2014

KYIV, December 8 /Ukrinform/. One woman was killed as a result of terrorist shelling near Avdiyivka in Donetsk region on Monday, December 8, and two more - a woman and a teenager - were injured and taken to a local hospital, the ATO press center has reported.

"According to local residents, at about 13.00, while shelling the positions of the anti-terrorist operation forces, terrorists shelled a railway crossing near the settlement of Avdiyivka in Donetsk region. A car carrying two women and a teenager was at the railway crossing at that moment," reads the report.

The anti-terrorist operation headquarters said that one woman had been killed and that another woman and a teenager had been taken to a local hospital with injuries.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/militants_shell_railway_crossing_kill_woman_327599

Militants attempted to attack Ukrainian military 64 times - press center, 09.12.2014

KYIV, December 9 /Ukrinform/. "Over the past 24 hours bandits have made 64 attempts to attack the positions of Ukrainian troops, as well as populated localities in the Luhansk and Debaltseve directions," reads the report of the ATO press center on its Facebook page.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/militants_attempted_to_attack_ukrainian_military_64_times_press_center_327603

Two civilians killed as a result of shelling, 09.12.2014

KYIV, December 9 /Ukrinform/. "During 24 hours information came about the death of two and injures of 10 civilian as a result of sudden artillery shelling of inhabited areas by militants," the ATO press center reports on Facebook.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/two_civilians_killed_as_a_result_of_shelling_327605

Law enforcers shell grouping of militants with gunfire in Horlivka, 09.12.2014

KYIV, December 9 /Ukrinform/. The ATO forces shelled one fire subunit with gunfire near Horlivka.

According to the Information Resistance group, at least two MLRS Uragan and two howitzers D-30 were destroyed by gunfire and put out of action.

Also, four trucks with ammunition were destroyed. There are losses among the enemy gunners.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/law_enforcers_shell_grouping_of_militants_with_gunfire_in_horlivka_327606

Ukrainian forces cease fire, 09.12.2014

KYIV, December 9 /Ukrinform/. A ceasefire regime has been introduced at all positions of the Ukrainian ATO forces in eastern Ukraine, according to the ATO press center Facebook page.

"At the initiative of Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko a ceasefire regime has been introduced at all positions of the anti-terrorist operation forces," reads the report.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/ukrainian_forces_cease_fire_327609

Donetsk railway blocks 800 cars with coal, 09.12.2014

KYIV, December 9 /Ukrinform/. 800 railway cars with coal, which is so necessary for the country, are on the territory of Donetsk region, controlled by Ukraine.

Head of Donetsk regional state administration Oleksandr Kikhtenko told a press conference in Kramatorsk, Ukrinform's correspondent reports.

"Just count how much coal is in these cars. Multiply 800 cars with 65 tons of fuel in each of them and obtain its total volume. The whole problem is in the Donetsk Railway, whose administration is located in Donetsk, in the territory of the self-proclaimed "DPR." I instructed to re-register the railway administration in Krasny Lyman or Sloviansk. Now a decision is after Ukrzaliznytsia," he said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/donetsk_railway_blocks_800_cars_with_coal_327616

Ukraine loses six servicemen in past 24 hours, 09.12.2014

KYIV, December 9 /Ukrinform/. "As a result of armed clashes we have lost six Ukrainian soldiers, and seven more have sustained injuries," NSDC spokesman Andriy Lysenko said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/ukraine_loses_six_servicemen_in_past_24_hours_327621

Terrorists break silence regime - General Staff chief, 09.12.2014

KYIV, December 9 /Ukrinform/. Two violations of the ceasefire regime were reported on December 9 in the area of Debaltseve where separatists shelled the positions of Ukrainian troops twice.

Chief of the General Staff and Commander-in-Chief of the Ukrainian Armed Forces Viktor Muzhenko said this at a press conference on Tuesday, an Ukrinform correspondent reported. "From 10.00 on December 9, in line with the implementation of a peace plan by Ukrainian President and Supreme Commander-in-Chief Petro Poroshenko, we introduced a ceasefire regime, the so-called silence regime," he said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/terrorists_break_silence_regime_general_staff_chief_327617

Terrorists break 'silence regime' 17 times in past 24 hours, 10.12.2014

KYIV, December 10 /Ukrinform/. Illegal armed groups have violated a "ceasefire regime" in eastern Ukraine 17 times over the past 24 hours, the ATO press center reported.

"The shelling of the positions of our troops continued around Luhansk, Donetsk and Debaltseve," reads the statement.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/terrorists_break_silence_regime_17_times_in_past_24_hours_327634

Seven civilians receive injuries due to militants' actions, 10.12.2014

KYIV, December 10 /Ukrinform/. "As a result of provocative fire attacks of terrorists seven civilians received injuries of varying severity per day," the ATO press center informs.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/seven_civilians_receive_injuries_due_to_militants_actions_327638

Center for assistance to Ukrainian soldiers blown up in Odesa, 10.12.2014

KYIV, December 10 /Ukrinform/. A powerful explosion was heard in the city of Odesa in the early hours of December 10, the Timer local news site has reported.

The explosion occurred at an office building located at the corner of Admiralsky Avenue and Krasnova Street.

"Nobody was injured in the accident as there was no one in the building at night. The explosion destroyed the premises on the first floor, where the center for assistance to anti-terrorist operation soldiers was located," reads the statement.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/center_for_assistance_to_ukrainian_soldiers_blown_up_in_odesa_327639

New subunit of militants fixed near Komsomolske, 10.12.2014

KYIV, December 10 /Ukrinform/. A new subunit of militants with six armored vehicles was fixed near Komsomolske, Donetsk region.

"Near the settlement of Komsomolske, a new subunit of militants was fixed with six units of armored vehicles and about 10 motor transport units," Information Resistance group coordinator Dmytro Tymchuk wrote on Facebook.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/new_subunit_of_militants_fixed_near_komsomolske_327640

"Silence regime" takes effect: Law enforcers suffer no losses, 10.12.2014

KYIV, December 10 /Ukrinform/. "A silence regime, installed yesterday, despite all precautions, has brought the first positive results: yesterday, for the first time over a continuous time, Ukrainian military suffered no losses in the east. No single fact of death or injury to our men," NSDC Information-Analytical Center spokesman Andriy Lysenko said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/silence_regime_takes_effect_law_enforcers_suffer_no_losses_327649

Ukraine continues to observe 'silence regime' - NSDC, 10.12.2014

KYIV, December 10 /Ukrinform/. "Since this regime has been supported, and we see that the number of fire attacks that are mainly provocative in nature has declined dramatically, we continue to maintain the silence regime and hope that the number of fire attacks will decline dramatically and be brought to zero," NSDC Information-Analytical Center spokesman Andriy Lysenko said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/ukraine_continues_to_observe_silence_regime_nsd_327652

Date of Minsk meeting not determined yet - NSDC, 10.12.2014

KYIV, December 10 /Ukrinform/. The parties could not agree on the final date of the next round of peaceful negotiations in Minsk.

"Negotiations continue on the date and other details of this meeting. There are no final data yet," NSDC Information-Analytical Center spokesman Andriy Lysenko said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/date_of_minsk_meeting_not_determined_yet_nsd_327653

Terrorists continue ignoring "silence day", 11.12.2014

KYIV, December 11 /Ukrinform/. Despite continuation of the "silence day," Russian-terrorist forces continue to open fire in the antiterrorist operation area, including by holding continuous shelling.

"Over the recent day, near Maryinka, fire from the enemy side lasted for several hours (fire was from small arms and antiaircraft systems ZU-23-2). To the south of Avdiyivka, shelling from the enemy side lasted about one hour (with small arms and mortars). Less lengthy attacks were recorded in other areas along the confrontation line in Donbas," Information Resistance group coordinator Dmytro Tymchuk said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/terrorists_continue_ignoring_silence_day_327664

Terrorists violate "silence" 22 times, 11.12.2014

KYIV, December 11 /Ukrinform/. Over the previous 24 hours, militants violated the silence regime in Donbas 22 times. "Fire was held from mortars, small arms, antiaircraft systems and tanks. Gunmen were most active on Luhansk, Donetsk and Debaltseve bridgeheads. Our military were shelled several times near Mariupol and Pervomaik.

The following settlements suffered from fire near Luhansk: Frunze, Shchastia, Krymske, Sokolnyky, Kriakivka, Zhovte and Kapitanove," the ATO press center informs on Facebook.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/terrorists_violate_silence_22_times_327665

"Humanitarian" ammunition from Russia repeatedly delivered to terrorists, 11.12.2014

KYIV, December 11 /Ukrinform/. The next Russian convoy brought ammunition for terrorists to Yasynuvata, Donetsk region, Information Resistance group Head Dmytro Tymchuk wrote on Facebook.

"The next convoy of provision for terrorists arrived in the settlement of Yasynuvata (about 10 trucks that mainly delivered ammunition). Empty trucks drove via Shakhtarsk toward the state border with Russia (up 15 automobiles), accompanied by Russian military," Tymchuk wrote.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/humanitarian_ammunition_from_russia_repeatedly_delivered_to_terrorists_327666

Group of Russian intelligence officers destroyed in Donbas - General Staff, 11.12.2014

KYIV, December 11 /Ukrinform/. A Russian military intelligence unit was destroyed during an armed clash in eastern Ukraine on Wednesday.

"A group of Russian intelligence officers came up to our checkpoint, shelled it with grenade launchers and was completely destroyed," a representative of the General Staff of the Ukrainian Armed Forces, Major-General Oleksandr Rozmaznin said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/group_of_russian_intelligence_officers_destroyed_in_donbas_general_staff_327680

NSDC knows nothing about death of Azov soldiers near Mariupol, 12.12.2014

KYIV, December 12 /Ukrinform/. Information on casualties among soldiers of the National Guard regiment Azov near Mariupol is being checked.

"We check this information. Still, we have not its confirmation," NSDC spokesman Andriy Lysenko said commenting on information that two soldiers of Azov were killed near Mariupol. Earlier, MP Anton Herashchenko wrote on his Facebook page that on a night to December 12, in the town of Pavlopol near Mariupol, soldiers of the National Guard regiment Azov destroyed a sniper group of terrorists.

In addition, a Jeep with terrorists hit a mine, laid by Azov soldiers.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/nsdc_knows_nothing_about_death_of_azov_soldiers_near_mariupol_327702

Militants continue violating “silence regime”, 12.12.2014

KYIV, December 12 /Ukrinform/. “Militants obviously lacked patience to observe the previously established “silence” regime. Over the previous 24 hours, they shelled the ATO positions six times from small arms,” the ATO press center informed.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/militants_continue_violating_silence_regime_327690

Russia continues to send mercenaries to Donetsk, 12.12.2014

KYIV, December 12 /Ukrinform/. A task force of the Russian-terrorist forces was fixed in northern districts of Donetsk, which had previously participated in battles near the Donetsk airport and Avdiyivka.

Head of the Information Resistance group Dmytro Tymchuk wrote on his Facebook page. According to the Information Resistance, after the losses, suffered in battles for the Donetsk airport, the group is resupplied mainly with Russian mercenaries and military contractors of the Russian Armed Forces.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/russia_continues_to_send_mercenaries_to_donetsk_327688

Militants capture two banks in Donetsk, 12.12.2014

KYIV, December 12 /Ukrinform/. Premises of two banks - PJSC Bank Cambio and JSB Brokbusinessbank were captured by militants in Donetsk.

“The capture of premises of two banks - PJSC Bank Kambio and JSC Brokbusinessbank was reported to the police control room in Donetsk region,” the press service of the Interior Ministry regional department informs.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/militants_capture_two_banks_in_donetsk_327706

Grads, artillery not used in Donbas conflict zone over past day, one soldier injured, 12.12.2014

KYIV, December 12 /Ukrinform/. Heavy weapons, artillery and Grad multiple rocket launchers have not been used in the anti-terrorist operation area in Donbas over the past 24 hours.

"In general, we can state the gradual and mutual establishment of a regime of silence in the anti-terrorist operation area. The cases of the use of heavy weapons, artillery and rocket Grad launchers have not been recorded over the past 24 hours," NSDC information and analytical center spokesman Andriy Lysenko said.

He said that one Ukrainian serviceman had been injured in the area of Pisky over the past 24 hours.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/grads_artillery_not_used_in_donbas_conflict_zone_over_past_day_one_soldier_injured_327707

NSDC does not know why Kharkiv, Dnipropetrovsk and Zaporizhzhia close airports, 13.12.2014

KYIV, December 13 /Ukrinform/. The NSDC could not comment on the reasons of closing three Ukrainian airports - in Kharkiv, Dnipropetrovsk and Zaporizhzhia.

"Reasons to suspend flights are still not known, this is a decision of UkrAviaRukh (Ukraine's Air Traffic)," NSDC information and analytical center spokesman Andriy Lysenko said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/nsdc_does_not_know_why_kharkiv_dnipropetrovsk_and_zaporizhzhia_close_airports_327720

Militants open fire 11 times over previous 24 hours, 13.12.2014

KYIV, December 13 /Ukrinform/. Over the previous 24 hours, the ATO headquarters recorded 11 cases of violation of the “silence” regime by terrorists. The ATO headquarters press service informs.

Using ATGM (antitank guided missile) launchers, mortars, artillery and small arms, the militants opened fire on ATO positions near the settlements of Frunze, Donetsk, Shchastia, Stanytsia Luhanska, Staromykhailivka, Nikishyne and Pavlopil.

In particular, four times the militants deliberately shelled the settlements to discredit the Armed Forces of Ukraine.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/militants_open_fire_11_times_over_previous_24_hours_327708

Militants become active in Luhansk region, artillery fire, 13.12.2014

KYIV, December 13 /Ukrinform/. Number of attacks increased in Luhansk region. Militants used mortars and large-caliber weapons again.

Chairman of the Luhansk Regional State Administration Hennadiy Moskal wrote on his website. "For the past day, militants shelled eight times the territory Luhansk region, controlled by Ukraine. For comparison, there were only three attacks on December 11," he said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/militants_become_active_in_luhansk_region_artillery_fire_327717

Previous day passes lossless in ATO area, 13.12.2014

KYIV, December 13 /Ukrinform/. The Ukrainian army did not lose a single soldier over the previous day in the ATO area.

"No casualties were among our military for the past day," NSDC Information-Analytical Center spokesman Andriy Lysenko said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/previous_day_passes_lossless_in_ato_area_327721

NSDC confirms death of Azov soldiers, 13.12.2014

KYIV, December 13 /Ukrinform/. The NSDC confirms information about the death of two soldiers in the Azov regiment.

"We really received confirmed data on two dead and three wounded Ukrainian military from the Azov regiment near Pavlopol. Our soldiers were killed in a bomb blasting. The wounds were received during the battle with the subversive group of terrorists of the so-called "DPR" that made an ambush near the mined areas and began to bombard our military," NSDC Information-Analytical Center spokesman Andriy Lysenko said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/nsdc_confirms_death_of_azov_soldiers_327723

Militants shell ATO forces seven times, 13.12.2014

KYIV, December 13 /Ukrinform/. Since the morning, the ATO headquarters recorded seven cases of shelling of the Ukrainian positions by terrorists.

"Since this morning, seven cases of provocative shelling of the ATO positions were recorded near the settlements of Frunze, Krymske, Stanytsia Luhanska, Nikishyne. To implement their dirty intentions, the bandits use small arms, mortars and antitank guided missiles," the ATO press center informs on Facebook.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/militants_shell_ato_forces_seven_times_327724

Four saboteurs detained in Donbas, 13.12.2014

KYIV, December 13 /Ukrinform/. The SBU detained four saboteurs in the ATO area.

"In Luhansk, the Task Force found a former employee of the State Emergency Service of Ukraine, who worked for the so-called "LPR," and they conducted a special operation to capture him on the territory, controlled by terrorists," NSDC spokesman Andriy Lysenko said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/four_saboteurs_detained_in_donbas_327725

4,634 People Killed by Russian Terrorists in Donbas – UN, 13.12.2014

At least 4,634 people were killed and more than 10,000 wounded as a result of fighting in eastern Ukraine.

The UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs reports.

"At least 4,634 killed...and 10,243 wounded in eastern Ukraine as of 7 December," the OCHA said in a Friday Ukraine Situation Report, which covers the period between November 29 and December 12, 2014.

Over 542,000 have been internally displaced and over 567,000 have fled to neighboring countries as of December 12, the OCHA said in its situation report.

According to the representative of Ukraine Yaroslav Holitsyn who spoke at a meeting of the UN General Assembly, an estimated 5.2 million people currently live in the conflict-affected areas of Ukraine, which is approximately one ninth of the country's total population.

http://en.censor.net.ua/news/316179/4634_people_killed_by_russian_terrorists_in_donbas_un

Number of Refugees in Ukraine Totaled 1,000,000 People - UN, 13.12.2014

Due to the current situation, UN to expand its presence on the east of Ukraine.

Due to the conflict on the east of Ukraine, the number of displaced persons reached 1,000,000 people. This was announced by the Assistant Secretary-General and interim for Political Affairs Jens Anders Toyberg-Frandzen.

"Nearly 1 million people are now displaced by the conflict, both within Ukraine and to neighboring countries," he said.

http://en.censor.net.ua/news/311721/number_of_refugees_in_ukraine_totaled_1000000_people_un

Militants shell Ukrainian military seven times, 15.12.2014

KYIV, December 15 /Ukrinform/. "Over the past 24 hours, terrorists seven times shelled the ATO positions, using mortars and small arms. Shots were heard in the area of settlements of Frunze, Chornukhine, Orlovo-Ivanivka," the ATO press center informs.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/militants_shell_ukrainian_military_seven_times_327727

Russian mercenaries arrive in ninth "humanitarian" convoy, 15.12.2014

KYIV, December 15 /Ukrinform/. "Formation of the new "battalion" of militants is going in Krasny Luch. Only several representatives of the local population are fixed among members of the created subdivision, mainly, the militants are Russian mercenaries, who arrived from the Russian Federation with the "humanitarian convoy" No. 9. The majority of mercenaries are representatives of lumpen strata of population," Information Resistance group coordinator Dmytro Tymchuk wrote on Facebook.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/russian_mercenaries_arrive_in_ninth_humanitarian_convoy_327730

No casualties among military over 24 hours, 15.12.2014

KYIV, December 15 /Ukrinform/. The previous day in the ATO area passed without casualties among the military of the Armed Forces of Ukraine, despite seven cases of shelling by terrorists. "There are no casualties among manpower over 24 hours," Defense Ministry spokesperson Viktoria Kushnir said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/no_casualties_among_military_over_24_hours_327735

NSDC explains why airports of Kharkiv, Dnipropetrovsk and Zaporizhzhia were closed, 15.12.2014

KYIV, December 15 /Ukrinform/. Airports of Kharkiv, Dnipropetrovsk and Zaporizhzhia were closed due to security considerations.

"According to my information, this was done to ensure security. I cannot tell you exactly in details," NSDC Information-Analytical Center spokesman Andriy Lysenko said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/nsdc_explains_why_airports_of_kharkiv_dnipropetrovsk_and_zaporizhzhia_were_closed_327743

Attempt to remove over 700 tonnes of coal and scrap from ATO area fails, 15.12.2014

KYIV, December 15 /Ukrinform/. In Volnovakha, Donetsk region, an attempt was made to remove 768 tonnes of coal and scrap from occupied Donbas.

"In Volnovakha, shipment of coal and scrap metal was detained, which moved from the areas, controlled by militants, without relevant documents. Total volume of the detained cargo - 768 tonnes," NSDC Information-Analytical Center spokesman Andriy Lysenko said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/attempt_to_remove_over_700_tonnes_of_coal_and_scrap_from_ato_area_fails_327749

Terrorists shell Ukrainian positions nine times over past 24 hours, 16.12.2014

KYIV, December 16 /Ukrinform/. The situation in the anti-terrorist operation zone in eastern Ukraine has not changed dramatically over the past 24 hours, with terrorists firing nine times at the positions of Ukrainian security forces, the ATO press center reported.

"Nine instances of shelling by terrorists have been recorded," reads the statement.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/terrorists_shell_ukrainian_positions_nine_times_over_past_24_hours_327760

Ukrainian partisans attack communications center of Russian troops, 16.12.2014

KYIV, December 16 /Ukrinform/. Ukrainian partisans have attacked a communications center of Russian troops north of Novoazovsk in Ukraine's Donetsk region.

"Combat clashes occurred north of Novoazovsk - pro-Ukrainian partisans attacked a communications center of Russian troops. The enemy sustained losses," Information Resistance group leader Dmytro Tymchuk reported on Facebook.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/ukrainian_partisans_attack_communications_center_of_russian_troops_327756

Airports of Kharkiv, Dnipropetrovsk operating now - Selezniiov, 16.12.2014

KYIV, December 16 /Ukrinform/. Airports of Kharkiv and Dnipropetrovsk, closed since December 13 for flights, have already resumed their work. Antiterrorist measures still continue at the Zaporizhzhia airport.

"As of this minute, two airports are opened out of three. As concerns the third airport, I know that measures are carried out there, which are held according to the anti-terror plan," Acting chief of the press service of the General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine Vladyslav Selezniiov said.

The Zaporizhzhia airport, closed for arrivals December 13, will start working no earlier than December 20, the International Airport Zaporizhzhia told.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/airports_of_kharkiv_dnipropetrovsk_operating_now__selezniiov_327762

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/zaporizhzhia_airport_will_start_working_no_earlier_than_saturday_327776

Militants rejected from Stanytsia Luhanska, 16.12.2014

KYIV, December 16 /Ukrinform/. "Near Stanytsia Luhanska, after the preliminary fire, militants attempted to take on a number of positions in the" buffer zone." However, they were met with a dense fire from small arms of Ukrainian units and retreated to the starting position," Information Resistance group leader Dmytro Tymchuk reported on Facebook.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/militants_rejected_from_stanytsia_luhanska_327766

Militants shell Ukrainian positions 26 times in past 24 hours, 17.12.2014

KYIV, December 17 /Ukrinform/. Terrorists have shelled the positions of Ukrainian servicemen 26 times in the past 24 hours, the ATO press center reported on its Facebook page.

"Terrorists have shelled the units of the anti-terrorist operation forces 26 times in the past 24 hours. Bandits used artillery, mortars, grenade launchers and small arms. As before, the areas of concentration of enemy activity were Luhansk, Donetsk, Debaltseve and Pervomaisk. Shchastia, Stryi Aidar, Stanytsia Luhanska, Triokhizbenka, Krymske, Sokolnyky, Pisky, Avdiyivka, Debaltseve, Nikishyne, Novohryhorivka and Frunze came under fire from bandit groups," the report says.

"Ukrainian Armed Forces artillery did not strike in response," the press center said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/militants_shell_ukrainian_positions_26_times_in_past_24_hours_327786

Militants open fire more than 4,000 times during truce - Defense Ministry, 17.12.2014

KYIV, December 17 /Ukrinform/. The social-political and humanitarian situation in the ATO area and neighboring districts remains tense due to a high risk of shelling of civil, industrial and residential objects by terrorists, as well as resumption of combat actions.

Acting head of the press and information department of the Defense Ministry of Ukraine Valentyn Buriachenko told a briefing at the Ukrainian crisis media center.

"Since the beginning of the announcement of the ceasefire regime at 18:00, September 5, and till 6:00 a.m., December 17, 2014, there were 4,389 cases of shelling of Ukrainian positions by militants of illegal armed groups," he said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/militants_open_fire_more_than_4000_times_during_truce__defense_ministry_327789

Terrorists shell "Cyborgs" six times, 17.12.2014

KYIV, December 17 /Ukrinform/. "Six times supporters of chaos and anarchy held fire at the Donetsk airport," the ATO press center informs on Facebook.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/terrorists_shell_cyborgs_six_times_327785

Donetsk airport shelled four times in morning, 17.12.2014

KYIV, December 16 /Ukrinform/. Over the first half of the day, Tuesday, militants eight times shelled positions of Ukrainian military.

"The international airport Donetsk remains to be an epicenter of the day events. In general, over the first half of the day, terrorists eight times fired positions of our forces. Out of these, four times they fired the ATO forces at the Donetsk airport," the ATO press center informs.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/donetsk_airport_shelled_four_times_in_morning_327781

Terrorists not able to distribute "humanitarian convoy", 17.12.2014

KYIV, December 17 /Ukrinform/. In Petrovsky district of Donetsk, there is an escalating conflict between the Oplot battalion and local militants. A reason of the conflict is in distribution of the "humanitarian convoy" from Russia.

"In Petrovsky district of Donetsk, an escalating conflict is noted between a subunit of the Oplot battalion, stationed there, with bandit formations of local militants, who do not obey the "DPR" leadership. Separate armed clashes are fixed. The cause of the conflict is in the distribution of the "aid" that comes from Russia," Information Resistance group coordinator Dmytro Tymchuk wrote on Facebook.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/terrorists_not_able_to_distribute_humanitarian_convoy_327792

Terrorists continue receiving "humanitarian" ammunition, 17.12.2014

KYIV, December 17 /Ukrinform/. "Near Olenivka - Dokuchayevsk, Russian-terrorist troops continue to vigorously restore combat capability of the armed group, assigned there, and the rest of the consolidated artillery group that supported it. Arrival of the supply convoy at the disposal of these units was noted (with equipment, ammunition and spare parts), which previously moved through Amvrosiyivka and Starobesheve. Currently, firing positions, previously used by the artillery group, located to the south of Dokuchayevsk, are not occupied," Information Resistance group coordinator Dmytro Tymchuk wrote on Facebook.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/terrorists_continue_receiving_humanitarian_ammunition_327794

Militants plan to cut off mobile communications in Donbas - Lysenko, 17.12.2014

KYIV, December 17 /Ukrinform/. "NSDC has information that from January 15, 2015 terrorists plan to turn off Ukrainian mobile operators in the occupied part of Luhansk region and establish coverage of a large Russian mobile operator," NSDC Information-Analytical Center spokesman Andriy Lysenko said.

When asked which Russian operators plan to start their activities on Donbas territory, temporary beyond Ukrainian control, he said that "there is information and there are powerful operators."

"As soon as they appear and begin to work, we will report about this. However, locals are already being warned about the changes," he said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/militants_plan_to_cut_off_mobile_communications_in_donbas_lysenko_327810

SBU list includes more than 200 suspected terrorists and saboteurs, 17.12.2014

KYIV, December 17 /Ukrinform/. "The Ukrainian Security Service has compiled a list of 225 detainees, suspected of sabotage and terrorist operations against Ukraine. In the list, there are also citizens of Russia," NSDC Information-Analytical Center spokesman Andriy Lysenko said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/sbu_list_includes_more_than_200_suspected_terrorists_and_saboteurs_327815

Protests against terrorists held in occupied Donbas, 17.12.2014

KYIV, December 17 /Ukrinform/. Protest actions of peaceful residents continue on occupied territories of Donbas against the so-called "new authorities."

"In particular, in the village of Holubovske, Popasniansky district, Luhansk region, local residents stood with a protest against the capture of their housing by militants. In turn, terrorists threaten to open fire on the ATO forces and to provoke by this return fire of the Ukrainian artillery," NSDC Information-Analytical Center spokesman Andriy Lysenko noted.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/protests_against_terrorists_held_in_occupied_donbas_327816

Russia sends 130 militants and armored vehicles to Stanytsia Luhanska, 18.12.2014

KYIV, December 18 /Ukrinform/. "The situation remains tense in the area of the settlement of Stanytsia Luhanska. In this area Russian-terrorist troops received another batch of replenishment from Luhansk - up to 130 militants, two MT-12 Rapira anti-tank artillery guns, and seven armored fighting vehicles (including two MT-LB multipurpose armored towing vehicles)," Information Resistance group coordinator Dmytro Tymchuk wrote on Facebook.

Tymchuk also said that in the area of Luhansk the withdrawal of arms and personnel of the enemy had been recorded only on the left flank, towards Pervomaisk and Stakhanov area. "At other sections of the front the Russian-terrorist forces continue to keep artillery and armored vehicles in the forefront by conducting regular attacks on Ukrainian troops positions," he said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/russia_sends_130_militants_and_armored_vehicles_to_stanytsia_luhanska_327822

Two groups of Russian soldiers sent to Starohnativka, 18.12.2014

KYIV, December 18 /Ukrinform/. "The company tactical group of the Russian Armed Forces (manned by two attached motorized rifle brigades of the Southern Military District of Russia) with an artillery group moved out of the area of Telmanove to the area of Starohnativka and Novolasp," Information Resistance group Head Dmytro Tymchuk said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/two_groups_of_russian_soldiers_sent_to_starohnativka_327823

Motorola militants receive reinforcements and move to forefront in Donetsk, 18.12.2014

KYIV, December 18 /Ukrinform/. "The past resupply of the Motorola bandit formations and several units of Russian troops were again put forward to the forefront. Transportation of the ammunition to the front is carried out by the civil transport. Several (up to five) mobile mortar detachments are operating," Information Resistance group Head Dmytro Tymchuk said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/motorola_militants_receive_reinforcements_and_move_to_forefront_in_donetsk_327825

Seleznirov: 185 servicemen remain in captivity, nearly 300 missing, 18.12.2014

KYIV, December 18 /Ukrinform/. Militants are holding in captivity 185 servicemen of the Ukrainian Armed Forces, and 298 more are still considered unaccounted for.

"As many as 185 Ukrainian servicemen are in captivity, and 298 servicemen are considered unaccounted for," Acting Spokesperson for the General Staff of the Ukrainian Armed Forces Vladyslav Seleznirov said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/seleznirov_185_servicemen_remain_in_captivity_nearly_300_missing_327826

Militants to get 470 tonnes of New Year's presents from Russia, 18.12.2014

KYIV, December 18 /Ukrinform/. The so-called Russian "humanitarian aid" for Donbas will be formed in Rostov region by this weekend. This was stated by Russian Emergency Situations Ministry spokesman Alexander Drobyshevsky, according to TASS.

"It will consist of more than 170 trucks that will deliver over 1,400 tonnes of humanitarian aid, including more than 470 tonnes of New Year's presents. The column will be formed by the weekend," - he said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/militants_to_get_470_tonnes_of_new_years_presents_from_russia_327827

Militants shell two settlements and Donetsk airport, 18.12.2014

KYIV, December 18 /Ukrinform/. Over a night, in the ATO area, militants carried out three armed provocations against Ukrainian military, who, keeping to the silence regime, did not open return fire.

"A night in the ATO area passed relatively calmly. Over a period from 18:00 to 7:00 a.m. in the morning, three armed provocations on the part of terrorists were fixed. Militants shelled from small arms the settlements of Kodema, Avdiyivka, and since 3:00 a.m. to 3:05 - a new terminal of the Donetsk airport," ATO spokesman Leonid Matiukhin said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/militants_shell_two_settlements_and_donetsk_airport_327828

Akhmetov's humanitarian convoy without examination moves to Donetsk, 18.12.2014

KYIV, December 18 /Ukrinform/. Akhmetov's humanitarian convoy of 10 trucks moves from Dnipropetrovsk in the direction of the border with Donetsk region via the settlement of Pokrovske. Dnipro 1 soldiers are not going to let the convoy pass. Hromadske tv informs. "The contents of trucks were not shown to the press representatives, referring to the fact that there are many trucks and they are sealed," a statement reads.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/akhmetovs_humanitarian_convoy_without_examination_moves_to_donetsk_327832
http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/akhmetovs_humanitarian_aid_will_be_marked_with_sticker_not_for_sale_327843

No killed and wounded among ATO soldiers over passed 24 hours, 18.12.2014

KYIV, December 18 /Ukrinform/. "Fortunately, there were no killed and wounded [soldiers] over recent 24 hours," NSDC Information-Analytical Center spokesman Andriy Lysenko said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/no_killed_and_wounded_among_ato_soldiers_over_passed_24_hours_327838

Both, population and militants disappointed in Novorossia project - NSDC, 18.12.2014

KYIV, December 18 /Ukrinform/. Residents of both "DPR" and "LPR" are currently disappointed in the Kremlin project of the so-called Novorossia, seeking for possibility "to turn back."

"Time has shown that the local population, which was, according to the organizers, to side with the people, who came from Russia, quickly understood the situation. And we see by the waves of protests and riots that people want to return the days that were before the so-called DPR and LPR, to quietly continue to live, to receive pensions and wages," NSDC Information-Analytical Center spokesman Andriy Lysenko said, answering the reporters' questions.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/both_population_and_militants_disappointed_in_novorossia_project_nsd_327841

Drone explosion kills volunteer in Lviv region, 18.12.2014

KYIV, December 18 /Ukrinform/. A volunteer from Kyiv region has been killed after an unmanned aerial vehicle exploded at the Yavoriv firing ground in Lviv region early on Thursday, the Western Regional Media Center of the Ukrainian Defense Ministry said.

"The drone exploded during its demonstration at the Yavoriv firing ground at around 09.00 on December 18. The blast fatally wounded a volunteer from Kyiv region, which was in the area [of the explosion]," the head of the media center, Oleksandr Poroniuk, said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/drone_explosion_kills_volunteer_in_lviv_region_327844

Russian special services kidnap Ukrainian prosecutor in Crimea, 18.12.2014

KYIV, December 18 /Ukrinform/. "An employee of the Prosecutor General's Office, who FSB agents accused of committing a terrorist attack, was abducted on the temporarily occupied territory of the Crimean peninsula on December 5," the public and media liaisons department of the Prosecutor General's Office told.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/russian_special_services_kidnap_ukrainian_prosecutor_in_crimea_327846

Terrorists provoke 'Cyborgs', 19.12.2014

KYIV, December 19 /Ukrinform/. "In the Donetsk airport area units of the Russian-terrorist troops continue to fire on the positions of Ukrainian troops, trying to provoke Ukrainian military to return fire," Information Resistance group leader Dmytro Tymchuk wrote on Facebook.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/terrorists_provoke_cyborgs_327854

Russian special forces want to disrupt fourth stage of mobilization in Ukraine - Tymchuk, 19.12.2014

KYIV, December 19 /Ukrinform/. "The structures of information and psychological operations of the General Staff of the Main Intelligence Directorate of the Russian Armed Forces and the Russian Federal Security Service have been tasked with conducting a large-scale information operation to disrupt or significantly hinder the fourth stage of mobilization being prepared in Ukraine," Information Resistance group leader Dmytro Tymchuk wrote on Facebook.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/russian_special_forces_want_to_disrupt_fourth_stage_of_mobilization_in_ukraine_tymchuk_327859

Five Ukrainian servicemen killed over past 24 hours, 19.12.2014

KYIV, December 19 /Ukrinform/. Illegal armed groups have committed nine provocations over the past 24 hours against the Ukrainian anti-terrorist operation forces who sustained losses. "Five Ukrainian soldiers have been killed and seven more have sustained injuries in the anti-terrorist operation zone over the past 24 hours," NSDC spokesman Andriy Lysenko said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/five_ukrainian_servicemen_killed_over_past_24_hours_327862

Ukrainian troops shelled with Grads and grenade launchers last night - press center, 20.12.2014

KYIV, December 20 /Ukrinform/. Terrorists continued armed provocations in the anti-terrorist operation area in eastern Ukraine from 21.10 on Friday to 06.00 on Saturday, using small arms, grenade launchers and artillery, the press center for the anti-terrorist operation has reported.

In particular, last night, in the area of Olkhovatka in Donetsk region, illegal armed groups opened fire on Ukrainian soldiers with BM-21 Grad multiple rocket launchers.

Bandits used grenade launchers near Nikishyne in Donetsk region.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/ukrainian_troops_shelled_with_grads_and_grenade_launchers_last_night_press_center_327871

Terrorists shell 11 settlements in Donbas - NSDC, 20.12.2014

KYIV, December 20 /Ukrinform/. Numerous cases of violations by illegal armed formations of the silence regime in Donbas have been recorded over the past 24 hours. Militants also fired on the strongholds of the Ukrainian anti-terrorist operation forces near the settlements of Pisky, Nikishyne, Debaltseve, Mayorsk, and Chermalyk.

"Near the village of Olkhovatka in Artemivsk district, terrorists shelled the positions of Ukrainian military with Grad multiple rocket launchers," Deputy Head of the NSDC Information and Analytical Center Volodymyr Polevy said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/terrorists_shell_11_settlements_in_donbas_nsd_327880

Six 'non-humanitarian aid' trucks enter Donbas from Russia, 20.12.2014

KYIV, December 20 /Ukrinform/. "Six trucks with white flags and the flags of Russia moved through the Izvaryne checkpoint towards Ukraine from Russia at 20.40 yesterday. The Russian side did not notify representatives of the Ukrainian interagency group about the route of this cargo, explaining that the cargo is not humanitarian," Deputy Head of the NSDC Information and Analytical Center Volodymyr Polevy said

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/six_non_humanitarian_aid_trucks_enter_donbas_from_russia_327882

Tymchuk: Insurgents introduce death penalty for disobeying orders of central command, 22.12.2014

More efforts are being made by Russian officers to strengthen the centralization of command and control for militant units, Information Resistance group head Dmytro Tymchuk wrote on FB.

"Refusal to obey the central command by some commanders or ordinary terrorists can lead to a threat of physical restraint, or even the death penalty," Tymchuk said.

"At the same time, over the last weekend we observed the departure of the main divisions of the Russian-backed insurgents from the line of contact with the Ukrainian troops in Luhansk and Donetsk regions," he wrote.

"This process is not observed in some areas, in particular, the enemy has kept its troops at the front from Pervomaisk to Lysychansk, and in the regions of Donetsk, near Telmanove and Novoazovsk, and near the Bakhmutka highway," Tymchuk said.

<http://www.unian.info/society/1024525-tymchuk-insurgents-introduce-death-penalty-for-disobeying-orders-of-central-command.html>

Militants attack Ukrainian forces 193 times during latest 'ceasefire', 22.12.2014

There have been 4,376 attacks on Ukrainian army positions by Russian-backed insurgents in eastern Ukraine since the beginning of the ceasefire on September 5, the Acting Head of Press and Information of the Ministry of Defense Valentyn Buriachenko said

<http://www.unian.info/society/1024531-militants-attack-ukrainian-forces-193-times-during-latest-ceasefire.html>

Part of Russian troops withdraws from line of contact with Ukrainian army, 22.12.2014

KYIV, December 22 /Ukrinform/. The major part of the units of Russian-terrorist troops was seen retreating from the line of contact with Ukrainian troops in Luhansk and Donetsk regions last weekend.

"First of all, those who are being withdrawn from the line of contact are units of the Russian army and Russian mercenaries. The units of local militants mainly remain in their positions," Information Resistance group leader Dmytro Tymchuk reported on Facebook.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/part_of_russian_troops_withdraws_from_line_of_contact_with_ukrainian_army_327886

Militants fire at Donetsk airport from monastery, 22.12.2014

KYIV, December 22 /Ukrinform/. Over the past 24 hours militants have fired twice at the new terminal of the Donetsk airport from the side of a monastery.

"Terrorists fired twice at the new terminal of the Donetsk airport with small arms. It should be mentioned that the Ukrainian military were fired at from the monastery side," ATO spokesman Leonid Matiukhin said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/militants_fire_at_donetsk_airport_from_monastery_327889

Ukrainian forces repel attack by saboteurs near Mariupol, 22.12.2014

Ukrainian forces repelled an attack by militant sabotage and reconnaissance groups to the north-east of Mariupol on Sunday, the defense headquarters of Mariupol reported on Facebook.

"The situation remains calm in Mariupol," the defense headquarters said in its report.

"In past day [other] terrorist attacks and provocations have not been reported." It is also noted that two unmanned aerial vehicles were spotted on Monday morning near Mariupol.

"Yesterday, in the north-east of Mariupol, a patrol of the Azov volunteer battalion came across sabotage and reconnaissance groups of terrorists. The [militants] opened fire, but faced good resistance from the Azov soldiers, and retreated. No casualties on the Ukrainian side were reported," the city's defense headquarters said.

<http://www.unian.info/society/1024641-ukrainian-forces-repel-attack-by-saboteurs-near-mariupol.html>

Another Russian 'aid' convoy enters Ukraine, 22.12.2014

Russia has sent a tenth convoy of trucks to eastern Ukraine amid accusations from Ukrainian officials that Moscow is again flouting the country's sovereignty.

According to the administration of the so-called Donetsk People's Republic, the convoy's 300-tonne load contains Christmas presents and other aid, while the Ukrainian government sees convoys as means of supplying insurgents with weapons, Ukraine Today reports.

<http://www.unian.info/society/1024700-another-russian-aid-convoy-enters-ukraine-video.html>

Militants shell Ukrainian military nine times, 23.12.2014

KYIV, December 23 /Ukrinform/. Since yesterday and till 6:00 a.m. in the morning, terrorists nine times shelled positions of Ukrainian military, using small arms, grenade launchers and mortars.

"During the night, the meteorological tower of the Donetsk airport was shelled near the village of Pisky. Using small arms and grenade launchers, the terrorists shelled the neighborhood of Nikishyne and the electric station in Debaltseve. Positions of Ukrainian military were fired in Lomakine and near Hnutove. Militants carried out shelling of the thermal electric station by grenade launchers in the settlement of Shchastia. Our positions were shelled from mortars near Sokolnyky," the ATO press center informs on Facebook.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/militants_shell_ukrainian_military_nine_times_327906

Law enforcers clash with terrorists near Krymske, 23.12.2014

KYIV, December 23 /Ukrinform/. "Near Krymske, a martial collision occurred between Ukrainian military and illegal armed groups," a statement reads of the ATO press-center.

"Starting from 16.40 and until 1:00 a.m. at night, more than 10 flown drones were observed in the sky over Mariupol," the ATO press center informs on Facebook.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/law_enforcers_clash_with_terrorists_near_krymske_327908

Protesters require "taming" of oligarchs, 23.12.2014

KYIV, December 23 /Ukrinform/. Around a thousand protesters gathered on the square in front of the parliament from the side of the Mariinsky Park.

Representatives of the Volia party, trade unionists and currency investors affected by an increase in the dollar want to present their claims to people's deputies.

In particular, members of the Volia party require the MPs to vote for the package "anti-oligarchic" laws, which, in their opinion, will add additional UAH 100 billion to the state budget. These are the bills No. 1492 on the abolition of tax exemptions, No.1493 to increase the rates for subsoil use, No. 1491 on payment of dividends and the quorum of the general meeting of joint stock companies and No. 1127 regarding clarification of certain provisions that regulate the procedure of procurement.

Party members brought to the Verkhovna Rada the stuffed oligarch with a loaf, wrapped in foil, put on his knees.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/protesters_require_taming_of_oligarchs_327909

General headquarters says about 18 cases of shelling by militants, 23.12.2014

KYIV, December 23 /Ukrinform/. The situation in the settlements bordering on the ATO area remains difficult. Positions of Ukrainian military are subject to constant shelling.

"In general, over 24 hours, our military were shelled 18 times by militants, despite the silence regime, established December 9. On the Luhansk direction, there were seven cases of shelling, Donetsk - four, Debaltseve - four and Mariupol - three," General Headquarters of Ukraine press service Oleksiy Mazepa said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/general_headquarters_says_about_18_cases_of_shelling_by_militants_327910

100 Russian contract soldiers arrive in Donetsk, 24.12.2014

KYIV, December 24 /Ukrinform/. During the last day, a "replenishment" of Russian-terrorist forces arrived in Petrovsky district of Donetsk.

"Over a recent day, the "replenishment" of Russian-terrorist troops - about 100 Russian contract soldiers (mainly the soldiers, who had just signed a contract) arrived in Petrovsky district of Donetsk," the Information Resistance group Head Dmytro Tymchuk wrote on Facebook. Tymchuk also notes that Russian troops are equipped as the "DPR" militants.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/100_russian_contract_soldiers_arrive_in_donetsk_327936

"DPR" confirms participation in Minsk negotiations December 24, 24.12.2014

KYIV, December 24 /Ukrinform/. A meeting of the contact group in Minsk on settlement of the situation in Donbas is planned for 15:00 Moscow time (14:00 Kyiv time) December 24.

"Deputy Head of the People's Council" of the self-proclaimed "DPR" Denis Pushilin said.

"A meeting is confirmed, at least, for now. The beginning is planned for 15:00," Pushilin added.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/dpr_confirms_participation_in_minsk_negotiations_december_24_327937

Ukrainian partisans fight back Russian sabotage-reconnaissance group, 24.12.2014

KYIV, December 24 /Ukrinform/. Near Novoazovsk, a Russian sabotage-reconnaissance group, moving in the territory, controlled by militants, after exfiltration from the territory, controlled by Ukrainian troops, was ambushed.

As a result of clashes with a subdivision of Ukrainian partisans "several Russian servicemen were killed, the commander of the Russian sabotage-reconnaissance group was seriously wounded by a shot of 40-mm grenade launcher GP-25," the Information Resistance group Head Dmytro Tymchuk wrote on Facebook.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/ukrainian_partisans_fight_back_russian_sabotage_reconnaissance_group_327941

Military survive a day without losses, two soldiers wounded, 24.12.2014

KYIV, December 24 /Ukrinform/. "No losses were reported over the previous 24 hours. Two military were wounded," NSDC Information-Analytical Center spokesman Andriy Lysenko said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/military_survive_a_day_without_losses_two_soldiers_wounded_327951

400 Russian mercenaries moving from Rostov to Donetsk, 24.12.2014

KYIV, December 24 /Ukrinform/. Near Snizhne, Donetsk region, movement of 400 Russian mercenaries was fixed, who passed training at the "training camp" in Russian Rostov-on-Don. "Near Snizhne, movement of 400 Russian mercenaries was fixed, who passed training at the "training camp" in Rostov-on-Don (Russian Federation), they are moving in the direction of Donetsk," the Information Resistance group Head Dmytro Tymchuk wrote on Facebook. "Equipment and weapons are delivered separately for them. They are accompanied by the armed Russian servicemen. Group commanders received stringent requirements for the time of the movement to nip alcohol and other misconduct," he wrote.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/400_russian_mercenaries_moving_from_rostov_to_donetsk_327942

Militants shell ATO forces 25 times at night: Grad rocket launchers used again, 24.12.2014

KYIV, December 24 /Ukrinform/. The situation in the ATO area is characterized by an increase of provocations from the side of illegal armed groups. At night, militants shelled positions of Ukrainian military 25 times from small arms, grenade launchers, mortars and artillery. "Terrorists opened fire on the new terminal of the Donetsk airport, settlements of Stanytsia Luhanska, Sokolnyky, Opytne, Pisky, Berezove, Novomykhailivka, Taramchuk, Slavne, Mayorsk, Nikishyne neighborhood, Zolote, Chermalyk and Orlove," the ATO press center informs.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/militants_shell_ato_forces_25_times_at_night_grad_rocket_launchers_used_again_327945

Russian military move freely on Ukrainian positions near Donetsk - Tymchuk, 25.12.2014

KYIV, December 25 /Ukrinform/. Russian army officers move freely on the positions taken by Ukrainian military near Donetsk.

"The appearance of Russian Armed Forces officers has been recorded in the area between the localities of Krasnohorivka and Pisky. They describe themselves as representatives of the group on establishing the so-called 'delimitation line.' These Russian servicemen move freely, including in the areas of deployment of Ukrainian troops," the Information Resistance group Head Dmytro Tymchuk wrote on Facebook.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/russian_military_move_freely_on_ukrainian_positions_near_donetsk_tymchuk_327964

New fighters and Russian paratroopers pulled to Donetsk, 25.12.2014

KYIV, December 25 /Ukrinform/. Terrorists are conducting an active rotation of personnel near Donetsk, and Russian paratroopers are being pulled to this area.

"In the Kuibyshevsky district of Donetsk the command of Russian-terrorist forces is actively conducting a rotation of personnel of the units operating in the area of Pisky and Avdiyivka. Personnel are being brought on tarpaulin-covered trucks and on public transport. Russian paratroopers were seen in the area of Spartak, as well as south of this area," the Information Resistance group Head Dmytro Tymchuk wrote on Facebook.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/new_fighters_and_russian_paratroopers_pulled_to_donetsk_327965

Mercenaries in Crimea trained by ex-commander of Ukrainian Internal Forces - Tymchuk, 25.12.2014

KYIV, December 25 /Ukrinform/. Training of mercenaries for Donbas in Crimea is carried out by former commander of the Internal Forces of the Interior Ministry of Ukraine Lieutenant General Stanislav Shuliak.

"In Crimea, training of mercenaries for Donbas continues on the basis of training camps of the Russian special services. The southern subdivision of the Information Resistance group identified a chief of one of these camps - former commander of the Internal Forces of the Interior Ministry of Ukraine Lieutenant General Stanislav Shuliak," the Information Resistance group Head Dmytro Tymchuk wrote on Facebook.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/mercenaries_in_crimea_trained_by_ex_commander_of_ukrainian_internal_forces_tymchuk_327966

Russian mercenaries brought to Donbas in humanitarian convoys - mass media, 25.12.2014

KYIV, December 25 /Ukrinform/. Russian mercenaries are sent to Donbas, including with humanitarian convoys.

Head of the Sverdlovsk veterans' foundation of special purpose troops Vladimir Yefimov said in an interview with the Russian publication Yekaterinburg online.

"Starting with June, I sent six groups by 15-30 people to Donetsk and two groups by 30 persons to Luhansk... special and elite forces go to Donetsk. Cossacks and new entries without combat experience - to Luhansk," Yefimov said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/russian_mercenaries_brought_to_donbas_in_humanitarian_convoys_mass_media_327968

Russia continues to send militants and equipment to Donbas, 25.12.2014

KYIV, December 25 /Ukrinform/. Terrorists continue to build up their strength in the area of Triokhizbenka in Ukraine's Luhansk region. Their forces are replenished, in particular, with Russian mercenaries.

"The concentration of Russian-terrorist forces in the area of the settlement of Triokhizbenka continues. The arrival of another task group of the enemy, formed from local militants and Russian mercenaries, from the area of the settlement of Alchevsk has been reported. The strength of the task group is up to 150 people, four tanks and six armored fighting vehicles (AFVs)," Information Resistance group leader Dmytro Tymchuk wrote on Facebook.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/russia_continues_to_send_militants_and_equipment_to_donbas_327969

Cyborgs shelled twice a night, 25.12.2014

KYIV, December 25 /Ukrinform/. Over the last night, illegal armed groups in the ATO area continued single provocations, having shelled the settlements of Stanytsia Luhanska, Hranitne, Taramchuk and twice - the new terminal of the Donetsk airport.

"Stanytsia Luhanska was shelled from small arms and twice - the new terminal of the Donetsk airport. The terrorists fired on Hranitne with mortars. Also, militants conducted artillery fire on positions of our forces in the settlement of Taramchuk," ATO Spokesman Leonid Matiukhin said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/cyborgs_shelled_twice_a_night_327971

Donetsk militants 'mobilize' teenagers, 25.12.2014

KYIV, December 25 /Ukrinform/. "According to the latest reports, armed gangs of the so-called DPR are trying to replenish their ranks through the mobilization of local children and teenagers aged from 16 to 18 years," Anti-terrorist operation spokesman Andriy Lysenko he said.

He said that such actions violate Article 38 of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/donetsk_militants_mobilize_teenagers_327986

Zakharchenko says about agreement to exchange captives according to formula "150x225", 25.12.2014

KYIV, December 25 /Ukrinform/. Participants in negotiations of the trilateral contact group on Donbas in Minsk reached an agreement about the exchange of captives according to a formula "150 x 225."

Head of the self-proclaimed "Donetsk People's Republic" Oleksandr Zakharchenko told a press conference, TASS informs.

"Minsk negotiations still continue and it is early to speak about any agreements. The only thing that I can say is that final points of the non-agreement on the exchange of captives were removed. It will be 150x225," the militants' head said.

The "Luhansk People's Republic" and the "Donetsk People's Republic" are ready to exchange 150 Kyiv law enforcers for 225 detained persons, who are in the hands of the Ukrainian authorities, the majority of whom are civilians.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/zakharchenko_says_about_agreement_to_exchange_captives_according_to_formula_150x225_327987

Militants shell ATO positions 16 times last night, 26.12.2014

KYIV, December 26 /Ukrinform/. Militants last night shelled Ukrainian military 16 times with small arms, grenade launchers, mortars, armored vehicles and artillery, anti-terrorist operation spokesman Leonid Matiukhin reported.

Stanytsia Luhanska, Chornukhyne, Nikishyne and outskirts of Sokolnyky were fired at with small arms and grenade launchers.

The settlements of Maryinka, Slavne, Shumy, Mayorsk, Chornukhyne and Pisky came under mortar fire. In the area of Sokolnyky anti-terrorist operation forces were shelled with an armored infantry fighting vehicle.

Militants used artillery twice a night, shelling the localities of Stepne and Shumy.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/militants_shell_ato_positions_16_times_last_night_328000

LPR terrorists, 'Cossacks' fighting for power in Antratsyt and Krasny Luch, 26.12.2014

KYIV, December 26 /Ukrinform/. Russian "Cossacks" and terrorists from the self-proclaimed Luhansk People's Republic (LPR) are holding an armed struggle for power in Antratsyt and Krasny Luch in Ukraine's Luhansk region.

"Clashes between militants are continuing. Cases of an armed struggle for power between militants of the 'Great Don Army' and LPR terrorists are recorded in the settlements of Antratsyt and Krasny Luch," a press officer of the General Staff of the Ukrainian Armed Forces, Oleksiy Mazepa said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/lpr_terrorists_cossacks_fighting_for_power_in_antratsyt_and_krasny_luch_328002

Semenchenko: Donbas battalion will continue blocking Akhmetov's humanitarian convoy, 26.12.2014

KYIV, December 26 /Ukrinform/. People's deputy, commander of the voluntary battalion Donbas Semen Semenchenko says that commanders of voluntary battalions continue blocking Akhmetov's humanitarian convoy.

"After the previous convoy was let by the Dniper regiment, our soldiers in captivity in Donetsk and Ilovaisk did not get a single kilogram of products. Not a single person was released," Semenchenko wrote on Facebook.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/semenchenko_donbas_battalion_will_continue_blocking_akmetovs_humanitarian_convoy_328003

Eight enemy drones spying near Mariupol, 26.12.2014

KYIV, December 26 /Ukrinform/. Drones were noted near Mariupol, spying from the air. ATO Spokesman Leonid Mariukhin informed.

In particular, enemy drones were noted in the area of Charmalyk, Mykolayivka, Novoselivka and Talakivka.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/eight_enemy_drones_spying_near_mariupol_328004

Tymchuk: Kadyrov's soldiers and local insurgents fire on each other in Makiivka, 26.12.2014

Conflicts between Russian mercenaries from the Chechen Republic and local insurgents have broken out again in Makiivka, head of the Information Resistance group Dmytro Tymchuk wrote on his Facebook page on Friday.

"During the conflicts there have been several cases of the use of small arms, [and] there are wounded on both sides," he said.

<http://www.unian.info/society/1026536-tymchuk-kadyrovs-soldiers-and-local-insurgents-fire-on-each-other-in-makiivka.html>

Night for ATO forces passes without losses, wounded are reported, 27.12.2014

KYIV, December 27 /Ukrinform/. The ATO forces suffered no losses last day.

"Three Ukrainian soldiers were wounded, no killed military were reported," NSDC Information-Analytical Center spokesman Andriy Lysenko said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/night_for_ato_forces_passes_without_losses_wounded_are_reported_328030

Militants fire settlements in Luhansk region eight times over day, 27.12.2014

KYIV, December 27 /Ukrinform/. For the past day, militants of the "LPR" eight times shelled the settlements of Stanytsia Luhanska, Krymske, Shchastia, Chornukhine and Popasna with different weapons, including rocket launchers and mortars.

"In the village during the day and last night, fire-fights broke out with machine guns and automatic weapons, and in Shchastia, at midnight, the district power plant was fired with automatic grenade launcher, and Krymske and Chornukhine repeatedly came under mortar shelling and shooting," Head of the Luhansk regional state administration Hennadiy Moskal wrote on his website.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/militants_fire_settlements_in_luhansk_region_eight_times_over_day_328028

Another three military and civilian released from captivity of militants, 27.12.2014

KYIV, December 27 /Ukrinform/. "We took four men without the exchange. Three of the 80th airmobile infantry brigade and one civilian. Yuriy Farasey, Yevhen Kozlovsky and Andriy Shevchuk spent 118 days in captivity," Deputy Defense Minister Adviser Vasyl Budyk wrote.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/another_three_military_and_civilian_released_from_captivity_of_militants_328029

Militants shell Donetsk airport from submachine guns at night, 29.12.2014

KYIV, December 29 /Ukrinform/. "Militants shelled the new terminal of the Donetsk airport from small arms and also the settlement of Petrovske. From mortars - Pisky and Hranitne twice," the ATO press center informs on Facebook.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/militants_shell_donetsk_airport_from_submachine_guns_at_night_328032

One serviceman killed in Donbas in past 24 hours, 29.12.2014

KYIV, December 29 /Ukrinform/. "One Ukrainian military - a fighter from the Azov battalion - has been killed over the past 24 hours. Nobody has been wounded," ATO spokesman Andriy Lysenko said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/one_serviceman_killed_in_donbas_in_past_24_hours_328043

Ukraine vows to hold talks until release of last Ukrainian captive, 29.12.2014

KYIV, December 29 /Ukrinform/. The Ukrainian side will continue to hold talks on the release of fighters from captivity until they all return home.

"Negotiations on the release of our citizens from captivity of militants will be held as long as we release our last guy and bring him home," ATO spokesman Andriy Lysenko said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/ukraine_vows_to_hold_talks_until_release_of_last_ukrainian_captive_328044

Number of displaced persons in Ukraine over 600,000, 29.12.2014

The number of internally displaced persons due to the conflict in the eastern regions of Ukraine has increased, with most Ukrainians seeking asylum abroad heading to neighboring Russia. According to the data published by the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), as of December 26 there are 610,413 internally displaced persons in Ukraine who have fled the conflict regions, including 19,918 people leaving their homes in Crimea, and 590,495 fleeing from the eastern provinces.

The data is presented on an updated map posted on the official Web site of the international organization, German broadcaster Deutsche Welle reports.

As noted in the document, 248,597 people are seeking refuge in neighboring countries, including 245,510 who have applied for refugee status in Russia, and 2,218 who have done so in Poland. According to UNHCR data, 342,057 people are looking for "another form of residence" in neighboring countries, with 244,326 - the highest number - in Russia, with the next largest number in Belarus.

Based on the report of the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, as of December 12 a total of 542,000 people have been reported displaced within the country, with the total number of refugees amounting to nearly 568,000 outside the country.

<http://www.unian.info/society/1027370-number-of-displaced-persons-in-ukraine-over-600000.html>

More than 400 Ukrainians captured by terrorists - Semenchenko, 29.12.2014

KYIV, December 29 /Ukrinform/. 400 Ukrainians remain in captivity of terrorists in Donbas. "The Donbas battalion continues to return back cargoes removed to the territory of the so-called "LPR" in Luhansk region. Vodka, cigarettes, fuel and coal are returned back. More than 400 Ukrainians are still in captivity. The most sensitive places of terrorists are wallet and stomach. We will affect the first and the second," Commander of the Donbas voluntary battalion Semen Semenchenko wrote on Facebook.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/more_than_400_ukrainians_captured_by_terrorists_semenchenko_328054

Chonhar checkpoint suspends operation - State Border Service, 30.12.2014

KYIV, December 30 /Ukrinform/. The Chonhar checkpoint on the administrative border of Kherson region and Crimea is temporarily not operating, the president's office in the Autonomous Republic of Crimea has reported, referring to the Azov-Black Sea regional department of the Ukrainian State Border Service.

"The Chonhar checkpoint is temporarily not operating due to the actions of the adjacent side. The Kalanchak and Chaplynka checkpoints are operating in normal mode," reads the statement.

It also notes that Ukrainian citizens can "freely cross the administrative border between the mainland part of Ukraine and temporarily occupied Crimea at the Kalanchak and Chaplynka checkpoints."

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/chonhar_checkpoint_suspends_operation_state_border_service_328055

Militants shell law enforcers three times at night, 30.12.2014

KYIV, December 30 /Ukrinform/. A night in the ATO area passed relatively calmly. Illegal armed groups three times provoked Ukrainian military, using small arms and mortars.

The ATO press center informs.

"Militants shelled the Olenivka neighborhood from mortars and the settlement of Avdiyivka - twice from small arms.

On the Mariupol direction, intensification of the enemy drones is observed. Monday, December 29, about 22:00, they were fixed four times in the sky over Talakivka and Hnutove.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/militants_shell_law_enforcers_three_times_at_night_328058

Terrorists kill six Ukrainian servicemen in Pisky - Azov, 30.12.2014

KYIV, December 30 /Ukrinform/. Terrorists have again attacked the positions of Ukrainian security forces in the village of Pisky, close to the Donetsk airport, killing six Ukrainian military and wounding three more, reads a statement posted on the Facebook page of the Azov special purpose battalion.

"Today, terrorists again blatantly violated the truce. This time they attacked the positions of the Ukrainian military in the village of Pisky in Donetsk region. As a result, our army suffered losses - six were killed and three were wounded," the report says.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/terrorists_kill_six_ukrainian_servicemen_in_pisky_azov_328064

Meeting in Luhansk ends, no statements made – media, 31.12.2014

KYIV, December 31 /Ukrinform/. A meeting between the participants in a working group including representatives of the terrorist Luhansk People's Republic (LPR), the Ukrainian armed forces and the OSCE has ended in Luhansk, according to TASS.

"The meeting participants declined to comment on its results and make any statements for the press," reads the report.

A similar meeting was held on Monday, December 29, in Donetsk. Militants told Russian journalists that the participants in the talks had discussed three issues: the continuation of the Minsk talks, a ceasefire, and the withdrawal of equipment from the line of contact. The sides also discussed the next stage of the exchange of prisoners.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/meeting_in_luhansk_ends_no_statements_made_media_328086

Russians move artillery and armored vehicles to buffer zone, 31.12,2014

KYIV, December 31 /Ukrinform/. The command of the Russian-terrorist forces continues to deploy artillery and armored vehicles in the Pervomaisk-Artemivsk direction near the buffer zone, Information Resistance group leader Dmytro Tymchuk reported on his Facebook page. "The arrival of another artillery battalion (two batteries of cannon artillery (14 units) and one MLRS battery (six units), as well as a fortified armored group (six tanks and up to 20 armored combat vehicles), has been recorded," he wrote.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/russians_move_artillery_and_armored_vehicles_to_buffer_zone_328076

Enemy opened fire on Ukrainian positions 11 times last night - Matiukhin, 31.12,2014

KYIV, December 31 /Ukrinform/. The situation in the anti-terrorist operation (ATO) zone in eastern Ukraine did not change significantly last night, although militants fired at Ukrainian military positions 11 times, ATO spokesman Leonid Matiukhin has reported on Facebook. "The militants continued armed provocations, firing at Ukrainian servicemen with small arms, grenade launchers and mortars. The bandits opened fire on the positions of our warriors 11 times," he said.

According to Matiukhin, the situation was tense near Donetsk.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/enemy_opened_fire_on_ukrainian_positions_11_times_last_night_matiukhin_328077

Militants retreat from Donetsk airport, 31.12,2014

KYIV, December 31 /Ukrinform/. Units of militants involved in the latest attacks on the positions of Ukrainian troops in the Donetsk airport area, leaving cover on the frontline, have moved back to their positions.

"Earlier, Russian-terrorist troops for two days were trying to break into the rear positions of Ukrainian troops to the settlement of Opytne and to the Donetsk ring road in order to force Ukrainian troops to retreat," Information Resistance group leader Dmytro Tymchuk wrote on FB.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/militants_retreat_from_donetsk_airport_328078

Ukraine mines part of Azov Sea coast, 31.12,2014

KYIV, December 31 /Ukrinform/. Combat engineers in southern Donetsk region have worked out the task of countering enemy landing from the sea and protecting the coastline near an important facility, anti-terrorist operation (ATO) spokesman Leonid Matiukhin has said.

"Combat engineers, in the composition of two mobile obstacle detachments, have laid dozens of anti-landing troop mines along a section of the coast," he said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/ukraine_mines_part_of_azov_sea_coast_328081

Pilot Savchenko

Nadia Savchenko goes on hunger strike, 15.12.2014

KYIV, December 15 /Ukrinform/. Ukrainian pilot and MP Nadia Savchenko, who is illegally held in Moscow's prison, has gone on a hunger strike, her Russian lawyer, Mark Feygin, has said live on Hromadske TV.

He noted that Savchenko had made such a decision after her request to call an otolaryngologist had been rejected.

According to Feygin, the pilot cannot hear in one ear, and the other also started aching, so "the problem with her examination is very acute."

"She may lose hearing and this may affect her fate and future career as a serviceperson. It is very important to her," the lawyer said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/nadia_savchenko_goes_on_hunger_strike_327754

Doctor visits Savchenko, lawyers persuade her to stop hunger strike, 16.12.2014

KYIV, December 16 /Ukrinform/. A doctor sent by Moscow's health department has visited Ukrainian MP Nadia Savchenko, who is illegally held in Moscow's jail. Now her lawyers hope to persuade their client to stop the hunger strike.

One of Savchenko's lawyers, Mark Feygin, wrote this on his Twitter page on Tuesday.

"A doctor from Moscow's health department has visited Nadia Savchenko," he wrote.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/doctor_visits_savchenko_lawyers_persuade_her_to_stop_hunger_strike_327777

Savchenko could be released in late January - lawyer, 17.12.2014

KYIV, December 17 /Ukrinform/. After Ukrainian pilot and MP Nadia Savchenko gets the status of a PACE delegate, she will receive "diplomatic immunity," and Russia will have no right to hold her in jail and prosecute her in a criminal case.

"During the opening of the [PACE] session, when Nadia Savchenko, along with all other delegates from all countries of the Council of Europe, participants of the Parliamentary Assembly, receives the official status of a delegate, the Russian Federation will have no right to hold and prosecute her in a criminal case due to the fact that she will get the current international legal status, which grants her diplomatic immunity under an international treaty," her lawyer, Nikolai Polozov said.

According to him, it will happen very soon - "at the end of January." The lawyer said that after the Ukrainian pilot gets the delegate status at PACE, the Parliamentary Assembly would send a respective application to the Russian Foreign Ministry, which will submit this information to investigators and the investigators would have to issue a ruling closing the case against Savchenko.

"This does not mean that the case on the death of journalists will be closed, and it can be investigated further. But as for Nadia Savchenko, the Russian Federation will already have no right to hold her in prison," Polozov said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/savchenko_could_be_released_in_late_january_lawyer_327817

Savchenko will not stop hunger strike after December 22 - lawyer, 18.12.2014

KYIV, December 18 /Ukrinform/. In the near future, Ukrainian aviatrix Nadia Savchenko, imprisoned in Russia for political reasons, will not stop the hunger strike next week too.

"Nadia Savchenko said this morning that she is not going to stop the hunger strike also after December 22," Pilot's lawyer Mark Feigin wrote on Twitter.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/savchenko_will_not_stop_hunger_strike_after_december_22_lawyer_327845

Savchenko left under arrest, pilot goes on indefinite hunger strike, 22.12.2014

KYIV, December 22 /Ukrinform/. The Moscow City Court has upheld the decision to extend the arrest of Ukrainian pilot Nadia Savchenko and left her behind bars until February 13, 2015.

Such a decision was taken at a court meeting on Monday, an Ukrinform correspondent reported.

Savchenko was not taken to the courtroom, so she had to use a video conference and interpreter.

She also declared an indefinite hunger strike until she is released or until she dies.

"I had to go on a hunger strike to make sure that they start treating me in jail. Now, there is evidence of my innocence. Investigators have this evidence, but investigators continue to tell me lies. If this position continues in the future, if investigators continue to delay the time and not to do their job and if the verdict does not change today, I will declare an indefinite hunger strike until I return to Ukraine or until the last day of my life in Russia. Hunger is not a method of suicide, this is a method of struggle," the pilot said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/savchenko_left_under_arrest_pilot_goes_on_indefinite_hunger_strike_327896

Ukraine Worldwide

Poland ratifies Ukraine's Association Agreement with EU - Poroshenko, 04.12.2014

KYIV, December 4 /Ukrinform/. Poland's Senate has just ratified the Association Agreement between Ukraine and the EU.

"The Senate of Poland, in the presence of the Ukrainian delegation, has just ratified the Association Agreement between Ukraine and the EU. 100% - FOR. Congratulations!" Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko wrote this on his Twitter page.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/poland_ratifies_ukraines_association_agreement_with_eu_poroshenko_327536

Bill in support of Ukraine approved in both houses of U.S. Congress, 12.12.2014

KYIV, December 12 /Ukrinform/. The U.S. House of Representatives late on Thursday, December 11, approved bill H.R.5859, which repeats the text of bill S.2828 "Ukraine Freedom Support Act of 2014" adopted by the Senate on the same day.

Bill H.R.5859 is entitled "To impose sanctions with respect to the Russian Federation, to provide additional assistance to Ukraine, and for other purposes." Its appearance in the lower house of the Congress removed the need for lasting procedures of approval in the committees of bill H.R.5782, similar in content, which was introduced last week by Congresswoman Marcy Kaptur.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/bill_in_support_of_ukraine_approved_in_both_houses_of_us_congress_327693

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/us_senate_passes_bill_to_support_freedom_in_ukraine_327689

Croatia ratifies EU-Ukraine Association Agreement, 12.12.2014

KYIV, December 12 /Ukrinform/. Croatia ratified the Association Agreement between Ukraine and the EU on Friday, December 12.

Ukrainian Foreign Minister Pavlo Klimkin reported this on his Twitter page.

"The day of good news. Croatia has ratified our Association Agreement," Klimkin wrote.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/croatia_ratifies_eu_ukraine_association_agreement_327703

Komorowski signs law on ratification of EU-Ukraine Association Agreement, 17.12.2014

KYIV, December 17 /Ukrinform/. Polish President Bronislaw Komorowski has signed the law on the ratification of the EU-Ukraine Association Agreement.

The document was signed in Warsaw on Wednesday in the presence of Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/komorowski_signs_law_on_ratification_of_eu_ukraine_association_agreement_327807

EU strengthens sanctions against economy of occupied Crimea, 18.12.2014

KYIV, December 18 /Ukrinform/. The European Union has introduced additional restrictive measures against the economy of Crimea temporarily occupied by Russia.

European External Action Service (EEAS) spokesperson Maja Kocijancic said this on Thursday

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/eu_strengthens_sanctions_against_economy_of_occupied_crimea_327839

Denmark ratifies EU-Ukraine Association Agreement, 18.12.2014

KYIV, December 18 /Ukrinform/. Denmark has ratified the Association Agreement between Ukraine and the European Union.

Danish Foreign Minister Martin Lidegaard wrote this on his Twitter page on Thursday.

"I'm very happy that Denmark has just ratified the EU Association Agreements with Ukraine, Moldova and Georgia. This is an important step towards closer cooperation," he wrote.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/denmark_ratifies_eu_ukraine_association_agreement_327842

Obama imposes sanctions on Crimea, 20.12.2014

KYIV, December 20 /Ukrinform/. U.S. President Barack Obama has approved an executive order "Blocking Property of Certain Persons and Prohibiting Certain Transactions with Respect to the Crimea Region of Ukraine."

"Today, I issued an Executive Order taking further steps with respect to the situation in Ukraine. The E.O. prohibits the export of goods, technology, or services to Crimea and prohibits the import of goods, technology, or services from Crimea, as well as new investments in Crimea," reads the statement made The U.S. leader late on Friday.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/obama_imposes_sanctions_on_crimea_327873

Moscow court extends Sentsov's arrest until April 11, 2015, 26.12.2014

KYIV, December 26 /Ukrinform/. The Lefortovsky District Court of Moscow has extended the arrest of Ukrainian film director Oleh Sentsov until April 11, 2015.

The court made such a decision on Friday, an Ukrinform correspondent in Russia reported.

"The court has decided to extend the detention of Oleh Sentsov for three months until April 11, 2015," Judge Margarita Kotova said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/moscow_court_extends_sentsovs_arrest_until_april_11_2015_328017