



## **Monitoring of Xenophobia and Extremism in Ukraine February 2015**

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### **Introduction**

After the Revolution of Dignity a year passed. During these 365 days, Ukraine has experienced more than during the previous period of its independence. But Ukraine has managed to survive, it did not fall apart after annexation of Crimea and forced conversion of Donbass in an open wound. Rather complicated situation in the country requires more power, real actions and reforms from the authorities.

Ukraine began diplomatic game by agreeing to the introduction of UN peacekeepers in the Donbas and as a result forced Russia to find itself in rather bad position as RF representatives publicly oppose the peacekeeping mission to Ukraine.

Ukraine fully felt the breath of terrorism. During a peaceful march in Kharkov dedicated to the anniversary of the Revolution of on February 22 explosion took place and took lives of 5 march participants.

Ukrainian troops started the removal of heavy weapons, according to the Minsk agreement. In the same time it looks like separatist are not for fair game.

All these events are taking place on the background of severe economic decline and impoverishment of the population.

## **Prognosis and polls**

### **Survey: Number of Russians who think open war with Ukraine possible rises sharply, 02.02.2015**

More than half of Russian believe eastern Ukraine is in state of civil war that broke out "after the seizure of power by a junta," according to a survey of the All-Russian Center for the Study of Public Opinion.

In addition, 17% of the respondents believe that Ukraine is seeing genocide and terrorism, Ukrainian newspaper Zerkalo Nedeli reported, citing Russian newspaper Vedomosti.

Some 3% of Russians blame the West for the conflict in eastern Ukraine. Another 10% say that war is already underway in Ukraine and they support the supply of financial assistance and weapons to the militants.

According to Valeriy Fiodorov of the Center for the Study of Public Opinion, Russian citizens base their judgment on what is happening in eastern Ukraine on information provided by the major Russian media. Almost 86% of TV viewers, 68% of readers of publications and 53% of online media readers completely trust their national media.

<http://www.unian.info/world/1039165-survey-number-of-russians-who-think-open-war-with-ukraine-possible-up-sharply.html>

### **Survey: Number of Russians admitting to open war with Ukraine dramatically increases, 02.02.2015**

According to survey results, hostility of Russians towards Ukrainians has significantly grown.

According to Russian Public Opinion Research Center's (VCIOM) survey, more than half of Russians believe the conflict in eastern Ukraine is a civil war that occurred "because "junta" seized power."

Also, 17% of respondents believe that genocide and terror is taking place in Ukraine. 3% of Russians accuse the West in the conflict in eastern Ukraine. 10% say that the war in Ukraine is already underway and support financial and military assistance to the Donbas militants.

[http://mw.ua/WORLD/number-of-russians-admitting-to-open-war-with-ukraine-dramatically-increases-1075\\_.html](http://mw.ua/WORLD/number-of-russians-admitting-to-open-war-with-ukraine-dramatically-increases-1075_.html)

### **Poll: 82% of Crimeans support annexation, 04.02.2015**

A total of 82% of the population of the Crimea fully support Russia's annexation of the peninsula, according to a poll carried out by the GfK Group research institute in Ukraine, Ukrainian online newspaper Ukrainska Pravda reported on Wednesday.

Another 11% of respondents said that they rather support the annexation of Crimea, while 4% were against it.

In addition, only 14% of Crimeans believe there will be a full-scale war between Ukraine and Russia, and another 74% do not believe in any such possibility.

<http://www.unian.info/politics/1040281-poll-82-of-crimeans-support-annexation.html>

### **Poll: Russian hostility to US and EU breaks records, 10.02.2015**

The number of Russian citizens who have a negative attitude towards the United States has risen to 81%, while a year ago it was 44%, according to the results of a survey carried out by the Levada Center, an independent Russian polling and sociological research organization. The number of Russians who describe relations between Russia and the United States as hostile has increased by more than 10 times over the year, from 4% to 42%, the center reported.

At the same time, Russians are less hostile to Europe. Only 71% of Russian citizens have a negative attitude towards the EU. However, 40% of the survey respondents still believe that Russia needs to strengthen its relations with the European Union, while 36% of respondents support complete isolation from Europe, according to Ukrainian newspaper Zerkalo Nedeli. The number of those who continue to consider Russia as one of the most influential countries in the world almost halved. A year ago, 45% of Russians believed in this, while this year this number is only 27%.

The previous survey carried out by the Levada Center showed that 79% of Russians had already been affected by Western sanctions, while 47% of Russian citizens had experienced serious financial difficulties.

<http://www.unian.info/world/1042279-poll-russian-hostility-to-us-and-eu-breaks-records.html>

### **The Triumph of Fear, 18.02.2015**

Analyst: Ukraine and the West need a strategy for turning time to their advantage. The most challenging goal must be slowing down the fighting.

Wednesday's Minsk summit, the latest meeting in the 'Normandy format', was the product of fear rather than strategic calculation. It would be difficult to find any other explanation for the frenzied movements of Angela Merkel and François Hollande last week. How else to explain the surprise of Washington, 'informed' but in no way consulted, the bypassing of the EU troika and the extraordinary secrecy of the proceedings? For the past year, Angela Merkel has been the embodiment of Western solidarity and firmness. Her approach has been forthright, methodical and consistent. Yet last week she lost her balance, and this needs to be explained.

[http://mw.ua/WORLD/the-triumph-of-fear-1229\\_.html](http://mw.ua/WORLD/the-triumph-of-fear-1229_.html)

### **75% of Poles think Ukraine conflict threatens their security, 18.02.2015**

What is more, 67% of those polled consider that the events in the east of Ukraine pose a threat to the entire Europe, and 55% to the entire world.

Fifty-six per cent of the pollees believe that Poland, jointly with other EU member states, should support Ukraine, while 6% said that Poland is obliged to provide special support for its eastern neighbors.

However, 33% of those polled would prefer that Warsaw in no way participated in the Ukrainian events. Sixty-two per cent are against Polish financial assistance to Ukraine, while half that percentage is in favor of such assistance.

The Poles are critical of Polish Prime Minister Ewa Kopacz's decision to lend Kyiv EUR 100 million: 41% of the pollees believe that it is the excessive burden on the Polish economy. Only 23% consider it to be a good initiative, and a mere 5% believe it to be a very modest proposal on behalf of Poland.

The survey revealed a mixed assessment by the Poles of the sanctions the EU has already introduced against Russia over Ukraine: 51% consider this measure as insufficient, 20% as adequate, 8% as excessive.

<http://www.unian.info/world/1045812-75-of-poles-think-ukraine-conflict-threatens-their-security.html>

### **Poll: 86% of Russians support Putin's policies, 26.02.2015**

The number of Russian citizens who support Russian President Vladimir Putin has risen to 86%, while a month ago it was 85%, according to the results of a survey carried out by the Levada Center, an independent Russian polling and sociological research organization.

The poll was conducted in February. A total of 1,600 people were questioned in 46 regions of Russia. In particular, 86% of respondents said that they approved the president's policies.

A total of 13% of respondents had a negative attitude towards Putin's policies.

Putin's rating, though very high, isn't the highest for a world leader however. According to a survey of the popularity of world leaders carried out late last year, Chinese President Xi Jinping, the leader of the world's largest one-party state, has a whopping 94.8% approval rating among his people.

<http://www.unian.info/world/1048971-poll-86-of-russians-support-putins-policies.html>

## Statements of officials

### **Bildt: Militants and Moscow scupper Minsk agreements, 02.02.2015**

The Russian-backed militants in eastern Ukraine and Russia are no longer implementing the Minsk Protocol, former Swedish Foreign Minister Carl Bildt wrote on Twitter on Sunday.

"Russian separatists no longer accept Minsk agreement. Clear from [the OSCE] yesterday. And behind them is Moscow," Bildt tweeted.

<http://www.unian.info/politics/1039061-bildt-militants-and-moscow-scupper-minsk-agreements.html>

### **Obama says US plans to step up pressure on Russia, support Ukraine, 02.02.2015**

The U.S. authorities intend to step up pressure on Moscow and to support Kyiv, U.S. President Barack Obama said in an interview with the U.S. television's CNN channel on Sunday, according to Ukrainian newspaper Yevropeiska Pravda.

According to Obama, he is not optimistic about the possibility that Russia will change its policy towards Ukraine, but the United States would continue to provide diplomatic opportunities to Moscow to draw back from its involvement in Ukraine.

<http://www.unian.info/politics/1039088-obama-says-us-plans-to-step-up-pressure-on-russia.html>

### **Obama considers annexation of Crimea as 'improvisation' by Putin, 02.02.2015**

Russian President Vladimir Putin had no strategy prepared concerning Ukraine and the annexation of the Crimea was "an improvisation" by the Kremlin in response to the unexpected ouster of Ukraine's president, U.S. President Barack Obama said in an interview with the U.S. television's CNN channel on Sunday, according to Ukrainian news service Podrobnosti.

"Mr. Putin made this decision around Crimea and Ukraine - not because of some grand strategy, but essentially because he was caught off-balance by the protests in the Maidan and [former Ukrainian President Viktor] Yanukovich then fleeing after we had brokered a deal to transition power in Ukraine," Obama said.

<http://www.unian.info/world/1039179-obama-considers-annexation-of-crimea-as-improvisation-by-putin.html>

### **European Investment Bank to provide Ukraine with one billion euros for projects this year, 03.02.2015**

The European Investment Bank will allocate Ukraine EUR 1 billion for projects in the country this year, the press service of the Ministry of Economic Development and Trade has reported. The press service quoted a statement by the head of the representative office of the EIB in Ukraine, Lilia Cherniavska, that she made at a meeting with representatives of the Ministry of Economic Development.

"We have fulfilled the task related to the assistance that the European Union planned to provide [to Ukraine] through the EIB mechanism," Cherniavska said.

"But this year we have just as ambitious plans – the projects to be signed this year are worth about EUR 1 billion."

<http://www.unian.info/economics/1039693-european-investment-bank-to-provide-ukraine-with-one-billion-euros-for-projects-this-year.html>

### **US 'not to supply weapons to Ukraine in near future, 03.02.2015**

The U.S. government will not supply weapons to Ukraine "in the near future," Deputy National Security Advisor for Strategic Communication for U.S. the President, Benjamin J. Rhodes has said in an interview with CNN, German broadcaster Deutsche Welle has reported.

According to Rhodes, up until now sanctions have been the most effective way to exert pressure on Russia in connection with the Ukrainian conflict. Increasing the number of weapons to "fight back" is not a proper response to the conflict, Rhodes said.

<http://www.unian.info/world/1039641-us-not-to-supply-weapons-to-ukraine-in-near-future.html>

### **Head of Venice Commission advises Poroshenko to suspend lustration and improve anti-corruption law, 03.02.2013**

Ukraine should suspend its lustration of government and make improvements to the law on clearing corrupt officials out of government, President of the Venice Commission Gianni Buquicchio said on Tuesday.

Buquicchio proposed to include in the Constitutional Commission a member of the Venice Commission - former Polish Prime Minister and expert in the field of constitutional law Hanna Suchocka.

<http://www.unian.info/politics/1039817-head-of-venice-commission-advises-poroshenko-to-suspend-lustration-and-improve-lustration-law.html>

### **US 'not to supply weapons to Ukraine in near future, 03.02.2015**

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At the same time, a report by the New York Times that the United States is considering the possibility of supplying Ukraine with defensive weapons was not explicitly refuted by Rhodes. He said that U.S. President Barack Obama has instructed all his advisors to consider "every opportunity." Rhodes said that Washington prefers to support a de-escalation of the conflict by peaceful means.

<http://www.unian.info/world/1039641-us-not-to-supply-weapons-to-ukraine-in-near-future.html>

### **Russia's State Duma 'to demand EUR 4 trln from Germany' in reparations for attack on Soviet Union, 03.02.2015**

MPs in Russia's State Duma have proposed to demand that Germany pay reparations for Nazi Germany's attack on the Soviet Union, Russian online news service Lenta.ru reported on Tuesday, quoting Russian newspaper Izvestia.

According to the report, a specially created working group will assess the amount of compensation that is planned to be presented to Berlin as a liability for reparations.

"In fact, Germany didn't pay the Soviet Union any reparations for the destruction and atrocities during World War II. After the war, the Soviet Union government signed an agreement with the GDR on not levying reparations," State Duma MP from the Liberal Democratic Party Mikhail Degtiarev said.

"No such agreements were concluded with the Federal Republic of Germany or the united Germany, so that's why it's an open question," he said.

<http://www.unian.info/world/1039613-russias-state-duma-to-demand-eur-4-trln-from-germany-in-reparations-for-attack-on-soviet-union.html>

### **Steinmeier: We cannot allow situation in Ukraine to get out of control, 04.02.2015**

Everything should be done to prevent the conflict in Donbas getting completely out of control, German Foreign Minister Frank-Walter Steinmeier has said in an interview with the German publication Nuernberger Nachrichten, Ukrainian newspaper YevroPravda has reported.

"With the conflict in eastern Ukraine the question of war and peace has returned to the European continent. People are afraid, and that fear is in the images that we daily receive from eastern Ukraine," Steinmeier said.

"That is why we must act wisely. I see it as our duty to do everything in our power to ensure that this conflict does not go completely out of control," he said.

According to Steinmeier, there is no reason to abandon the commitments the parties signed up to in Minsk.

<http://www.unian.info/politics/1040274-steinmeier-we-cannot-allow-situation-in-ukraine-to-get-out-of-control.html>

### **US State Department: Russia and militants to blame for conflict in Donbas, 04.02.2015**

Russia and the militant groups it supports are responsible for the current conflict in the east of Ukraine, U.S. State Department spokesperson Jen Psaki, has said Radio Liberty reported. "The vast majority of the international community believes the preponderance of aggressive actions are coming from the Russian side and the side of the Russian-backed separatists," Psaki said.

"We certainly continue to encourage both sides to take steps to prevent civilian casualties and to keep – take that in as an important factor, as this conflict is ongoing," she said.

<http://www.unian.info/politics/1040280-us-state-department-russia-and-militants-to-blame-for-conflict-in-donbas.html>

### **Psaki: Russian and pro-Russian militants are responsible for escalation in Donbas, 04.02.2015**

According to the State Department Spokesperson, Jen Psaki, Russia and pro-Russian militants are responsible for most of the aggressive actions in eastern Ukraine.

"The vast majority of the international community believes that aggressive actions are mainly coming from Russia and pro-Russian separatists. We continue to urge both parties to take measures to prevent civilian casualties. We emphasize that civilians is important factor in the conflict", - announced the US official.

[http://mw.ua/WORLD/spokesperson-psaki-russian-and-pro-russian-militants-are-responsible-for-escalation-in-donbas-1100\\_.html](http://mw.ua/WORLD/spokesperson-psaki-russian-and-pro-russian-militants-are-responsible-for-escalation-in-donbas-1100_.html)

### **Azarov upset that Yanukovych fled Kyiv without him, 04.02.2015**

Former Ukrainian Prime Minister Mykola Azarov has said that he didn't see former Ukrainian President Viktor Yanukovych before the latter fled Kyiv, according to an exclusive interview with the Ukrainian online news service Mignews.com.ua published on Tuesday.

"I was sorry that he left Kyiv without telling me, and I had to get out of Kyiv myself in very difficult conditions. Therefore, I have no sense in maintaining a relationship with him. I was very disappointed with the recent trust that we had, and lost. I began to oppose other people," he said.

At the same time, Azarov said that he didn't condemn Yanukovych.

<http://www.unian.info/society/1040152-azarov-upset-that-yanukovych-fled-kyiv-without-him.html>

### **US intelligence: Russia creating long-term conflict in eastern Ukraine, 04.02.2015**

Russia is trying to create a "permanent conflict" in eastern Ukraine and "will continue this year putting pressure on Kyiv through military and non-military methods", according to the statement of US Defense Intelligence Agency Director Lieutenant General Vincent Stewart released at a congressional hearing devoted to global threats, Russian news agency TASS has reported. Moscow's actions with regard to Ukraine "correspond to Russia's new military doctrine and strategy, which will cause further anxiety among neighboring states," Lieutenant General Stewart said.

The Pentagon's intelligence office believes that Russia has updated the doctrine to allow for the use of "new warfare methods," and "has made significant progress in modernizing its nuclear and conventional weapons."

"We expect that in 2015 the Russian military activity will remain at a high level," Lieutenant General Stewart said.

<http://www.unian.info/world/1040149-us-intelligence-russia-creating-long-term-conflict-in-eastern-ukraine.html>

### **Ban Ki-moon calls on for temporary ceasefire in the area of Debal'tseve, 05.02.2015**

UN has supported the proposal of the OSCE's Chairman on a temporary truce in the Donbas. UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon has supported the proposal of the OSCE Chairman Ivica Dačić on a temporary truce in eastern Ukraine to evacuate residents of Debal'tseve.

The press service of the United Nations says that the UN Secretary General has been seriously concerned about the situation in eastern Ukraine. Namely, he is worried about the civilians who have been without food and water in Debal'tseve.

[http://mw.ua/UKRAINE/ban-ki-moon-calls-on-for-temporary-ceasefire-in-the-area-of-debal-tseve-1115\\_.html](http://mw.ua/UKRAINE/ban-ki-moon-calls-on-for-temporary-ceasefire-in-the-area-of-debal-tseve-1115_.html)

### **NATO's preparing to answer Russian threat, 05.02.2015**

Russian aggression in eastern Ukraine and provocative Russian aircrafts flying near the borders of its neighbors, make NATO to review some of the Alliance's collective defense positions. NATO Defence Ministers are going to meet in Brussels, where it will be announced about new plans to increase the presence of the Alliance in eastern Europe due to the crisis in Ukraine.

[http://mw.ua/WORLD/nato-s-preparing-to-answer-russian-threat-1112\\_.html](http://mw.ua/WORLD/nato-s-preparing-to-answer-russian-threat-1112_.html)

### **Ashton Carter is ready to help Ukraine with lethal weapon, 05.02.2015**

Carter's candidacy to head the Pentagon was supported by President Obama.

A candidate to head the Pentagon, Ashton Carter has announced that he is inclined to support an increase in American aid to Ukraine and has not ruled out the possibility of supplying lethal weapon to Kyiv.

"We should definitely support the Ukrainians and help them protect themselves." – announced Carter at the Senate hearing, when asked by the Armed Forces Committee Chairman, Senator John McCain (R).

[http://mw.ua/WORLD/ashton-carter-is-ready-to-help-ukraine-with-weapon-1111\\_.html](http://mw.ua/WORLD/ashton-carter-is-ready-to-help-ukraine-with-weapon-1111_.html)

### **US adds four Russian defense industry enterprises to sanctions list, 05.02.2015**

The U.S. State Department has added four Russian companies to its sanctions list under the "Iran, North Korea, and Syria Nonproliferation Act," Russian newspaper Izvestiya has reported, with reference to the U.S. State Department.

In addition to four Russian legal entities, the list also includes 18 organizations from Belarus, China, Iran, North Korea, Sudan, Syria and Venezuela.

"Sanctions against legal persons were introduced after obtaining reliable information on the transfer or acquisition of goods and technologies, provision of certain services included on the list of U.S. export controls, to Iran, Syria or North Korea," the State Department noted.

<http://www.unian.info/economics/1040642-us-adds-four-russian-defense-industry-enterprises-to-sanctions-list.html>

### **Saakashvili: Putin wants corridor to Transnistria, 05.02.2015**

Russian President Vladimir Putin wants to create a land corridor to Transnistria and he will try to achieve a military coup in Ukraine or riots in Kyiv to achieve this goal, Former Georgian President Mikheil Saakashvili said.

"Now he has a plan – to create new bridgeheads in Debaltseve, and then to make a corridor through Volnovakha to Crimea. And then, if everything goes well, he will go to Odesa, to Bessarabia, and then to Moldova and Transnistria in order to connect this corridor," he said.

<http://www.unian.info/politics/1040626-saakashvili-putin-wants-corridor-to-transnistria.html>

### **Steinmeier to discuss Ukrainian crisis in Warsaw on February 5, 05.02.2015**

German Foreign Minister Frank-Walter Steinmeier will review the situation in Ukraine and the EU in Warsaw on February 5, the press secretary of Polish Ministry of Foreign Affairs Marcin Wojciechowski wrote on his Twitter account on Wednesday.

"German Foreign Minister Steinmeier will visit Poland tomorrow. The main topic of conversation with Polish Foreign Minister Grzegorz Schetyna will be a crisis in Ukraine and the EU affairs," he said.

Earlier, Steinmeier said everything must be done to stop the situation in Ukraine getting out of control, as U.S. officials raised the issue of supplying arms to Ukraine in response to Russia's escalation of the conflict in eastern Ukraine.

German Chancellor Angela Merkel has said that Germany will not provide weapons to Ukraine, and that there can only be a peaceful solution to the Ukraine conflict.

<http://www.unian.info/politics/1040563-steinmeier-to-discuss-ukrainian-crisis-in-warsaw-on-february-5.html>

### **Lithuania calls for Ukraine to be given weapons, 05.02.2015**

The Baltic States and the Benelux countries have a common view concerning the conflict in Ukraine, and call for retention and even expansion of sanctions against Russia, Lithuanian Foreign Minister Linas Linkevičius said after a meeting with his colleagues from the Baltic and Benelux countries in Tallinn, Estonia on Wednesday, Deutsche Welle has reported.

"There is a consensus opinion about the appropriateness of additional sanctions. The blacklist should be expanded to include not only the separatists but also decision-makers in Russia," Linkevičius said.

Linkevičius also called for military assistance to be provided to Ukraine.

"We have to provide every type of assistance to Ukraine: political, financial, economic and military. We are ready to do this," Linkevičius said.

<http://www.unian.info/politics/1040583-lithuania-calls-for-ukraine-to-be-given-weapons.html>

### **Biden to discuss sanctions against Russia with EU leaders on February 6, 05.02.2015**

U.S. Vice President Joe Biden will discuss the situation in Ukraine with the leaders of the European Union on Friday, February 6, in Brussels, a White House spokesman said on Wednesday during a telephone press conference, according to Russian news agency TASS. "In Brussels, Biden will discuss the situation in Ukraine and the need to impose sanctions against Russia," the spokesman said.

According to the White House, during his European visit Biden will also meet in Munich with German Chancellor Angela Merkel and Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko.

<http://www.unian.info/politics/1040553-biden-to-discuss-sanctions-against-russia-with-eu-leaders-on-february-6.html>

### **US claims Russian troops operating in Ukraine since April 2014, 05.02.2015**

Russian troops have been present in the east of Ukraine since the beginning of the armed conflict in April 2014, U.S. Ambassador to NATO Douglas Lute said, Radio Liberty reported. Russian military experts are exercising command and control functions in the conflict, and also operating sophisticated equipment that untrained separatists are not able to use, Lute stated before a meeting of NATO defense ministers in Brussels held on Thursday.

Russia's armed forces present on the territory of Ukraine include military forces, intelligence, and operational staff. Some of them are operating in uniforms of Russian troops, while others do not, Lute said.

<http://www.unian.info/world/1040575-us-claims-russian-troops-operating-in-ukraine-since-april-2014.html>

### **Italy's Foreign Minister Paolo Gentiloni rules out any planned deliveries of lethal arms to the Ukrainian military, 05.02.2015.**

The Italian FM categorically ruled out any lethal arms supplies to Kiev, urging instead, the quickest possible cessation of hostilities in eastern Ukraine.

"This is certainly not an option the EU and Italy should go for. We must keep inspiring confidence in the NATO member countries, which feel threatened.

We should not do anything other than force the Ukrainian separatists to end their aggressive actions and demand that Russia stop their hand, if necessary, by using sanctions," Paolo Gentiloni said in comments carried live by local Radio 24 station.

<http://sputniknews.com/europe/20150205/1017820306.html>

### **Georgia Says Disputes With Russia Should Be Resolved Peacefully, 05.02.2015**

Georgian Foreign Ministry Tamara Beruchashvili said that every disputed issues concerning Russia-Georgia relations should be negotiated and resolved in a peaceful manner.

"There are no alternatives to a dialogue with Russia. Georgia announced that the way to resolve the conflict is exclusively peaceful. Consequently, all methods will be used to achieve this goal," Beruchashvili said in an interview to radio "Voice of America".

<http://sputniknews.com/europe/20150205/1017820044.html>

### **NATO Chief Admits Russia Poses No Threat to Balts, East Europeans, 05.02.2015**

NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg has acknowledged that there is no immediate threat to the Baltic states and Eastern Europe coming from Russia.

Jens Stoltenberg sees no immediate threat posed by Russia to the Baltic States, Poland, Bulgaria and Romania. He said as much when fielding media questions on the sidelines of Thursday's meeting in Brussels of the defense ministers of the 28 NATO countries. Asked whether he saw any real danger of a Russian aggression against the Baltic countries, Poland, Bulgaria and Romania Mr. Stoltenberg said the alliance's ongoing effort at strengthening its effective military presence in Eastern Europe was a purely defensive action that responded to Russia's behavior in the Ukrainian crisis and was consistent with the "international obligations" of the Atlantic Alliance.

<http://sputniknews.com/europe/20150205/1017829653.html>

### **US to Fork Over \$16 Million in Humanitarian Aid to Ukraine, 05.02.2015**

US Secretary of State John Kerry arrived in Kiev to discuss reforms and de-escalation in Ukraine's war-torn east.

During his brief visit to Kiev Secretary Kerry pledged an additional \$16.4 million in humanitarian assistance to Ukraine.

The main beneficiaries will be the victims of the armed conflict in eastern Ukraine, including forced migrants, Agence France Presse reports, quoting a State Department official in Washington.

The negotiations will focus on speeding up reforms and easing ease military tensions in Ukraine's eastern Donbass region, the Ukrainian Foreign Ministry said in a statement.

<http://sputniknews.com/us/20150205/1017821405.html>

### **Ban Ki-moon Supports OSCE Call for Civilian Evacuation From Debaltseve, 05.02.2015**

UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon gravely concerned over the situation in eastern Ukraine, particularly the plight of civilians trapped without basic services in the city of Debaltseve.

UNITED NATIONS (Sputnik) – UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon is concerned about civilians trapped in the city of Debaltseve in Ukraine, where independence supporters are clashing with Kiev forces, and is calling on both sides to halt fighting in order for the people to be evacuated, as proposed by the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE).

"The Secretary-General remains gravely concerned over the situation in eastern Ukraine, particularly the plight of civilians trapped without basic services in the city of Debaltseve," the United Nations said in a Wednesday statement, stressing that "civilians are dying on a daily basis".

<http://sputniknews.com/politics/20150205/1017800303.html>

### **Merkel and Hollande 'want to offer Putin federalization and non-alignment of Ukraine in exchange for peace, 06.02.2015**

The plan of German Chancellor Angela Merkel and French President Francois Hollande to resolve the conflict in the Donbas includes the non-alignment and federalization of Ukraine, Ukrainian newspaper Yevropeiska Pravda has reported, referring to French Le Figaro.

"The measure of success of Angela Merkel and Francois Hollande remains to be respect for the Minsk Protocol and effective implementation of each of the twelve items, including the withdrawal of Russian troops from Ukraine and termination of the arms supplies to separatists" Le Figaro wrote, referring to its own diplomatic sources.

"But that is not all. According to preliminary information, the Franco-German plan on conflict settlement should ensure the neutrality of Ukraine and a 'federalization solution' that will freeze the conflict in the east," the newspaper wrote.

<http://www.unian.info/politics/1041076-merkel-and-hollande-want-to-offer-putin-federalization-and-non-alignment-of-ukraine-in-exchange-for-peace.html>

### **US senators call on Obama to supply weapons to Ukraine, 06.02.2015**

A group of senators, headed by Chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee U.S. Senator John McCain, will draw up a bill authorizing the U.S. to begin deliveries of weapons to Ukraine if the U.S. president refuses to take such a step, news agency Reuters reported. According to the report, McCain headed a group of about a dozen Republican and Democratic senators at a press conference to put pressure on Obama to send weapons to help Kyiv in its confrontation with the Russian-backed militants in the east of Ukraine. "We will prepare a bill that will oblige the President to take this step," McCain said.

<http://www.unian.info/world/1041070-us-senators-call-on-obama-to-supply-weapons-to-ukraine.html>

### **Munich Security Conference Chairman calls for Ukraine to be given weapons, 06.02.2015**

Western countries should provide military assistance to Ukraine as a response to Moscow's aggression, Chairman of the Munich Security Conference Wolfgang Ischinger has written in an article in the Financial Times, Ukrainian newspaper Ukrainska Pravda has reported.

According to Ischinger, the ultimate goal should be a comprehensive peace process under the auspices of the OSCE and the achievement of a political compromise.

"But as long as the situation on the ground tilts in Russia's favor, a diplomatic solution will be ever less likely," Ischinger wrote.

"Our message should be that if Russia ignores its commitment to help implement the Minsk Protocol, we may have no choice but to provide Kyiv with defense equipment. That would put the ball back where it belongs: in Moscow," Ischinger wrote.

<http://www.unian.info/world/1041063-chairman-of-munich-security-conference-calls-for-ukraine-to-be-given-weapons.html>

### **Stoltenberg: NATO states to decide individually on supplying weapons to Ukraine, 06.02.2015**

"As for weapons, NATO [itself] does not have them, so the question of supplies must be decided individually by each member of the alliance," Stoltenberg said.

"NATO fully supports all efforts to resolve the conflict in the Donbas, including the initiative of German Chancellor Angela Merkel and French President François Hollande to visit Kyiv and Moscow," he said.

"The situation in Ukraine is very serious, the aggression increases as well as the number of victims, there have been civilian casualties," Stoltenberg said.

"We can see that Russia strengthens its support for separatists, supplying them with weapons, equipment, training them, and it is more necessary [than ever] to reach a consensus," he said.

<http://www.unian.info/politics/1041027-stoltenberg-nato-states-to-decide-individually-on-supplying-weapons-to-ukraine.html>

### **Merkel and Hollande 'not neutral intermediaries in Donbas conflict', 06.02.2015**

"We believe that this conflict has no military solution. I and Hollande are not neutral intermediaries," Merkel said.

"The thing is that we should take into account our interests - German, French and, first of all, European ones. We are talking about the peace, the European way of life and the right of peoples to self-determination," she said.

"I do not know whether the talks in Moscow will be long or short, or the last ones," she said.

The chancellor also promised to make every effort to stop the bloodshed in Ukraine.

<http://www.unian.info/politics/1041241-merkel-and-hollande-not-neutral-intermediaries-in-donbas-conflict.html>

### **Merkel uncertain about future of talks with Putin, 06.02.2015**

German Chancellor Angela Merkel has said it is uncertain if future talks on the situation in Ukraine will be conducted after today's meeting with Russian President in Moscow, Russian news agency Lenta.ru reported on Friday, with reference to news agency Reuters.

"We do not know whether the talks in Moscow will be long or short, or the last ones," she said.

The chancellor also promised to make every effort to stop the bloodshed in Ukraine.

"In addition, it is unclear whether an agreement on a ceasefire in the conflict zone will be reached during the negotiations," Merkel said.

<http://www.unian.info/politics/1041182-merkel-uncertain-about-future-of-talks-with-putin.html>

### **Russia not to be allowed to redraw map of Europe, 06.02.2015**

"Ukraine is now fighting for its own survival. Russia continues to escalate the conflict by sending in mercenaries and tanks. We can see the flow of 'little green men' and modern soldiers for special operations," Biden said.

"Now Russian President Vladimir Putin continues to call for a new peace plan, while Russian troops are in Ukraine. He is completely ignoring all of the agreements that his country has signed in the past, including the Minsk agreements. The United States and all Europe should stand at this time with Ukraine," Biden said.

According to U.S. Vice-President, Ukraine needs financial assistance because it is continuing to implement reforms even during the military confrontation, and it intends to push them forward.

<http://www.unian.info/politics/1041207-biden-russia-not-to-be-allowed-to-redraw-map-of-europe.html>

### **Abromavicius: Ukraine imposes sanctions on 160 Russian companies, 06.02.2015**

Ukraine has made a decision to deprive 160 Russian companies of licenses and permits for a range of activities, Ukrainian Minister of Economic Development and Trade Aivaras Abromavicius said during the parliament's hour of questions for the government on Friday.

The minister also noted that now residents of Russia subject to sanctions imposed by the EU, the Swiss Confederation, the United States and the countries of the Group of Seven would not be able to receive passive income in the form of royalties and interest on the territory of Ukraine, nor to participate in the privatization and renting of state enterprises.

<http://www.unian.info/economics/1041155-abromavicius-ukraine-introduces-sanctions-against-160-russian-companies.html>

### **Poroshenko: Implementation of Minsk Protocol would allow resumption of social benefit payments in Donbas, 06.02.2015**

The implementation of the Minsk agreements would help Kyiv resume the payment of social benefits to residents of the Donbas, Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko said at the opening of his meeting with German Chancellor Angela Merkel and French President François Hollande. "The Minsk plan is very simple: we demand an immediate ceasefire, the release of all hostages, the closure of the border, or the return of Ukrainian control over its state border," Poroshenko said.

"We demand the withdrawal of all foreign troops from the Ukrainian territory, [and] the beginning of the political process by holding local elections in the Luhansk and Donetsk regions in accordance with Ukrainian legislation.

<http://www.unian.info/politics/1041032-poroshenko-implementation-of-minsk-protocol-would-allow-resumption-of-social-benefit-payments-in-donbas.html>

### **Poroshenko and Mogherini 'hope for progress after Minsk meeting, 09.02.2015**

Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko and EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy Federica Mogherini have said they hope for a ceasefire in the Donbas soon and progress in the Minsk agreements implementation after the Minsk meeting on February 11.

<http://www.unian.info/politics/1041808-poroshenko-and-mogherini-hope-for-progress-after-minsk-meeting.html>

### **OSCE secretary general: Frozen conflict not the worst option for Donbas, 09.02.2015**

Political deadlock is not the worst option for the Donbas, OSCE Secretary General Lamberto Zannier told German broadcaster Deutsche Welle at the Munich Security Conference this weekend.

"For many years we have dealt with similar situations in the former Soviet Union - from Transnistria to South Ossetia, Abkhazia and Nagorno-Karabakh," Zannier said.

"And Ukraine in some way shows that there is a common thread that connects all these conflicts. "To some extent we can say that attempts to transform such conflicts into protracted political situations [is] not necessarily the worst-case scenario, considering what alternatives we [can] see now in eastern Ukraine."

According to Zannier, a way now has to be found to de-escalate the situation.

"It all depends on the policy of the leaders, who have to try to find a way out," he said.

<http://www.unian.info/politics/1041838-osce-secretary-general-frozen-conflict-not-the-worst-option-for-donbas.html>

### **Herbst: If Putin uses aviation in Donbas, US will respond quickly, 09.02.2015**

The United States will react quickly if Russia takes the fighting in the Donbas to a higher level – the use of warplanes, former U.S. ambassador to John Herbst said.

Herbst earlier called on President Barack Obama to send Ukraine arms following Russia's escalation of the Donbas conflict since early January.

"Of course, everyone is afraid of this situation. The war in Ukraine is becoming more open. That means that this aggression is already overt. And now it is obvious what Moscow is doing," Herbst said.

"There is a risk that Moscow could use air power. But, in principle, we can see the hand of the Kremlin here. We see that Russia is waging such a war," he said.

<http://www.unian.info/world/1041850-herbst-if-putin-uses-aviation-in-donbas-us-will-respond-quickly.html>

### **Putin says war will continue until talks begin with pro-Russian militants, 09.02.2015**

"It is evident that the crisis will continue until the Ukrainians themselves agree with each other," Putin said in an interview with the daily Egyptian newspaper Al-Ahram.

"[The war will last] until there is an end to unbridled radicalism and nationalism, and the society is consolidated around positive values and genuine interests of Ukraine. To achieve this, the Kyiv authorities need to listen to their people, find a common language and reach an agreement with all political forces and regions of the country. They need to elaborate such constitutional state system formula that would provide for a safe and comfortable living for all citizens, in full respects of human rights."

<http://www.unian.info/politics/1041859-putin-says-war-will-continue-until-talks-begin-with-pro-russian-militants.html>

### **IMF may provide Ukraine with the 'largest aid package in its history, 09.02.2015**

The financial assistance package given to Ukraine may be the largest one in the history of the IMF relative to a country's gross domestic product, Ukrainian Vice Prime Minister and Minister of Culture Viacheslav Kyrylenko said when speaking at a meeting of the coordination board of the leaders of factions and chairmen of parliamentary committees.

<http://www.unian.info/economics/1041917-imf-may-provide-ukraine-with-the-largest-aid-package-in-its-history.html>

### **EU expands sanctions against Russia, 09.02.2015**

EU foreign ministers expanded the EU's sanctions against Russia at a meeting on Monday, adding 19 people to a travel blacklist and freezing the accounts of nine companies, Radio Liberty correspondent in Brussels Rikard Jozwiak wrote on Twitter on Monday.

<http://www.unian.info/politics/1041939-eu-expands-sanctions-against-russia.html>

### **Media: Merkel gives Putin until Wednesday to agree on peace plan, 09.02.2015**

If Russia fails to make concessions and blocks the deal, Merkel will impose further sanctions against Russian companies that will include broader assets freezes. In addition, sanctions may affect the defense sector and, possibly, the financial sector, said one of the officials.

At the same time, according to the publication, Merkel, who publicly opposes the supply of weapons to Ukraine, told Putin she would not speak against any decision by U.S. President Barack Obama to provide Ukraine with lethal weapons.

<http://www.unian.info/politics/1041959-media-merkel-gives-putin-until-wednesday-to-agree-on-peace-plan.html>

### **Perebyinis: Sanctions postponed to help Minsk talks, 10.02.2015**

The postponing of more EU sanctions against Russia will allow the holding of a constructive "Normandy format" meeting on February 11 in Minsk, Foreign Ministry spokesman Yevhen Perebyinis said on Ukrainian television's Channel 5 on Monday, according to Radio Liberty.

"The EU has given a clear signal to Russia and an opportunity to hold productive talks on Wednesday," he said.

"Further EU sanctions against Russia will depend on the success of the talks of the 'Normandy Four' leaders in Minsk," Perebyinis said.

<http://www.unian.info/politics/1042266-perebyinis-sanctions-postponed-to-help-minsk-talks.html>

### **UK to continue to assist Ukrainian army, 10.02.2015**

The United Kingdom wants to see a diplomatic resolution of the situation in the east of Ukraine, but it has assisted and will continue to assist the Ukrainian armed forces, UK Ambassador to Ukraine Simon Smith told journalists on Monday after his meeting with Ukrainian Defense Minister Stepan Poltorak.

"The United Kingdom strongly supports the Ukrainian people and the government in protecting the independence and the implementation of reforms," Smith said.

"It is necessary to work on the resolution of the Ukrainian crisis at both the political and the economic and diplomatic levels.

"Britain has taken a leading role in the issue of imposing severe sanctions against Russia and continues to cooperate with international colleagues on a diplomatic resolution of the situation." According to Smith, Britain believes it is important to strengthen cooperation with Ukraine in the defense sphere.

"Today, we provide Ukraine with protective equipment: sleeping bags, first aid kits and other things," he said.

<http://www.unian.info/world/1042259-uk-to-continue-to-assist-ukrainian-army.html>

### **OSCE: Russia wants demilitarized zone for Donbas, 10.02.2015**

Russia has called for a demilitarized zone to be set up in south-eastern Ukraine, the OSCE special observation mission in Ukraine reported on Monday.

"The Ukrainian major general who heads the Ukrainian side of the joint control center on a ceasefire and the Russian major general who represents the Russian armed forces in the center told the media of a Russian initiative to establish a demilitarized zone in the east of Ukraine. The information was sent to Russian and Ukrainian headquarters for further discussion," report says.

<http://www.unian.info/politics/1042272-osce-russia-wants-demilitarized-zone-for-donbas.html>

### **Ukraine and IMF 'may agree on financial assistance in days, 10.02.2015**

An agreement with the International Monetary Fund on a medium-term program of financial assistance for Ukraine, designed for 3-4 years and including a plan of necessary reforms, could be reached in a few days, Ukrainian Finance Minister Natalia Jaresko said at a business forum in Kyiv on Tuesday.

"I hope we are very close to the agreement with the IMF," Jaresko said.

"I think it will be reached in a few days. It will be a very strong reform program. And it will be a medium-term program for 3-4 years," she said.

As UNIAN reported earlier, Ukraine and IMF are implementing a two-year Stand-by program approved by IMF in April 2014 and worth a total of \$17 billion. In 2014, Ukraine received two tranches of IMF loans amounting to \$4.6 billion.

<http://www.unian.info/economics/1042314-ukraine-and-imf-may-agree-on-financial-assistance-in-days.html>

### **Poroshenko says many wounded in rocket attack on Kramatorsk, 10.02.2015**

Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko said during a speech in parliament on Tuesday that many soldiers and significant numbers of civilians were wounded due in an attack on Kramatorsk by militants earlier in the day.

"Twenty-five minutes ago the militants launched an attack on Sarmat in Kramatorsk, the main headquarters of the antiterrorist operation, using Smerch rockets. The attack was aimed at the headquarters, but secondary fire hit residential areas of Kramatorsk," Poroshenko said.

The president noted that currently there are reports about injured servicemen and a significant number of injuries among the civilian population.

<http://www.unian.info/politics/1042443-poroshenko-says-many-wounded-in-rocket-attack-on-kramatorsk.html>

### **Obama and Poroshenko agree to work together after meeting in Minsk, 11.02.2015**

According to a White House statement, the presidents both stressed the need for Russia to comply with its obligations as set forth in the previous Minsk agreements, German broadcaster Deutsche Welle reports.

The presidents also agreed to closely coordinate their further actions after the "Normandy format" talks in Minsk between the leaders of Ukraine, Russia, Germany and France.

The White House statement does not say whether the presidents discussed the issue of weapons supplies to Ukraine in their telephone conversation. However, Obama pledged that Washington would provide financial assistance to Ukraine.

<http://www.unian.info/politics/1042765-obama-and-poroshenko-agree-to-work-together-after-meeting-in-minsk.html>

### **Obama advises Putin to take chance of Minsk talks, 11.02.2015**

U.S. President Barack Obama phoned Russian President Vladimir Putin to talk about the escalation of violence in the east of Ukraine and Russia's support for the militants, Ukrainian online newspaper Ukrainska Pravda reported on Tuesday, with reference to the press service of the White House.

Obama once again voiced U.S. support for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine, a White House statement said.

"Human casualties grow as a result of military actions," the U.S. president said.

"Putin has a chance to take the opportunity of talks between Russia, France, Germany and Ukraine in order to achieve a peaceful resolution of the conflict," he said.

Obama also stressed the importance of reaching a peaceful resolution and the implementation of the Minsk agreements.

<http://www.unian.info/world/1042814-obama-advises-putin-to-take-chance-of-minsk-talks.html>

### **Kremlin confirms Putin will attend Minsk peace talks, 11.02.2015**

"Russian President Vladimir Putin is visiting Minsk today, where he will take part in the 'Normandy format' peace talks," the report says.

As UNIAN reported earlier, the leaders of the "Normandy Four" countries - Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko, French President François Hollande, German Chancellor Angela Merkel and Russian President Vladimir Putin - agreed to meet in Minsk on Wednesday to discuss the situation in the Donbas and ways to bring peace to the Donbas area.

<http://www.unian.info/politics/1042834-kremlin-confirms-putin-will-attend-minsk-peace-talks.html>

### **Britain to continue to supply non-lethal weapons to Ukraine, 11.02.2015**

"We will continue to deliver non-lethal weapons in Ukraine, including flak jackets. At the same time, no positive decision regarding the supplies of lethal weapons to Ukraine has yet been taken," Lidington said.

"Of course, if the situation requires it, we can reconsider the decision, but we are not at this stage yet," Lidington said.

"However, we do not want to stand aside and allow Ukraine's troops to be completely defeated. We have to monitor the situation," he said.

<http://www.unian.info/politics/1042847-britain-to-continue-to-supply-non-lethal-weapons-to-ukraine.html>

### **Poroshenko: We are ready to declare martial law in Ukraine, 11.02.2015**

The Ukrainian government is ready to declare martial law throughout Ukraine if there is an escalation of the conflict in the east, Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko said on Wednesday during a government meeting with the heads of regional state administrations.

"I can say that I, the government and the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine are ready to take a decision on the introduction of martial law throughout the country. In any case, I will not be late with this decision, if the irresponsible actions of the aggressor lead to a further escalation of the conflict," Poroshenko said.

Poroshenko is due to attend peace talks in Minsk on Wednesday with Russian President Vladimir Putin, German Chancellor Angela Merkel and French President Francois Hollande.

<http://www.unian.info/politics/1042881-poroshenko-we-are-ready-to-declare-martial-law-in-ukraine.html>

## **Poroshenko: Ukraine and EU both to call for unconditional ceasefire at Minsk talks, 11.02.2015**

According to an UNIAN correspondent, Poroshenko said this during an extended government meeting on Wednesday attended by the heads of regional state administrations.

"I can assure you that Ukraine and the European Union will speak with one voice at the Minsk summit," Poroshenko said.

"The key point - we define and insist on: we need an unconditional ceasefire, without any preconditions," the president said.

According to Poroshenko, today may become the most important date in the history of Ukraine.

"Ukraine is striving for peace," he said.

<http://www.unian.info/politics/1042933-poroshenko-ukraine-and-eu-both-to-call-for-unconditional-ceasefire-at-minsk-talks.html>

## **New sanctions against Russia: The guillotine is ready, 11.02.2015**

The West has prepared new sanctions against Russia, the aggressor state. But their introduction was postponed at Ukraine's request. Everyone is waiting for the outcome of the latest attempt to establish peace in the Donbas. And if Putin wrecks the negotiations, a new round of confrontation is inevitable.

February 11 is D-Day. On this day, the negotiations will be held in Minsk in the so-called Normandy Four format, between Ukraine, France, Germany and Russia – the aggressor state. And if a compromise is not found, then there is a threat of a world war, scary as it may sound. European leaders have already started to voice their real concerns while doing their best to find a diplomatic solution to the Ukrainian crisis.

"I think that this is the last chance. If we can't come to a long-lasting peace agreement, we know the further scenario perfectly well: it has a name, this scenario is war," said the president of France, Francois Hollande, commenting on his Moscow visit, where he discussed the situation in Ukraine with Russian President Vladimir Putin and German Chancellor Angela Merkel.

<http://www.unian.info/politics/1042986-new-sanctions-against-russia-the-guillotine-is-ready.html>

## **Lavrov demands return of banks, social benefits to occupied areas as condition for border controls, 11.02.2015**

Russia wants the Ukrainian government to resume the payment of social benefits to people in the Donbas, after which the issue of control over the border will be resolved much more easily, Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said on Wednesday at a press conference in Moscow, according to UNIAN's correspondent in Russia.

"It is necessary to ensure the restoration of the economic communication in these areas on both sides of the contact line, including the restoration of payments, banking recovery, the return of the hryvnia to these areas and so on," Lavrov said.

"If all of this is done, the issue of border control will be resolved much more easily, since all those who live in the Donbas will know that they are provided with socio-economic services, they are safe and have guarantees that they can live without any fears of their lives and the lives of their relatives," Lavrov said.

<http://www.unian.info/politics/1042988-lavrov-demands-return-of-banks-social-benefits-to-occupied-areas-as-condition-for-border-controls.html>

## **Finance Ministry expects the first tranche from new IMF program in March, 11.02.2015**

Ukraine expects to receive the first tranche of funds under a new cooperation program with its key creditor - the International Monetary Fund - in March of this year, according to First Deputy Minister of Finance of Ukraine Ihor Umansky.

"The negotiations with the IMF mission are at the final stage. We expect the finalization of the work by the end of the week, and, perhaps, today (February 11). If all preconditions are met, then in early March we could already receive funds," Umansky said.

At present, Ukraine and IMF are in the process of agreeing four blocks of issues, he said.

<http://www.unian.info/economics/1042892-finance-ministry-expects-the-first-tranche-from-new-imf-program-in-march.html>

### **IMF to provide Ukraine with \$40 bln, including \$17.5 bln under new program, 12.02.2015**

The financial assistance package given to Ukraine over the next four years will amount to \$40 billion, including \$17.5 billion under a new program of lending to the economy of Ukraine by the International Monetary Fund, IMF Managing Director Christine Lagarde said on Thursday, according to Bloomberg.

This is just a preliminary agreement - a final decision on the new program has to be taken by the IMF Board of Directors, Lagarde said.

According to Bloomberg, the new IMF program is to last for four years.

<http://www.unian.info/economics/1043277-imf-to-provide-ukraine-with-40-bln-including-175-bln-under-new-program.html>

### **Croatian volunteers 'fighting for Ukrainian army in Donbas, 12.02.2015**

Croatian volunteers are fighting for the Ukrainian armed forces against the Russian-backed militants in the Donbas, Croat Foreign Minister Vesna Pusić said on Thursday, according to German broadcaster Deutsche Welle.

According to media reports, they came to Mariupol in January 2015 to join Ukraine's Azov volunteer battalion. The Croatian foreign minister did not name the exact number of Croats who are now involved in the war.

<http://www.unian.info/war/1043296-croatian-volunteers-fighting-for-ukrainian-army-in-donbas.html>

### **Putin: Ceasefire to take effect on February 15, 12.02.2015**

A ceasefire in the Donbas will take effect from February 15, and the withdrawal of heavy weapons for Ukrainian troops will be carried out from today's line of contact, and for the militants from the line set in the Minsk agreements of September 19, Russian President Vladimir Putin said in Minsk on Thursday.

Putin said this on the conclusion of his meeting in Minsk with Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko, German Chancellor Angela Merkel and French President Francois Hollande on the settlement of the situation in the east of Ukraine. The negotiations lasted more than 13 hours. "We have agreed, in my opinion, on a lot of issues. First, we have agreed on a ceasefire to be effective from 0000, February 15," Putin said.

Putin said the parties have also reached an agreement on early political settlement of the crisis.

<http://www.unian.info/politics/1043359-putin-ceasefire-to-take-effect-from-february-15.html>

### **Yatseniuk outlines conditions for growth of Ukrainian economy in 2016, 12.02.2015**

The government expects Ukraine's economy to resume growth in 2016, provided reforms envisaged under the new lending program with the IMF are implemented and Russia ends its aggression, Ukrainian Prime Minister Arseniy Yatseniuk said on Thursday.

As reported earlier, international financial institutions expect that the fall of Ukraine's economy will slow in 2015, although based on IMF forecasts, it may grow by 1% in 2015.

According to Ukrainian government forecasts, the Ukrainian economy will shrink by 4.5% in 2015 and grow slightly in 2016.

Official estimates of the State Statistics Service regarding Ukraine's GDP fall in 2014 have not been published yet, but according to IMF estimates the decrease was 7-7.5%.

On February 11, the Ukrainian government and the IMF agreed on a new lending program for a period of four years in an amount of \$17.5 billion, with the possibility of increasing macro financial support to \$25 billion. A final decision on such program by the IMF Executive Board is expected in about a month.

<http://www.unian.info/economics/1043474-yatseniuk-outlines-conditions-for-growth-of-ukrainian-economy-in-2016.html>

### **Mogherini: New Russia sanctions not on the agenda at EU summit, 12.02.2015**

No discussions about new sanctions against Russia are expected at today's extraordinary meeting of heads of state and government of the European Union in Brussels, EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy Federica Mogherini said on Thursday. Mogherini described the Minsk agreement, which was signed earlier on Thursday, as important but not definitive, Reuters reported.

<http://www.unian.info/politics/1043433-mogherini-new-russia-nsanctions-not-on-the-agenda-at-eu-summit.html>

### **Germany and France to help restart social payments in occupied Donbas, 12.02.2015**

Germany and France will provide technical support for the restoration of the banking system in the occupied parts of Donbas, possibly by establishing an international mechanism to facilitate the payment of social benefits, according to the new Minsk peace agreement.

According to UNIAN correspondent in Russia, the promise of support from Germany and France is stated in the declaration that was signed on Thursday in Minsk on the list of actions that are to be taken to implement the previous Minsk agreements.

<http://www.unian.info/politics/1043479-germany-and-france-to-help-restart-social-payments-in-occupied-donbas.html>

### **Poroshenko: Social payments to resume in Donbas after local elections, 12.02.2015**

The payment of social benefits in certain areas of the Donbas will resume after the local elections and the restoration of the sovereignty of Ukraine in these areas, Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko said on Thursday after the Minsk talks, according to Ukrainian television's Channel 24.

"The social benefits should be restored, but only after the stabilization of the political situation, the holding of local elections and the restoration of the state sovereignty of Ukraine in the occupied territories," Poroshenko said.

<http://www.unian.info/politics/1043510-poroshenko-social-payments-to-resume-in-donbas-after-local-elections.html>

### **President of European Parliament hopes ceasefire to become reality in Donbas, 13.02.2015**

The European Parliament hopes that the agreement reached on a ceasefire in the Donbas will become a reality, President of the European Parliament Martin Schulz said at a press conference in Brussels on Thursday, according to an UNIAN correspondent.

"I hope that the ceasefire will take place and will be respected," he said.

According to Schultz, if the military actions in the Donbas are discontinued, it will be a huge step forward.

"We'll see what happens after that. But it should be the first step," he said.

<http://www.unian.info/world/1043771-president-of-european-parliament-hopes-ceasefire-to-become-reality-in-donbas.html>

### **Merkel: EU not to cancel new sanctions against Russia, 13.02.2015**

The European Union will not cancel new sanctions against Russia that are due to come into force on Monday, February 16, German Chancellor Angela Merkel said after an EU summit in Brussels on Thursday, according to German broadcaster Deutsche Welle.

The adopted package of measures provides for the prohibition of entry to the EU of some of the Russian-backed militants and the freezing of the accounts of 19 individuals and nine companies. The names of these 19 people and the list of nine companies have not yet been made public.

"These sanctions were imposed in response to the shelling of Mariupol by the Russian-backed militants, resulting in numerous casualties among the civilian population," Merkel said.

<http://www.unian.info/politics/1043786-merkel-eu-not-to-cancel-new-sanctions-against-russia.html>

### **Canada ready to supply arms to Ukraine if Minsk agreements fail again, 13.02.2015**

Canada will consider all options for assistance to Ukraine, including arms supplies, if the Minsk agreements fail again, Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper has said.

Harper said he supported the ceasefire in the Donbas that was negotiated in Minsk, but expressed his concerns about whether the measures in the agreement would actually be implemented.

He said it was necessary "to judge [the success of the peace plan] not by words and agreements, but by actions."

<http://www.unian.info/politics/1043807-canada-ready-to-supply-arms-to-ukraine-if-minsk-agreements-fail.html>

### **US expert: Putin won tactically in Minsk, 13.02.2015**

Russian President Vladimir Putin won a tactical victory during the talks in Minsk, world-renowned U.S. expert on international relations Donald Jenson said.

"The White House has a certain frustration with the agreements reached during the Minsk talks, because it is a tactical victory for Vladimir Putin, and I agree," he said.

"In addition, Russian President Vladimir Putin is trying to weaken the sanctions imposed against his country with certain agreements," Jenson said.

However, according to Jenson, the Russian leader should remember that he can be punished for non-compliance with the agreements.

<http://www.unian.info/world/1043851-us-expert-putin-won-tactically-in-minsk.html>

### **Klimkin: Talks with Putin several times on point of breakdown, 13.02.2015**

Klimkin said the talks were very difficult, and the Ukrainian, German and French delegations considered walking out of them on several occasions.

"Several times during the 17 hours of talks, we [Ukrainians] and our colleagues from Germany and France were ready to abandon the negotiations, but we managed to come to the agreements that were announced later," Klimkin said.

<http://www.unian.info/politics/1043847-klimkin-talks-with-putin-several-times-on-point-of-breakdown.html>

### **French foreign minister: Mistral deal still suspended, 13.02.2015**

The Minsk peace deal negotiated by the leaders of Ukraine, Russia, France and Germany will have no effect on France's decision to suspend the sale of French-built Mistral helicopter carrier assault ships to Russia, French Foreign Minister Laurent Fabius said in an interview.

"How can we fulfill under present circumstances the terms of a transaction negotiated few years ago? At the moment it is suspended," Fabius said.

The EUR 1.2 billion contract for the two Mistral helicopter carriers was signed between the French company DCNS and Russia's Rosoboronexport in 2011. The first ship, the Vladivostok, was expected to go into service in the Russian Navy in 2014, while the second, named the Sevastopol, was to be commissioned in 2015.

<http://www.unian.info/world/1043884-french-foreign-minister-mistral-deal-still-suspended.html>

### **Italian foreign minister: Ukraine's joining NATO would be 'fateful error', 13.02.2015**

"Ukraine's accession to NATO would be a fateful error," Gentiloni said when asked whether Russian President Vladimir Putin can be allowed to influence Ukraine's foreign policy choices, particularly, its choice regarding NATO membership.

He said the new agreement in Minsk is based on mutual concessions, which will help avoid "dangerous drift" towards the radicalization of the conflict.

According to the Italian minister, German Chancellor Angela Merkel and French President Francois Hollande together made a contribution to the new agreement in Minsk, achieving something that Italy has always sought – bringing the conflict back to the diplomatic track.

"Let's look at the facts: we have an agreement of 12 items. Some of them support one side, some – the other," Gentiloni said.

"This agreement is built on the concessions."

<http://www.unian.info/politics/1043921-italian-foreign-minister-ukraines-joining-nato-would-be-fateful-error.html>

### **Poroshenko: No guarantee of implementation of Minsk agreements, 13.02.2015**

"We were able to reach the agreements that could give hope that the events in the Donbas would turn from the hot state into a state of political settlement," Poroshenko said.

"[But] I wish no one to have any illusions, and I don't want to give the impression of being a naive man. We still have a long way to a peace. And no one is sure that the peace terms that have been signed in Minsk will be implemented.

<http://www.unian.info/politics/1043890-poroshenko-no-guarantee-of-implementation-of-minsk-agreements.html>

### **OSCE says it requires access to all areas of Donbas, 16.02.2015**

"We tried to send our observers to Debaltseve, but they were refused to entry by the representatives of the so-called Donetsk People's Republic," Apakan said.

"The OSCE special monitoring mission calls on all parties to observe the ceasefire in all the territories, and to provide access to the OSCE observers in order to monitor the situation in accordance with the mandate given by 57 OSCE member states," Apakan said.

At the same time, he said that the ceasefire in the Donbas was being observed, with some exceptions.

<http://www.unian.info/politics/1044541-osce-says-it-requires-access-to-all-areas-of-donbas.html>

### **Cameron: Britain to support new sanctions if Minsk agreements fail, 16.02.2015**

The United Kingdom will continue its policy of ensuring unity in the European Union on sanctions against Russia if the parties fail to implement the terms of the Minsk agreements, British Prime Minister David Cameron said during a telephone conversation with Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko on Sunday, according to the presidential press service.

<http://www.unian.info/politics/1044542-cameron-britain-to-support-new-sanctions-if-minsk-agreements-fail.html>

### **Yatseniuk says gas prices for public will rise, 16.02.2015**

"We must gradually, within two years, reach a realistic price for natural gas," Yatseniuk said.

"On the one hand, this will lead to higher prices and tariffs, and on the other hand, the government will propose a new system of subsidies," he said.

"Every citizen will get two sheets of paper – an application and a declaration. And if a person understands that he meets the criteria for subsidies, and he fills in the declaration, he will not even have to go to the state service. The service itself will decide on granting subsidies," he said.

<http://www.unian.info/politics/1044550-yatseniuk-says-gas-prices-for-public-will-rise.html>

### **UN secretary general 'concerned' about continued fighting in Debaltseve, 16.02.2015**

UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon has welcomed the agreement on a ceasefire in Ukraine, but expressed his concerns about reports of continuing military clashes in Debaltseve.

"The Secretary-General welcomes the ceasefire in the East of Ukraine in accordance with the agreement dated 12 February, as part of a package of measures for the implementation of the Minsk agreements", reads a statement from the UN press service, Russian news agency RIA Novosti reported.

At the same time, the document says, "the Secretary General is deeply concerned by reports of ongoing military engagements, as well as among them in Debaltsevo, and again agitated all parties not to violate the ceasefire without any exceptions."

<http://www.unian.info/politics/1044560-un-secretary-general-concerned-about-continued-fighting-in-debaltseve.html>

### **Russia submits resolution to UN Security Council to replace Minsk agreements, 16.02.2015**

Russia is trying to push through the UN Security Council a resolution that in essence replace the Minsk agreements, Press AV journalist Andrei Vasilyev said.

According to Vasilyev, Russia is trying to place all responsibility for the peace process only on Ukraine.

The Russian version of the resolution also says that Ukraine should be the first side to withdraw

its troops 50 kilometers back from the front line after the ceasefire.

In addition, Moscow also wants to absolve itself of promises made in Minsk and demands the right to send its so-called humanitarian convoys into Ukraine, Vasilyev said.

"However, all the members of the Security Council know the consequences of these humanitarian convoys. Of course, the Russian version of the text will not work," he said.

<http://www.unian.info/politics/1044566-russia-submits-resolution-to-un-security-council-to-replace-minsk-agreements.html>

### **Yatseniuk: We must be prepared for Putin not to comply with agreements, 16.02.2015**

The Minsk agreement was another step towards peace, but we must always be prepared for Russian President Vladimir Putin may not fulfill his commitments, "because he has never fulfilled them before," Ukrainian Prime Minister Arseniy Yatseniuk has said in an interview with Ukrainian news service TSN.Tyzhden, according to the government's press service. Everything depends on Russia and our Western allies – whether we will be able to deter Russia and force it to fulfill at least something it has pledged to do," Yatseniuk said.

A ceasefire was supposed to have come into effect in Ukraine on Sunday at midnight, but militant forces have continued to attack Ukrainian positions in Debaltseve and near Mariupol.

<http://www.unian.info/politics/1044577-yatseniuk-we-must-be-prepared-for-putin-not-to-comply-with-agreements.html>

### **Klimkin says Ukraine needs defensive weapons, 16.02.2015**

"We need defensive weapons for peace, not for war, unlike the terrorists from Donetsk and Luhansk who use Russian weapons," Klimkin said.

"We need weapons to repel the attacks on civilians, on our armed forces, and in that sense they would be defensive weapons, and I emphasize that defensive weapons would help stabilize the situation," he said.

"Of course, further decision making processes [concerning arms supplies] will depend on the peace process. If observed in deeds and not only in words, then I think we will have a consistent way to stability, but if not, these decisions will quickly be brought back to the table," he said.

<http://www.unian.info/politics/1044600-klimkin-says-ukraine-needs-defensive-weapons.html>

### **EU puts new sanctions into force against Russia, 16.02.2015**

The EU has included on its travel blacklist three senior officials of the Ministry of Defense of Russia, singer and State Duma MP Iosif Kobzon, and a number of militants from the Donetsk and Luhansk People's Republics, who are also subjected to the freezing of their bank accounts. The corresponding list was published in the Official Journal of the European Union on Monday, according to an UNIAN correspondent in Brussels.

In particular, the list included Deputy Defense Minister Anatoliy Antonov, the First Deputy Defense Minister Arkadiy Bakhin, head of the Main Operations Directorate and Deputy Chief of the General Staff of the Armed Forces of the Russian Federation Andrey Kartapolov.

The list also includes MPs of the State Duma Iosif Kobzon and Valeriy Rashkin.

The rest of the list is made up of militants and members of the self-proclaimed Donetsk and Luhansk People's Republics. In particular, the list includes: the commander of the first Cossack regiment Pavel Dremov, commander of the Russian association Aleksei Milchakov, commander of the Sparta battalion Arseniy Pavlov, known as Motorola, and the commander of the Somali battalion, Mikhail Tolstoy.

<http://www.unian.info/politics/1044614-eu-puts-new-sanctions-into-force-against-russia.html>

### **Lithuania: Time to add to pressure on Russia, more sanctions and isolation, 16.02.2015**

Russia is not fulfilling the new agreements signed in Minsk, and there is a need to increase pressure on the Kremlin, along with sanctions and further isolation of Russia, Lithuanian Foreign Minister Linas Linkevicius said on Monday.

"Unfortunately, the predictions were right - Russia has no will and intention to stick to the truce. In the last day, there have been over 100 attacks, 15 killed. Time to add pressure, sanctions, isolation," Linkevicius wrote on Twitter.

<http://www.unian.info/politics/1044677-lithuania-time-to-add-pressure-on-russia-more-sanctions-and-isolation.html>

### **Kuchma: Militant leaders almost wrecked Minsk talks, 16.02.2015**

The militants almost wrecked the whole negotiation process in Minsk, and the leaders of the "Normany Four" countries were at one point ready to give up and leave, Ukraine's negotiator, second Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma said.

"The Contact Group had to sign this document with the leaders of the DPR and LPR, Oleksandr Zakharchenko and Ihor Plotnytskiy, to submit it to four presidents, and they had to go to the press, to bless this document and to say: 'Guys, let's continue to live friendly.' But when we sat down at the table to sign the document, Plotnytskiy and Zakharchenko said they would not sign anything, they did not accept the agreement," Kuchma said.

"They said that the Ukrainian armed forces from 'the Debaltseve pocket' should hand over their weapons. Everyone was left speechless. The four [leaders] almost got up and left," Kuchma said.

<http://www.unian.info/politics/1044734-kuchma-zakharchenko-almost-wrecked-minsk-talks.html>

### **Merkel: Situation in east of Ukraine extremely unstable, 16.02.2015**

"The situation is extremely unstable. This is especially connected with the situation around Debaltseve," she said.

"From the very beginning of this situation it was clear that we had to work a lot. And I've always said that there is no guarantee that our efforts will be successful. It will be an extremely hard path," Merkel said.

<http://www.unian.info/world/1044748-merkel-situation-in-east-of-ukraine-extremely-unstable.html>

### **US accuses militants, Russia of violating ceasefire in Donbas, calls for immediate end to hostilities, 17.02.2015**

The United States has urged Russia and the Russian-backed militants in eastern Ukraine to immediately stop their attacks on Ukrainian forces and start a dialogue with the OSCE on the implementation of the Minsk agreements.

"The United States is gravely concerned by the deteriorating situation in and around Debaltseve in eastern Ukraine," the U.S. State Department said in a press release issued on Monday.

"The OSCE Special Monitoring Mission confirms that attacks continue in this area as well as other locations, including Sievierodonetsk, Luhansk, and Donetsk city. The government of Ukraine reports that its forces have been fired on 129 times in the last 24 hours by Russia-backed separatists, killing five and wounding 25, including attacks on a convoy evacuating the wounded from Debaltseve.

"The separatists have publicly declared that they refuse to observe the ceasefire in Debaltseve, and OSCE monitors have not been provided security guarantees for access. These aggressive actions and statements by the Russia-backed separatists threaten the most recent ceasefire and jeopardize the planned withdrawal of heavy weapons, as called for in the February 12 Minsk packet of implementing measures.

<http://www.unian.info/world/1045018-us-accuses-militants-russia-of-violating-ceasefire-in-donbas-calls-for-immediate-end-to-hostilities.html>

### **Poroshenko calls on Merkel, Putin to take all measures to stop fighting in Debaltseve, 17.02.2015**

Speaking by phone with German Chancellor Angela Merkel and Russian President Vladimir Putin, Poroshenko called on them to take all measures to achieve a total and unconditional ceasefire, especially near Debaltseve.

The ceasefire was supposed to have come into effect on Sunday at midnight, but according to reports from the area of Debaltseve militant forces are continuing to attack the Ukrainian troops in the town.

According to the presidential press service, Poroshenko also called for the start of the withdrawal of heavy weapons under the control and verification of OSCE observers.

<http://www.unian.info/politics/1045032-poroshenko-calls-on-merkel-putin-to-take-all-measures-to-stop-fighting-in-debaltseve.html>

### **OSCE mission to try to get into Debaltseve, 17.02.2015**

The deputy head of the OSCE special monitoring mission in Ukraine Alexander Hug intends to visit Debaltseve on Tuesday, the press service of the OSCE reported on the organization's Facebook page on Monday.

"Tomorrow I'm going to visit Debaltseve. There have been numerous reports and statements concerning the situation in and around the town," Hug said.

"The OSCE special monitoring mission has been instructed, we are ready and able to monitor the situation objectively there - as long as it is safe," Hug said.

Officials from the OSCE were prevented from entering Debaltseve on Sunday by the Russian-backed militants, who said it was not safe for them.

Despite a ceasefire being supposed to have come into effect in eastern Ukraine at midnight on Sunday, the militants have continued to attack Ukrainian-held Debaltseve.

<http://www.unian.info/war/1045074-osce-mission-to-try-to-get-into-debaltseve.html>

### **UK bans Russia from military equipment exhibition, 17.02.2015**

Britain has decided not to allow Russia to participate in the DSEI international exhibition of military equipment, which will be held in London, Deputy Director General of Russian state corporation Rostec Dmitriy Shugaev has said on the Echo of Moscow radio station.

"This year, the British DSEI-2015 Exhibition will take place without the presentation of Russian arms developments. We have received a refusal to participate. We are not welcome at this exhibition," Shugaev said in an interview.

<http://www.unian.info/world/1045085-uk-bans-russia-from-military-equipment-exhibition.html>

### **Chairman of Bundestag: Germany stands with Ukraine, 17.02.2015**

The war in the Donbas is a challenge faced not only by Ukraine, but also by the whole of Europe, German Bundestag President Norbert Lammert said during a meeting with Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko on Monday, Ukrainian news broadcaster TSN has reported. The two officials discussed violations of the ceasefire and the situation around the major road and rail hub Debaltseve. Poroshenko described the Russian-backed militants as taking provocative actions.

The Ukrainian president also thanked the German government for their support and reported on the achievements of his administration.

"We have appointed a new prosecutor general. I believe this appointment was welcomed positively. He has already initiated several criminal cases, arrested some high-profile corrupt officials, and by this way I think he has got a significant credibility," Poroshenko said.

In response, the head of the Bundestag said that Ukraine may rely on a high level of trust and support in Europe.

"I do not need to say that Germany is on your side, without any objections. We share the understanding of what is happening now - this is not merely an Ukrainian issue, but an issue of the future of the whole Europe," Lammert said.

<http://www.unian.info/politics/1045110-chairman-of-bundestag-germany-stands-with-ukraine.html>

### **EU to lift sanctions from four Yanukovich's allies, 17.02.2015**

The EU intends to weaken sanctions against inner circle of ex-President of Ukraine Viktor Yanukovich because of the lack of evidence on corrupt activity charges.

The Wall Street Journal publication notes that sanctions will be soon lifted from four other Yanukovich's allies. Sanctions against four more ex-officials will be extended only for three months to allow time for the Ukrainian authorities to provide evidence of their crimes.

If Ukraine does not provide new evidence, sanctions will be removed from four former officials, including the son of fugitive ex-president.

[http://mw.ua/WORLD/eu-to-lift-sanctions-from-four-yanukovich-s-allies-1221\\_.html](http://mw.ua/WORLD/eu-to-lift-sanctions-from-four-yanukovich-s-allies-1221_.html)

### **Poland to invest 33.6 billion euro in its Armed Forces' modernization, 17.02.2015**

Poland began to spend unprecedented money to modernize its Armed Forces.

According to YahooNews, referring to the APF, Poland has allocated 33.6 billion euro (\$ 42 billion) to modernize its Armed Forces, which will last for ten years. The program will cover defense systems, anti-aircraft missile systems, AFVs, submarines and combat drones.

[http://mw.ua/WORLD/poland-to-invest-33-6-billion-euro-in-its-armed-forces-modernization-1218\\_.html](http://mw.ua/WORLD/poland-to-invest-33-6-billion-euro-in-its-armed-forces-modernization-1218_.html)

### **OSCE calls for immediate cessation of hostilities in Ukraine, 18.02.2015**

The head of the OSCE's Special Monitoring Mission (SMM) in Ukraine Ertugrul Apakan called for an immediate cessation of fighting in southeastern Ukraine.

"So far, the so-called" DPR "and" LPR "has blocked OSCE's access to Debaltseve. We insist that they immediately stop the attack. We insist on unlimited access to Debaltseve" – announced the head of the SMM in a statement, published on the OSCE's official website. Ertugrul Apakan called on the parties of the conflict to confirm their commitment to the ceasefire. According to him, it is necessary to allow the SMM's visit to Debaltseve.

[http://mw.ua/WORLD/osce-calls-for-immediate-cessation-of-hostilities-in-ukraine-1226\\_.html](http://mw.ua/WORLD/osce-calls-for-immediate-cessation-of-hostilities-in-ukraine-1226_.html)

### **US accuses Russia and militants of violating ceasefire in eastern Ukraine, 18.02.2015**

US Vice President Joe Biden announced that if ceasefire violations continue, "costs" will increase for Russia.

A statement of the White House says that Joe Biden, in a telephone conversation with President Poroshenko, has "strongly condemned the violation of the truce by the militants, operating in coordination with the Russian forces near the town Debaltseve." Vice President warned that "if Russia continues to violate Minsk agreements, including a document signed on February 12", the price of supporting militants by Russia will increase.

[http://mw.ua/WORLD/us-accuses-russia-and-militants-of-violating-ceasefire-in-eastern-ukraine-1223\\_.html](http://mw.ua/WORLD/us-accuses-russia-and-militants-of-violating-ceasefire-in-eastern-ukraine-1223_.html)

### **Canada imposes new sanctions against Russia: 37 individuals and 17 companies are in the list, 18.02.2015**

Canada announced about the imposition of new sanctions against Russia because of the situation in eastern Ukraine, states website of the Canadian PM Stephen Harper.

37 individuals and 17 companies from Russia and Ukraine are in the new list.

The Russian company "Rosneft" is in the list of sanctions.

The sanctions have also affected the representatives of the self-proclaimed "LPR" and "DPR", including a self-proclaimed envoy at the Donbas Contact Group, Vladyslav Deynega.

[http://mw.ua/ECONOMICS/canada-imposes-new-sanctions-against-russia-37-individuals-and-17-companies-are-in-the-list-1227\\_.html](http://mw.ua/ECONOMICS/canada-imposes-new-sanctions-against-russia-37-individuals-and-17-companies-are-in-the-list-1227_.html)

### **British Foreign Office sees Russia's true intentions, 18.02.2015**

In case of ceasefire violation in Ukraine, the EU should continue sanctions against Russia, announced the UK's Foreign Secretary, Philip Hammond, reports Reuters.

"I heard this morning that President Putin calls on Ukrainian forces to surrender in Debaltseve. It is absolutely not in the spirit of what was agreed last week in Minsk, and shows Russia's true intentions," – said the Secretary to reporters in Lisbon.

"If the ceasefire agreement is not followed, and we see that Russia acts in bad faith, we must first extend the existing sanctions until the end of the year," – announced the official.

[http://mw.ua/WORLD/british-foreign-office-sees-russia-s-true-intentions-1234\\_.html](http://mw.ua/WORLD/british-foreign-office-sees-russia-s-true-intentions-1234_.html)

### **Putin told Hungarians how Ukrainian Armed Forces lose to "miners" and "tractor drivers", 18.02.2015**

Russian President Vladimir Putin after talks with Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orban announced that the Ukrainian side loses, and has actually no other choice but to lay down their weapons, namely – in Debaltseve.

Moreover, the leader of the Russian Federation said that the UAFs are losing to "former miners and tractor drivers." He added philosophically that "life is life" and it is not necessary to concentrate on this."

[http://mw.ua/WORLD/putin-told-hungarians-how-ukrainian-armed-forces-lose-to-miners-and-tractor-drivers-1231\\_.html](http://mw.ua/WORLD/putin-told-hungarians-how-ukrainian-armed-forces-lose-to-miners-and-tractor-drivers-1231_.html)

### **Poroshenko denies encirclement in Debaltseve: "withdrawal of troops is planned", 19.02.2015**

Ukrainian Armed Forces are carrying out a planned withdrawal of Ukrainian troops from Debaltseve, announced the Ukrainian president before departing to the ATO area.

"Now I can tell you that this morning the Armed Forces of Ukraine together with the National Guard finished the planned operation on orderly withdrawal of the troops from Debaltseve" – announced Poroshenko at the airport before flying to the ATO area on Wednesday around noon, reports "Interfax-Ukraine."

According to him, nearly 80% of troops have been already withdrawn from Debaltseve.

[http://mw.ua/UKRAINE/poroshenko-denies-encirclement-in-debaltseve-withdrawal-of-troops-is-planned-1232\\_.html](http://mw.ua/UKRAINE/poroshenko-denies-encirclement-in-debaltseve-withdrawal-of-troops-is-planned-1232_.html)

### **Poroshenko: Russia at Minsk demanded ceasefire be introduced after 20 days, 19.02.2015**

President of Ukraine Petro Poroshenko said during the opening of the National Security and Defense Council meeting on Wednesday evening that during the peace talks in Minsk Russia demanded that a ceasefire be put in place only after 20 days.

According to Poroshenko, the ceasefire topic dominated the discussions during the Minsk talks in the "Normandy format" between the leaders of Ukraine, Germany, France and Russia on February 12.

"At first we received a very strange proposal regarding the ceasefire being introduced after 20 days. That means that for three weeks Ukrainians would actually have had to [continue to] be under fire from Russian mercenaries, with Ukraine paying a very high price," Poroshenko said.

<http://www.unian.info/politics/1046065-poroshenko-russia-at-minsk-demanded-ceasefire-be-introduced-after-20-days.html>

### **Defense ministry: Russia training mercenaries in Transnistria and Crimea for hybrid war against Ukraine, 19.02.2015**

Russia is continuing to secretly supply weapons to and train illegal armed groups, the Ministry of Defense of Ukraine has claimed.

Deputy Minister of Defence and Chief of Staff Petro Mekhed said this at a meeting with the rapporteur of the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy of the PACE Christina Zelenkova, Acting Speaker of the General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine Vladyslav Seleznev said at a briefing in Kyiv.

According to Seleznev, "the parties discussed the current situation in the ATO and facts evidencing the presence of the Russian armed forces on the territory of Ukraine."

Mekhed said that "in spite of the systematic violation by the Russian Federation and the illegal armed groups of the Minsk agreement, the Ukrainian leadership is directing all its efforts to end the bloodshed, ensuring a peaceful settlement and preventing a frozen conflict in the Donbas."

<http://www.unian.info/politics/1046135-defense-ministry-russia-training-mercenaries-in-transnistria-and-crimea-for-hybrid-war-against-ukraine.html>

### **Klimkin: Ukraine begins formal talks on UN, EU peacekeeping mission to Ukraine, 19.02.2015**

Ukraine has started formal talks on inviting a UN peacekeeping mission to the country, Ukrainian Minister of Foreign Affairs Pavlo Klimkin said at a joint press conference on Thursday with Greek Minister of Foreign Affairs Nikos Kotzias.

Klimkin said that recently he had held intensive informal consultations with key stakeholders regarding the expediency of a peacekeeping mission, its mandate and composition.

"Official discussions of this issue started only today - after yesterday's decision of the National Security and Defense Council with the appropriate appeal to the UN and the EU" Klimkin said. He said Ukraine was committed to the "complete and immediate implementation" of the Minsk agreements, and peacekeepers are required to ensure the implementation of these agreements.

<http://www.unian.info/politics/1046194-klimkin-ukraine-begins-formal-talks-on-un-eu-peacekeeping-mission-to-ukraine.html>

### **Medvedev: Russia ready to supply free gas to occupied areas of Donbas, 19.02.2015**

Russia is prepared to launch free supplies of Russian gas to militant-occupied areas of Ukraine's Donbas, Russian Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev said at a meeting of the Russian government on Thursday, according to an UNIAN correspondent in Russia.

"Another problem is related to gas supplies, because by a decision of the Ukrainian authorities, which is still in force, there is a situation in that area in which a number of settlements have been left without gas supplies," Medvedev said.

"I would like the Ministry of Energy and Gazprom to prepare a proposal for the provision of humanitarian assistance in the form of gas supplies for the needs of these regions," he said.

<http://www.unian.info/politics/1046152-medvedev-russia-ready-to-supply-free-gas-to-occupied-areas-of-donbas.html>

### **OSCE mission sees no withdrawal of heavy weapons in Donbas, 19.02.2015**

The OSCE special monitoring mission has not observed the withdrawal of heavy weapons in the conflict zone in eastern Ukraine, OSCE Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine spokesman Michael Bociurkiw said on Thursday.

According to Bociurkiw, observers have only recorded the movement of military equipment.

He also said that the OSCE experts couldn't still visit Debaltseve, according to Russian news agency Rosbalt.

The representatives of the mission expressed deep concern over the events in Debaltseve and called on the militants to immediately stop their offensive.

<http://www.unian.info/politics/1046209-osce-mission-sees-no-withdrawal-of-heavy-weapons-in-donbas.html>

### **Poroshenko: Russia will not take part in peacekeeping mission in Donbas, 19.02.2015**

Russia as an aggressor country cannot take part in the peacekeeping mission in Ukraine, Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko said at a joint press conference on Thursday with EU Commissioner for European Neighborhood and Enlargement Negotiations, Johannes Hahn.

"I would like to strongly emphasize that the Russian Federation as an aggressor country cannot and will not participate in this peacekeeping operation," Poroshenko said.

"We do not agree to such a format for the peacekeeping mission, creating the threat of legitimizing [the presence in Ukraine of] several thousand soldiers of the Russian military contingent. We already have enough [such] 'peacekeepers,'" the president said.

<http://www.unian.info/politics/1046210-poroshenko-russia-will-not-take-part-in-peacekeeping-mission-in-donbas.html>

### **Poroshenko announces agreements with the EU if fighting and shelling continue, 19.02.2015**

"I reached agreement with the EU leadership on the day I made the decision about the withdrawal of our troops from Debaltseve, regarding an extremely prompt response in case of further violations of the Minsk agreement in relation to the ceasefire and withdrawal of heavy weapons," President of Ukraine Petro Poroshenko said.

<http://www.unian.info/politics/1046223-poroshenko-announces-agreements-with-the-eu-if-fighting-and-shelling-continue.html>

### **Former NATO Secretary General admits failure of idea of nuclear disarmament of Ukraine, 19.02.2015**

Former Secretary General of NATO [1999-2004] and Secretary of State for Defence and Shadow Secretary of State for Scotland George Robertson says the Budapest Memorandum of 1994 represented "the deal struck when Ukraine, holding the world's third largest nuclear weapons stockpile, agreed to give them up in return for solemn security assurances from Russia, the US and the UK."

The idea of nuclear disarmament has failed and "led to no copycat reductions elsewhere."

"I started my own political career, as many people know, carrying a Ban the Bomb banner. By giving up the Bomb I believed that we would give a lead and start a benign chain reaction. I was wrong. As Defence Secretary of this country [1997-1999] I was responsible for the biggest ever reductions in our nuclear weapon capacity and it led to no copycat reductions elsewhere," Robertson writes as a columnist of Herald Scotland, according to Novoe Vremya.

<http://www.unian.info/world/1046332-former-nato-secretary-general-admits-failure-of-idea-of-nuclear-disarmament-of-ukraine.html>

### **Poroshenko suggests EU send military experts to Donbas, 19.02.2015**

Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko discussed this issue during a telephone conversation with President of the European Council Donald Tusk, the presidential press service reported. Poroshenko and Tusk also shared their views about the situation in Donbas and touched upon the status of the implementation of the Minsk agreements. The Ukrainian president noted that the destruction of the town of Debaltseve by pro-Russian militants and on-going shelling in the areas of Donetsk Airport, Pervomaisk, Mariupol and Horlivka do not indicate a permanent ceasefire and subsequently the willingness of the parties to abide by the Minsk accords consistently. To facilitate the implementation of the peace agreements, Ukraine's National Security and Defense Council has decided to appeal to the UN Security Council and the Council of the European Union to send peacekeeping forces to Ukraine, Poroshenko told Tusk.

<http://www.unian.info/politics/1046340-poroshenko-suggests-eu-send-military-experts-to-donbas.html>

### **Parliament's National Security Committee to decide who is to blame for Debaltseve losses, 19.02.2015**

The General Staff's performance at the Debaltseve staging area will be considered at a closed meeting of the Ukrainian parliament's committee for national security and defense on Monday, Chairman of the committee Serhiy Pashinsky, MP from the Bloc of Petro Poroshenko, told Radio Svoboda.

"Given the structure of our committee where more than half are military engaged in all the military operations, I think we will take some decisions, which will be announced in public. The decisions will be clear and tough. People must clearly do their duty. If they cannot, new people need to be found," Pashinsky said.

He says that the withdrawal of Ukrainian troops from Debaltseve cannot be treated as dishonor, as the military units were pulling out from the town in an organized way, maintaining their combat capability. Pashinsky claims that all parallels between the Debaltseve battle and the Ilovaisk pocket [severe fights in August 2014] are inappropriate.

<http://www.unian.info/politics/1046347-parliaments-national-security-committee-to-decide-who-is-to-blame-for-debaltseve-losses.html>

### **Estonia President: EU's careful position on Ukraine will bring conflict to its borders, 19.02.2015**

Estonian President thinks EU's careful position on the Donbas crisis is a mistake.

According to him, Europe is afraid to see the truth and stubbornly refuses to admit the failure of Minsk-2 agreements.

"Europe now takes a careful position on Ukrainian crisis. No one wants commentators arguing that this will not work to be right," – announced the Estonian President Toomas Hendrik Ilves in an interview to Postimees, reports "Europeyska Pravda."

According to the Estonian President, it is not yet clear whether the West has plan "B" in case Minsk agreement is declared a failure.

[http://mw.ua/WORLD/estonia-president-eu-s-careful-position-on-ukraine-will-bring-conflict-to-its-borders-1246\\_.html](http://mw.ua/WORLD/estonia-president-eu-s-careful-position-on-ukraine-will-bring-conflict-to-its-borders-1246_.html)

### **K Lords: EU and Britain failed to see the birth of Kremlin's aggression, 20.02.2015**

Members of the House of Lords committee have sharply criticized Western diplomats for "catastrophically wrong estimation" of Moscow's actions before the crisis in Ukraine.

According to them, the EU underestimated the depth of Russian opposition to Ukraine's European integration plans, while Britain did not show "a solid and significant" participation in solving the crisis, reports BBC.

The main cause for this failure is the reduction of financing, believe the British Lords. This had led to the fact that the Foreign Office has been short of professionals able to predict the "depth" of Russia's aggression towards Ukraine.

[http://mw.ua/WORLD/uk-lords-eu-and-britain-failed-to-see-the-birth-of-kremlin-s-aggression-1252\\_.html](http://mw.ua/WORLD/uk-lords-eu-and-britain-failed-to-see-the-birth-of-kremlin-s-aggression-1252_.html)

### **Pentagon puts Russia, Al-Qaeda and ISIS in one row, 20.02.2015**

The Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Gen. Martin Dempsey announced that Russia's fueling "fire" in Europe which has not been seen on the continent for the last 70 years.

According to the American General, today Russia poses a potential threat to the world, fueling the fire of nationalism. While speaking at a conference at the Texas A&M University, General Dempsey categorized Russia at the top of seven major threats to the United States and the world. The list also includes Iran, North Korea, Al-Qaeda, Islamic State, China and cyber attacks threatening US infrastructures.

<http://mw.ua/WORLD/pentagon-puts-russia-al-qaeda-and-isis-in-one-row-1251.html>

### **Steinmeier: Peacekeepers in Ukraine are only possible with all parties' consent, 20.02.2015**

German Foreign Minister Frank-Walter Steinmeier believes that primarily a consensus should be reached before the final decision regarding a peacekeeping mission in the Donbas. He also thinks the sides should agree which countries will take part in the mission.

"It all takes time. We need to check if this is possible," – announced the head of the German Ministry, reports "Ukrinform".

Steinmeier emphasized that this mission is possible if there is a stable ceasefire. But the situation is "very fragile" now.

German Foreign Minister also said that the idea of involving peacekeepers had been announced at a meeting in Minsk last week, but had not been included in the final documents of the "Normandy Four" summit.

<http://mw.ua/WORLD/steinmeier-peacekeepers-in-ukraine-are-only-possible-with-all-parties-consent-1249.html>

### **Yanukovych says he'll return to Ukraine as soon as possible, 21.02.2015**

Former Ukrainian President Viktor Yanukovych said in a recent interview with Channel One Russia that he would come back to Ukraine as soon as he had an opportunity.

"I couldn't get rid of the thought of returning and leading the protest movement first, but everyone agreed that if I came back, the enemies would do anything to destroy me. My close associates were against my going to Ukraine. The events were unfolding rapidly, and I feel sorry that I couldn't have done that. As soon as I get an opportunity, I will return and will do my best to make Ukrainians' life easier," Yanukovych said.

<http://www.unian.info/politics/1046924-yanukovych-says-hell-return-to-ukraine-as-soon-as-possible.html>

### **Poroshenko: Ukraine looks forward to Yanukovych's return, 21.02.2015**

Poroshenko said this at a press conference in Zaporizhia on Saturday when answering a question from a journalist, an UNIAN correspondent reported.

When asked to comment on Yanukovych's statement recently published by some Russian media that he would like to come back to Ukraine, Poroshenko said: "I think this will be good for Ukraine. [I'm] not sure if it's good for him. We're looking forward to meeting him. And we're prepared for the meeting. The sooner he comes to Ukraine, the better it is for Ukraine. Let him lead a protest movement. The best of the options will be in prison."

<http://www.unian.info/politics/1046941-poroshenko-ukraine-looks-forward-to-yanukovychs-return.html>

### **BBC: United States, Britain mulling additional sanctions against Russia over Ukraine, 21.02.2015**

The United States and its allies are mulling additional sanctions against Russia over Ukraine, U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry said at a meeting with his British counterpart Philip Hammond.

"We are not going to play this game [with Russia]," Kerry said.

"Russia has engaged in an absolutely brazen and cynical process over these last days," he added, BBC Ukraine reported.

<http://www.unian.info/world/1046951-bbc-united-states-britain-mulling-additional-sanctions-against-russia-over-ukraine.html>

## **Russia steps up military air operation over Europe, supplies more weapons to Ukraine – Pentagon, 21.02.2015**

Pentagon experts claim "an uptick to Russian air activity" over Europe.

"We have continued to see a large volume of equipment flowing from Russia into Ukraine" in violation of the recent peace agreements signed in Minsk, Army Col. Steve Warren, a Pentagon spokesman, said, according to the Voice of America.

"Russia's actions have been destabilizing throughout the region," he added.

According to him, Russia has also stepped up military air operations over Europe. "There's been an uptick to Russian air activity in the region," he said.

<http://www.unian.info/war/1046954-russia-steps-up-military-air-operation-over-europe-supplies-more-weapons-to-ukraine-pentagon.html>

## **Poroshenko pledges tough reaction to organizers of fatal blast in Kharkiv, 22.02.2015**

According to President Poroshenko, an act of terror in Kharkiv is a bold attempt to expand the zone of terrorism.

Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko has pledged a tough reaction to those who are involved in a fatal blast in Kharkiv on Sunday, according to his Facebook post.

"It's Shrove Sunday today, but despite this, evil terrorism has revealed its predatory nature. I express my deepest condolences to the relatives and friends of the victims," Poroshenko wrote on Facebook.

"The blasts staged by non-human creatures during a peaceful march in Kharkiv is a bold attempt to expand the zone of terrorism. Those who are involved in this will get a tough reaction! Those responsible will be held accountable," the president wrote.

<http://www.unian.info/politics/1047091-poroshenko-pledges-tough-reaction-to-organizers-of-fatal-blast-in-kharkiv.html>

## **Polish President supports Poroshenko's initiative to invite peacekeepers to Donbas, 22.02.2015**

The presidents of Poland and Ukraine discussed the situation in Donbas and the implementation of the Minsk accords.

President of Poland Bronislaw Komorowski says he supports his Ukrainian counterpart Petro Poroshenko's initiative to invite peacekeeping forces to the east of Ukraine.

As the Ukrainian president's press service reported, Poroshenko on Sunday met with Komorowski who is now in Ukraine on the occasion of the memorable events devoted to the anniversary of the Revolution of Dignity.

The two presidents discussed the situation in Donbas and the implementation of the Minsk agreements.

"We support the implementation of the Minsk agreements, but we will always remind France and Germany that they have undertaken particular responsibility," Komorowski said, having welcomed Poroshenko's initiative to invite peacekeepers to Donbas.

<http://www.unian.info/politics/1047104-polish-president-supports-poroshenkos-initiative-to-invite-peacekeepers-to-donbas.html>

## **Steinmeier: militants' possible attack on Mariupol would be explicit violation of Minsk accords, 22.02.2015**

Germany's foreign minister stresses that Moscow's task is to continue pressing pro-Russian militants in eastern Ukraine for reduction of their military activity.

"An attack on Mariupol would be an explicit violation of the Minsk agreements, it would defy the principles of the truce," German Foreign Minister Frank-Walter Steinmeier said.

Also Steinmeier claims there are signs that indicate the easing of the tension in Donbas.

"There are early signs that can be called easing. The parties have finally exchanged prisoners, expressed the will to start the withdrawal of heavy weapons, not everywhere, but at key points of the front line – these all are part of the Minsk agreements," Steinmeier said.

"It's important now that the separatists reduce their military activity. Moscow's task is to continue pressing them for this," he added.

<http://www.unian.info/politics/1047099-steinmeier-militants-possible-attack-on-mariupol-would-be-explicit-violation-of-minsk-accords.html>

### **OSCE reports humanitarian disaster in Debaltseve, 22.02.2015**

This was announced by spokesperson for the OSCE Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine Iryna Hudyma in an interview with a TASS correspondent.

"We spent there about half an hour yesterday. We saw not a single facility not damaged by shells, not a single intact building. There is neither water, nor food, or heat, or electricity, or medicines in the town," she said.

The OSCE also said that its monitors did not plan to visit Debaltseve on Sunday, as they were going to other towns.

<http://www.unian.info/war/1047109-osce-reports-humanitarian-disaster-in-debaltseve.html>

### **Georgia 'has no problem with appointments of Georgians to Ukraine government', 23.02.2015**

President of Georgia Giorgi Margvelashvili has denied there is any conflict in the relations between his state and Ukraine due to the Ukrainian Cabinet of Ministers employing Georgian-born ministers.

Margvelashvili also stressed that he personally respects the sovereign government of Ukraine and does not consider it necessary to comment on specific appointments.

The Georgian president noted that the situations in Georgia and Ukraine are similar.

<http://www.unian.info/world/1047354-georgia-has-no-problem-with-appointments-of-georgians-to-ukraine-government.html>

### **US Senator slams White House on Ukraine: 'I'm ashamed of my country', 23.02.2015**

The White House should arm Kyiv to help it in its conflict with Russian-backed militants in the east of Ukraine, U.S. Senator John McCain said during the Face the Nation program on U.S. television's CBS channel on Sunday, according to Ukrainian news broadcaster TSN.

According to McCain, European countries such as France and Germany have failed to stop Russian President Vladimir Putin's attack on Ukraine.

"I believe that the German chancellor [Angela Merkel] and the president of France [François Hollande] legitimized, for the first in the last 70 years, the dismemberment of a country in Europe. It's shameful - Vladimir Putin has not paid any price, even the ceasefire was violated until he achieved his objective," McCain said.

McCain also called on the U.S. government to supply U.S. weapons to Ukraine in order to help the country in its fight against the Russian-backed militants and separatists.

"The Ukrainians are not asking for American boots on the ground... They're asking for weapons to defend themselves, and they're being slaughtered," he said.

<http://www.unian.info/politics/1047314-us-senator-slams-white-house-on-ukraine-im-ashamed-of-my-country.html>

### **Cameron calls for crackdown on Russian spies, 23.02.2015**

British Prime Minister David Cameron on Sunday called on the leaders of the British intelligence services to step up their measures against foreign agents on the streets of London in order to combat a potential threat to national security.

British counterintelligence (MI5) plans to intensify its activities in searching for and monitoring the employees of the Russian special services operating in the UK in the wake of Cameron's call, Russian news agency RIA Novosti has reported, quoting UK newspaper The Times.

"A senior source in the security services said there had been a change in policy toward Russian spies operating in the country. The heads of MI5 and MI6 were ordered to increase surveillance of agents on the streets of London," the newspaper wrote.

It has also been reported in the newspaper that the ministers were ordered to put in place security measures "via direct actions" against spies, and the pilots of Russian bombers "violating UK airspace."

<http://www.unian.info/world/1047296-cameron-calls-for-crackdown-on-russian-spies.html>

### **Russia 'stuffing' Donbas with newest weapons, 23.02.2015**

Russia is continuing to send its latest weapons to the Donbas, Special Ambassador of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Dmytro Kuleba said.

"Ukraine needs to get modern weapons from the West in order to stop the Kremlin's plans," Kuleba added.

The diplomat also said that the plan for the withdrawal of troops should be performed simultaneously with the militants.

"The withdrawal of the troops must be bilateral. The plans are agreed, but the militants can change their plans as directed by the Kremlin," Kuleba said.

"If Russia does not implement the agreements, it will face more sanctions," he said.

<http://www.unian.info/politics/1047284-russia-stuffing-donbas-with-newest-weapons.html>

### **Lubkivskiy: Russia responsible for Kharkiv attack, 23.02.2015**

The bomb attack on a peace march in Kharkiv on Sunday was arranged in the Russian city of Belgorod, the spokesman for Ukraine's SBU security service Markian Lubkivskiy said on Ukrainian television's Podrobnosti program on Sunday evening.

"The SBU has detained four people. They are from Belgorod, Russia. This attack was prepared in advance. They received instructions from Russia," he said.

According to Lubkivskiy, another attack was prepared in Odessa.

"The security service also managed to prevent another attack in Odessa. It was planned the same way as the one carried out in Kharkiv," he said.

The attack killed two people and injured a dozen. The SBU has released a video showing what it says is the detention of the suspects. The video also shows a grenade launcher being removed from the suspects' car.

<http://www.unian.info/politics/1047279-lubkivskiy-russia-responsible-for-kharkiv-attack.html>

### **Poroshenko accuses Russian government in repressions against Crimean population, 23.02.2015**

President Poroshenko has accused the Russian authorities in repressions against the population of the occupied Crimea.

"Mistrust, discord and enmity have been brought to the Crimea for the last year. There are numerous facts of ethnic Ukrainian, Tatar, Russian and other ethnic groups', with the pro-Ukrainian views, rights' violations by the Russian invader. Police arbitrariness dominates the peninsula, arrests on false pretext, searches, even in religious institutions, leaders of Mejlis are being deported and arrested," - announced the Ukrainian President because of the anniversary of the tragic events in the Crimea, reports the press service of the President.

[http://mw.ua/UKRAINE/poroshenko-accuses-russian-government-in-repressions-against-crimean-population-1268\\_.html](http://mw.ua/UKRAINE/poroshenko-accuses-russian-government-in-repressions-against-crimean-population-1268_.html)

### **Secretary Kerry: new sanctions against Russia to have a wider effect, 23.02.2015**

New sanctions against Russia, if they are entered by the United States, must sow doubts among Russians in the correctness of Putin's policy.

According to the New York Times, almost a week after the ceasefire, the Secretary of State John Kerry met with his British counterpart to discuss the introduction of additional sanctions against Russia because of its "flagrant" violation of Minsk agreements.

"We know for sure what Russia's supplying to the separatists. We're not going to sit and do nothing and be a part of this extremely cowardly behavior while other nation's loosing its sovereignty and integrity," – said Kerry at the meeting with the British Foreign Minister Philip Hammond.

[http://mw.ua/WORLD/secretary-kerry-new-sanctions-against-russia-to-have-a-wider-effect-1272\\_.html](http://mw.ua/WORLD/secretary-kerry-new-sanctions-against-russia-to-have-a-wider-effect-1272_.html)

### **Putin hopes there will be no war with Ukraine, 24.02.2015**

Russian President Vladimir Putin considers a war scenario with Ukraine as unlikely.

"I think that this apocalyptic scenario is hardly possible, and hope that it will never come," – announced Putin in an interview with the "Russia-1" TV channel.

Russian President also commented on Ukraine's President's statement to return Crimea.

"As regarding the return of some areas, these are things of revisionist nature, and the issue is not about returning some territories somewhere," – commented Putin.

Russian President believes that Ukraine should have a normal life inside its country before thinking of returning Crimea.

<http://mw.ua/WORLD/putin-hopes-there-will-be-no-war-with-ukraine-1275.html>

### **Kopacz: No obstacles to military cooperation between Ukraine and Poland, 24.02.2015**

Nothing prevents Ukrainian and Polish defense industries from close cooperation," Kopacz said.

According to Kopacz, the results of the Minsk agreements have proved to be "very fragile."

"At the last meeting of the Council of Europe, I was one of the few who urged that the European Commission prepare economic sanctions in case the agreement was not be implemented," she said.

According to Kopacz, Moscow is trying to weaken the unity of the European Union. She said that a few days ago, Russia also banned imports of Polish cheese and cheese products. She said, however, that Moscow intends to cancel the embargo on agricultural products from some EU countries.

<http://www.unian.info/world/1047855-kopacz-no-obstacles-to-military-cooperation-between-ukraine-and-poland.html>

### **Klimkin calls on UN Security Council to send peacekeepers to Donbas, 24.02.2015**

"We hope that the member states of the United Nations and, first of all, the UN Security Council, will support this request for help," he said.

"This initiative does not contradict the Minsk agreements, but rather can help to fulfill these agreements and to restore peace," Klimkin said.

The minister also said that the agreements on a ceasefire reached by the "Normandy Four" leaders in Minsk had not been implemented.

<http://www.unian.info/politics/1047772-klimkin-calls-on-un-security-council-to-send-peacekeepers-to-donbas.html>

### **Hroisman: EU not to sacrifice Ukraine's European hopes to aggressor, 25.02.2015**

"I've just returned from Brussels. My negotiations in the European Parliament were encouraging. The European Parliament has a sincere desire to support us, and not only declaratively," he said.

"I saw that political association for our European colleagues was not an empty [phrase]. Our partners feel morally responsible for the sovereign European vector of Ukraine. And they will not sacrifice it to the aggressor," Hroisman said.

He also said the "homework" for Ukraine was not to stop, but to carry out reforms in spite of the aggression coming from Russia.

<http://www.unian.info/politics/1048438-hroisman-eu-not-to-sacrifice-ukraines-european-hopes-to-aggressor.html>

### **US may strengthen its sanctions against Russia in coming days, says Kerry, 25.02.2015**

Kerry, speaking at a hearing of the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the Congress, said the militants in eastern Ukraine are an extension of the Russian army.

He has also said that U.S. President Barack Obama will make a decision on the introduction of new sanctions and the beginning of arms supplies to Ukraine in the next few days.

At present, he noted, "there is a serious discussion between us and our European allies, as to what sanctions we will bring next and when they are due to come into force."

Earlier, Kerry said Russian officials had lied to him repeatedly about Russia's involvement in the Ukraine conflict.

<http://www.unian.info/world/1048368-us-may-strengthen-its-sanctions-against-russia-in-coming-days-says-kerry.html>

### **Cameron: UK to send military experts to Ukraine, 25.02.2015**

Britain will send 75 servicemen to Ukraine in March to act as advisers and instructors in infantry tactics and logistic support, but they will be "far from the line of contact of the warring parties," UK Prime Minister David Cameron told the Liaison Committee of the British Parliament.

"If Russia is not stopped now in Ukraine, tomorrow we will see the destabilization of Moldova and the Baltic countries," Cameron said.

The prime minister also said that the continuation of Russian interference in Ukraine may lead to new sanctions against Russia, including a third package of sanctions against key sectors of the Russian economy.

When asked about the possibility of weapons supplies to Ukraine, the British prime minister said that it was now the time to think about this. He said he did not exclude the possibility of the UK supplying Ukraine weapons in the future, but so far the issue concerns only non-lethal equipment.

<http://www.unian.info/world/1048358-uk-to-send-military-experts-to-ukraine.html>

### **Polish Foreign Ministry calls for more sanctions on Russia automatically if Mariupol attacked, 25.02.2015**

"The bill for the [such] sanctions should be ready and lie on the table. Russia must understand that if it attacks Mariupol, these sanctions will be automatically imposed," he said.

According to Schetyna, the restrictive measures may include the disconnecting Russia from the SWIFT banking system, which would be a blow against bank transfers, an embargo on the export of coal, and many other steps.

"We know what we can do," he said.

"If they start to attack Mariupol, many things will change, including European and world politics with regard to Russia," Schetyna said.

<http://www.unian.info/world/1048321-polish-foreign-ministry-calls-for-more-sanctions-on-russia-automatically-if-mariupol-attacked.html>

### **Pro-Russian separatists still refuse to grant safe access to OSCE monitors in Donbas – OSCE PA President, 25.02.2015**

OSCE Parliamentary Assembly President Ilkka Kanerva (MP, Finland) has criticized pro-Russian militants' activity in eastern Ukraine for continuing refusal to "grant unlimited, safe access" to OSCE monitors in Donbas, BBC reported.

"I am profoundly disturbed by the illegal separatists' continuing refusal to grant unlimited, safe access to OSCE monitors on the ground in Ukraine and their violations of the Minsk Package of Measures," he said in a statement.

"By extension, I am also disturbed by Russia's apparent unwillingness to publicly insist that the rebels immediately allow the monitors access, stop all ceasefire violations and withdraw all heavy weapons. Any attempts by the rebels to threaten the city of Mariupol must be met with a swift and decisive response by the international community," Kanerva's statement reads.

<http://www.unian.info/war/1048716-pro-russian-separatists-still-refuse-to-grant-safe-access-to-osce-monitors-in-donbas-osce-pa-president.html>

### **EU President Tusk: more sanctions against Russia over Ukraine "remain on the table", 25.02.2015**

European Union President Donald Tusk reiterates that the EU will be ready to impose fresh sanctions against Russia over Ukraine if the Minsk agreements are not fulfilled.

Tusk announced this in European parliament on Wednesday when reporting the results of an informal meeting of the EU Heads of State or Government held on February 12.

Tusk said that at the February 12 meeting, the EU leaders exchanged views with Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko on the situation in Ukraine, and thanked German Chancellor Angela Merkel and French President Francois Hollande for their "indispensable efforts for peace as the initiators of the Normandy Four talks."

"We gave the fragile agreement our cautious support. The European Union still hopes for peace so that the independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine can be restored as soon as possible," he said.

<http://www.unian.info/world/1048726-eu-president-tusk-more-sanctions-against-russia-over-ukraine-remain-on-the-table.html>

### **Putin hasn't accomplished his objective inside Ukraine, new advances possible – Commander of U.S. European Command, 25.02.2015**

Gen. Philip Breedlove, the Commander of the Supreme Allied Command Europe and U.S. European Combatant Command, announced this during a U.S. House Armed Services Committee hearing in Washington on February 25, 2015.

"I don't think any of us are sure he [Putin] has accomplished his objective inside Ukraine," he said, suggesting that the Russian president may continue to move forces further into Ukraine, according to Ukrainian online newspaper Ukrainska Pravda.

"I don't believe Ukrainian forces can stop a Russian advance in eastern Ukraine," he added. He said that Russia had seriously increased financial injections in its defense sector, including in nuclear weapons.

According to Breedlove, Putin's "disinformation campaign is quite impressive" on Ukraine. Breedlove also said Putin might "revisit" Moldova and other regions where Moscow has previously intervened and might ultimately try to replicate his subversive campaign in Georgia.

<http://www.unian.info/politics/1048709-putin-hasnt-accomplished-his-objective-inside-ukraine-new-advances-possible-commander-of-us-european-command.html>

### **Kuchma: Putin delivers ultimatum to Ukraine, 26.02.2015**

Russian President Vladimir Putin is acting as if he hadn't signed any agreements in Minsk, Ukraine's negotiator, second Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma said in an interview with the parliament's official newspaper Holos Ukrainy on Wednesday, according to Ukrainian television's Podrobnosti program.

"We were actually given an ultimatum: If we don't accept its terms and stop any resistance, we'll cease to exist as an independent state," Kuchma said.

"[Putin] made it clear that he would not stop before any losses and costs in achieving his goal," he said.

Kuchma also said he believed that such an ultimatum had been delivered not only to Ukraine, but to the whole of the Western world.

<http://www.unian.info/politics/1048877-kuchma-putin-delivers-ultimatum-to-ukraine.html>

### **Breedlove concerned about militarization of Crimea, 26.02.2015**

NATO Supreme Allied Commander Europe General Philip Breedlove has expressed concerns about Russia building up its military capabilities in Crimea, particularly, the deployment of long-range anti-aircraft and attack missile systems on the peninsula, Russian newspaper Lenta.ru. has reported with reference to a report from the U.S. Naval Institute.

"What we have seen is that Crimea has been transformed in some fairly significant ways, as far as weapon systems in the Crimea," Breedlove said.

"These weapon systems — from air defense systems that reach nearly half of the Black Sea to surface attack systems that reach almost all of the Black Sea area — have made the platform of Crimea a great platform for power projection into this area."

U.S. experts say such placement of weapons directly threatens U.S. and NATO ships in the Black Sea and could change the equation of power in the region.

When asked about Russian aircraft flying over U.S. ships that enter the Black Sea, Breedlove said their behavior could not be classified as aggressive on the whole.

<http://www.unian.info/world/1049106-breedlove-concerned-about-militarization-of-crimea.html>

### **US Congress considers bill on allocation of \$1 bln in military aid to Ukraine, 27.02.2015**

Two members of the U.S. House of Representatives, Republican Mac Thornberry and the Democrat Adam Smith, have submitted a bill providing for the delivery of various types of weapons to Ukraine, Russian news agency TASS reported on Friday.

Thornberry is Chairman of the House Committee on Armed Services, and Smith is its Senior Democrat.

In addition to their signatures, the document was signed by 28 parliamentarians.

According to the text of the bill, U.S. Secretary of Defense has the right together with the Secretary of State to provide assistance, including training, equipment, weapons of a defensive purpose, logistic support, supplies, maintenance, and technical support for the Ukrainian army and the Ukrainian armed forces.

Pentagon chief will have this right before September 30, 2017.

<http://www.unian.info/politics/1049411-us-congress-considers-bill-on-allocation-of-1-bln-in-military-aid-to-ukraine.html>

### **Nemtsov wanted to reveal "clear evidence" of Russian involvement in Ukraine – Poroshenko, 28.02.2015**

Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko says Russian opposition politician Boris Nemtsov, who was murdered in Moscow late on Friday, was a big friend of Ukraine and a big patriot of Russia. Poroshenko announced this in Vinnytsia.

"We heard terrible news last night: Boris Nemtsov – a big friend of Ukraine and a big patriot of Russia – had been murdered. He was like a bridge connecting Ukraine and Russia, building the kind of relations [between our countries] that I would like to see," Poroshenko said.

Poroshenko described Nemtsov as a symbol of a Russian citizen who sincerely respects Ukraine.

<http://www.unian.info/politics/1049967-nemtsov-wanted-to-reveal-clear-evidence-of-russian-involvement-in-ukraine-poroshenko.html>

## **Actions of Ukrainian Authorities**

### **Hroisman: Rada to consider bill on lifting immunity of deputies and judges, 02.02.2015**

The Verkhovna Rada, Ukraine's parliament, will on Thursday debate a bill on lifting immunity from prosecution of MPs and judges, parliament speaker Volodymyr Hroisman said while commenting on this week's parliamentary agenda.

"The second session of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine begins on Tuesday, [and] on this day, parliament will consider some of the issues related to ensuring country's defense and combating corruption," Hroisman said.

<http://www.unian.info/politics/1039058-hroisman-rada-to-consider-bill-on-lifting-immunity-of-deputies-and-judges.html>

### **Ukrainian government to reward Ukrainian military for destroying enemy equipment, 02.02.2015**

The Ukrainian government has approved a resolution on providing rewards to members of the Ukrainian military who destroy military equipment used by Russian-backed militants.

<http://www.unian.info/war/1039051-ukrainian-government-to-reward-ukrainian-military-for-destroying-enemy-equipment.html>

### **Economic Development Ministry to halve staff numbers and appoint new department heads, 02.02.2015**

The Ministry of Economic Development and Trade, along with Ukraine in general, is to see radical reforms, Minister of Economic Development and Trade of Ukraine Aivaras Abromavicius told Ukrainian television news service TSN.Tyzhden on Sunday.

"The ministry will reduce by up to 50% [the number] of its employees in the near future, and will keep 15 out of 25 departments," he said.

"In addition, their functions will also be reduced," he added.

<http://www.unian.info/society/1039115-economic-development-ministry-to-halve-staff-numbers-and-appoint-new-department-heads.html>

### **Ukraine arrests \$1.8 bln and UAH 6 bln on accounts of Yanukovych's associates, 03.02.2015**

Ukraine has arrested \$1.8 billion and UAH 6 billion in the accounts of associates of former Ukrainian President Viktor Yanukovych who face criminal proceedings, Prosecutor General Vitaliy Yarema said on February 2 during the meeting with the members of the Bloc of Poroshenko Party, the press service of the party told.

<http://www.unian.info/society/1039684-ukraine-arrests-18-bln-and-uah-6-bln-on-accounts-of-yanukovychs-associates.html>

### **Russians now need foreign passports to enter Ukraine, 03.02.2015**

Ukrainian Prime Minister Arseniy Yatseniuk signed a decree that requires Russian citizens to present international passports when entering Ukraine, the government press service reported. The prime minister said there was a need to strengthen controls on the Ukrainian-Russian border and "introduce European rules for crossing the border, including for the RF citizens". Yatseniuk stated that the government has passed a decree to terminate certain provisions of the agreement between the government of Ukraine and the government of the Russian Federation on visa-free mutual travel of citizens:

"We withdraw internal passports [of Russian citizens] and birth certificates as [documents that can be used] for crossing the Ukrainian state border."

<http://www.unian.info/society/1039704-russians-now-need-foreign-passports-to-enter-ukraine.html>

### **Ukraine arrests \$1.8 bln and UAH 6 bln on accounts of Yanukovych's associates, 03.02.2015**

Ukraine has arrested \$1.8 billion and UAH 6 billion in the accounts of associates of former Ukrainian President Viktor Yanukovych who face criminal proceedings, Prosecutor General Vitaliy Yarema said on February 2 during the meeting with the members of the Bloc of Poroshenko Party, the press service of the party told.

In addition, about \$200 million has been arrested in bank accounts in the European Union and the Swiss Federation.

<http://www.unian.info/society/1039684-ukraine-arrests-18-bln-and-uah-6-bln-on-accounts-of-yanukovychns-associates.html>

### **Rada passes at first reading amendments to the law on anti-corruption bureau, 03.02.2015**

At the second attempt, the Verkhovna Rada has passed at first reading amendments to the law "On amendments to certain legislative acts of Ukraine to ensure the activities of the national anti-corruption bureau and the national agency on corruption prevention."

During the voting, Chairman of Verkhovna Rada Volodymyr Groisman said that while preparing for the second reading it was necessary to agree rules regarding the appointment and dismissal of the head of the National Anti-Corruption Bureau in order to maintain "checks and balances" among the branches of power in Ukraine.

<http://www.unian.info/politics/1039793-rada-passes-at-first-reading-amendments-to-the-law-on-anti-corruption-bureau.html>

### **Ukrainian MPs vote for removal of immunity, 05.02.2015**

The appropriate decision has been sent to the Constitutional Court of Ukraine.

Ukrainian MPs have voted for the decision to send the issue of immunity removal for the MPs to the Constitutional Court.

An absolute majority, 365 MPs have voted for the decision. It is noteworthy that all the six parties present in the Ukrainian Parliament have supported the draft law.

[http://mw.ua/UKRAINE/ukrainian-mps-vote-for-removal-of-immunity-1116\\_.html](http://mw.ua/UKRAINE/ukrainian-mps-vote-for-removal-of-immunity-1116_.html)

### **Yarema appeals to Russian prosecutor for extradition of Yanukovych, 06.02.2015**

Neither Ukraine's prosecutors nor any other of the country's law enforcement authorities are able to bring to justice former senior Ukrainian officials who fled to Russia, Ukrainian Prosecutor General Vitaliy Yarema said in parliament on Friday, an UNIAN correspondent has reported. Yarema, answering questions at parliament's weekly Hour of Questions for the Government, said that until recently the laws on criminal procedures prevented Yanukovych and his associates from being prosecuted.

According to Yarema, after the Verkhovna Rada adopted the law on criminal proceedings and conviction in absentia, the police "started the relevant activities."

"I appealed to the Russian Prosecutor General Yuriy Chaika, requesting that [the Russians] extradite Yanukovych and his associates", Yarema said.

<http://www.unian.info/politics/1041226-yarema-appeals-to-russian-prosecutor-for-extradition-of-yanukovych.html>

### **MP: Prosecutor General Yarema resigns, 09.02.2015**

Prosecutor General of Ukraine Vitaliy Yarema has resigned, MP from the Batkivshyna Party Olena Shkrum wrote on her Facebook page on Monday.

"Yarema has indeed handed in his letter of resignation," she wrote.

"Despite the fact that this act is clearly overdue, it is the act of a strong man. Now we are waiting for the decision from the president," Shkrum said.

As reported earlier, yesterday, February 8, the media reported that Yarema on Friday submitted a letter of resignation to the president of Ukraine, after facing severe criticism in parliament, in particular, from the pro-presidential Bloc of Petro Poroshenko faction.

<http://www.unian.info/politics/1041908-mp-prosecutor-general-yarema-resigns.html>

### **Ukraine introduces border regime in areas adjacent to conflict zone, 09.02.2015**

Ukraine is on Tuesday to introduce a border regime with the territories adjacent to ATO implementation area and Russian-occupied Crimea, according to a government decision.

The resolution says that in order to improve Ukraine's national security, the security of the citizens, the protection of their rights and freedoms and legitimate interests, based on the principles of the inviolability of state borders, territorial integrity, political and economic independence and sovereignty of Ukraine, the government has made a decision to extend during the period of the Anti-Terrorist Operation the effect of Part 3 Article. 22 of the Law "On the state border of Ukraine" with regard to the territories of certain cities and districts in the east and south of Ukraine.

<http://www.unian.info/politics/1041929-ukraine-introduces-border-regime-in-areas-adjacent-to-conflict-zone.html>

### **Yarema and his deputies dismissed, 09.02.2015**

Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko on Monday dismissed Prosecutor General of Ukraine Vitaliy Yarema together with his closest associates, Ukrainian online newspaper Ukrainska Pravda reported on Monday, with reference to a source from the president's inner circle. According to a source, Poroshenko also dismissed Yarema's deputies: Oleh Zalisko, Oleh Bachun and Anatoliy Danylenko.

Viktor Shokin, the current deputy of Yarema, will be appointed acting prosecutor general.

<http://www.unian.info/politics/1042044-yarema-and-his-deputies-dismissed.html>

### **Ukrainian parliament exempts defense products from VAT, 10.02.2015**

The Verkhovna Rada, Ukraine's parliament, on Tuesday made changes to the Tax Code, abolishing the imposition of value added tax (VAT) on imports of certain products for defense purposes.

It is noted in the law that VAT exemption does not apply to defense products manufactured in a state that is recognized as the aggressor or occupier in relation to Ukraine.

"Also, the law does not apply to goods which are imported from territories that are temporarily occupied and are under any customs regime."

<http://www.unian.info/economics/1042425-ukrainian-parliament-exempts-defense-products-from-vat.html>

### **Rada approves Shokin's appointment as prosecutor general, 10.02.2015**

The Verkhovna Rada, Ukraine's parliament, on Tuesday approved a bill granting its consent to the president's appointment of Viktor Shokin as prosecutor general of Ukraine, to the chagrin of some members of the governing coalition.

318 out of 382 deputies registered in the session hall supported the decision.

After the voting, some members of the Radical Party, a part of the parliamentary coalition, began to express their anger at the appointment, shouting "Shame!"

Earlier, the Ukrainian parliament dismissed former Prosecutor General Vitaly Yarema, who submitted his resignation after coming under weeks of sustained political pressure.

Some 291 out of 373 deputies registered in the session hall voted for that decision, with some members of the Opposition Bloc abstaining from voting.

<http://www.unian.info/politics/1042492-rada-approves-shokins-appointment-as-prosecutor-general.html>

### **Media: Contact Group 'agrees to ceasefire, 11.02.2015**

"During the talks in Minsk, the parties [Tripartite Contact Group] agreed on a scheme for the heavy weapons withdrawal, to a ceasefire, and to control over its implementation," the source said. After the Minsk meeting ended the participants left without speaking to the press.

<http://www.unian.info/politics/1042783-media-contact-group-agrees-to-ceasefire.html>

### **Cabinet allocates UAH 5 mln for restoration of Kramatorsk, 13.02.2015**

"It is necessary to allocate UAH 5 million to the Donetsk Regional State Administration in order to implement all necessary measures connected to the disaster management [following the events] of February 10, 2015 in Kramatorsk, and to provide financial assistance to the victims and families of the victims," the document says.

In addition, the Ministry of Finance is instructed to carry out these expenses from the contingency fund of the state budget.

<http://www.unian.info/economics/1043819-cabinet-allocates-uah-5-mln-for-restoration-of-kramatorsk.html>

### **Ukrainian cabinet limits salaries of highest-ranking officials, 16.02.2015**

The decision was made as part of a range of measures aimed at reducing government spending and limiting the salaries of officials, according to a government decree posted on the web portal of the Ukrainian government on Monday.

The decision will not affect employees of units involved in the Anti-Terrorist Operation in the Donetsk and Luhansk regions, the decree reads.

<http://www.unian.info/economics/1044650-ukrainian-cabinet-limits-salaries-of-highest-ranking-officials.html>

### **Shokin: New investigators will find Gongadze's murders, 16.02.2015**

Ukrainian Prosecutor General Viktor Shokin has said he is confident that the new team investigating the murder of journalist Georgy Gongadze will find out and make public the names of those who ordered the journalist's murder.

Shokin also said that he would personally supervise the investigation in this case.

At the same time, he promised to launch an investigation at the request of a plaintiff in the Gongadze's case, journalist Oleksiy Podolsky who accused the judge of Pechersk district court in Kyiv Andriy Melnyk of exerting pressure on Pukach.

"A procedural decision will also be made with regard to Melnyk," Shokin said.

<http://www.unian.info/society/1044808-shokin-new-investigators-will-find-gongadzes-murders.html>

### **Kyiv Pechersk Court sets bail for Yefremov, 17.02.2015**

Kyiv Pechersk Court has formally arrested the former chairman of the parliamentary faction of the Party of Regions in the Verkhovna Rada, Oleksandr Yefremov, while setting bail of UAH 3.6 million. The decision was announced by the investigator judge of the Kyiv Pechersk Court Olesia Batryn on Monday, satisfying a request from the prosecutor general.

According to its ruling, the court concluded that there were risks that the former chairman of the Party of Regions might attempt to obstruct the investigation, put pressure on witnesses or leave the country.

According to the court, if the required bail is not posted before April 14, Yefremov will remain in custody. He will be released from custody after posting UAH 3.6 million in bail.

The court also ruled that Yefremov had to surrender his passport to investigators.

<http://www.unian.info/politics/1045023-kyiv-pechersk-court-sets-bail-for-yefremov.html>

### **Demobilization of military to start March 18, 17.02.2015**

"The process of demobilization will start since March 18. The requirements are the following: a person must be in service a year minus 10 days from the date of arrival in the military commissariat for the military service under the mobilization.

"For example, if a person came to the military commissariat for the military service on April 20, he would have to be released to the reserve under the demobilization on April 10."

As reported earlier, on January 14 Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko signed a decree on the fourth wave of mobilization, according to which a total of 40,000 conscripts were to be called up for compulsory military service.

<http://www.unian.info/politics/1045089-demobilization-of-military-to-start-march-18.html>

### **NSDC decision: Ukraine to appeal to UN and EU for peacekeeping mission deployment, 19.02.2015**

National Security and Defense Council of Ukraine has approved the appeal to the UN and the European Union about peacekeeping missions deployment on the territory of Ukraine.

"It has been considered and decided to appeal to the UN and the EU for a peacekeeping mission deployment in Ukraine," – announced the NSDC's Secretary Oleksandr Turchynov after a meeting on Wednesday, reports "Interfax-Ukraine."

Ukraine offers that peacekeepers to be deployed on contact line in the Donbas and along uncontrolled areas of the Russian-Ukrainian border.

[http://mw.ua/UKRAINE/nsdc-decision-ukraine-to-appeal-to-un-and-eu-for-peacekeeping-mission-deployment-1236\\_.html](http://mw.ua/UKRAINE/nsdc-decision-ukraine-to-appeal-to-un-and-eu-for-peacekeeping-mission-deployment-1236_.html)

### **Turchynov calls for deployment of UN peacekeepers in Ukraine, 19.02.2015**

A UN peacekeeping mission should be deployed along the demarcation line in Ukraine and uncontrolled parts of the state border, National Security and Defense Council Secretary Oleksandr Turchynov said at a briefing after a meeting of the council on Wednesday.

"We can also predict that everything what is happening today, i.e. not the termination, but the intensification of military actions: Everything that has happened around Debaltseve and what is happening in the "M" or Mariupol sector, may be chronic," Turchynov said.

"And in order to stop these provocations, in order not to allow the Russian Federation to speculate about this, we have a proposal for the introduction of peacekeepers into the territory of Ukraine, who should stand along the contact line as well as along the uncontrolled part of the Russian-Ukrainian border," Turchynov said.

<http://www.unian.info/politics/1045977-turchynov-calls-for-deployment-of-un-peacekeepers-in-ukraine.html>

### **Prosecutor says Azarov suspected of illegally terminating Antonov audit, 20.02.2015**

"Based on the results of official investigations initiated by the military prosecutor's office and conducted by the Commission of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine, it was established that M. Azarov, while serving as prime minister of Ukraine, illegally suspended in autumn 2012 the audit of the government interagency group that revealed significant violations of budget legislation in the activities of state design bureau Antonov," the press service of the Prosecutor's General Office reported.

"Funds received from commercial use of Ruslan cargo aircraft remained in the accounts of two foreign companies and a representative of the mentioned enterprise, and were used by them at their own discretion."

The press service said that as a result of these illegal actions by the suspect, as well as the state's failure to claim corporate rights to dividends, the country incurred losses of UAH 37 million, as confirmed by evidence obtained during the investigation.

<http://www.unian.info/politics/1046530-prosecutor-says-azarov-suspected-of-illegally-terminating-antonov-audit.html>

### **Ukraine closes 23 checkpoints on border with Russia, 21.02.2015**

Ukraine's State Border Guard Service closed 23 checkpoints on the state border with Russia, among them are one international checkpoint, four interstate ones and 18 local inspection posts, UNIAN was told by the media relations department of the State Border Guard Service's administration.

A number of the border inspection posts located within Luhansk, Donetsk, Chernihiv, Sumy and Kharkiv regions were closed under Cabinet resolution No. 106-r dated February 18, the media relations department said. The decision is aimed at optimizing the network of checkpoints, which will let focus efforts and resources on more important sections of the border with Russia.

<http://www.unian.info/politics/1046936-ukraine-closes-23-checkpoints-on-border-with-russia.html>

### **Artifacts of Russia's military presence in Donbas on display in Kyiv, 21.02.2015**

The exhibition entitled 'Presence' opened on Mykhailivska Square in the center of Kyiv. Its exhibits are trophy military equipment, fragments of the ammunition used by pro-Russian separatists to shell cities and towns in the east of Ukraine. Other pieces of evidence of Russia's military presence in Donbas are also on display.

The official opening ceremony held on Saturday was attended by high-ranking officials from the National Security and Defense Council of Ukraine, the Interior and Defense Ministries, an UNIAN correspondent reported.

Ukrainian Interior Minister Arsen Avakov said that the exhibition presents evidence of crimes against humanity and proof of Russian aggression against Ukraine. "This military equipment kills Ukrainian citizens", the minister said.

<http://www.unian.info/kyiv/1046960-artifacts-of-russias-military-presence-in-donbas-on-display-in-kyiv.html>

### **Anti-terrorist operation launched in Kharkiv due to fatal blast on Sunday – Turchynov, 22.02.2015**

Ukraine's National Security and Defense Council has announced that a directional radio-controlled explosive device was used during a peaceful march in Kharkiv on Sunday to commemorate those killed during the Euromaidan events last year.

Secretary of the National Security and Defense Council (NSDC) Oleksandr Turchynov says that the critical terrorist threat level has been announced in Kharkiv, the NSDC's press service said. "In connection with a terrorist attack on Kharkiv, which, according to information available, killed one police officer and one civilian, and injured five officers and four civilians, the city has announced the critical terrorist threat level and launched an anti-terrorist operation," Turchynov said.

A directional radio-controlled explosive device was used during a peaceful march in Kharkiv to commemorate victims of the Euromaidan events, according to Turchynov.

<http://www.unian.info/politics/1047081-anti-terrorist-operation-launched-in-kharkiv-due-to-fatal-blast-on-sunday-turchynov.html>

### **Kharkiv to observe day of mourning on February 23 – City Hall, 22.02.2015**

Kharkiv will observe a day of mourning on February 23 in connection with a bomb explosion with two fatalities and 10 injuries.

This was announced on the official website of Kharkiv City Council with reference to city head Hennadiy Kernes, an UNIAN correspondent reported.

"Flags on the buildings in the city will be flown at half mast, all entertainments will be cancelled," the announcement reads.

Kharkiv will also hold a moment of silence, which is to begin at 1300 Kyiv time.

<http://www.unian.info/politics/1047118-kharkiv-to-observe-day-of-mourning-on-february-23-city-hall.html>

### **Ukraine and UAE sign military-technical cooperation agreement, 24.02.2015**

The Ukrainian Cabinet of Ministers has entrusted under its decree the chief of the General Staff and Chief of the Armed Forces Viktor Muzhenko to sign the agreement, the magazine said.

As UNIAN reported earlier, Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko is on a two-day working visit to the United Arab Emirates. During the visit, the head of state will visit one of the world's largest exhibitions of arms and security technologies IDEX-2015. Poroshenko is also expected to meet with the prime minister of the UAE, Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum.

<http://www.unian.info/politics/1047827-ukraine-and-uae-sign-military-technical-cooperation-agreement.html>

### **Yatseniuk suspends management of State Fiscal Service and orders investigation, 24.02.2015**

Speaking during a telephone conference with the management of the State Fiscal Service on Tuesday, the prime minister said he would appeal to business to provide information about abuses by members of the service.

Yatseniuk also said that during the investigation the government will suspend the management of State Fiscal Service from its duties.

"During the official investigation, I appeal to entrepreneurs, help me - and I will help you. I need concrete facts," Yatseniuk said, adding that this related to bribery, imports schemes, and other violations.

"For the next two weeks, the government will on a daily basis cooperate with Ukrainian business to establish specific facts of abuses in the State Fiscal Service, customs and tax police," he said.

<http://www.unian.info/economics/1047958-yatseniuk-suspends-management-of-state-fiscal-service-and-orders-investigation.html>

### **Poroshenko agrees on supply of UAE weapons to Ukraine, 24.02.2015**

According to Herashchenko, Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko met with the Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and Deputy Supreme Commander of the UAE Armed Forces, Colonel-General Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan.

"During the meeting the parties agreed to cooperate with the United Arab Emirates in the supply of certain weapons and military equipment to Ukraine," Herashchenko said.

"However, the types and volumes of these supplies will not be disclosed yet," he said.

"However, it is worth noting that the Arabs, unlike the Europeans and Americans, are not afraid of Putin's threats to unleash a third world war in the case of supplies of arms and military equipment being made to Ukraine," Herashchenko said.

<http://www.unian.info/politics/1047968-poroshenko-agrees-on-supply-of-uae-weapons.html>

### **Parubiy presents list in Washington of weapons Ukraine needs, 25.02.2015**

Parubiy talked about the list during a live broadcast by the Ukrainian service of the Voice of America.

"Some of the weapons are non-lethal. For example, radars and UAVs, radio communications and interference suppression devices. The lethal weapons include, primarily, anti-missile systems, including Javelin [anti-tank missiles]," Parubiy said.

The list of required equipment has already been submitted to U.S. President Barack Obama, but it is also planned to present it to other officials who "are directly involved in the decision making process."

"The position of the United States will be decisive. After the United States, I'm confident many leaders of the European countries, Canada, will support this initiative and will more actively assist Ukraine," the vice-speaker said.

<http://www.unian.info/politics/1048340-parubiy-presents-list-in-washington-of-weapons-ukraine-needs.html>

## **Terrorism / Separatism**

### **Militants continue to attack outskirts of Mariupol, 02.02.2015**

Russian-backed militants in the east of Ukraine are continuing their offensive on the outskirts of Mariupol, using rockets and artillery, the Azov Battalion, which is defending the city, said.

"The militants are mainly using artillery, including rockets. Both sides are conducting reconnaissance. The use of firearms is evidence of the activities of sabotage and reconnaissance groups," the battalion reported.

<http://www.unian.info/war/1039131-militants-continue-to-attack-outskirts-of-mariupol.html>

### **ATO HQ: Militants lose 180 killed and 250 wounded on Sunday, 02.02.2015**

Shelling of the settlements, including from "M1964", is still taking place.

Ukrainian military continue repelling terrorists' offensive, says the morning report of the ATO HQ.

"ATO soldiers confidently hold their positions, each time causing losses to the terrorists.

According to preliminary data, on 1, February the enemy lost 180 fighters killed and 248 wounded. Moreover, the terrorists lost four guns" – reports the ATO press center. Ukrainian troops' losses are not reported for this period.

[http://mw.ua/UKRAINE/ato-hq-militants-lose-180-killed-and-250-wounded-on-sunday-1078\\_.html](http://mw.ua/UKRAINE/ato-hq-militants-lose-180-killed-and-250-wounded-on-sunday-1078_.html)

### **Yatseniuk: Militants put explosives in children's toys, books and boxes of sweets, 02.02.2015**

Ukrainian Prime Minister Arseniy Yatseniuk has said explosives "disguised" as children's toys, books and boxes of sweets have been found in Sloviansk, Lysychansk and other cities. He said he has instructed the State Emergency Service to inform the public about these potentially dangerous objects and the rules for dealing with them.

<http://www.unian.info/war/1039326-yatseniuk-militants-put-explosives-in-childrens-toys-books-and-boxes-of-sweets.html>

### **Nearly 3,500 militants involved in active operations at Debaltsevo lodgement, 02.02.2015**

Russian-terrorist forces continued an offensive in the area of Debaltsevo for the last few days. The enemy has changed its tactics from attempts creating a "pot" by cutting the supply to "ousting out" the Ukrainian troops from the area of Debal'tsevo lodgement.

"The offensive is carried out from two directions converging through Chornukhyne and Vuglegirsk directly at Debal'tsevo. This is done in attempt to oust Ukrainian units that are in the city and south of it away to the north," reports the coordinator of the "Information Resistance" group Dmytro Tymchuk.

[http://mw.ua/UKRAINE/nearly-3-500-militants-involved-in-active-operations-at-debaltsevo-lodgement-1074\\_.html](http://mw.ua/UKRAINE/nearly-3-500-militants-involved-in-active-operations-at-debaltsevo-lodgement-1074_.html)

### **SBU: Russia plans on May 9 mass release of prisoners to be sent to war in Donbas, 02.02.2015**

"On May 9, there is planned a large-scale amnesty in Russia to release convicts, who will join the ranks of the militants of the Donetsk People's Republic fighting against Ukraine," Advisor of the Chairman of the Security Service of Ukraine Markiyian Lubkivsky said, adding that this was an indication that Russia has no plans to stop its aggression in a well-prepared war against Ukraine.

<http://www.unian.info/war/1039273-sbu-russia-plans-on-may-9-mass-release-of-prisoners-to-be-sent-to-war-in-donbas.html>

### **Donetsk militants say they 'will have army of 100,000 men, 02.02.2015**

The DPR militant organization is planning to form a 100,000-strong army together with the Luhansk People's Republic militant organization, Donetsk militant leader Oleksandr Zakharchenko said on Monday, according to Russian news agency TASS.

"A general mobilization is planned in the DNR in 10 days. Ten thousand men will be called up," Zakharchenko said.

<http://www.unian.info/war/1039283-donetsk-militants-say-they-will-have-army-of-100000.html>

### **Russian conscripts 'refusing to be sent to war in Ukraine, 02.02.2015**

The Saint Petersburg regional human rights organization Soldiers' Mothers of Saint Petersburg says it has received numerous complaints from Russian conscripts who are being forced to sign contracts, and then being sent to Russia's Rostov region next to the Donbas conflict zone.

Growth in the number of complaints was recorded in late December and early January, the organization said. The organization received more than 20 complaints from Nizhny Novgorod, Leningrad, Murmansk and Kursk regions in the last month alone.

<http://www.unian.info/war/1039107-russian-conscripts-refusing-to-be-sent-to-war-in-ukraine.html>

### **Ukrainian government to reward Ukrainian military for destroying enemy equipment, 02.02.2015**

"Everyone who takes part in the anti-terrorist operation will receive twice the monetary reward if they are [inside] the territory of the anti-terrorist operation. For each day of their participation in combat, that is, in the implementation of a combat mission, each serviceman, from private to general, will get an additional UAH 1,000," Yatseniuk said.

Additional rewards are envisaged for the successful implementation by combat units of combat operations to destroy the military equipment of Russian-backed militants. The amount of these payments is pegged to the minimum wage, reads the resolution: "In the case of the successful performance of a military task, a unit will receive an additional

<http://www.unian.info/war/1039051-ukrainian-government-to-reward-ukrainian-military-for-destroying-enemy-equipment.html>

**UAH 365,000 UAH, a regiment 243,000 UAH, a battalion UAH 121,000 UAH, and a company UAH 60,000."**

In addition, the prime minister said that for every destroyed combat aircraft of Russian-backed militants there will be a payment of UAH 121,000, for a multiple launch rocket system UAH 60,000, for a tactical missile system UAH 54,000, for a tank UAH 48,000, for artillery units and infantry vehicles UAH 42,000 UAH, and for each portable anti-aircraft missile system UAH 30,000.

<http://www.unian.info/war/1039051-ukrainian-government-to-reward-ukrainian-military-for-destroying-enemy-equipment.html>

### **Zakharchenko: No talks in Minsk while Kuchma represents Ukraine, 02.02.2015**

The leader of the Donetsk People's Republic militant organization Oleksandr Zakharchenko has said that he will not participate in negotiations in Minsk while Ukraine is represented by former Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma, Russian information agency TASS reported on Monday.

"The former Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma is [just] a member of the public,"

Zakharchenko said. "If Ukraine does not appoint an official representative from Kyiv, we'll never have talks in the Minsk format," he said.

<http://www.unian.info/society/1039298-zakharchenko-no-talks-in-minsk-while-kuchma-represents-ukraine.html>

### **WSJ: US mulls supplying Ukraine with Javelin anti-tank missiles, 03.02.2015**

The United States is considering supplying Ukraine with sophisticated "fire and forget" self-guided Javelin anti-tank missiles, the Wall Street Journal reported on Monday.

The newspaper said U.S. officials believe supplying the weapons might help deter further Russian aggression in eastern Ukraine. It said that the White House, which has until now been against providing Ukraine with lethal support, has been consulting with military leaders on the move.

However the newspaper, referring to White House National Security Advisor Susan Rice, said no decision has been made on supplying the weapons yet. It said top White House advisors are expected to discuss the issue this week, but a decision may not even be taken then.

<http://www.unian.info/war/1039608-wsj-us-mulls-supplying-ukraine-with-javelin-anti-tank-missiles.html>

### **150 people evacuated from Debaltseve on Tuesday, 03.02.2015**

A total of 150 citizens were evacuated from Debaltseve on Tuesday to territory controlled by the Ukrainian authorities, Deputy Head of the Interior Ministry of the Donetsk region Ilia Kiva wrote on his Facebook page on Tuesday.

<http://www.unian.info/war/1039807-150-people-evacuated-from-debaltseve-on-tuesday.html>

### **Militants still launching artillery attacks on Pisky, 03.02.2015**

Russian-backed militants are continuing to shell the village of Pisky near Donetsk airport with mortars, the ATO headquarters press office wrote on Facebook.

Overnight the militants attacked the settlements of Nevelske and Vodiane with Grad multiple rocket launcher systems, and shelled the villages of Krasnogorovka and Pisky using mortars, the press office said.

"The militants' attack on the village Tonenke continued almost without a break – [the village] was hit by four artillery strikes. Attacks were also launched on Pisky, Vodiane and Nevelske, the latter settlements being attacked with mortars," it said.

Russian-backed militants also fired on Verkhnetroitske two times using small arms.

"In the area of Debaltseve, the terrorists used automatic grenade launchers to shell ATO positions near the settlement of Novgorod, using mortars they again shelled the outskirts of Debaltseve, and with small arms the terrorists attacked Novogrygorivka", the press office wrote.

<http://www.unian.info/war/1039660-militants-still-launching-artillery-attacks-on-pisky.html>

### **General Staff says 28 soldiers still missing at Donetsk airport, 03.02.2015**

A total of 28 Ukrainian servicemen remained missing at Donetsk airport as of February 2, Acting Speaker of the General Staff of Ukraine Vladyslav Selezniiov said in an interview with Ukrainian television's Channel 24 on Monday.

"Donetsk airport is under our firing control. Shelling and fighting have not stopped on its territory. Our search-and-rescue units can't get there. As of today, 28 Ukrainian servicemen are considered missing in Donetsk airport," he said.

<http://www.unian.info/war/1039636-general-staff-says-28-soldiers-still-missing-at-donetsk-airport.html>

### **DPR militants ready to exchange more than 10 prisoners with ATO forces, 03.02.2015**

Militants of the Donetsk People's Republic organization are ready to exchange a group of more than 10 prisoners with the Ukrainian armed forces, Commissioner for Human Rights of the DPR Daria Morozova said on Tuesday, according to Russian news agency RIA Novosti.

Today, the process of exchange of prisoners is in preparation. At the moment I can say that the exchange will be more than 10 people [in exchange] for 10 people. It's difficult to give any dates yet, as everything is still being worked out," she said.

As reported earlier, the Ukrainian armed forces captured seven militants from the Vostok militant unit near the Donetsk airport. Militants from the local community, a Russian citizen and a Russian professional soldier were among them.

<http://www.unian.info/war/1039780-dpr-militants-ready-to-exchange-more-than-10-prisoners-with-ato-forces.html>

### **95% of draft papers for mobilization sent out, 03.02.2015**

Some 95% of the draft papers planned to be issued for the current wave of mobilization in Ukraine have already been sent out, National Security and Defense Council spokesman Andriy Lysenko said.

Commenting on the fourth wave of partial mobilization, Lysenko said that, according to the Ministry of Defense, more than 50% of those mobilized had already been sent to training centers.

"The plan for sending the draft papers is 95% fulfilled, and a large number of citizens than planned have been sent to undergo medical examinations," he said.

<http://www.unian.info/society/1039794-95-of-draft-papers-for-mobilization-sent-out.html>

### **3,500 volunteers join Ukrainian Armed Forces in two weeks, 04.02.2015**

Reserve officers, sergeants, soldiers and civilians apply for the service. None of the volunteers is denied.

Since the start of the next wave of mobilization more than 3,500 volunteers applied for the service in the Ukrainian Armed Forces, reports the Deputy Head of Mobilization Planning at the General Staff, Volodymyr Talalay.

[http://mw.ua/UKRAINE/3-500-volunteers-join-ukrainian-armed-forces-in-two-weeks-1108\\_.html](http://mw.ua/UKRAINE/3-500-volunteers-join-ukrainian-armed-forces-in-two-weeks-1108_.html)

### **More than 10,000 people remain in Debaltseve, 04.02.2015**

About 10,000 people, or more than half of the town's population, still remain in Debaltseve in Donetsk region, which is now constantly being shelled by Russian-backed militants, Deputy Head of Research Affairs of Ukraine in the Donetsk region Viktor Nechytailo told Ukrainian television's Hromadske.tv on Tuesday.

"Unfortunately, not everyone who is in basements and bomb shelters wants to leave the town. We provide these people with first aid, we deliver water and medicines. We brought them a generator from the City Council so that they could have the light and could charge their phones. However, there are no mobile communications yet," he said.

<http://www.unian.info/war/1040191-more-than-10000-people-remain-in-debaltseve.html>

### **OSCE calls for three-day ceasefire in Debaltseve, 04.02.2015**

The warring parties in Ukraine should observe a ceasefire in Debaltseve for at least three days in order to evacuate civilians, OSCE Chairman, Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister of Serbia Ivica Dačić said on Wednesday, according to Russian news agency RIA Novosti.

"A three-day ceasefire should come into effect immediately, and it will be provided and maintained by a special OSCE observation mission," he said.

"This will help to evacuate civilians from the conflict zone," Dačić said.

<http://www.unian.info/war/1040194-osce-calls-for-three-day-ceasefire-in-debaltseve.html>

### **Tymchuk: Militants preparing new offensive on Debaltseve, 04.02.2015**

Russian-backed militants are regrouping their forces and equipment near Debaltseve, trying to turn the tide of battle after a failed attack on Vuhlehirsk, head of the Information Resistance group Dmytro Tymchuk wrote on his Facebook page on Wednesday.

"Over the last 24 hours the enemy command has focused its combat-ready units in new areas in this region, restoring the combat capability of its tactical groups, which earlier suffered losses," he said.

According to Tymchuk, the militants redeployed 18 tanks, 23 armored combat vehicles and about 55 covered trucks in the area of the Debaltseve salient.

<http://www.unian.info/war/1040132-tymchuk-militants-preparing-new-offensive-on-debaltseve.html>

### **UN: Number of people killed in Donbas conflict exceeds 5,300, 03.02.2015**

The death toll from the conflict in the Donbas now exceeds 5,300 people, High Commissioner for Human Rights Zeid Ra'ad Al Hussein said on Tuesday, according to the press service of the Office of the UN.

According to the report, he urged all parties of the conflict in eastern Ukraine to stop the dangerous escalation of military actions.

In particular, he called on all sides to take all possible measures to ensure the implementation of the Minsk Protocol.

<http://www.unian.info/war/1039786-un-number-of-people-killed-in-donbas-conflict-exceeds-5300.html>

### **SBU claims to have killed militants responsible for Mariupol attack, 04.02.2015**

A counterintelligence unit of Ukraine's SBU Security Service has eliminated a group of 11 people led by a Russian serviceman who organized and carried out shelling of the residential areas of Mariupol with Grad rockets on January 24, SBU Chairman Valentyn Nalyvaichenko said on Wednesday.

He said a Russian serviceman and 10 of his comrades were eliminated in a special operation. Nalyvaichenko said the special operation to kill the militants was conducted near the village of Bezimyane in Novoazovskiy district, Donetsk region. According to Nalyvaichenko, this area is under the control of militants, and therefore the only alternative was their physical elimination. Nalyvaichenko said he hoped that the Russian military and the Russian-led militants from the local population would send the bodies of those killed to the members of their families.

<http://www.unian.info/society/1040326-sbu-claims-to-have-killed-militants-responsible-for-mariupol-attack.html>

### **Recruitment offices in Mariupol receive forms for certificates for leaving region and country, 04.02.2015**

Recruitment offices in Mariupol have received application forms for certificates to leave the region and the country for men of recruitment age, Deputy Commissioner for military work with the staff of the Donetsk Regional Commissariat Colonel Mykola Shariy said on Wednesday, according to the local news agency 0629.

According to Shariy, citizens of Mariupol who are subject to military recruitment who are planning to leave the territory of the region for a long period of time, or to travel outside of Ukraine, should get a certificate in the recruitment office.

<http://www.unian.info/society/1040234-recruitment-offices-in-mariupol-receive-forms-for-certificates-for-leaving-region-and-country.html>

### **Militants use tactics of ambush and 'wandering tanks' near Bakhmutka, says Tymchuk, 04.02.2015**

Russian-backed militants continue to conduct active counter-battery fire near the villages of Krymske and Triohizbenka near the Bakhmutka highway in Luhansk region, as well as near the villages of Shastya and Stanytsia Luhanska, head of the Information Resistance group Dmytro Tymchuk wrote on his Facebook page on Wednesday.

"Russian-backed militants have previously tried to break through the defense of the Ukrainian troops near the village of Stanytsia Luhanska, using the combination of a massive fire and the actions of small mobile groups of infantry, supported by the armored vehicles," Tymchuk said. However, the militants are already avoiding active offensive operations, he said.

"At the moment, we have recorded that the militants again started to use the tactics of ambush and 'wandering tanks' supported by mortars. We have recorded at least two such groups, which are periodically launching attacks on the forward positions of the Ukrainian armed forces," he said.

<http://www.unian.info/war/1040141-militants-use-tactics-of-ambush-and-wandering-tanks-near-bakhmutka-says-tymchuk.html>

### **Militants 'attack Stanitsa Luhnska with cluster bombs, 05.02.2015**

Russian-backed militants have used cluster bombs in attacks on several towns in Luhansk region, Chairman of Luhansk Regional State Administration Hennadiy Moskal has claimed. Despite a relative lull in fighting in most areas of the Lugansk region, militant attacks on Stanitsa Luhanska and surrounding villages have carried on practically without a break, Moskal said in a statement.

"In the district artillery shells damaged eight houses, injuring two Ukrainian servicemen," the statement reads.

"The central part of Stanitsa Luhanska was shelled with cluster bombs, which damaged the district administration building in the town," Moskal said.

<http://www.unian.info/war/1040763-militants-attack-stanitsa-luhnska-with-cluster-bombs.html>

### **Donbas militants are lacking ammunition: intensity of attacks declines, 05.02.2015**

Supplies from Russia cannot cover such a high expenditure of ammunition.

The Donbas militants have a problem of overspending ammunition since the start of the offensive in January, 2015.

According to the coordinator of the "Information Resistance" group and MP, Dmytro Tymchuk, this primarily involves gun artillery and MLRs.

According to the militants' estimates, on average they have fired nearly 150 tons of shells each day since the start of their offensive.

[http://mw.ua/UKRAINE/donbas-militants-are-lacking-ammunition-intensity-of-attacks-declines-1117\\_.html](http://mw.ua/UKRAINE/donbas-militants-are-lacking-ammunition-intensity-of-attacks-declines-1117_.html)

### **OSCE spots column of trucks carrying rockets for militant Grad systems, 05.02.2015**

The OSCE special monitoring mission on February 3 spotted a convoy of 21 trucks carrying ammunition for Grad multiple rocket launchers near militant-held Makiivka in Donetsk region, according to a mission report published on February 4, the local online newspaper Novosti Donbasa reported on Wednesday.

"The OSCE special monitoring mission has recorded 21 military-style green trucks in the eastern part of militant-controlled Makiivka or 10 km to the east of Donetsk. Some trucks were covered, but some of them were not covered, so that the representatives of the mission could see boxes with ammunition for Grad systems," the report says.

<http://www.unian.info/war/1040579-osce-spots-column-of-trucks-carrying-rockets-for-militant-grad-systems.html>

### **Tymchuk: Ukrainian forces destroy Russian troops near Debaltseve, 05.02.2015**

Ukrainian artillery has inflicted a series of pre-emptive strikes on the positions of the Russian-backed militants near the Debaltseve salient, head of the Information Resistance group Dmytro Tymchuk wrote on his Facebook page on Thursday.

"We have recorded multiple hits on targets, [including] the detonation of ammunition depots of the militants near Krynka, north of Yenakieve, Bryanka, Sofiivka and other [places]." He wrote. "In particular, Ukrainian artillery destroyed the positions of the reserve units of the Russian armed forces near Bryanka, including their military equipment. We have recorded a lot of explosions going off in this region."

<http://www.unian.info/war/1040568-tymchuk-ukrainian-forces-destroy-russian-troops-near-debaltseve.html>

### **Russian Foreign Ministry raises issue of 'peacekeepers' in Donbas, 05.02.2015**

The possibility of sending Russian peacekeepers to the Donbas "has been and is being discussed, in general" in the Russian Foreign Ministry, ministry spokesperson Alexander Lukashevich said at a press briefing in Moscow on Thursday.

"Such plans at the expert level, in principle, have been discussed and are being debated. We will look at the progress of the negotiations. I expect that this issue will be clarified," Lukashevich said.

He did not say whether the issue of a Russian peacekeeping mission would be discussed during tomorrow's meeting in Moscow between the foreign ministers of Germany, France and Russia.

<http://www.unian.info/war/1040782-russian-foreign-ministry-raises-issue-of-peacekeepers-in-donbas.html>

### **One Ukrainian soldier killed, 25 wounded in last day, 06.02.2015**

One Ukrainian soldier was killed and 25 wounded in fighting in eastern Ukraine in the last day, ATO headquarters spokesman Vladyslav Selezniiov wrote on his Facebook page on Friday.

"Over the last day, we have lost one Ukrainian soldier, and another 25 received injuries of varying severity as a result of military clashes. All the wounded have been sent to hospital," Selezniiov said.

<http://www.unian.info/war/1041109-one-ukrainian-soldier-killed-25-wounded-in-last-day.html>

### **Tymchuk: Special squad of former Russian MID servicemen sent to Debaltseve, 06.02.2015**

A special purpose detachment of Russian troops totaling up to 70 people has been sent from militant-held Alchevsk to the area of Debaltseve, head of the Information Resistance group Dmytro Tymchuk wrote on his Facebook page on Friday.

"About 80% of this unit are the citizens of the Russian Federation, and all of them are former military of the Main Intelligence Directorate and combatants. Russian servicemen from occupied Crimea have also been identified," Tymchuk said.

"The task of the detachment is to use sabotage and reconnaissance groups in the rear of the Ukrainian armed forces," he said.

According to Tymchuk, the bodies of militants killed in fighting near Debaltseve have been sent to Krasniy Luch. Most of them were the citizens of the Russian Federation, he said. The bodies of local militants have been collected by their relatives, and the rest of the bodies have been sent across the border back to Russia.

<http://www.unian.info/politics/1041049-tymchuk-special-squad-of-former-russian-mid-servicemen-sent-to-debaltseve.html>

### **Kyiv claims militants fired on residential areas in Avdiyivka 'disguised as Aidar Battalion troops, 06.02.2015**

Ukrainian forces have identified a militant subversion group who fired on residential areas of Avdiyivka in Donetsk region disguised as troops from a Ukrainian volunteer battalion, Ukrainian security officials have claimed.

"According to the operating data, in the area of Avdiyivka there was discovered a subversive and intelligence group of an illegal armed formation that was carrying out attacks on ATO forces and residential areas under the guise of the Aidar Battalion," Lysenko said.

<http://www.unian.info/war/1041201-kyiv-claims-militants-fired-on-residential-areas-in-avdiyivka-disguised-as-aidar-battalion-troops.html>

### **One Ukrainian soldier killed, 25 wounded in last day, 06.02.2015**

"Over the last day, we have lost one Ukrainian soldier, and another 25 received injuries of varying severity as a result of military clashes. All the wounded have been sent to hospital," Selezniiov said.

"At the moment, there are 456 Ukrainian soldiers in hospitals and medical institutions, of whom 12 are seriously injured," he added.

<http://www.unian.info/war/1041109-one-ukrainian-soldier-killed-25-wounded-in-last-day.html>

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<http://www.unian.info/politics/1041049-tymchuk-special-squad-of-former-russian-mid-servicemen-sent-to-debaltseve.html>

### **Massive explosion in Donetsk sends shockwave across city, 09.02.2015**

A massive blast in Donetsk late on Sunday sent a fiery mushroom cloud into the night sky and produced a shockwave that shook walls and rattled windows across the militant-held city.

Many residents saw a huge flash over the city at the time of explosion. According to reports on Monday morning, the explosion occurred at a chemicals plant after it was hit by rockets.

<http://www.unian.info/war/1041801-massive-explosion-in-donetsk-sends-shockwave-across-city.html>

### **Yarosh claims Donetsk explosion caused by strike on arms depot, 09.02.2015**

The blast occurred at around 2250 local time in Donetsk, and in many parts of the city, citizens felt the shockwave from the explosion and saw the glow of a huge fireball rising into the sky.

Yarosh said that according to preliminary reports, a Ukrainian artillery strike had destroyed 20 Grad multiple launch rocket systems, about 30 vehicles, and killed about 200 militants.

<http://www.unian.info/war/1041828-yarosh-claims-donetsk-explosion-caused-by-strike-on-arms-depot.html>

### **Ukrainian soldiers 'kill 200 militants, destroy 15 weapons units in last day, 09.02.2015**

"In general, the Ukrainian armed forces have successfully repelled militant attacks and inflicted heavy losses in their manpower and equipment," Stelmakh said.

"Ukrainian soldiers didn't give up a meter of our native land, and are holding most of the militant positions within range of fire," he said.

According to Ukrainian intelligence, the Ukrainian armed forces destroyed 14 pieces of military equipment and killed 70 militants over the previous day.

<http://www.unian.info/war/1041877-ukrainian-soldiers-kill-200-militants-destroy-15-weapons-units-in-last-day.html>

### **Tymchuk: Ukrainian army destroy militant unit east of Debaltseve, 10.02.2015**

The Ukrainian armed forces has fired Grad rockets on the so-called "Ghost" unit of the Russian-backed militants to the east of Debaltseve, who were advancing towards the position of the Ukrainian army, head of the Information Resistance group Dmytro Tymchuk wrote on Facebook. According to Tymchuk, two Ural trucks and one BMP-2 armored vehicle were destroyed, and there were casualties among the militants.

"Ukrainian artillery also fired on the artillery positions of the militants near Alchevsk, where they destroyed positions of the enemy Grad multiple launch rocket systems, to the east of Luhansk, where they destroyed a firing position of the self-propelled howitzer, and near Donetsk, where they fired on the militant positions of 120-mm mortars," Tymchuk said.

<http://www.unian.info/war/1042276-tymchuk-ukrainian-army-destroy-militant-unit-east-of-debaltseve.html>

### **Azov battalion says it started offensive near Mariupol, 10.02.2015**

Ukraine's Azov volunteer battalion claimed to have gone on the offensive on Tuesday, forcing back from around the city of Mariupol Russian-backed militant forces, whom Azov claimed were supported by Russian aircraft.

"As of 0800, the settlement of Shyrokinovo was occupied. There was a high intensity of firing. Both sides are applying different caliber weapons," the battalion said in a statement on Russian social network Vkontakte.

"The enemy has mobilized armored vehicles. Russian aircraft flew over the border three times, but did not deliver an attack on our forces. Azov is rolling out its offensive on Sakhanka," the statement reads.

Later the battalion posted another statement, reading: "The first checkpoint has been taken over in the area of Sakhanka. The enemy is retreating."

<http://www.unian.info/war/1042309-azov-battalion-says-it-started-offensive-near-mariupol.html>

### **Defense Ministry on Debaltsevo: situation difficult, but under control, 10.02.2015**

The situation near Debaltsevo in Donetsk region is under the control of the Ukrainian armed forces, who are regrouping their forces and means to conduct further military actions, the press service of the Ukrainian Defense Ministry said on Tuesday.

"The road between Debaltsevo and Artemivsk is blocked by Ukrainian soldiers. Military reserves and equipment have been taken to the battlefield. All militant assault actions have been successfully repelled by the Ukrainian armed forces," the report says.

"The situation is difficult now, but it is under control. The militants suffered considerable losses in manpower and equipment," the report reads.

<http://www.unian.info/war/1042369-defense-ministry-on-debaltsevo-situation-difficult-but-under-control.html>

### **Militants fire Smerch rockets at military HQ in Kramatorsk, kill, injure civilians, 10.02.2015**

Russian-backed militants on Tuesday fired long-range rockets at the Ukrainian military headquarters in Kramatorsk, head of the Interior Ministry in Donetsk region Viacheslav Abroskin has reported on Facebook.

The headquarters confirmed the report, and said that the militants used Smerch multiple launch rocket systems.

"The target of the attack was the airfield and surrounding streets. The information is being clarified," Abroskin said.

At the same time, the residents of Kramatorsk reported in social networks about civilians being killed and wounded. A report from Donetsk Regional Administration said that three people had been killed and 15 injured in the attack. Later reports have put the death toll at seven, with 21 people wounded.

The press center of the Anti-Terrorist Operation has said that the attack occurred at approximately 1230.

<http://www.unian.info/war/1042394-militants-fire-smerch-rockets-at-military-hq-in-kramatorsk-kill-injure-civilians.html>

### **UN: In less than a week 263 civilians killed in Donbass, 10.02.2015**

"Ukraine: from 31 January to 5 February, at least 263 civilians were killed and 674 injured in the fighting," the statement reads.

In addition, the UN reported that from March 2014 to February 6, 2015 the number of children who died in the Donbas reached 59, with 153 being injured.

The UN has also said the World Health Organization is stepping up its activities in the health sector in eastern Ukraine.

<http://www.unian.info/society/1042376-un-in-less-than-a-week-263-civilians-killed-in-donbass.html>

### **Ukrainian counterattack underway near Mariupol, 10.02.2015**

The Ukrainian military on Tuesday launched a counteroffensive operation near Mariupol aimed at forcing away Russian-backed militants who have been advancing on the city, according to officials in Kyiv.

"Now our military are returning to the positions on the demarcation line that were fixed by the Minsk agreements," the spokesman of the government's Anti-Terrorist Operation press center, Andriy Lysenko, said.

<http://www.unian.info/war/1042499-ukrainian-counterattack-underway-near-mariupol.html>

### **MP: Five people killed, 20 wounded in Kramatorsk, 10.02.2015**

According to Yefimov, about 15 Smerch rockets hit the central streets of the city: Voznesenskaya Street, Prospekt Mira, Marat Street and Kramatorskiy Boulevard.

"In addition to firing on the Ukrainian military headquarters in Kramatorsk, which is located at the airfield, the militants also hit a residential area," he said.

"According to the preliminary information, five people were killed and another 20 injured. Half an hour before the number of wounded was 10 people, so I think that the number of victims is much more than is being reported now," Yefimov said.

<http://www.unian.info/war/1042501-mp-five-people-killed-20-wounded-in-kramatorsk.html>

### **Moskal: Part of Chernukhino occupied by militants, prisoners flee damaged jail, 10.02.2015**

Street battles are raging in Chernukhino between Ukrainian security forces and the Russian-backed militants supported by the Russian army, Chairman of the Luhansk Regional State Administration Hennadiy Moskal said on Tuesday, with reference to reports from local residents.

"Several streets in the village are occupied by the terrorists, [but] most of the area, including the village council, is controlled by our military," Moskal said.

"In Chernukhino a strict regime [prison] colony is located where in peace times there were about a thousand of prisoners convicted for serious crimes. Most of the prisoners were taken away before the beginning of intense hostilities, but 375 people were left. Over the past few days the colony was repeatedly hit by artillery shells."

According to Moskal, the prison colony fence was damaged in many places, infrastructure and buildings destroyed, and many prisoners have fled in different directions.

<http://www.unian.info/war/1042509-moskal-part-of-chernukhino-occupied-by-militants-prisoners-flee-damaged-jail.html>

### **Number of displaced persons reaches one million, 10.02.2015**

The total number of people displaced from Crimea, Sevastopol and the Donbas conflict zone has reached a million people, Minister of Social Policy Pavlo Rozenko said on Ukrainian television on Tuesday.

"The situation is very difficult with the displaced persons. Ukraine could never expect a situation when we would have to accommodate almost a million people, to pay all social benefits and to employ them," he said.

"At the same time, despite this difficult situation we cannot say that it is impossible to do anything," Rozenko said.

As UNIAN reported earlier, according to the Ministry of Social Policy, the total assistance to internally displaced persons for rent costs and utilities amounted to UAH 528 million, including UAH 170 million paid for January 2015. A total of 240,000 people have already received assistance.

<http://www.unian.info/society/1042350-number-of-displaced-persons-reaches-one-million.html>

### **Turchynov: Front line pushed 20 km away from Mariupol, 11.02.2015**

The Ukrainian armed forces have pushed the front line 20 kilometers further away from Mariupol and strengthened the defenses of the area, National Security and Defense Council Secretary Oleksandr Turchynov said on Tuesday.

"This morning, the units of the National Guard, including Ukraine's Azov volunteer battalion, broke through the defenses of the Russian-backed militants and went on the offensive. They took Pavlopil, Kominternove, Shyrokov and other [villages] during the attack," he said.

"We redrew the front line 20 kilometers away from the city, protecting it from shelling and strengthening the defense of this region," Turchynov said.

<http://www.unian.info/war/1042774-turchynov-front-line-pushed-20-km-away-from-mariupol.html>

### **Center bus station in Donetsk shelled, causing casualties, 11.02.2015**

A bus station in Donetsk was shelled early on Wednesday morning, killing at least four people and wounding five, according to reports from the militant-held city.

According to Radio Liberty, with reference to social networks, the attack on the city's Center Bus Station occurred at around 0620. Pictures from the scene show burned-out buses.

According to preliminary reports, the shells hit the No.26 and No.24 buses. The buses immediately caught fire, causing injuries and deaths. The reports are being checked.

<http://www.unian.info/society/1042778-center-bus-station-in-donetsk-shelled-causing-casualties.html>

### **OSCE: Kramatorsk fired on from south-southeast, 11.02.2015**

The Smerch rockets that hit Kramatorsk on Tuesday, killing 16 people and wounding another 64, were fired from the south-southeast, from the direction of militant-held territory, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe has reported.

The results of an OSCE investigation at the scene of the attack were given in a brief report by its special monitoring mission in Kramatorsk, Ukrainian online newspaper Lb.ua reported.

"According to the special monitoring mission, three shells were 300mm ammunition fired from BM-30 Smerch [rockets]," the OSCE said.

"Based on observations on the ground, photographs and a map analysis, the mission has determined that the [rocket were launched] from the south-southeast direction. The special monitoring mission has not yet carried out an analysis of the [impact] craters for safety reasons," the report reads.

Ukrainian government has said the Smerch rockets were fired from the militant-held town of Horlivka, about 90 kilometers to the south-southeast. Smerch rockets have a maximum range of 90 kilometers.

<http://www.unian.info/war/1042768-osce-kramatorsk-fired-on-from-south-southeast.html>

### **Kramatorsk again attacked with rockets, 11.02.2015**

There was another rocket attack on Kramatorsk in Donetsk region on Wednesday morning, according to reports in social media, Ukrainian online channel Espresso.TV has reported.

According to reports, the attack occurred at around 0800, with several rockets exploding near the city's airfield. There are no other details about the attack as yet.

The exact locations of the explosions were not identified.

"It looks like the airport," journalist Sergiy Garmash wrote on Twitter.

Later he added: "There seems to be a 'missile syndrome' in Kramatorsk. Some say they are being attacked [by the militants], others that missiles are being launched by our side. We are waiting for more clarifications."

As reported earlier, on Tuesday at around 1200, Kramatorsk was hit by a salvo of Smerch rockets, which killed 16 people and injured 64. The Ukrainian authorities have classified the attack as an act of terrorism.

<http://www.unian.info/war/1042791-kramatorsk-again-attacked-with-rockets.html>

### **Militants withdraw from Lohvynove after Ukrainian artillery strikes, 11.02.2015**

Russian-backed militants have left their positions in the village of Lohvynove in Donetsk region after being hit by massive artillery strikes from the Ukrainian armed forces, head of the Information Resistance group Dmytro Tymchuk wrote on his Facebook page.

Some of the militants moved towards the village of Nyzhnie Lozove, while another group of militants went along a few kilometers of the Debaltseve-Artemivsk road towards the village of Novohryhorivka, and occupied an intermediate position," he said.

"De-blocking groups of Ukrainian troops have moved forward along the E40-M03 road to the Debaltsevskiy crossroads," Tymchuk said.

<http://www.unian.info/war/1042797-militants-withdraw-from-lohvynove-after-ukrainian-artillery-strikes.html>

### **19 Ukrainian soldiers killed, 78 wounded in last day, 11.02.2015**

"There have been 107 attacks by the Russian-backed militants on the positions of the Ukrainian armed forces and on Ukrainian-controlled villages. The militants fired on our positions near 40 villages, as well as near the mounds and the village of Hostra Mohyla," he said.

"Over the last day, we have lost 19 Ukrainian soldiers as a result of military clashes and firefights, including 17 representatives of the Ukrainian armed forces and two servicemen from the Interior Ministry. Another 78 soldiers received injuries of varying severity and were sent to hospital," Selezniiov said.

<http://www.unian.info/war/1042801-19-ukrainian-soldiers-killed-78-wounded-in-last-day.html>

### **Russian military in Donbas dressed in uniforms of Ukrainian soldiers, 12.02.2015**

"Two BM-21 Grad [multiple rocket launcher] and a column of trucks have been deployed near the station of Bairak (in Horlivka district). The column was accompanied by Russian soldiers, half of them dressed in the uniforms of the Russian Armed Forces, and half in the new type of Ukrainian uniform bearing the Ukrop badge and Ukrainian flag [badges]," Tymchuk said.

Also, according to Tymchuk, in the vicinity of settlements Krymske and Trekhizbenka, the militants have begun to regroup their forces. There was movement along the front line by several small tactical groups.

<http://www.unian.info/war/1043330-russian-military-in-donbas-dressed-in-uniforms-of-ukrainian-soldiers.html>

### **Militant leaders sign Minsk peace agreement, 12.02.2015**

The leaders of the Donetsk and Luhansk Peoples' Republics militant organizations have signed the "Normandy Four" Minsk peace plan to end the conflict in the east of Ukraine, the leader of the LPR Ihor Plotnytskyi said on Thursday.

<http://www.unian.info/politics/1043335-militant-leaders-sign-minsk-peace-agreement.html>

### **Lysenko: 50 tanks, 40 rocket systems and 40 armored vehicles crossed into Ukraine near Izvarino at night, 12.02.2015**

Even as the leaders of Ukraine, Russia, France and Germany wrangled over the terms of a ceasefire agreement in Minsk on Wednesday and Thursday, more weapons of war crossed into Ukraine from Russia, Ukrainian military sources say.

The spokesperson of the government's Anti-Terrorist Operation headquarters, Andriy Lysenko, at a briefing in Kyiv on Thursday said a record amount of Russian military hardware was spotted crossing into Ukraine from Russia overnight.

"Despite the statements of high-ranking officials of the Russian Federation regarding the absence of Russian military equipment and troops on the territory of Ukraine, on the night of February 12, the movement of 50 tanks, 40 Grad, Uragan and Tornado multiple rocket launcher systems and the same number of armored vehicles was observed crossing the Russian-Ukrainian border in the area of Izvarino," Lysenko said

<http://www.unian.info/war/1043415-lysenko-50-tanks-40-rocket-systems-and-40-armored-vehicles-crossed-into-ukraine-near-izvarino-at-night.html>

### **Militants attack village of Shyrokyne near Mariupol, 12.02.2015**

Russian-backed militants have fired artillery on the village of Shyrokyne and the positions of the Ukrainian armed forces near Mariupol, the defense headquarters of Mariupol wrote on Facebook on Thursday.

The Russian-terrorist fighters are firing artillery on the village of Shyrokyne from the village of Bezimenne. The firing positions of the militants are located in the village, and this complicates their neutralization," the report says.

According to the headquarters, the militants are firing both on the village itself, directly on civilians, and on the positions of the Ukrainian forces.

"The Ukrainian armed forces are doing their best to suppress the enemy firing points and to stop another barbaric shelling of residential areas," the report said.

<http://www.unian.info/war/1043506-militants-attack-village-of-shyrokyne-near-mariupol.html>

### **Logvinovo retaken by Ukrainian military, 12.02.2015**

The Ukrainian armed forces on Thursday stormed the village of Logvinovo, a key point on the Artemivsk-Debaltseve highway that was occupied earlier by Russian-backed militants, Donbas Battalion Commander Semen Semchenko has written on his page on Facebook.

According to Semchenko, there is still some minor resistance in some areas that is now being suppressed.

The Donbas battalion is conducting a security sweep in the village and the surrounding area of the highway, Semchenko said.

<http://www.unian.info/war/1043465-logvinovo-retaken-by-ukrainian-military.html>

### **Eight Ukrainian soldiers killed, 34 wounded in last day, 13.02.2015**

Eight Ukrainian soldiers were killed and 34 wounded in fighting in eastern Ukraine over the last day, the government's Anti-Terrorist Operation headquarters spokesman Vladyslav Selezniiov wrote on his Facebook page on Friday.

"Over the last day, we have lost eight Ukrainian soldiers as a result of military clashes and firefights. Another 34 soldiers received injuries of varying severity," he said.

According to Selezniiov, Ukrainian forces carried out the appropriate measures to evacuate the wounded from the battlefield.

"All of the wounded were sent to hospitals where they received the necessary medical care," he said.

"At the moment, there are 594 Ukrainian soldiers in hospitals and medical institutions, of whom 27 are seriously injured," he added.

<http://www.unian.info/war/1043814-eight-ukrainian-soldiers-killed-34-wounded-in-last-day.html>

### **Militants attack Ukrainian forces 69 times in last day, fierce fighting near Debaltseve, 13.02.2015**

With just 34 hours left until a ceasefire is supposed to come into effect in eastern Ukraine, heavy fighting still rages in the Donbas, the ATO press center said on Facebook on Friday.

"Illegal armed groups fired 69 times at ATO positions. The terrorists used artillery 12 times, mortars 26 times, multiple rocket launchers 14 times, and tanks five times," the press center said.

In particular, heavy fighting continues in the area around the Ukrainian-held town of Debaltseve.

"Most of the strikes launched by the Russian-backed militants were aimed at Debaltseve, Chernukhino, and Kamenka. Gunmen stormed three positions of the Ukrainian military near these settlements," the statement reads.

<http://www.unian.info/war/1043836-militants-attacked-ukrainian-forces-69-times-in-last-day-fierce-fighting-near-debaltseve.html>

### **Ukraine Defense Ministry: Militants and Russians ordered to occupy Debaltseve by Sunday, 13.02.2015**

"Today, having agreement on a ceasefire from 0000, February 15, Russian-backed militants and the Russian armed forces have been ordered to raise the Russian flag over Debaltseve," he said.

According to Mekhed, the same task has been set for Mariupol.

"However, while there is a fierce fighting for Debaltseve, which has been attacked three times as of this morning, Mariupol is still under the control of the Ukrainian armed forces," he said

"According to the latest information, there are more than 10,000 soldiers of the Russian armed forces on the territory of Ukraine," Mekhed said.

<http://www.unian.info/war/1043944-ukraine-defense-ministry-militants-and-russians-ordered-to-occupy-debaltseve-by-sunday.html>

### **Report: Militants fire Grad rockets at Hirnyk in Donbas, three women killed, 13.02.2015**

Russian-backed militants continue to fire rockets at the towns and villages of the Donbas, despite the latest agreements reached in Minsk, head of the Interior Ministry in Donetsk region Viacheslav Abroskin wrote on his Facebook page on Friday.

<http://www.unian.info/war/1043952-report-militants-fire-grad-rockets-at-hirnyk-in-donbas-three-women-killed.html>

### **British Saxon armored cars to be delivered to Ukrainian army after conversion and testing, 13.02.2015**

A consignment of 20 British Saxon armored cars has been delivered to Ukraine, with another 55 of the vehicles expected to arrive in the country in the near future, Secretary of the National Security and Defense Council of Ukraine Oleksandr Turchynov has said.

<http://www.unian.info/war/1043957-british-saxon-armored-cars-to-be-delivered-to-ukrainian-army-after-reconversion-and-testing.html>

### **Tymchuk: Militant fire on Debaltseve now more intense than before ceasefire, 16.02.2015**

Since the beginning of the ceasefire, the first strike was carried out at night, on February 15, from militant positions in Stakhanov. A group of militants opened fire with howitzers," Tymchuk said.

"In addition, the militants attempted to move forward," he said.

At the same time, according to Tymchuk, the most difficult situation is seen at the Debaltseve bridgehead," Tymchuk said.

<http://www.unian.info/war/1044553-tymchuk-militant-fire-on-debaltseve-now-more-intense-than-before-ceasefire.html>

### **Five Ukrainian soldiers killed, 22 wounded near Mariupol since start of latest 'ceasefire', 16.02.2015**

"In the first day after the beginning of the ceasefire, the illegal armed groups failed to comply with the agreements they signed in Minsk. Thus, yesterday the occupants twice shelled ATO positions in the settlement of Shyrokin with tanks," the statement reads.

It also said that at 0100 on Monday militants launched attacks with small arms on Ukrainian positions in the same village.

The situation in other positions of the "M" or Mariupol sector of the frontline is calm. The Ukrainian military are in their positions, and do not open fire, fully complying with the Minsk agreement, the report said.

<http://www.unian.info/war/1044621-five-ukrainian-soldiers-killed-22-wounded-near-mariupol-since-start-of-latest-ceasefire.html>

### **Tymchuk: Militants building up forces near Horlivka, 16.02.2015**

"The enemy has performed a regrouping of its forces. Two battalion tactical groups of Russian-backed troops have been deployed in the area of Horlivka, reinforced by a separate armored group (totaling 900 people, 25 tanks, 32 armored combat vehicles, up to 20 other vehicles, two mortar batteries, and two artillery batteries - six D-30 howitzers and six MT-12 anti-tank guns)," Tymchuk wrote.

A ceasefire was supposed to have come into effect in Ukraine on Sunday at midnight, but militant forces have continued to attack Ukrainian positions in Debaltseve and around Mariupol.

<http://www.unian.info/war/1044563-tymchuk-militants-building-up-forces-near-horlivka.html>

### **Militants launch 112 attacks in last day, 88 of them on Debaltseve, 16.02.2015**

Russian-backed militants have fired 112 times on the positions of the Ukrainian armed forces, including 88 times on Debaltseve and surrounding villages, in the time since a ceasefire was supposed to have come into effect in Ukraine on Sunday.

"Analyzing the first day since the beginning of the ceasefire, we can say that the illegal armed groups are not adhering to the agreements they signed," the report says.

"Since the beginning of the ceasefire the militants have fired multiple launch rocket systems 31 times. They used tanks four times, and they have used artillery and mortars 56 times," the press center said.

"We can confirm that the illegal armed groups are not adhere to the signed agreements," the press center reported.

<http://www.unian.info/war/1044642-militants-launch-112-attacks-in-last-day-88-of-them-on-debaltseve.html>

### **Media: Militants want to occupy Debaltseve to supply front line by rail, 16.02.2015**

Debaltseve is an important military objective of the Russian-backed militants as taking the town would enable them to increase the amount of military supplies getting to the front line, Ukrainian news service TSN.Tyzhden said on Sunday.

Debaltseve stands at the crossroads of rail communications between Luhansk and Donetsk, as well as Russia's Rostov-on-Don - the main Russian city from which Russian military equipment and troops have been sent into Ukraine since the beginning of the war, TSN said.

If the town is occupied, the militants will be able to move supplies freely from the Russian border to the front line, TSN said.

The volumes of what Russia claims is humanitarian aid that could be sent by rail will be much more than the current volumes it is sending in trucks. One rail freight car alone can hold the same volume as three of the biggest Kamaz trucks that Russia has been sending into Ukraine since August.

The Russian Emergency Situations Ministry says more than 20,000 tonnes of cargo have been already sent to Ukraine, in more than a thousand Kamaz trucks over six months. By rail, similar amounts could be sent in one, two, or three trains per day.

<http://www.unian.info/war/1044694-media-militants-want-to-occupy-debaltseve-to-supply-front-line-by-rail.html>

### **Ukrainian military claims its troops in Debaltseve are not surrounded, 17.02.2015**

The headquarters of the Anti-Terrorist Operation denies claims by Russian-backed militants that they have almost encircled Ukrainian forces in the area of Debaltseve, the head of the press center of the ATO headquarters, Colonel Oleksandr Motuzianyk told an UNIAN correspondent on Monday.

"There is no pocket there. The militants indeed have tried to attack our positions and to displace our forces. But there is no pocket there," he said.

According to Motuzianyk, the headquarters of the Anti-Terrorist Operation have the appropriate communications that allow the units of the Ukrainian armed forces and other military formations to be provided with all they need.

<http://www.unian.info/war/1045009-ukrainian-military-claims-its-troops-in-debaltseve-are-not-surrounded.html>

### **UN: Number of killed in Donbas conflict exceeds 5,600**

A total of 5,617 people, including 63 children, have been killed in the Donbas conflict zone in eastern Ukraine since fighting broke out there in mid-April, the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) reported on Monday, according to Russian news agency TASS. In addition, 13,400 people, including 159 children, were injured during this period.

According to the UN's review of the situation in Ukraine from January 7 to February 13, as of February 9, a total of 1.7 million people have been registered as internally displaced persons.

The deterioration of the humanitarian situation due to the conflict in the Donbas has affected 5.2 million people.

<http://www.unian.info/society/1045052-un-number-of-killed-in-donbas-conflict-exceeds-5600.html>

### **Ukrainian forces 'resume control over Logvinovo, Artemivsk-Debaltseve highway, 17.02.2015**

The Ukrainian armed forces have resumed control over the village of Logvinovo and the Artemivsk-Debaltseve highway, the government's Anti-Terrorist Operation spokesman Anatoliy Stelmach said at a press briefing in Kyiv on Tuesday.

"Logvinovo village is within the fire zone of Ukrainian artillery. Over the last few days, fierce fighting has continued there, but now our checkpoints are on the outskirts of the village, so the village is actually under our control," he said.

Also, according to Stelmakh, the Artemovsk-Debaltseve highway is completely controlled by Ukrainian military, with Ukrainian checkpoints being set up there.

"The road is completely controlled by us, ammunition and food are transported there, and a scheduled rotation of personnel is being carried out," he added.

<http://www.unian.info/war/1045065-ukrainian-forces-resume-control-over-logvinovo-artemivsk-debaltseve-highway.html>

### **Tymchuk: 'Gasoline war' raging in Luhansk between militant leaders and 'Cossacks', 17.02.2015**

A conflict over contraband gasoline has broken out in Luhansk, with the leaders of the Luhansk People's Republic militant organization demanding that the Cossack group of militants provide fuel "for the needs of the republic,"

The Cossack group of fighters has cornered the market in fuel illegally brought into Ukraine in part by Russia's "humanitarian convoys," according to Tymchuk.

"There is a gasoline war involving the LNR "Cossack" fighters, who control 80% of the gas stations in the south of Luhansk region," Tymchuk said.

"The fuel in these areas comes from Russia in two ways – convoys (10 to 15 fuelling vehicles in each column, escorted by armed guards) and through previously arranged contraband routes," Tymchuk wrote.

<http://www.unian.info/society/1045106-tymchuk-gasoline-war-raging-in-luhansk-between-militant-leaders-and-cossacks.html>

### **Militants take railway station and city police department in Debaltseve, 17.02.2015**

There was heavy street-fighting in Debaltseve on Tuesday, with Russian-backed militants taking control of the railway station and the local police department in the town, according to a Ukrainian journalist reporting from the area.

"From Debaltseve. Fifteen minutes ago the 'Russian world' fighters seized the local police department shouting 'Allahu Akbar,'" journalist Andriy Tsaplienko wrote on Facebook.

"An hour ago [the militants took] the railway station," he wrote.

The head of the Interior Ministry in Donetsk region Viacheslav Abroskin confirmed reports that the local city police department had been abandoned.

He said that as a result of shelling the local police department building had been practically destroyed. He ordered the police officers to relocate to a more fortified place, as it was too dangerous to stay in the old building.

<http://www.unian.info/war/1045129-journalist-militants-take-railway-station-and-city-police-department-in-debaltseve.html>

### **Five Ukrainian soldiers killed, 9 wounded in Donbas conflict zone in last day, 17.02.2015**

Five Ukrainian soldiers were killed and another nine were wounded in the Donbas conflict zone in the last 24 hours, National Security and Defense Council spokesman Andriy Lysenko said at a briefing in Kyiv on Tuesday, according to an UNIAN correspondent.

<http://www.unian.info/war/1045135-five-ukrainian-soldiers-killed-9-wounded-in-donbas-conflict-zone-in-last-day.html>

### **Report: Soldiers near Debaltseve ask for help, say they could all be killed, 17.02.2015**

Soldiers of Ukraine's Kyivska Rus battalion said on Tuesday they would be able to maintain their positions near Debaltseve for a maximum of 12 hours, and without reinforcements they may all be killed, journalist Olga Germanova has reported on her Facebook page.

Earlier it was reported that fierce fighting continues in the areas around Debaltseve, while the Ukrainian military claimed to have regained control over the village of Logvinovo.

Germanova said in her posting, made just before 1400 Kyiv time, that she had received a plea for help from Ukrainian soldiers in the village of Komuna, immediately to the west of the town of Debaltseve.

<http://www.unian.info/politics/1045162-report-soldiers-near-debaltseve-ask-for-help-say-they-could-all-be-killed.html>

### **"Information Resistance:" Militants throw all its reserves to capture Debal'tseve, 18.02.2015**

Fierce fighting continues in the area of Debal'tseve.

"The Russian terrorist forces have thrown all its reserves to get control over the settlement," – says the the MP and Coordinator of the "Information Resistance" group, Dmytro Tymchuk. According to him, new Russian-terrorist tactical group arrived to Vergulevka yesterday. The group, as well as one more tactical group, is being in offensive now. "Another tactical group of the enemy hit Debal'tseve from the north-east" – says the statement.

[http://mw.ua/UKRAINE/information-resistance-militants-throw-all-its-reserves-to-capture-debal-tseve-1224\\_.html](http://mw.ua/UKRAINE/information-resistance-militants-throw-all-its-reserves-to-capture-debal-tseve-1224_.html)

### **"DPR" militants announce about the beginning of heavy weapons withdrawal, 18.02.2015**

The terrorists say they have already begun the withdrawal of heavy artillery systems from a dividing line indicated in the Minsk agreement of September 19, 2014

"Five 152 mm caliber SPGs are being withdrawn from the area Olenivka to their permanent locations," - said one of the "DPR" leaders, Eduard Basurin.

[http://mw.ua/UKRAINE/dpr-militants-announce-about-the-beginning-of-heavy-weapons-withdrawal-1228\\_.html](http://mw.ua/UKRAINE/dpr-militants-announce-about-the-beginning-of-heavy-weapons-withdrawal-1228_.html)

### **ATO HQ: Militants intensify their actions on all directions, 18.02.2015**

The number of artillery strike has fallen since the previous night, but the militants' actions have intensified on all directions.

"The enemy has been openly violating the ceasefire agreement by shelling and storming Debaltseve. The militants fired 5 times the city from the "M1964s" and artillery during the previous day, reports the ATO press service on Facebook.

It also notes that the militants stormed the city on Tuesday afternoon and began to destroying the infrastructure: railway traffic, roads and power networks.

"The Ukrainian troops have continued repelling the enemy after regrouping. Currently, a military operation is underway in Debaltseve," – says the statement.

[http://mw.ua/UKRAINE/ato-hq-militants-intensify-their-actions-on-all-directions-1230\\_.html](http://mw.ua/UKRAINE/ato-hq-militants-intensify-their-actions-on-all-directions-1230_.html)

### **Tymchuk: Russian forces fully control Debaltseve and create "commandant's offices", 19.02.2015**

Russian-terrorist forces have completely taken over Debaltseve, and create a kind of "commandant's offices," reports the "Information Resistance" group.

"The enemy's forces are moving towards the Luhansk direction. Ukrainian units are repelling the attacks. Also, the enemy has begun evacuation of the damaged equipment from the fighting areas in Debaltseve," - writes the leader of the group and MP, Dmytro Tymchuk on Facebook.

At the same time, the militants continue to pressure the Ukrainian military in the region.

[http://mw.ua/UKRAINE/tymchuk-russian-forces-fully-control-debaltseve-and-create-commandant-s-offices-1237\\_.html](http://mw.ua/UKRAINE/tymchuk-russian-forces-fully-control-debaltseve-and-create-commandant-s-offices-1237_.html)

### **Over 90% of Ukrainian troops withdrawn from Debaltseve, 19.02.2015**

More than 90% of the personnel of the Ukrainian armed forces in the eastern Ukrainian town of Debaltseve have already been withdrawn, the government's Anti-Terrorist Operation spokesman Anatoliy Stelmakh said at a briefing on Thursday "More than 90% of the military personnel have already withdrawn from the town and its outskirts," he said.

"The planned redeployment of the Ukrainian troops has demonstrated once again that there was no encirclement. The Ukrainian military units will occupy new, more favorable positions for the defense of the country," Stelmakh said.

Earlier, on Wednesday evening Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko said that a total of 2,475 Ukrainian troops had already withdrawn from Debaltseve in the east of Ukraine.

<http://www.unian.info/war/1046066-over-90-of-ukrainian-troops-withdrawn-from-debaltseve.html>

### **Militants intensify attacks near Mariupol, 19.02.2015**

"We have recorded an intensification of militant attacks in the area of Mariupol over the last day. Russian-backed insurgents fired from tanks on our positions near the village of Shyrokyne, as well as launching 13 attacks with artillery and mortars," he said.

"At the same time, the intensity of militant attacks along the demarcation line decreased last night," the ATO spokesman Anatoliy Stelmakh said.

<http://www.unian.info/war/1046097-militants-intensify-attacks-near-mariupol.html>

### **Number of displaced persons in Ukraine over 735,000, 19.02.2015**

"According to operational information, there are 735,525 internally displaced persons in Ukraine who have fled the conflict regions, including 20,221 people leaving their homes in Crimea, and 715,304 fleeing from the eastern provinces," the report says.

The largest numbers of people have been displaced in Kharkiv (136,906 persons), Luhansk (128,082), Donetsk (97,237), Dnipropetrovsk (77,212), Zaporizhia (58,172), Kyiv (33,815) and Kyiv region (39,047). The lowest numbers of displaced people are in Ternopil (2,327 persons), Chernivtsi (2,447), Ivano-Frankivsk (3,900), Volyn (3,394), Zakarpattia (3,415) and Rivne (3,541) regions.

A total of 4,393 adults and 3,238 children from Crimea, as well as 107,869 adults and 70,415 children from the Donetsk and Luhansk regions have sought medical help.

According to the press service, a total of 2,598 children have already been born in different regions of Ukraine.

<http://www.unian.info/society/1046142-number-of-displaced-persons-in-ukraine-over-735000.html>

### **14 Ukrainian soldiers killed, 172 wounded in Donbas conflict zone in last day, 19.02.2015**

"Over the last day, we have lost 14 Ukrainian soldiers, and another 172 were injured as a result of military clashes," Lysenko said.

More than 90% of the Ukrainian armed forces personnel have already withdrawn from Debaltseve in the east of Ukraine, the ATO spokesman said earlier.

<http://www.unian.info/war/1046159-14-ukrainian-soldiers-killed-172-wounded-in-donbas-conflict-zone-in-last-day.html>

### **General Staff: over 90 Ukrainian soldiers taken captive, another 82 missing in Debaltseve, 19.02.2015**

The figures are given on the official Web site of Ukraine's Ministry of Defense, with reference to the General Staff's press office.

As noted in the report "in its information war, the enemy significantly overstates the number of the Ukrainian military that have been killed or taken captive."

"Ninety members of Ukrainian Armed Forces were taken captive when fighting with unequal forces of the enemy in one of the areas of the Debaltseve bridgehead. Also, the General Staff is currently conducting a search for 82 men whose whereabouts are unknown. Certain resources have been involved to search for the missing persons. Additionally, we have requested help from representatives of the OSCE Observation Mission, the Joint Center for ceasefire control and coordination and stabilization of the parties' demarcation line, and other government and non-governmental organizations."

<http://www.unian.info/war/1046200-general-staff-over-90-ukrainian-soldiers-taken-captive-another-82-missing-in-debaltseve.html>

### **112 wounded ATO soldiers delivered to Dnipropetrovsk, 19.02.2015**

112 ATO soldiers delivered to Dnipropetrovsk's hospitals for the previous day.

The wounded soldiers have been placed in Mechnikov hospital, hospitals №4, №6, №16, emergency hospitals, as well as in a military hospital, reports the Department of Health at Dnipropetrovsk oblast' administration.

11 soldiers have been delivered to Mechnikov hospital in Dnipropetrovsk.

"Six soldiers are in serious condition, one of them – in critical. Others are in a state of moderate severity," – commented the chief doctor at the Dnipropetrovsk oblast' hospital, Sergiy Ryzhenko.

[http://mw.ua/UKRAINE/112-wounded-ato-soldiers-delivered-to-dnipropetrovsk-1244\\_.html](http://mw.ua/UKRAINE/112-wounded-ato-soldiers-delivered-to-dnipropetrovsk-1244_.html)

### **Number of displaced persons in Ukraine over 735,000, 19.02.2015**

The number of Ukrainians displaced from Crimea, Sevastopol and the Donbas conflict zone now exceeds 735,525, the Department of Information and Communication of the Secretariat of the Cabinet of Ministers reported on Thursday, with reference to the Interagency coordination headquarters.

"According to operational information, there are 735,525 internally displaced persons in Ukraine who have fled the conflict regions, including 20,221 people leaving their homes in Crimea, and 715,304 fleeing from the eastern provinces," the report says.

The largest numbers of people have been displaced in Kharkiv (136,906 persons), Luhansk (128,082), Donetsk (97,237), Dnipropetrovsk (77,212), Zaporizhia (58,172), Kyiv (33,815) and Kyiv region (39,047). The lowest numbers of displaced people are in Ternopil (2,327 persons), Chernivtsi (2,447), Ivano-Frankivsk (3,900), Volyn (3,394), Zakarpattia (3,415) and Rivne (3,541) regions. A total of 4,393 adults and 3,238 children from Crimea, as well as 107,869 According to the press service, a total of 2,598 children have already been born in different regions of Ukraine.

<http://www.unian.info/society/1046142-number-of-displaced-persons-in-ukraine-over-735000.html>

### **Completion of Ukrainian troops withdrawal from Debaltseve reported to Poroshenko, 19.02.2015**

The chief of the Sector S command staff, Colonel nom de guerre 'Taran,' who controls the operation to withdraw the Ukrainian troops from the town of Debaltseve, has reported to Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko that he was the last to leave the town, presidential press secretary Sviatoslav Tseholko wrote on Facebook.

"While controlling an organized withdrawal of our troops from Debaltseve, I was the last who has left it," the chief of the Sector S command staff said in a telephone conversation with Poroshenko.

The president called the colonel to thank for courage and heroism, Tseholko wrote.

<http://www.unian.info/war/1046269-completion-of-ukrainian-troops-withdrawal-from-debaltseve-reported-to-poroshenko.html>

### **ATO HQ: Militants violate 49 times ceasefire agreement on Thursday, 20.02.2015**

Pro-Russian militants do not stop the firing and are not going to withdraw heavy weapons from the dividing line.

"In total, the militants have fired 15 times the Ukrainian Armed Forces' positions for the previous night. The enemy has violated 49 times the ceasefire agreement for the last 24 hours," – reports the ATO press service on Facebook.

Settlements on the Donetsk direction have been fired the most. Avdiivka and Tonen'ke have been shelled from the MRLs, Kurahove – from "M1964s," while Vodiane has been shelled from artillery and mortars. The terrorists have used AFVs in the area of Opytne.

[http://mw.ua/UKRAINE/ato-hq-militants-violate-49-times-ceasefire-agreement-on-thursday-1255\\_.html](http://mw.ua/UKRAINE/ato-hq-militants-violate-49-times-ceasefire-agreement-on-thursday-1255_.html)

### **Information Resistance: Storming of Debaltseve managed by Russian officers, 20.02.2015**

Russian soldiers took part in the offensive in the area of Debaltseve, says the "Information Resistance" group.

According to it, the Russian Armed Forces are located south and east of Debaltseve. "These units are perfectly equipped and armed (disguised as "the Novorossiia Armed Forces"). In particular, three battalions and two artillery groups of the Russian Armed Forces have been recorded (35 tanks, 68 AFVs, up to 50 artillery guns and 24 MLRs). These groups took a direct part in the offensive in the area of Debaltseve," - reports group coordinator, Dmytro Tymchuk.

Moreover, the Russian officers managed the whole operation, says the group.

[http://mw.ua/UKRAINE/information-resistance-storming-of-debaltseve-managed-by-russian-officers-1253\\_.html](http://mw.ua/UKRAINE/information-resistance-storming-of-debaltseve-managed-by-russian-officers-1253_.html)

### **Information Resistance: Russia delivers four convoys with military equipment to Donbas, 20.02.2015**

The situation in the ATO area remains tense, as Russian-terrorist troops continue to actively fire Ukrainian troops' positions.

The main operational directions seeregrouping of the Russian-terrorist forces, there is an intensification of material and resources' recovery process of the enemy's forces combat capability due to resupply of their manpower, weaponry and military equipment, announced the "Information Resistance" group.

"Four supply convoys (a total of 55 transport units, 28 pieces of equipment, including tanks, AFVs and SPGs) were delivered to the Donbas from Russia yesterday," – says the coordinator of the group, Dmytro Tymchuk.

[http://mw.ua/UKRAINE/information-resistance-russia-delivers-four-convoys-with-military-equipment-to-donbas-1250\\_.html](http://mw.ua/UKRAINE/information-resistance-russia-delivers-four-convoys-with-military-equipment-to-donbas-1250_.html)

### **Two Ukrainian soldiers killed, three wounded in last day, 20.02.2015**

"Over the last day, we have lost two Ukrainian soldiers as a result of military clashes and firefights. Another three soldiers received injuries of varying severity," Selezniiov said.

According to Selezniiov, 13 Ukrainian soldiers were killed and another 157 injured during the withdrawal from the Debaltseve bridgehead.

The Ukrainian authorities say they ordered a withdrawal of Ukrainian troops from the besieged town of Debatltseve on Wednesday, but soldiers returning from the battlefield said that the decision to pull out was taken by commanders on the ground.

<http://www.unian.info/war/1046531-two-ukrainian-soldiers-killed-three-wounded-in-last-day.html>

### **Russian soldiers 'disguised as army of Novorossiia' spotted near Debaltseve, 20.02.2015**

These units were directly involved in the fighting for Debaltseve in cooperation with the armed groups of the Donetsk and Luhansk Peoples' Republics militant organizations, Tymchuk said.

He said the units of the Russian armed forces were spotted to the southeast of Debaltseve.

They are "perfectly armed and equipped (disguised as [militants of] the army of Novorossiia). In particular, three battalions of tactical group of Russian troops and two supporting artillery groups (a total of 35 tanks, 68 armored combat vehicles, 50 guns and 24 cannon artillery installation MLRS) were spotted."

<http://www.unian.info/war/1046517-russian-units-disguised-as-army-of-novorossiia-spotted-near-debaltseve.html>

### **Tymchuk: Russia deploys militants, tanks and mortar battery near Mariupol, 20.02.2015**

"A mixed group of militants and Russian mercenaries of up to a reinforced company, including 130 persons, four tanks, six trucks, six D-30 howitzers and a mortar battery, has arrived in the village of Bezimenne of the Novoazovski district from the territory of the Russian Federation," he said.

"In addition, the group also included the intelligence group of 17 people of the Main Intelligence Directorate of the Russian Federation, three sport utility vehicles and a van," Tymchuk said.

<http://www.unian.info/politics/1046522-tymchuk-russia-deploys-militants-tanks-and-mortar-battery-near-mariupol.html>

### **Volunteer: One Ukrainian battalion still holding positions in Debaltseve, 20.02.2015**

"According to our information, one of the battalions, which is located on the other side of Debaltseve, is stilling holds its positions," she said.

According to Kobylenska, the Ukrainian battalion exchanged militant prisoners for its own ones.

"As the prisoner said, a lot of prisoners captured in Debaltseve some weeks ago were still in Horlivka. According to his calculations, there were tens, about three dozen people, whom he could see in Debalsteve. They were in cellars, in the hospital of Horlivka," Kobylenska said.

"The number of prisoners could have increased in the last few days of the military clashes," she said.

She also said that the attitude towards prisoners in Horlivka was inhuman. In particular, one prisoner who was exchanged had been shot in the kneecap, and the militants had burned his hair and mocked him.

<http://www.unian.info/war/1046568-volunteer-one-ukrainian-battalion-still-holding-positions-in-debaltseve.html>

### **Mercenary aka 'Motorola' could have been eliminated by DPR militants, 21.02.2015**

This was announced by Chief of the SBU's Main Investigation Department Vasyl Vovk at an exhibition entitled "Presence. Evidence of Aggression of the Russian Troops in Ukraine's Territory," which opened on Mykhailivska Square downtown Kyiv.

"As for citizen Pavlov, who is better known by his nom de guerre 'Motorola,' they have been looking for him, and he may have already been eliminated by his comrades-in-arms. They kill each other. He is suspected of torture and public executions of people. He simply came up to people and shot them. We've got this evidence from the released hostages," Vovk said.

<http://www.unian.info/war/1046933-mercenary-aka-motorola-could-have-been-eliminated-by-dpr-militants-sbu.html>

### **139 Ukrainian soldiers released in POW exchange outside Luhansk, 21.02.2015**

This was announced by Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko on his Facebook page.

"139 Ukrainian soldiers have just been released! Among them are servicemen who were captured near Debaltseve and the so-called 'cyborgs' [the Ukrainian defenders] from Donetsk airport," Poroshenko wrote.

<http://www.unian.info/war/1046955-fifty-two-pro-russian-militants-exchanged-for-140-ukrainian-troops-outside-luhansk.html>

### **Talks on exchange of 112 Ukrainian POWs still under way, 21.02.2015**

This was announced by Ukrainian Defense Minister Stepan Poltorak when opening an exhibition entitled "Presence. Evidence of Aggression of the Russian Troops in Ukraine's Territory" on Kyiv's Mykhailivska Square.

"The negotiations regarding the prisoners of war are underway. I think this [release] will happen soon if the Minsk agreements are fulfilled. The Ukrainian side has already submitted its [POW] lists," he said.

<http://www.unian.info/war/1046948-talks-on-exchange-of-112-ukrainian-pows-still-under-way.html>

### **Militant leaders agree to withdraw heavy weapons from Sunday – mass media reports, 21.02.2015**

The issue of Debaltseve is to be decided separately.

Leader of the militants of the so-called Donetsk People's Republic Oleksandr Zakharchenko has approved documents for the withdrawal of heavy weapons.

Petro Kanonik, the head of the Ukrainian military group at the Joint Centre for Ceasefire Control and Coordination, told this to Ukrainian online newspaper Ukrainska Pravda.

"Just an hour ago, Russia's representative to the Joint Center Alexander Lentsov signed heavy weapons withdrawal documents with Zakharchenko, and before that they were signed with [Luhansk People's Republic leader Igor] Plotnitsky," Kanonik said.

"Zero hour is to begin tomorrow, February 22," he said.

<http://www.unian.info/war/1046968-militant-leaders-agree-to-withdraw-heavy-weapons-from-sunday-mass-media-reports.html>

### **OSCE reports humanitarian disaster in Debaltseve, 22.02.2015**

OSCE monitors have registered numerous cases of destruction and signs of a humanitarian disaster in Debaltseve in Donbas during their visit to that town.

This was announced by spokesperson for the OSCE Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine Iryna Hudyma in an interview with a TASS correspondent.

"We spent there about half an hour yesterday. We saw not a single facility not damaged by shells, not a single intact building. There is neither water, nor food, or heat, or electricity, or medicines in the town," she said.

The OSCE also said that its monitors did not plan to visit Debaltseve on Sunday, as they were going to other towns.

<http://www.unian.info/war/1047109-osce-reports-humanitarian-disaster-in-debaltseve.html>

### **New types of weapons used to shell Ukrainian troops near Mariupol, 22.02.2015**

New shells with microshrapnel burst 40 meters above the surface.

A case when a new type of weapons was used against the Ukrainian troops was registered in the village of Shyrokyne outside the city of Mariupol in eastern Ukraine. The Armed Forces of Ukraine haven't experienced the effect of such weaponry before, announced by Deputy Commander of the 'M' (Mariupol) sector of the frontline Viktor Shydliuk.

According to him, the enemy allegedly used tube-launched projectiles with a special feature: they burst at a height of 40 meters above the surface.

After the surface burst, the affected area is covered by a large number of microshrapnel whose size is several millimeters. They cause multiple shrapnel wounds; surgery of a person with such small injuries becomes complicated and lasts much longer than usual.

<http://www.unian.info/war/1047129-new-types-of-weapons-used-to-shell-ukrainian-troops-near-mariupol-photos-video.html>

### **Two Ukrainian soldiers killed, 10 wounded in Donbas conflict zone in last day, 23.02.2015**

Two Ukrainian soldiers were killed and another 10 were wounded in the Donbas conflict zone in the last 24 hours, Deputy Head of the Anti-Terrorist Operation in the Donetsk and Luhansk regions Valentyn Fedychev said at a briefing on Monday.

<http://www.unian.info/war/1047416-two-ukrainian-soldiers-killed-10-wounded-in-donbas-conflict-zone-in-last-day.html>

### **Ukrainian border guards spot 12 militant drones over Donbas in last day, 23.02.2015**

"A total of 12 flights of drones have been recorded in the last day in the Donbas conflict zone," the report says.

"Ten drones were observed near the villages of Bilenke, Krasna Talivka, Stanychno-Luhanske, Sartana, Mariupol, and Zaria, while another two were seen in Luhansk region between the villages of Milove and Markivka," the report reads.

Ukraine suspects the sophisticated military aerial reconnaissance drones seen flying over its territory were supplied by Russia, along with large amounts of troops, weapons, ammunition.

<http://www.unian.info/war/1047436-ukrainian-border-guards-spot-12-militant-drones-over-donbas-in-last-day.html>

### **65 children killed, 127 injured since beginning of Donbas conflict, 23.02.2015**

Commissioner of the President of Ukraine for Children's Rights Mykola Kuleba said.

"According to the official statistics of the Ukrainian government, a total of 127 children have been injured as a result of military clashes. This information is confirmed by several documents," he said.

He added that according to UN figures, a total of 159 children had been injured since the beginning of military clashes in the Donbas conflict zone.

"As for the deaths, it is hard to tell the exact number, but, according to our estimates, it is already more than 65 children," Kuleba said.

<http://www.unian.info/war/1047382-65-children-killed-127-injured-since-beginning-of-donbas-conflict.html>

### **Ukrainian forces under constant shelling in Shyrokyne, says Tymchuk, 23.02.2015**

A militant artillery group is continuing to attack the positions of Ukrainian troops in the area of Shyrokyne near the city of Mariupol, according to head of the Information Resistance group and MP Dmytro Tymchuk.

The artillery group has four units of fire – two howitzers, one multiple rocket launch system, and one self-propelled gun," Tymchuk wrote on Facebook on Monday.

"Enemy tanks have also attempted to attack the positions of Ukrainian troops in this area.

Enemy aerial reconnaissance has intensified its activities."

According to Tymchuk, Ukrainian troops continue to hold the front line in the salient in Svitlodarsk and Luhanske.

"The enemy periodically launches strikes on the positions of Ukrainian troops in this area, but the bulk of the forces that were involved in the battle for Debaltseve have been withdrawn for resupply," Tymchuk said.

<http://www.unian.info/war/1047365-ukrainian-forces-under-constant-shelling-in-shyrokyne-says-tymchuk.html>

### **Militant units south of Donetsk being reinforced, says Tymchuk, 23.02.2015**

Over the last 2 days the arrival in the Stepne-Hranitne area of three large supply convoys was observed, with a total of up to 40 trucks and 24 pieces of equipment (including eight ACS 2S1 Gvozdika and 2C3 Akatsia [self-propelled artillery units] organized into two batteries, five tanks, seven armored combat vehicles, along with special vehicles, including command and staff vehicles (CSV) and a mobile reconnaissance unit and control air defense units of a tactical level)," Tymchuk wrote.

According to him, the militants are also reinforcing positions of their artillery group in the area of Dokuchaivsk. The area of Yasynovata is seeing a concentration of a tactical group of Russian and militants troops, consisting of at least 30 units of armored combat vehicles (with at least 12 tanks).

"The next echelon with ammunition for terrorist groups of the Donetsk People's Republic, has arrived in Ilovaisk from Russia", Tymchuk reported.

<http://www.unian.info/war/1047292-militants-units-south-of-donetsk-being-reinforced-says-tymchuk.html>

### **Stelmakh: Militants attack Ukrainian army twice in last day, 23.02.2015**

According to Stelmakh, the previous night in the Donbas conflict zone was characterized by a significant decrease in militant attacks on the positions of Ukrainian forces.

"From 2000 February 22 until 0600 February 23, the militants fired twice on the positions of the Ukrainian armed forces. At about 2130 they fired with small arms on the village of Krasnohorivka and at 0200 they fired artillery on the village of Kamianka in area of the city of Donetsk," he said.

At the same time, Stelmakh said that the militants have not stopped their attempts to storm Ukrainian positions in the village of Shyrokyne near Mariupol.

"At midnight the militant units again launched an unsuccessful attack on our troops. The battle lasted for half an hour," he said.

<http://www.unian.info/war/1047358-stelmakh-militants-attack-ukrainian-army-twice-in-last-day.html>

### **ATO Headquarters: Ukraine to start heavy weapons withdrawal when militants halt attacks, 23.02.2015**

Ukraine will start the withdrawal of its heavy weapons from the front line in eastern Ukraine when the Russian-backed militants stop their attacks on the Ukrainian military, the press officer of the government's Anti-Terrorist Operation Headquarters, Anatoliy Stelmach, said.

"Currently we're at the first stage of the preconditions – a complete ceasefire. As soon as the terrorists stop their attacks on our positions, we will implement the second stage. [But] at present, there is no comprehensive ceasefire," Stelmach said.

The same position was stated by the spokesman for the General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine, Vladyslav Seleznev.

<http://www.unian.info/war/1047343-ato-headquarters-ukraine-to-start-heavy-weapons-withdrawal-when-militants-halt-attacks.html>

### **Moskal: Residents of war-hit Krymske returning home, 23.02.2015**

According to Moskal, 15 people went back to their surviving houses last Friday, and another dozen people are expected to come back in the near future.

"Krymske is now one of the most affected villages in the Ukrainian-controlled territory of Luhansk region. Hundreds of houses were damaged by shelling, some of them were completely destroyed, [and] the infrastructure was broken," he said.

"It is impossible to get to the village on regular transport. The Bakhmutka highway is being shot at by the militants, and from the village of Svitlychne the road has been broken up by heavy machinery. People are being taken to their houses in the cross-country vehicles of the Ukrainian armed forces," Moskal said.

<http://www.unian.info/war/1047328-moskal-residents-of-war-hit-krymske-returning-home.html>

### **Tymchuk: Militants concentrating forces near Mariupol, 23.02.2015**

Militants continue to send their tactical groups in the direction of the village of Bezimenne. A total of 350 people, 15 trucks, about 20 units of the armored vehicles, including six tanks, have been sent in the last day," Tymchuk said. According to Tymchuk, these groups were deployed on a narrow section of the front, from the coast to the T0519 road.

"At the same time, the militants continue to build up their strength and equipment in the city of Donetsk, in its Petrovskiy and Kuibyshevskiy districts. A number of the DPR militant groups who took part in the military actions in Debaltseve have returned to the city," he said.

<http://www.unian.info/war/1047293-tymchuk-militants-concentrating-forces-near-mariupol.html>

### **One Ukrainian soldier killed, seven wounded in Donbas conflict zone in last day, 24.02.2015**

On January 23 two Ukrainian soldiers were killed and 10 wounded in the Donbas conflict zone. Despite the fact that a ceasefire was supposed to come into force, the militants continue to attack the positions of the Ukrainian armed forces throughout the territory of the Donbas.

<http://www.unian.info/war/1047943-one-ukrainian-soldier-killed-seven-wounded-in-donbas-conflict-zone-in-last-day.html>

### **Kharkiv terrorist attack claims another victim - 15-year-old boy, 23.02.2015**

The terrorist bomb attack on Sunday's peace march in Kharkiv claimed another victim on Monday, when a boy badly wounded in the attack died in hospital.

The 15-year-old boy was admitted to hospital on Sunday with severe head injuries from the blast, which killed two other people at the scene.

The boy was in a coma, and died from his injuries on Monday, despite the efforts of doctors to save his life, according to a report from the press service of the Kharkiv City Council.

As UNIAN reported earlier, on February 22, the explosion occurred near the Palace of Sports in Kharkiv, killing two people at the head of a peace march – Police Lieutenant Colonel Vadym Rybalchenko and activist Igor Tolmachev. Another ten people were injured and hospitalized, among them the 15-year-old boy.

Criminal proceedings have been opened following the incident under Part. 3 of Art. 258 of the Criminal Code of Ukraine (terrorist act causing casualties).

<http://www.unian.info/society/1047475-kharkiv-terrorist-attack-claims-another-victim-15-year-old-boy.html>

### **ATO HQ: Militants violate ceasefire 12 times during the last night, 24.02.2015**

Pro-Russian militants continue to fire Ukrainian military's positions despite the ceasefire. The terrorists fired 12 times ATO forces' positions during the previous night of February 23-24.

"The largest number of violations has been seen on Debaltseve direction. The enemy shelled seven times the ATO forces' positions in Popasna and Luhanske between 20.00 and 22.00," – reports the ATO press service on Facebook.

Enemy's drones have recently intensified their activity almost along the entire frontline.

[http://mw.ua/UKRAINE/ato-hq-militants-violate-ceasefire-12-times-during-the-last-night-1278\\_.html](http://mw.ua/UKRAINE/ato-hq-militants-violate-ceasefire-12-times-during-the-last-night-1278_.html)

### **UN: 5,800 people killed in Donbas crisis since last year, 24.02.2015**

UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) has reported that at least 5,800 people had been killed in the Donbas conflict. The data is included in the UN official report.

Also, more than one million Ukrainian people flee their homes and are now IDPs.

According to the UN, at least 5,793 people have been killed, including 169 children, in the Donbas since April 2014; more than 14,500 people, including 169 children have been wounded.

[http://mw.ua/UKRAINE/un-5-800-people-killed-in-donbas-crisis-since-last-year-1277\\_.html](http://mw.ua/UKRAINE/un-5-800-people-killed-in-donbas-crisis-since-last-year-1277_.html)

### **UN: Number of killed in Donbas conflict nearly 6,000, 24.02.2015**

In addition, more than one million Ukrainians have left their homes and have been registered as internally displaced persons due to the events in the Donbas.

According to the UN's review of the situation in Ukraine, at least 5,793 persons have been killed since April 2014, including 63 children. In addition, more than 14,500 people, including 169 children, were injured.

The UN also reported the amount of humanitarian aid needed for Ukraine – it now amounts to \$316 million, while previously the UN was planning to allocate \$189 million for the victims of the Donbas conflict.

<http://www.unian.info/war/1047820-un-number-of-killed-in-donbas-conflict-nearly-6000.html>

### **Kharkiv terrorist attack claims fourth victim - 18-year-old student, 24.02.2015**

"He was the fourth innocent Kharkiv citizen to die at the hands of the Kharkiv guerrilla-terrorist organization," Herashchenko said. He added another nine victims are still in hospital in Kharkiv.

<http://www.unian.info/society/1047842-kharkiv-terrorist-attack-claims-fourth-victim-18-year-old-student.html>

### **Militant commander threatens to kill OSCE mission experts, 24.02.2015**

The incident occurred at a checkpoint controlled by militants in the Kyivsky district of Donetsk city on Sunday, February 22, BBC Ukraine reported.

The sounds of shelling and shooting were heard at the checkpoint, to which the mission representatives came. According to the expert conclusions, the sounds came from the airport of Donetsk, "about two kilometers to the north."

"The local commander of the "DNR" at the checkpoint threatened to kill the mission representatives, the report said. On the same day, an SMM Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) attempting to monitor compliance with the Minsk Package in the environs of the Donetsk airport was consistently jammed."

<http://www.unian.info/war/1047876-militant-commander-threatens-to-kill-osce-mission-experts.html>

### **Russian army and militants destroy about 5,500 houses in Donetsk region, 24.02.2015**

The Russian army and militants have destroyed about 5,500 residential buildings in the Donetsk region, the spokesperson of the State Service for Emergency Situations Natalia Bystra said at a briefing on Tuesday, according to an UNIAN correspondent.

According to Bystra, the militants have destroyed or damaged more than 1,000 energy facilities.

"These are overhead power lines and substations," she said.

"The Russian-backed militants also damaged the supervisory control and communication systems, destroyed administrative buildings and stole a lot of vehicles," Bystra said.

<http://www.unian.info/war/1047889-russian-army-and-militants-destroy-about-5500-houses-in-donetsk-region.html>

### **ATO Headquarters: Militants spreading rumors about build-up of weapons for new attacks, 25.02.2015**

"[The militants] fired small arms on the positions of the Ukrainian armed near the village of Stanytsia Luhanska," the report says.

"Since the announcement of the ceasefire, the Russian-backed militants have constantly disturbed the silence of our soldiers, trying to provoke a response and to force them to break the Minsk agreements. Therefore, their evil actions are aimed at maintaining the tension of the situation in this area," the report reads.

"Constant, although sporadic, attacks by the Russian-backed militants keep the local population in a state of tension. Thus, the adherents of the 'Russian world' are trying to sow panic among the peaceful people of the region."

"In addition, they are actively spreading rumors about the build-up of their weapons for a future large-scale offensive," the press center said.

<http://www.unian.info/war/1048430-ato-headquarters-militants-spreading-rumors-about-build-up-of-weapons-for-new-attacks.html>

### **Militants 'secretly redeploying forces to the south', 25.02.2015**

"In the Pervomaisk-Alchevsk area, the enemy has concentrated its forces in the area surrounding the Bakhmutka highway," Tymchuk wrote.

"The formations of Russian and Russian-backed forces in the region have been actively using mortars, small arms, and occasionally artillery for firing at positions of Ukrainian troops" he said. Also, according to Information Resistance data the remnants of the militants' "Phantom" mechanized brigade was spotted moving from the area of Debaltseve towards Stakhanov and Pervomaisk.

"After fighting on the Debaltseve salient, the brigade has become a reinforced battalion. A significant part of [the militants'] military equipment is out of operation in the area from Troitske to Chernukhino" Tymchuk said.

<http://www.unian.info/war/1048330-militants-secretly-redeploying-forces-to-the-south.html>

### **Ukrainian forces destroy militant weapons firing on Shyrokyne, 25.02.2015**

The Ukrainian armed forces opened fire in response to firing by militants on the village of Shyrokyne by Russian-backed militants. The militants fired heavy artillery, tanks, mortars, rocket-propelled grenades and small arms throughout the day, starting from 0700.

"The militants also applied new artillery shells that were first used over the village of Shyrokyne a few days ago. A shell explodes in about 40 meters above the ground and [spreads] small fragments [of shrapnel]," the report says.

<http://www.unian.info/war/1048320-ukrainian-forces-destroy-militant-weapons-firing-on-shyrokyne.html>

### **Bodies of four dead 'cyborgs' pulled from rubble of Donetsk airport, "DPR" says about 30 more left, 25.02.2015**

The recovery operation was carried out by emergency workers of the self-proclaimed Donetsk People's Republic ("DPR") and prisoners of war (POW), according to a source of hromadske.tv. Two of the bodies were identified by the POWs on the spot. The operation wasn't attended by representatives of the Red Cross and the OSCE for the reason that, as they explained themselves, the Ukrainian side hadn't provided them with security guarantees in written. Among those present during the operation were representatives of the Defense Ministry and the 'Patriot' civil volunteer organization.

The operation took three hours. "DPR" representatives claim there are about 30 more bodies under the rubble of Donetsk airport, including its so-called new terminal.

<http://www.unian.info/politics/1048700-bodies-of-four-dead-cyborgs-pulled-from-rubble-of-donetsk-airport-dpr-says-about-30-more-left.html>

### **General Staff: Ukraine begins withdrawal of heavy weapons, 26.02.2015**

Ukraine is beginning the withdrawal of 100mm caliber artillery systems from the demarcation line under the agreements reached in Minsk on February 12, the press service of the Ukrainian Defense Ministry said on Thursday.

"This is the first step towards the withdrawal of heavy weapons, and it will be carried out exclusively under the monitoring and verification of the OSCE observers," the report says.

According to the General Staff, the Ukrainian side requires a complete ceasefire and the immediate implementation of the Minsk agreements by all its signatories.

"If the militants attempt to attack, the schedule for the withdrawal of heavy weapons will be adjusted. The Ukrainian armed forces are in full readiness to defend the country," the report reads.

<http://www.unian.info/war/1049071-general-staff-ukraine-begins-withdrawal-of-heavy-weapons.html>

### **Fifteen dead bodies withdrawn from Debaltseve in past two days – Defense Ministry, 26.02.2015**

Fifteen dead bodies of those who were killed during recent fights in Debaltseve were withdrawn in the past two days, Deputy Defense Minister Petro Mekhed told hromadske.tv.

"We cannot identify the bodies, as they are in Dnipropetrovsk now. They could belong to those from the Armed Forces of Ukraine and the National Guard, or separatists. During our dead body recovery operations we collect all who this or the other side has been unable to pick up," he said.

<http://www.unian.info/war/1049223-fifteen-dead-bodies-withdrawn-from-debaltseve-in-past-two-days-defense-ministry.html>

### **About 130 Ukrainian POWs held by militants now – Defense Ministry, 26.02.2015**

This was announced by Deputy Defense Minister Petro Mekhed in the air of hromadske.tv.

"About 130 servicemen of the Armed Forces of Ukraine are illegally being held captive as of today. 250 are classified as missing in action," he said, stressing that the figures concern soldiers from the armed forces alone. Among the POWs are those who have been held captive since last summer.

"A serviceman from the 51st brigade who was captured last August was released the day before yesterday," Mekhed said.

<http://www.unian.info/kyiv/1049241-about-130-ukrainian-pows-held-by-militants-now-defense-ministry.html>

### **Three Ukrainian soldiers killed, seven wounded in Donbas conflict zone in last day, 27.02.2015**

"Over the last day, we have lost three Ukrainian soldiers, and another seven were injured as a result of military clashes," Lysenko said.

On February 26 four Ukrainian soldiers were wounded in the Donbas conflict zone.

Before yesterday's deaths, Kyiv had reported for two straight days no combat deaths in the Donbas conflict zone. There was also a decrease in the number of attacks by the Russian-backed militants on Ukrainian positions.

<http://www.unian.info/war/1049565-three-ukrainian-soldiers-killed-seven-wounded-in-donbas-conflict-zone-in-last-day.html>

### **Tymchuk: Militants not withdrawing all weapons, 27.02.2015**

"As of February 26, according to the data of the Information Resistance group, Russian-terrorist troops have withdrawn only about 10-15% of the specified amount of weapons," Tymchuk said.

"And the withdrawal of weapons by terrorists is not being carried out to the distance specified by the Minsk arrangement, but in such a way that enables them to bring them back to their initial positions within 30-40 minutes," Tymchuk wrote on Facebook.

He also noted that the militants and Russian forces have delivered around 30 attacks over the past few days, continuously violating the ceasefire agreement.

"The attacks are carried out mainly with small arms. Cannon artillery was used to shell the positions of Ukrainian forces near settlements of Opytne, Vodiane, Pisky," Tymchuk added.

<http://www.unian.info/war/1049435-tymchuk-militants-not-withdrawing-all-weapons.html>

### **'Humanitarian convoy' of 170 trucks from Russia crosses into Ukraine, 27.02.2015**

Another large convoy of trucks that Russia claims is carrying humanitarian assistance has crossed the Ukrainian border heading in the direction of Donetsk and Luhansk, deputy head of the National Center for Crisis Management of the Russian Emergency Situations Ministry Oleg Voronov said on Friday, Russian news agency TASS has reported.

"Customs clearance of the cargo has been completed at Donetsk and Matveev-Kurgan border crossing points. All the vehicles passed customs and border control according to the established order," he said.

The "humanitarian convoy" is said to consist of 170 vehicles carrying 1,800 tons of cargo, with 80 vehicles going to Luhansk, and the rest to Donetsk.

<http://www.unian.info/society/1049447-humanitarian-convoy-of-170-trucks-from-russia-crosses-into-ukraine.html>

### **Russian federal TV channel releases video surveillance footage of Nemtsov's murder, 27.02.2015**

Russian federal TV channel TVC has released video surveillance footage of Russian opposition leader Boris Nemtsov's murder.

As UNIAN reported earlier, Nemtsov was gunned down on a bridge next to the Kremlin in Moscow late on February 27. Police said the assailants had fired several shots from a passing white car, four of which hit Nemtsov in the back. He died on the scene.

Russian authorities report the murder of Nemtsov could have been a contract killing.

<http://www.unian.info/world/1050001-russian-federal-tv-channel-releases-video-surveillance-footage-of-nemtsovs-murder-video.html>

### **Tymchuk: Militants not withdrawing all weapons, 27.02.2015**

Despite assurances from leaders of so the Luhansk People's Republic and "Donetsk People's Republic militant organizations about the withdrawal of a substantial part of heavy weapons from the contact line in the Donbas, these statements do not correspond to reality, according to the head of the Information Resistance group, MP Dmytro Tymchuk.

<http://www.unian.info/war/1049435-tymchuk-militants-not-withdrawing-all-weapons.html>

### **10 new dead bodies of Ukrainian soldiers recovered in Donetsk airport – OSCE, 28.02.2015**

This was announced in a latest report by the SMM released on February 28, based on information received as of 1800 Kyiv time on February 27, 2015.

The SMM reports that militants from the self-proclaimed Donetsk People's Republic ('DPR') have recovered 10 new dead bodies of Ukrainian soldiers at Donetsk airport.

"A 'DPR' commander said that the bodies of 10 Ukrainian soldiers had been recovered. The 'DPR' showed two corpses in uniforms with Ukrainian insignia and body bags containing, according to the 'DPR,' the remains of three Ukrainian soldiers. The 'DPR' said that these bodies would be transferred to a Donetsk morgue; from there further arrangements would be made for their return to Ukrainian authorities," the SMM said in the report.

<http://www.unian.info/war/1050012-10-new-dead-bodies-of-ukrainian-soldiers-recovered-in-donetsk-airport-osce.html>

### **10 Ukrainians, including 8 civil volunteers, released from militants' captivity, 28.02.2015**

Eight civil volunteers, one soldier from the 128th brigade and one civilian have been released from pro-Russian militants' captivity.

Advisor to the Deputy Minister of Defense of Ukraine Vasyl Budyk announced this to Channel 5. Four more hostages are planned to be freed soon, he said.

<http://www.unian.info/politics/1050007-10-ukrainians-including-8-civil-volunteers-released-from-militants-captivity.html>

### **News photographer from Segodnya newspaper killed by shell in Pisky, 28.02.2015**

In the village of Pisky in Donetsk region, news photographer Serhiy Nikolayev from the Segodnya newspaper came under mortar fire by pro-Russian militants and died from a wound caused by a fragment of a shell.

The commander of the 5th Battalion of the Right Sector's Ukrainian military volunteer corps, nom de guerre "Chorny," confirmed this information to hromadske.tv.

<http://www.unian.info/war/1049972-news-photographer-from-segodnya-newspaper-killed-by-shell-in-pisky.html>

### **The victims of the regimes, 28.02.2015**

The murder of Russian opposition politician Boris Nemtsov in Russia and the suicide of a former member of the Party of Regions Mikhail Chechetov in Ukraine indicate that the regimes built in the two neighboring countries devour not only their opponents, but also those of their supporters who happen to know too much.

The death of a Ukrainian politician, former member of a Party of Regions Mikhail Chechetov seems less significant on a global scale. He was just released on bail of nearly UAH 5 million on Monday, February, 23. However, in an internal Ukrainian context, his death caused no less resonance. "As early as in 2005, Mikhail Chechetov said that he would cooperate with law enforcement authorities and would give testimony. Given that Chechetov had been at the forefront of privatization and had witnessed many deals, which involved a lot of money, incitement to suicide is possible," says political scientist Taras Zagorodnii.

<http://www.unian.info/politics/1050636-the-victims-of-the-regimes.html>

## **Pilot Savchenko**

### **Angry over being denied voting rights, Russia says PACE mission can't visit Savchenko, 03.02.2015**

Chairman of the International Affairs Committee of the Russian State Duma Alexey Pushkov has said Moscow will maintain contact only with countries that voted against maintaining sanctions on the Russian delegation in the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE).

Relations between Russia and the PACE have been suspended unilaterally by Russia until the end of the year in the wake of the PACE's decision to deprive Russia of its voting rights in the assembly due to its aggression in Ukraine.

In a move seemingly reflecting Moscow's anger with the assembly, PACE delegates were refused access to Ukrainian pilot Nadezhda Savchenko in the Russian prison in which she is held, and members of the assembly have not been permitted to visit Crimea to verify the observance of human rights in the Russian-annexed Ukrainian territory.

<http://www.unian.info/society/1039622-angry-over-being-denied-voting-rights-russia-says-pace-mission-cant-visit-savchenko.html>

### **MEP goes on hunger strike in support of Savchenko, 05.02.2015**

A Lithuanian member of the European Parliament Petras Auštrevičius has gone on hunger strike in protest at the illegal detention of Nadia Savchenko in Russia, Ukrainian online newspaper Ukrainska Pravda reported on Wednesday, with reference to a post on Auštrevičius' Twitter account.

"EP Ukraine's Group is asking the Russian Ambassador Chizov to respect international standard and release N. Savchenko. Today I am on hunger strike!" Auštrevičius wrote.

As UNIAN reported earlier, Savchenko was abducted by Russian-backed militants in the Donbas in the summer of 2014, and then taken to Russia, where she was charged with being involved in the death of Russian journalists.

<http://www.unian.info/politics/1040547-mep-goes-on-hunger-strike-in-support-of-savchenko.html>

### **Russian court extends Savchenko's arrest until May 13, 10.02.2015**

Moscow's Basmannyy Court extended the arrest of Ukrainian pilot Nadezhda Savchenko until May 13 at a hearing on Tuesday, as the prisoner entered the fifty-seventh day of a hunger strike in protest at the conditions of her detention.

According to UNIAN correspondent in Russia, the decision was announced by the Judge Artur Karpov in the courtroom.

In addition, lawyer Ilya Novikov has said that the defense is ready to agree to any bail. He also said that Savchenko can be released under the personal guarantee of the Ukrainian Parliament Commissioner for Human Rights Valeria Lutkovska, he added.

He appealed to the court to choose any preventive measure except detention, as "this will kill Savchenko."

<http://www.unian.info/world/1042532-russian-court-extends-savchenkos-arrest-until-may-13.html>

### **Poroshenko: Savchenko to be free soon, 12.02.2015**

Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko has said that the parties at the Minsk peace talks reached agreement on the release of Ukrainian MP and member of the Ukrainian delegation to PACE Nadia Savchenko, Reuters reported on Thursday.

<http://www.unian.info/politics/1043342-poroshenko-savchenko-to-be-free-soon.html>

### **Russian State Duma says no automatic release for Savchenko, 12.02.2015**

There is no mechanism for the automatic release of citizen of Ukraine Nadia Savchenko, and her innocence must be proved in court, the chairman of the State Duma's Foreign Affairs Committee Aleksey Pushkov said on Thursday, according to Russian news agency TASS.

"As far as I understand, if [Ukrainian President Petro] Poroshenko made this statement in

Minsk, it was probably very important for him to send a signal to Kyiv that he had achieved something [with regard to] the fate of Savchenko," he said.

"However, very serious charges were made against Savchenko. In order to withdraw them, either the investigating authorities must recognize that these charges are not sufficiently substantiated, or a court hearing must be held that will decide on her innocence," Pushkov said. "There is no mechanism for the automatic release of a person who is accused of complicity in murder, in this case, of a Russian journalist," he said.

<http://www.unian.info/politics/1043471-russian-state-duma-says-no-automatic-release-for-savchenko.html>

### **Lawyer: Savchenko calls for medical examination by independent doctors, 19.02.2015**

Savchenko has demanded a medical examination by an independent council of physicians of various specialties, including a cardiologist," Polozov wrote.

The lawyer also said that the Ukrainian pilot didn't trust the doctors of the Russian Federal Penitentiary Service (FSIN) and German specialists on hunger.

"Her state of health is worsening, time is running out," Polozov said.

<http://www.unian.info/politics/1046220-lawyer-savchenko-calls-for-medical-examination-by-independent-doctors.html>

### **Russian doctors say captive pilot Savchenko's health 'satisfactory', 20.02.2015**

A council of Russian doctors has examined the state of captive Ukrainian pilot, Ukrainian MP and member of the Ukrainian delegation to PACE Nadia Savchenko's health, TASS reported with reference to the press service of Russia's Federal Penitentiary Service (FSIN).

"The best doctors of the Russian Federation, doctors of science, professors (specialists in neurology, gastroenterology, cardiology) have examined the accused Nadia Savchenko today on the FSIN's initiative. Following the medical examination and clinical tests, the board of the doctors has concluded that the state of Nadia Savchenko's health is satisfactory," the FSIN reported.

"Nadia Savchenko was given health care recommendations. The doctors' council has also confirmed the protocols being applied by the physicians of the hospital subordinated to the medicine department of Russia's FSIN to treat the patient," the press service said.

<http://www.unian.info/politics/1046776-russian-doctors-say-captive-pilot-savchenkos-health-satisfactory.html>

### **Russian MFA: UN's "pressuring" Russian court by appeals to release Savchenko, 24.02.2015**

The Russian Foreign Ministry sees the UN Commissioner's statement on the need to free the Ukrainian pilot, Nadiya Savchenko as "blatant and open attempt to pressure the judiciary."

"We see the statement as a blatant and open pressure on the judiciary. We consider it totally unacceptable situation when the executive of a UN structure publicly urges the UN member state to violate the rule of law and try to influence the trial," – says the Russian MFA's commentary.

Detention of the Ukrainian pilot in Russia is considered legitimate according to Russian diplomats.

[http://mw.ua/WORLD/russian-mfa-un-s-pressure-russian-court-by-appeals-to-release-savchenko-1280\\_.html](http://mw.ua/WORLD/russian-mfa-un-s-pressure-russian-court-by-appeals-to-release-savchenko-1280_.html)

### **Savchenko says she could die by next court hearing, 25.02.2015**

"Let's start, because I could be dead by the next court hearing," she said before the hearing in Moscow's City Court on Wednesday, where the judges were considering an appeal on the extension of her arrest until May 13.

Savchenko has not been taken to the courtroom. She speaks in Ukrainian through an interpreter via video. She was wearing a T-shirt with the Ukrainian coat of arms.

Savchenko spoke confidently, but always sat with her hands on the table because of weakness due to her hunger strike. At times she rested her head on the table.

<http://www.unian.info/society/1048475-savchenko-says-she-could-die-by-next-court-hearing.html>

### **Russian writer to Putin: If Savchenko dies, you will face bad reaction, 26.02.2015**

The letter was published on the Open Russia Web site on Wednesday, Friday 25.

The text of the letter is as follows.

"Mr. President!

If a young Ukrainian heroine Nadia Savchenko dies in a Russian prison of hunger, it is possible that this fact will not offend your electorate - you should think about what impression it will make on world public opinion. It is quite possible and easily predictable that the reaction will be even more acute than to the annexation of the Crimea or to the Donbas war.

<http://www.unian.info/world/1048884-russian-writer-to-putin-if-savchenko-dies-you-will-face-bad-reaction.html>

### **Savchenko to Dzhemilev: I won't stop hunger strike, 27.02.2015**

Ukrainian pilot, MP and member of the Ukrainian delegation to PACE Nadia Savchenko has rejected a call from the leader of the Crimean Tatars and representative of the President of Ukraine on the Crimean Tatars Mustafa Dzhemilev to stop her hunger strike.

A letter from a prisoner in Moscow was handed over via her lawyers, and published by a correspondent of the AFP information agency, Maria Antonova, on her Twitter account on Thursday.

Savchenko thanked Dzhemilev for his support but said that she would continue to starve herself. She reminded the leader of the Crimean Tatars that he was also on hunger strike for 303 days in a Soviet prison.

"At one time you accomplished a feat for your people, going hungry for 303 days in jail! If you hadn't done this, maybe your people would never be able to return to their land... I have a good example - it's you! I've not been on hunger strike for so long, but I will stay on it as long as necessary so that my people have the right to be Ukrainians in Ukrainian lands," the letter says.

<http://www.unian.info/politics/1049387-savchenko-to-dzhemilev-i-wont-stop-hunger-strike.html>

### **Savchenko may go on 'dry' hunger strike, 27.02.2015**

The lawyer who on February 26 attended Ukrainian pilot Savchenko imprisoned in Moscow notes her 'variable condition.' Savchenko was suffering from severe stomach pains.

"Nadia is really considering going on a 'dry' hunger strike if she comes to the conclusion that the doctors don't hear her requests. The only thing what we see is that all our proposals and steps get the arrogant feedback from the Investigative Committee saying that they know better and they will sort things out. Of course, we will try and push them," Novikov said.

<http://www.unian.info/politics/1049746-savchenko-may-go-on-dry-hunger-strike.html>

## **Ukraine Worldwide**

### **New York Times: Mood in Washington now favors supply of lethal weapons to Ukraine, 02.02.2015**

The Obama administration may be coming round to the idea of supplying Ukraine with lethal weapons following the escalation of attacks by Russian-backed militants on Ukrainian-held towns and cities, Russian online TV channel Dozhd has reported, citing an article in the New York Times.

<http://www.unian.info/politics/1039103-new-york-times-mood-in-washington-now-favors-supply-of-lethal-weapons-to-ukraine.html>

### **Russian conscripts 'refusing to be sent to war in Ukraine, 02.02.2015**

The Saint Petersburg regional human rights organization Soldiers' Mothers of Saint Petersburg says it has received numerous complaints from Russian conscripts who are being forced to sign contracts, and then being sent to Russia's Rostov region next to the Donbas conflict zone.

<http://www.unian.info/war/1039107-russian-conscripts-refusing-to-be-sent-to-war-in-ukraine.html>

### **Unveiling of monument to Stalin in Crimea to be attended by top Russian officials, 05.02.2015**

A delegation of the Russian State Duma headed by its chairman Sergiy Naryshkin arrived in the Russian-occupied Ukrainian territory of Crimea on Thursday to participate in ceremonies to mark the 70th anniversary of the Yalta Conference, according to local newspaper Krym.Realii. During the event, Naryshkin will attend international conference entitled "Yalta 1945: Past, Present and Future," as well as the unveiling of the monument in Livadia to so-called "Big Three" (Joseph Stalin, Franklin Roosevelt and Winston Churchill), presented by the famous Soviet and Russian sculptor Zurab Tsereteli.

The events in the Livadia Palace are scheduled for February 5.

<http://www.unian.info/politics/1040656-unveiling-of-monument-to-stalin-in-crimea-to-be-attended-by-top-russian-officials.html>

### **UN creates interactive map of destruction in Donbas, 05.02.2015**

The United Nations has created an online interactive map to highlight the level of destruction in Ukraine's Donbas conflict zone, with which people in the affected area can report the destruction of local infrastructure.

The project was jointly prepared by the UNDP and civil organization Social Boost, and is available at the Web site Redonbass.org, according to Ukrainian online newspaper Ukrainska Pravda.

The need for creating such project was attributed to the fact that currently there is no publicly available database on the destruction of residential and public infrastructure in the Donbas," the UNDP said.

<http://www.unian.info/society/1040681-un-creates-interactive-map-of-destruction-in-donbas.html>

### **Media: Putin sent Merkel and Hollande secret letter demanding more autonomy for DPR and LPR, 06.02.2015**

French President François Hollande and German Chancellor Angela Merkel are going to Moscow to discuss with Russian President Vladimir Putin a secret proposal to provide the militant-held regions of Ukraine with more autonomy, Russian daily business newspaper RBK reported on Friday, with reference to U.S. newspaper The Wall Street Journal.

According to a Western official, this week Putin sent a secret letter to Hollande and Merkel demanding more territory and autonomy for the militants. French and German leaders rejected this proposal and proposed Friday's visit to Moscow. According to the newspaper, the Western leaders are flying to Moscow with counter-proposals.

<http://www.unian.info/politics/1041091-media-putin-sent-merkel-and-hollande-secret-letter-demanding-more-autonomy-for-dpr-and-lpr.html>

### **Merkel and Hollande 'want to offer Putin federalization and non-alignment of Ukraine in exchange for peace, 06.02.2015**

"The measure of success of Angela Merkel and Francois Hollande remains to be respect for the Minsk Protocol and effective implementation of each of the twelve items, including the withdrawal of Russian troops from Ukraine and termination of the arms supplies to separatists" Le Figaro wrote, referring to its own diplomatic sources.

"But that is not all. According to preliminary information, the Franco-German plan on conflict settlement should ensure the neutrality of Ukraine and a 'federalization solution' that will freeze the conflict in the east," the newspaper wrote.

"Territorial issues are not the subject of negotiations between Poroshenko, Hollande and Merkel," a representative of the German government said.

At the same time, according to Le Figaro, the fact that Merkel has agreed to negotiate, "gives reason for optimism," since the Astana meeting in Normandy format, which was scheduled on January 15 and then cancelled, was initiated by the German chancellor, according to media reports.

<http://www.unian.info/politics/1041076-merkel-and-hollande-want-to-offer-putin-federalization-and-non-alignment-of-ukraine-in-exchange-for-peace.html>

### **Putin offers Merkel and Hollande to 'create new Transnistria in Ukraine, 06.02.2015**

The solution to the conflict in Ukraine proposed by Russian President Vladimir Putin is an extremely cynical one, U.S. newspaper The New York Times reported on Thursday, with reference to its diplomatic sources, according to Ukrainian online newspaper Ukrainska Pravda. "This is not a peace plan. This is a road map for new Transnistria or Abkhazia in Ukraine. It is a cynical attempt to avoid all the commitments undertaken [by Russia] in Minsk," a senior diplomat told the U.S. newspaper.

As reported earlier, on Thursday, U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry said that German Chancellor Angela Merkel and French President François Hollande received offers from Putin to resolve the conflict in the Donbas.

The details of this plan are unknown, and none of the parties have given any details officially.

<http://www.unian.info/world/1041060-putin-offers-merkel-and-hollande-to-create-new-transnistria-in-ukraine.html>

### **Ukrtelecom shuts down communication services in Crimea due to attack on local branch, 10.02.2015**

Ukrtelecom shut down its operations in Crimea due to an attack on its local branch office, Natalia Yemchenko, the director of Public Relations and Communications at SCM, the owner of Ukrtelecom, wrote on Tuesday in a posting on her page in social media.

"At night, there was an attack on Ukrtelecom office in the Crimea, Simferopol. Armed men seized the office. Two main cables connecting the peninsula to the mainland were physically disabled by those who seized the office. The truth is that currently, Ukrtelecom does not control its Crimean branch," Yemchenko wrote.

<http://www.unian.info/society/1042419-ukrtelecom-shuts-down-communication-services-in-crimea-due-to-attack-on-local-branch.html>

### **US security strategy and Ukraine, 16.02.2015**

While the Normandy Four leaders were looking for possible ways to stop Russia's aggression against Ukraine and in fact the whole Europe, the key global player - the United States - presented its new security strategy.

The United States has upgraded one of its most important strategic documents, which was last revised in May 2010. The new document provides an answer to the question, how will the "World's Police" react to serious shifts in a global security landscape. The main threats global peace are Putin's Russia, as it has decided to play a game of "redistribution of global influence," and the new terrorist organization ISIL, which is quite capable of creating "regional chaos" and could even upgrade it to a worldwide level. The United States has no option but to respond to Putin's nuclear blackmail and also to the reincarnation of Al Qaeda in a new form.

<http://www.unian.info/politics/1044609-us-security-strategy-and-ukraine.html>

### **London publishes photos of Russian Pantsir-S1 systems in Ukraine, 19.02.2015**

The UK Foreign Office has published photos of the latest Russian Pantsir-S1 air defense systems, which have been sighted in Ukraine, BBC Ukraine reported on Thursday.

The photos were taken in the east of Ukraine and published in an info-graphic entitled "How to recognize Russia's Pantsir-S1 (or SA-22), which is not operated by Ukrainian forces."

According to the ministry, these photos were taken in the last few weeks - on January 24, February 4 and February 5 in Shakhtarsk and Donetsk. They are more evidence of the direct participation of Russian troops in the Ukrainian conflict, in violation of the Minsk agreements.

<http://www.unian.info/politics/1046107-london-publishes-photos-of-russian-pantsir-s1-systems-in-ukraine.html>