



## **Monitoring of Xenophobia and Extremism in Ukraine January 2016**

### **Content**

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

### **Introduction**

Russia is trying to do a geopolitical split, convincing the international community that it seeks to promote Donbas settlement and issuing threatening statements against Ukraine at the same time. Actually, Vladimir Putin's escapade on Donbas which had been "given to Ukraine in vain" casts doubt on all European borders as such. And the Russian president surely understands this. Meanwhile, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov has devoted so much time to Ukraine during his press conference, as if he is, in fact, a "minister of Ukrainian affairs." A statement of the top Russian diplomat that Moscow had never violated the Budapest Memorandum is a striking example of unbridled cynicism, which even overshadowed his numerous appeals to the official Kyiv to "implement the Minsk agreements." Lavrov's press conference resulted in demarches from several foreign ministries, while Ukraine's FM Pavlo Klimkin proposed to hold a meeting of the Budapest Memorandum's signatories in order to update some participant states' knowledge of the document's text.

More than 3,000 Ukrainians have died in eastern Ukraine since a truce was announced in Minsk, Belarus on February 15, 2015. Since the start of the ATO in eastern Ukraine, a total of 2,269 Ukrainian soldiers died defending Ukraine from the Russian aggression. January started with a trade war between Russia and Ukraine initiated by RF. Russia banned all transit of Ukrainian goods. Such prohibition is opaque, unjustified and discriminatory. Thus, Russia had violated its obligations assumed in the framework of its membership in the World Trade Organization, as well as of the Free Trade Agreement as of October 18, 2011, the Ukrainian authorities reported. Ukraine quitted FTA with Russia, raised duties on Russian goods, and introduced trade embargo to respond.

## Prognosis

### **93.1% of Crimea residents oppose electricity supplies on Ukraine's conditions – pollster, 01.01.2016**

More than 90% of Crimea's residents have said they oppose the electricity supplies on Ukraine's conditions, if the energy contract indicates that Crimea and Sevastopol are part of Ukraine, Director-General of the Russian Public Opinion Research Center (VTsIOM) Valery Fyodorov said. The terms of electricity supplies to Crimea and Sevastopol proposed by Ukraine became the reason for Russian President Vladimir Putin to give instructions to conduct a telephone survey of residents of the Black Sea peninsula by VTsIOM. "In the Republic of Crimea, 6.2% expressed support for signing such a contract, while 93.1% did not support the conclusion of the contract, under which Crimea and Sevastopol would be part of Ukraine," Fyodorov said. He also said that 94% of those polled in Sevastopol and Crimea said they are ready for temporary difficulties connected with insignificant problems with energy supply over the next 3-4 months should such a contract not be signed. A mere 5.4% said they are not ready for such difficulties. About 3,000 people have been surveyed, "2,500 people in Crimea and about 500 people in Sevastopol," he added. According to Fyodorov, the margin of error does not exceed 4.5%.

<http://tass.ru/en/society/848176>

### **Russia's security strategy means more problems for its neighbors, 07.01.2016**

On the New Year's eve, December 31, Vladimir Putin signed the National Security Strategy of the Russian Federation, which is the basic document of strategic planning, defining Russia's national interests and strategic priorities. Judging by the text of the document, it is too early to relax for the Ukrainians. The National Security Strategy of the Russian Federation is updated every six years, and the new edition covers the period up to 2022. What's interesting in the newest edition of the Strategy is the risk assessment for the military, political and economic system of the Russian Federation, as well as the Kremlin's vision of the situation developing around Russia.

<http://ru.davinci.org.ua/news.php?new=834&ev>

<http://www.unian.info/politics/1230823-russias-security-strategy-means-more-problems-for-its-neighbors.html>

## Statements of officials

### **Poroshenko: "Military assault failed – they try to undermine economically", 01.01.2016**

Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko says that the Russian Federation as the aggressor state has switched to economic warfare against Ukraine.

<http://www.newshoursdays.com/headlines/4447002/poroshenko-military-assault-failed-they-try-to-undermine-economically.html>

<http://www.unian.info/politics/1227599-poroshenko-military-assault-failed-they-try-to-undermine-economically.html>

### **Dzhemilev doubts Crimea naval blockade possible, 02.01.2016**

"First of all, naval blockade of the whole Crimea is impossible. For this to achieve we need warships, and this can probably be accomplished only by NATO, provided there is an appropriate decision," Dzhemilev said. He said he was referring to a possibility of a tight control over the goods which, according to him, were smuggled by barges through neutral waters. "There were outlined three or four proposals how this could be achieved. I do not think they are feasible, but they [proposals] exist," Dzhemilev said. The Crimea blockade coordinator previously stated Crimea's naval blockade would start in late 2015 - early 2016. He noted the initiators of the blockade were seeking to make life on the peninsula for the occupying authorities "as uncomfortable as possible."

<http://www.unian.info/society/1227880-dzhemilev-doubts-crimea-naval-blockade-possible.html>

### **Yatsenyuk: Ukraine quits FTA with Russia, raises duties on Russian goods, introduces trade embargo, 03.01.2016**

The Prime Minister reminded that in connection with the entry into force of the Ukraine-EU Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area, the Russian Federation, as expected, has introduced a trade embargo against Ukraine and illegally came out of the free trade zone within the CIS. "Our response is as follows. Ukraine comes out of a free trade with the Russian Federation, raises duties on all Russian products and introduces trade embargo on food products manufactured in the Russian Federation, as well as machinery goods and rail cars," said Yatsenyuk, adding: "Our actions are mirror-like. It was not us who started this war. But the aggressor will be punished." The Prime Minister emphasized that the DCFTA "is precisely the Agreement, for which millions of Ukrainians fought on the Maidan.

<http://ukrainianwall.com/english-news/yatsenyuk-ukraine-quits-fta-with-russia-raises-duties-on-russian-goods-introduces-trade-embargo/>

### **Polish Foreign Minister calls Russian-Ukrainian conflict one of threats in 2016, 03.01.2016**

Analyzing relations between Poland and Russia, Waszczykowski said Moscow was holding the key to solving the current situation. According to him, it was not Poland that created 'ice age', nor was it responsible for attacking other countries and grabbing their territories. The problems were created in Moscow, Waszczykowski said. Polish Foreign Minister also admitted the possibility of establishing permanent NATO military bases in the territory of his country.

<http://uatoday.tv/news/polish-foreign-minister-calls-russian-ukrainian-conflict-one-of-threats-in-2016-565504.html>

### **Bellingcat singles out 20 Russian soldiers allegedly involved in downing of MH17, 04.01.2016**

The Bellingcat investigative group claims it has identified 20 Russian soldiers allegedly responsible for downing flight MH17 in eastern Ukraine in July 2014 and killing all 298 people on board. A comprehensive report by Bellingcat – including all the suspects' names and images – was handed over to the Dutch Public Prosecution Office two weeks ago, according to Eliot Higgins, the organization's founder. Dutch prosecutors said they will "seriously study" the allegations made by citizen journalists. The findings of Bellingcat's last report, published on Oct. 8, suggested that Russia's 53rd anti-aircraft brigade was linked to the Russian-made Buk launcher believed to have been used to down the plane. It was spotted on July 17 in an area controlled by combined Russian-separatist forces. Bellingcat has spent a year investigating the 53rd Brigade and identified over 200 soldiers' social media profiles to track their involvement in the Buk system's transportation. Despite the mounting evidence, Russian authorities deny the allegations. They "categorically disagree with the conclusions of the final report," Oleg Storchevoi, Russia's deputy head of the federal air transport agency, was quoted as saying in Russian media. Higgins, however, is confident in his findings.

<http://www.kyivpost.com/article/content/ukraine-politics/bellingcat-says-20-russian-soldiers-involved-in-downing-mh17-405400.html>

### **Ukraine to seek deployment of UN peacekeepers in Donbas, 04.01.2016**

Ukraine's Permanent Representative to UN Volodymyr Yelchenko says Ukraine intends to launch talks within the UN on the possibility of deploying a UN peacekeeping mission in Donbas. "We have a certain action plan and we know what we will do first. One way or another, it will be linked with the situation in Donbas, to be more precise in the context of a peacekeeping mission's possible deployment in the east of Ukraine. As you know, this initiative is currently being blocked by Russia. But we will try to find approaches to resolve this issue," he said. As UN practice shows, it takes months from the start of talks until a mission's deployment, Yelchenko said, adding that, for this reason, it would be a lengthy process. Apart from Russia, there are also some UN Security Council member countries that do not support the idea of a peacekeeping mission for Donbas, he said.

<http://en.interfax.com.ua/news/general/315434.html>

### **Ukraine to hold consultations with EU, WTO on trade measures against Russia, 05.01.2016**

Ukrainian Deputy Minister for Economic Development and Trade and Ukraine's Trade Representative Nataliya Mykolska says that Ukraine plans to hold consultations with the European Union within the Free Trade Area (FTA) and with the World Trade Organization on trade measures Ukraine may take in response to Russia's restrictions on exports from Ukraine.

<http://www.getprimenews.com/newsflash/ukraine-to-hold-consultations-with-eu-wto-on-trade-measures-against-russia/2417860.html>

### **Eucom Commander Breedlove advises looking at what Putin's doing, 06.01.2016**

U.S. European Command (Eucom) commander General Phil Breedlove says he cannot tell what Russian President Vladimir Putin intends to do with the military he has re-equipped or retrained but advises looking at what he is doing, according to a news article published by the U.S. Department of Defense on its official website.

<http://www.dailynewsupdates24.com/story/3253911/eucom-commander-breedlove-advises-looking-at-what-putins-doing.html>

<http://www.unian.info/world/1229999-eucom-commander-breedlove-advises-looking-at-what-putins-doing.html>

### **Power shortage-caused state of emergency in Crimea to last till May 1, 08.01.2016**

State of emergency in Russia's Crimea, introduced due to energy shortages last November, will stay effective at least till May 1, 2016, the republic's leader, Sergey Aksyonov, said at a meeting of the crisis management centre. "The crisis management centre will keep working up to the last day of the emergency situation, at least till May 1. All should stay at their work places," Aksyonov told local officials as he reviewed the immediate tasks facing the local authorities. Aksyonov said the timetables of rolling blackouts would have to be polished to perfection without delay. All boiler rooms are to receive power supply on the permanent basis to keep temperatures inside apartment buildings at the proper level. All municipalities are obliged to present by January 10 the schedules local industries and businesses will have to stick to amid power shortages. As the head of Crimea's Emergencies Ministry, Sergey Shakhov, has said, the peninsula was getting 933 megawatts of electricity, including 400 megawatts via two high-voltage power cables laid under the Kerch Strait from mainland Russia's Krasnodar Territory. The available power supply is capable of meeting 85% of the demand. "There are no communities where electricity is utterly unavailable," he said.

<http://tass.ru/en/politics/848511>

### **Putin: Western sanctions against Russia after Crimea's reunification 'silly decision', 11.01.2016**

Western sanctions, which came as a result of Crimea's reunification with Russia, was a "silly and damaging decision," but the sanctions have a positive effect for Russia as well, President Vladimir Putin said in an interview with German daily Bild. "You know, the Russians feel clearly with their hearts and minds what is going on at the moment," Putin said. "Napoleon once said that justice is the image of God upon the Earth. The reunification of Crimea with Russia was a just decision." He added that the reaction of the Western partners on the reunification was "wrong and rather aimed to restrain the abilities of Russia's further growth instead of Ukraine's support." "It seems to me that it should have never been done and that is where the grand mistake rests as, on the contrary, we must make use of mutual possibilities for the further growth, for mutual solution of problems, which we are facing," Putin said adding that the Western choice of imposing sanctions against Russia was "a silly and damaging decision."

<http://tass.ru/en/politics/848653>

<http://www.unian.info/politics/1232361-putin-names-condition-for-ukraines-retaking-its-eastern-borders.html>

### **Bezsmertniy says Putin's statement on borders in Donbas is absurd and legally futile, 11.01.2016**

The representative of Ukraine to the sub-working group on political issues of the Tripartite Liaison Group in Minsk, Roman Bezsmertniy, said in an exclusive interview that the statement of Russian President Vladimir Putin's on a special regime of local governance in Donbas is an attempt to destabilize Ukraine.

<http://www.kyivpost.com/article/content/ukraine-politics/unian-bezsmertniy-says-putins-statement-on-borders-in-donbas-is-absurd-and-legally-futile-405688.html>

<http://www.unian.info/politics/1233054-expert-highlights-putins-manipulations-over-minsk-deal.html>

### **Bloomberg Puts Russia Among Worst Economies in 2016, 12.01.2016**

"Its [Russia's] GDP, according to economists, will be reduced in 2016 by 0.5%. Only Greece, Brazil and Venezuela are expected to show worse performance. Negative growth is also expected from the Ecuadorian economy, Argentina's GDP will remain at the same level, while the economies of Japan, Finland, Croatia and Switzerland will grow very slightly," said the report. It is noted that in the past year Russia ranked third from the bottom in the Bloomberg's list: its GDP has decreased by 3.65% in the first nine months. The last place went to Macau with the index declining by 25.03%. Ukraine's GDP will grow by 1.2-1.4%, according to the economists. There is a 60% possibility of a recession in the next 12 months, according to the experts. "For Russia, a high risk of recession will remain throughout the year, but will begin to decline starting September, down to the level of just above 60% in December. The average risk will be at 65%. In general, the economists believe that Russia will come out of the prolonged two-decade recession and will see a slight growth by the end of the fourth quarter," the report reads.

<https://charter97.org/en/news/2016/1/12/186517/>

### **Russia plans to form three west-oriented army divisions in 2016 — defense minister, 12.01.2016**

Three new west-oriented divisions will be formed this year, Russian Defense Minister Sergey Shoigu has said. "I cannot but mention such an important task as the formation of three west-oriented divisions. The task is extremely important," he said. Shoigu added that alongside manning the three divisions the related program was expected to create permanent infrastructures, test sites, military hardware depots and barracks. Last autumn Shoigu said that since the beginning of 2015 about 30 units and forces had been created in the Western Military District. And at the end of November he declared that fifteen units had been created in the Southern Military District and the establishment of two more units was in the final phase.

<http://tass.ru/en/defense/848904>

### **President at the meeting with foreign ambassadors: We will not change the European way, 12.01.2016**

President Petro Poroshenko had a meeting with foreign ambassadors. He summed up the achievements of Ukraine in 2015 and outlined the plans for the year 2016. "Ukraine stands. A lot is yet to be done to make Ukraine a better nation. We will not change this way. We won't be allowed to. Too many good men and women sacrificed their lives for this to happen. Too much passion, desire and blood is put in the project called "European Ukraine", the President said. He noted that Ukraine had made significant steps in reforming the state, particularly launched the National Anti-Corruption Bureau and police, stabilize macro-financial situation. The President assured that Ukraine remained faithful to the implementation of the Minsk agreements in contrast to Russia. "While Russia's one hand signed the peace documents in Minsk, the other one flooded in blood Ukrainian town of Debaltseve. Let's be honest – without the global pressure Russia wouldn't be stopped. Pressure must be maintained till Moscow ultimately buries the hatchet and starts respecting the sovereignty of its neighbors," Poroshenko said.

<http://www.president.gov.ua/en/news/mi-ne-zminimo-yevropeiskogo-shlyahu-prezident-na-zustrichi-z-36609>

### **Obama says Ukraine and Syria are slipping away from Russia's orbit, 13.01.2016**

"Even as their economy contracts, Russia is pouring resources to prop up Ukraine and Syria— [the] states they see slipping away from their orbit," he said. "...the international system we built after World War II is now struggling to keep pace with this new reality," he added. Obama said that Washington's support of Ukraine was aimed at defending democracy. "When we help Ukraine defend its democracy, or Colombia resolve a decades-long war, that strengthens the international order we depend upon," he said.

<http://ukrainianwall.com/english-news/obama-says-ukraine-and-syria-are-slipping-away-from-russias-orbit/>

### **Obama discusses Syria, Ukraine with Russia's Putin: White House, 13.01.2016**

President Barack Obama, in a phone call with Russian President Vladimir Putin, emphasized the need to work toward a diplomatic solution to the crisis in Ukraine and address the conflict in Syria, the White House said. Obama told Putin that a key next step in resolving the Ukrainian crisis was for all sides to agree on the modalities of local elections in the Donbas region of Ukraine, the White House said in a statement. The two leaders also "noted the necessity of taking steps to foster productive discussions between representatives of the Syrian opposition and regime under United Nations auspices, principally by reducing violence and addressing the urgent humanitarian needs of the Syrian people," the statement said.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/us-russia-usa-obama-putin-idUSKCNOUR2NS20160113>

<http://en.kremlin.ru/events/president/news/51165>

### **Contact Group agrees to exchange 50 prisoners of war in Donbas by January 20 – OSCE, 13.01.2016**

The Contact Group for the Ukrainian settlement agreed to exchange 50 prisoners of war from both sides of the Donbas conflict by January 20, according to Martin Sajdik, Special Representative of the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office in Ukraine. There is an agreement to release 50 people from both sides, Sajdik said after the Contact Group's meeting. He added that the sides had pledged to provide more concrete information on prisoner exchanges by next week. Sajdik also explained that it would not be a "25 for 25" exchange. Ukraine is going to hand over more prisoners of war to the DPR and LPR than the self-proclaimed republics to Ukraine. Hopefully, it's going to happen before January 20, he said. The Contact Group has urged the sides in the Donbas conflict to establish immediate ceasefire as of 00:00 on January 14, Martin Sajdik said. We fully support the proposal of the Russian representative in the Contact Group, Boris Gryzlov, to make a fresh attempt to guarantee the regime of silence and complete ceasefire on the eve of the Old New Year (which is being marked tonight according to the Julian calendar). According to Sajdik, the silence regime should come into force as of midnight on Wednesday.

<http://tass.ru/en/world/849446>

### **Turchynov: Russia starts hybrid war on Europe, Turkey, 13.01.2016**

He said that during the investigation of the recent blast in Turkey killing 8 German tourists and seriously wounding 15, the Turkish police detained 3 Russians suspected of being involved in staging the blast. "More and more information is surfacing about the active roles Russia's special services play in targeting ISIS terrorist acts," Turchynov said. The analysis of Russia's air strikes in Syria show that civilian targets are destroyed in the first turn, such as hospitals, bakeries, grain elevators and houses, not ISIS military bases as Russia claims. These air strikes are aimed at bringing about a humanitarian catastrophe in Syria, Turchynov stressed.

[http://zik.ua/en/news/2016/01/13/turchynov\\_russia\\_starts\\_hybrid\\_war\\_on\\_europe\\_turkey\\_662335](http://zik.ua/en/news/2016/01/13/turchynov_russia_starts_hybrid_war_on_europe_turkey_662335)

### **Ukraine must restore sovereignty in Donbas as early as 2016 – Poroshenko, 14.01.2016**

Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko has said that his first priority in 2016 will be to ensure peace in Donbas and bring Ukraine back into the region. "This is primarily to ensure peace and - I stress - Ukraine's return into Donbas. In 2016, Ukrainian sovereignty over the occupied territories of Donetsk and Luhansk regions must be restored," Poroshenko said at the start of his first press conference this year in Kyiv on Thursday. Another top priority on the agenda is the fight for the return of Crimea, he said. "We will propose creating an international mechanism for the de-occupation of the peninsula. The optimal format for launching such a mechanism is, in my view, the Geneva plus format, which involves our partners from the European Union, the United States and possibly the signatories to the Budapest Memorandum," the Ukrainian president said.

<http://en.interfax.com.ua/news/general/317396.html>

### **Kyiv has evidence of Russian troops, equipment crossing into Ukraine – Poroshenko, 14.01.2016**

"We have irrefutable evidence - both satellite images and video footage made by our intelligence services - of Russian military hardware and Armed Forces units crossing the Ukrainian border," he told a press conference in Kyiv on Thursday. "And we demand that, once we have conveyed this position, there should be a decisive and fast reaction in the form of withdrawal of the invading troops and access by the OSCE [the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe] for checks and for creation of all conditions, primarily, concerning the safety issue, and for launching of the political settlement process," Poroshenko said.

<http://en.interfax.com.ua/news/general/317477.html>

### **"Geneva plus": Poroshenko announces new format of talks on Crimea de-occupation, 14.01.2016**

"The struggle for the return of the Crimea also remains the top priority on the agenda. And we will propose setting up an international mechanism for de-occupation of the peninsula. I'm positive that "Geneva Plus" format would be the best to set up such mechanism: with the participation of our partners from the EU, the U.S. and, possibly, the Budapest Memorandum signatory states," the president said.

<http://www.unian.info/politics/1236612-geneva-plus-poroshenko-announces-new-format-of-talks-on-crimea-de-occupation.html>

### **Lavrov, Kerry to discuss Syria, Ukraine settlement in Zurich Jan 20, 14.01.2016**

"In line with an instruction from the Russian and US presidents, who discussed urgent international problems by phone yesterday, the heads of the foreign policy departments continued to consider ways to settle the Syrian crisis and the conflict in Ukraine," the ministry said. "Lavrov and Kerry agreed to hold a personal meeting on January 20 in Zurich," it said. Russian Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Mariya Zakharova said at a briefing Thursday that a considerable part of the meeting will be dedicated to issues of Syrian settlement with account for the fact that Russia and the United States are actively involved in the process and are co-chairs of the "Vienna format". "We are proceeding from the assumption that the topic will be discussed in the most active way," Zakharova said. "We will hope that the meeting will add constructiveness to the general process of Syrian settlement."

<http://tass.ru/en/politics/849747>

### **"DPR," "LPR" should have no illusions on special status of Donbas - OSCE Chairman, 14.01.2016**

The OSCE Chairman, Germany's Foreign Minister Frank-Walter Steinmeier, stressed that the terrorists in the east of Ukraine should not have any illusions about getting the special status for Donbas, while Russia must influence them in this matter.

<http://www.businessnewsworld.com/news/dpr-lpr-should-have-no-illusions-on-special-status-of-donbas-osce-chairman.html>

### **Russia agrees to swap Sentsov, Kolchenko for captured Russian GRU officers, 15.01.2016**

Yuriy Grabovskiy, the lawyer of Russian GRU officer Alexander Alexandrov, captured and held in custody in Ukraine, has said that he talked with Ukrainian prisoners swap negotiator Volodymyr Ruban about a possible exchange of his client for Ukrainian film director Oleh Sentsov, Ukrainian activist Oleksandr Kolchenko or Ukrainian pilot Nadia Savchenko, who have been imprisoned in Russia.

<http://www.searchnewsonline.com/update/1761285/russia-agrees-to-swap-sentsov-kolchenko-for-captured-russian-gru-officers.html>

### **Poroshenko forecasts billions of investment in Ukraine in 2016, 15.01.2015**

"I expect investment this year will total billions of dollars," the president said at his first press conference in 2016 in Kyiv. Earlier, Ukrainian Minister of Economic Development and Trade Aivaras Abromavicius stated that the government was seeking to raise more foreign investment in the Ukrainian economy, aiming at \$5 billion in 2016. It is reported that investment injected in Ukraine has been declining from year to year.

<http://ukrnews.today/poroshenko-forecasts-billions-of-investment-in-ukraine-in-2016/>

### **US Nuland and Russia's Surkov continue consultations behind closed doors, 15.01.2016**

Russian president's aide Vladislav Surkov and Victoria Nuland, the US Assistant Secretary of State for European and Eurasian Affairs, have been holding consultations on the Minsk agreements for Ukraine settlement for the past four hours, Pavel Mamontov, the Russian Foreign Ministry representative in the Kaliningrad region said. The meeting is taking place at a state residence belonging to the Russian president's property management department in the town of Pionersky near the city of Kaliningrad, Russia's westernmost exclave bordering on Lithuania and Poland. "The consultations continue behind the closed doors," Mamontov said. The talks are dominated by the Minsk agreements for the settlement of crisis in eastern Ukraine.

<http://tass.ru/en/politics/850045>

### **Lithuania president says Ukraine may be granted EU visa-free regime by year-end, 17.01.2016**

"Only the political procedure – approval by the Council of the European Union – has been left. I think Ukraine is most likely to be granted the EU visa-free regime during this year, late in 2016 or early in 2017," she said. According to her, Ukraine did a great job for two years to get prepared for liberalization. The Lithuanian President congratulated Ukraine on "a very positive report by the European Commission saying that 'Ukraine is ready'."

<http://www.ukrinform.net/rubric-politics/1946914-ukraine-may-get-eu-visa-free-regime-by-year-end-grybauskaite.html>

### **European Commission to suggest cancelling visas for Ukrainians before April, 18.01.2016**

The European Commission will propose introducing visa-free regime for Ukraine to the Council of the EU before April. That's according to Johannes Hahn, Commissioner for European Neighborhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiations. Hahn said "certain obligations" remain to be complied with by the Ukrainian president and prime minister. According to Hahn, the same applies to Georgia.

<http://uatoday.tv/politics/european-commission-to-suggest-cancelling-visas-for-ukrainians-before-april-573529.html>

<http://www.unian.info/politics/1246254-lithuanian-foreign-minister-pace-of-real-visa-liberalization-only-depends-on-ukraine.html>

### **Russia refuses to go to PACE session without "prospects" for full participation, 18.01.2016**

"The discussion over Russia's participation started at a Friday's meeting of the Security Council (...) The Foreign Ministry addressed the meeting presenting several options, including not going at all, or going with a limited number of delegates (...) We don't want to go to Strasbourg to get yet another political spanking," the source close to the leadership of the Federation Council has told. The decision to boycott the meeting, taken by the leaders of both houses of parliament, with the support of all factions, is final, the source said. The Russian delegation is ready to participate in PACE session only if it regains all authority, according to Leonid Slutskiy, head of the Duma's committee on CIS affairs, deputy head of the Russian delegation to the PACE. "We will not tolerate discrimination, while any sanctions against Russia are unacceptable," he said.

<http://www.unian.info/politics/1239038-russia-refuses-to-go-to-pace-session-media.html>

### **Gryzlov reveals his role in Contact Group, 18.01.2016**

"We do not consider the current situation as a dead end. There are many ways and breakthrough options. My task is to clarify this to the participants in the process," Gryzlov said. "There are forces interested that the situation be at an impasse. Even worse is that some want to avoid responsible actions for the implementation of the Minsk agreements, and that's why it is beneficial to present the situation as a stalemate. But I have no doubt that we are now able to move forward significantly in the implementation of the Minsk agreements. My meetings in Kyiv and Minsk only confirm this," he said. "When it became clear that the provisions of the agreements would not be fulfilled in 2015, it was decided to extend the Minsk format into 2016. The Russian Federation adheres to the positions and measures, which were laid on February 12, 2015 in Minsk, we have no reason to talk about any other agreements," Gryzlov said.

<http://ukrainianlaw.blogspot.com/2016/01/gryzlov-reveals-his-role-in-contact.html>

<http://www.unian.info/politics/1239375-ukraine-delegate-in-contact-group-gryzlov-repeats-putins-mantra.html>



### **Crimea blockade coordinator says occupied Crimea cannot be returned peacefully, 19.01.2016**

"I do not believe in the peaceful scenario of the liberation of Crimea, but this is my personal opinion," Islyamov said. He also predicted possible developments on the peninsula due to the economic difficulties in Russia. "The sanctions will press, and Putin will be removed from office in the near future, some military junta will come to power that will decide to set up its last battle. Because they've been preparing for this for so long. Any other politician who will try to return Crimea will be considered a traitor," Islyamov said.

<http://www.unian.info/politics/1240469-crimea-blockade-coordinator-says-occupied-crimea-cannot-be-returned-peacefully.html>

### **EU Applauds Ukraine Authorities' Outstanding Reform Implementation, 19.01.2016**

"We were all united in applauding and encouraging the outstanding work that the Ukrainian authorities have done in the past months in order to introduce and start implementing reforms, so there is no doubt in this respect," High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and Vice-President of the European Commission Federica Mogherini said following a Foreign Affairs Council meeting in Brussels. "This does not mean that we should not look at ways to first of all, encourage, support and sustain the reforms inside Ukraine from a social, financial, and a political point of view, without substituting the Ukrainian authorities, the government, the President, the Parliament, the local authorities or the political system. We must actively support this process because I think we have learnt from the past, from the present. Once you start a process there is never enough, you also need to continue focusing on how you can better make it sustainable internally, externally and in the region," she said.

<https://charter97.org/en/news/2016/1/19/187517/>

### **Putin's ex-spokesman speaks of Russian troops in Donbas, 19.01.2016**

"I'm totally a civilian. And I had a period in my life when I have been for four years in the war. I know perfectly well that no "Motorola" [one of pro-Russian militant leaders] is able to set in motion a 20,000-strong army and organize the "pocket" near Ilovaisk or Mariupol. I know this not because I was told so, but because it can't be any other way, but such army being led by people who at least have a diploma of the General Staff. These must be people who work together, know each other, people familiar with each other," Kozhukhov said.

<http://ukrainianwall.com/english-news/putins-ex-spokesman-speaks-of-russian-troops-in-donbas/>

### **Gerashchenko names conditions for elections in occupied Donbas, 20.01.2016**

"The Ukrainian side takes one position that the elections in the occupied areas can be held only with a number of important prerequisites. This is access for the Ukrainian media, disarmament, weapons withdrawal, the admission of the OSCE to the occupied territories, in the first place to the Ukraine-Russia border which must be returned under Ukraine's control, withdrawal of foreign troops," she said. Gerashchenko also noted that it is necessary to cancel the results of pseudo-elections that the pro-Russian militants declared in November, 2014. Earlier, President of Ukraine Petro Poroshenko suggested to deploy in the territory of the occupied areas of Donbas a special EU mission to provide for the holding of the elections. In addition, the leaders of the Normandy Four have called to intensify in 2016 the work on the modalities of the elections in Donbas with the assistance of OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR).

<http://www.unian.info/politics/1241128-gerashchenko-names-conditions-for-elections-in-occupied-donbas.html>

### **Pushkov: "In the absence of Russian PACE will go to pressure on Ukraine", 20.01.2016**

The Chairman of the State Duma Committee on Foreign Affairs Alexei Pushkov believes that the members of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE) will be transferred to the pressure on Ukraine because of the absence of the Russian delegation at the winter session. «In the absence of Russian PACE will move to put pressure on Ukraine, in Europe, many angry monstrous corruption and fictitious Ukrainian reforms», – wrote Pushkov.

<http://softwaresnewsarticles.blogspot.com/2016/01/pushkov-in-absence-of-russian-pace-will.html>

### **First step in Ukraine's strategy on Crimea, 20.01.2016**

At his first press conference after the New Year's holidays, President of Ukraine Petro Poroshenko said that Ukraine is considering setting up a new negotiating format for the de-occupation of Crimea - "Geneva plus." Poroshenko noted that the struggle for the return of Crimea remained on the agenda and Ukraine would suggest an international mechanism of de-occupation of the peninsula. The optimal format is "Geneva Plus": with the participation of our partners from the EU, USA and, probably, signatory countries of the Budapest Memorandum," the president said. Poroshenko has already tried to return the "Crimean issue" on the international agenda in October 2015 at the Normandy Four meeting in Paris. The activists' move on a blockade of at the de-facto border with the peninsula has also contributed to it. At the same time, German Chancellor Angela Merkel said that the Minsk format does not include restoration of Ukraine's sovereignty over Crimea.

<http://www.unian.info/politics/1241072-first-step-in-ukraines-strategy-on-crimea.html>

### **Lavrov: US confirms its work to support Normandy format on Ukraine, 20.01.2016**

Secretary of State John Kerry and his assistant Victoria Nuland on Wednesday confirmed that the US work regarding Ukraine will be aimed at support for the Contact Group and the Normandy format, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov said Wednesday after a meeting with Kerry. Lavrov said "the positive assessment by our American partners of the Normandy Four's activity was confirmed." "Our interlocutors — John Kerry, and he was accompanied, among others, by Victoria Nuland, who is in charge of the European sector of the US foreign policy in the Department of State, — our American partners confirmed that their work on the Ukrainian direction will be aimed to help reach agreements in the Contact Group, Normandy format, and not replace these useful mechanisms," he said.

<http://tass.ru/en/politics/850993>

### **Ukraine plans new diplomatic push to recover Crimea - Finance Minister, 21.01.2016**

Ukraine plans soon to launch a fresh diplomatic initiative to recover the Crimean peninsula from Russia which annexed it in 2014, Finance Minister Natalia Yaresko told: "We don't agree that Crimea has gone. This will be the year we really begin pressing forward on a process to return Crimea," Yaresko said on the sidelines of the World Economic Forum in Davos. More recently Ukraine cut power supplies to the region and its president, Petro Poroshenko, said power would be restored if Crimea were recognized as part of Ukraine. However, Russia has given no sign that it would ever consider returning Crimea, which has a majority ethnic Russian population and holds a special place in Russian history and culture. Last month Moscow issued a new banknote dedicated to Crimea. Yaresko said Ukraine aimed to create a forum along the lines of the so-called Geneva format, a body that included Russia, Ukraine, the European Union and the United States and operated briefly in 2014. Russia has ruled out reviving the forum. "We are looking to establish something bigger than the Geneva format to begin dialogue on how to return Crimea to Ukraine," Yaresko said.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/us-davos-meeting-ukraine-crimea-idUSKCN0UY2HG>

### **US says will only provide \$1 billion loan guarantee to Ukraine after Prosecutor General Shokin resigns, 21.01.2016**

Ukraine will receive U.S.-promised loan guarantees only after Prosecutor General Shokin is dismissed. The U.S. Department of State sees Shokin's resignation as an important evidence of efficient corruption fight in Ukraine. According to information, the U.S. Department of State sent a clear message to Ukrainian authorities that it links its offering of \$1 bln in loan guarantees for Ukraine to dismissal of Prosecutor General of Ukraine Viktor Shokin. This was announced by the U.S. side during Ukrainian PGO representatives' visit to the U.S. - Deputy Prosecutor Generals Vitalii Kasko and Davit Sakvarelidze, as well as Anti-corruption Prosecutor Nazar Kholodnytskiy.

[http://en.censor.net.ua/news/370303/us\\_says\\_will\\_only\\_provide\\_1\\_billion\\_loan\\_quarantee\\_to\\_ukraine\\_after\\_prosecutor\\_general\\_shokin\\_resigns](http://en.censor.net.ua/news/370303/us_says_will_only_provide_1_billion_loan_quarantee_to_ukraine_after_prosecutor_general_shokin_resigns)

### **Without progress on Minsk-2 amendments to the Constitution will not – Gerashchenko, 21.01.2016**

This was written by MP of the faction “Bloc Petro Poroshenko,” member of the humanitarian subgroup of the Trilateral contact group Irina Gerashchenko: “The second reading of constitutional changes may occur alone against the background of obvious and decisive progress both in the security and humanitarian points of the Minsk agreements, which, incidentally, would be made before the end of last year, “- she wrote. ”It is obvious that without full and comprehensive performance security points Minsk uhod- and this steady silence, withdrawal of weapons, verification allocation of seats OSCE Mission to access all the occupied territories, foreign troop withdrawal and technology, disarmament, and the key, restoring control to the Ukrainian kordonom- we can move on to political items. They have to be created all the security prerequisites and performed humanitarian items “- said Gerashchenko. ”And to initiate the formulation of final vote constitutional amendments on the agenda, it is imperative to Russia and the militants have demonstrated real progress performed Minsk II. I need to put pressure on the country & ndash; offender and occupier: the Russian Federation “, & ndash; she said.

<http://ukrainiancrisis.net/news/16626>

### **Putin does not renounce plans to create land bridge to occupied Crimea, 22.01.2016**

"Putin's regime does not renounce plans that the Russian Federation has in regard to Ukraine. First of all, these plans include expansion of the territory of the administrative boundaries of the "Luhansk and Donetsk People's Republics" as well as creation of a land bridge to occupied Crimea along the coast of the Sea of Azov," pokesperson of the Main Intelligence Directorate of the Ministry of Defense of Ukraine Vadym Skybytskyi at a press conference in Kyiv.

[http://en.censor.net.ua/news/370479/putin\\_does\\_not\\_renounce\\_plans\\_to\\_create\\_land\\_bridge\\_to\\_occupied\\_crimea\\_military\\_intelligence\\_agency](http://en.censor.net.ua/news/370479/putin_does_not_renounce_plans_to_create_land_bridge_to_occupied_crimea_military_intelligence_agency)

### **Russia pays for failure to obey Minsk agreements by weaker rubble – Poroshenko, 22.01.2016**

"This is the price the aggressor paid for the absolutely irresponsible action [failure to fulfill Minsk agreements]," Poroshenko said in an interview with Bloomberg news agency in Davos. Poroshenko said that the less money Russia could spend on the military expenditure, the better it was for Russia itself, for its neighbors, and the whole world.

Ukrainian president claimed that there was no positive delivery from Russia on the Minsk deal. He noted that terrorists carried on violations of the ceasefire regime, while Ukraine continued to lose its soldiers. At the same time, the decrease of firing directly depended on Russia. Meantime, the monitoring mission of the OSCE was denied access to both uncontrolled part of the Ukrainian-Russian border and the occupied territory during the past week.

<http://en.interfax.com.ua/news/general/319312.html>

### **Minsk agreements could be fulfilled in coming months, - Kerry, 22.01.2016**

According to Kerry, he and Vice President Biden met with President of Ukraine Petro Poroshenko to reaffirm their support and assure themselves of the implementation of the Minsk agreements. He was convinced that the full commitment and responsibility of all parties could result in their complete fulfillment in the coming months. Only then, the economic restrictions will be lifted, the U.S. secretary of state said. Kerry stressed that the effectiveness of the governments of certain countries was of great importance to global security and development. Therefore, incompetence and corrupt governments can no longer be neglected as a local problem. According to him, corruption destroys national states and deprives people of great opportunities for development. Corruption is a tool used by extremists and terrorists to realize their criminal plans, he added. Kerry also said that corruption costs the world economy \$1 trillion annually.

[http://en.censor.net.ua/news/370469/minsk\\_agreements\\_could\\_be\\_fulfilled\\_in\\_coming\\_months\\_kerry](http://en.censor.net.ua/news/370469/minsk_agreements_could_be_fulfilled_in_coming_months_kerry)

### **Poroshenko: Local elections will be held in Crimea after de-occupation, 22.01.2016**

Ukraine will hold local elections in Russia-annexed Crimea only after it rejoins Ukraine, said the Ukraine's President Petro Poroshenko in Davos. We will return Crimea, that's for sure, and after that Ukraine is ready to hold local elections on the peninsula, posted Tsegolko as citing Poroshenko.

<http://gha.com.ua/en/politics/poroshenko-local-elections-will-be-held-in-crimea-after-deoccupation/135752/>

[http://en.censor.net.ua/news/370393/after\\_recovering\\_crimea\\_ukraine\\_ready\\_to\\_organize\\_local\\_elections\\_there\\_poroshenko](http://en.censor.net.ua/news/370393/after_recovering_crimea_ukraine_ready_to_organize_local_elections_there_poroshenko)

### **Ukraine and USA Condemn Russia's Attempts To Block Expansion Of OSCE Mission, 22.01.2016**

Ukrainian delegates to OSCE expressed deep disappointment in relation to Russia's persistent reluctance to give consent for extension of OSCE Observer Mission and provide the monitors with an access to Russian checkpoints 'Gukovo' and 'Donetsk' and all the areas of Ukrainian-Russian border, temporarily not controlled by the Ukrainian government. As stated by the delegation, this proves Russia's intention to continue to supply heavy weapons, military equipment, regular troops, as well as to support terrorist activity in Ukraine. Ukrainian delegation reminded the fourth points of the Minsk Protocol, according to which it is required to ensure the permanent monitoring of the Ukrainian-Russian border and verification by the OSCE with the creation of security zones in the border regions of Ukraine and the Russian Federation. Of course, fulfillment of this point is crucially important for de-escalation of situation in Donbas. The US mission to OSCE expressed deep concern in relation to Russia's refusal to extend the mandate of the SMM, too.

<http://ukraineunderattack.org/en/53424-ukraine-and-usa-condemn-russia-s-attempts-to-block-expansion-of-osce-mission.html>

### **Ukraine should not make laws on elections in Donbas and amend Constitution before Russia withdraws its troops, - Kuchma, 22.01.2016**

He stressed that Russia does "whatever it wants" in the territory with over 400 km of border uncontrolled by Ukraine. "Minsk protocol decisions must be fulfilled including cease-fire and withdrawal of heavy weapons. It is imperative that the OSCE special mission has carried out verification and said: "Yes, the weapons have indeed been withdrawn." This has not been done as well. Only then we can talk about some successes," the second president said. Kuchma stressed that it was impossible to hold elections on the uncontrolled territory of Ukraine.

[http://en.censor.net.ua/news/370519/ukraine\\_should\\_not\\_make\\_laws\\_on\\_elections\\_in\\_donbas\\_and\\_amend\\_constitution\\_before\\_russia\\_withdraws\\_its](http://en.censor.net.ua/news/370519/ukraine_should_not_make_laws_on_elections_in_donbas_and_amend_constitution_before_russia_withdraws_its)

### **Tymchuk describes his scenario of end of war in Donbas, 22.01.2016**

"A number of conditions that are unacceptable for Russia and Ukraine should be drawn up. For example, this can be a closure of the program of IMF financing for Ukraine, and for Russia – tougher sanctions in the form of disconnection from the international banking system [SWIFT]," Tymchuk said. He stressed the responsibilities must be spelled out clearly in a new agreement. After that, it is necessary to draw up deadlines for the implementation of each provision. If some provision is not fulfilled on time, the sanctions must take effect, he said. "In general, if you carefully read the text of the Minsk agreements, it is clear that they are made in the interests of Russia. It would be very difficult to make Russia rewrite these agreements so that they corresponded to Ukrainian interests. But I believe Russia would do so under the pressure from the West. It will have no other choice," Tymchuk said.

<http://www.unian.info/politics/1243554-tymchuk-describes-his-scenario-of-end-of-war-in-donbas.html>

### **Soros: Russia Has Reserves For Two Years, 22.01.2016**

Chairman of Soros Fund Management, billionaire investor George Soros believes that Russia has enough reserves to last it through the current economic hardships. Soros said that the Russian reserves would last for "a couple of years." On Wednesday, Russia's central bank estimated that Russia expanded its reserves of monetary gold by 208.4 metric tons to 1,415 tons in 2015, up more than 17 percent from the year before. The value of Russia's gold reserves rose by 5.37 percent to almost \$48.6 billion, from the \$46 billion in January 2015.

<http://www.amtvmedia.com/soros-russia-has-reserves-for-two-years/>

## **Cover-up suspected as Interpol website removes Yanukovich allies from wanted list, 22.01.2016**

The Anti-Corruption Action Center noticed the disappearance and expressed dismay that Ex-Prime Minister Mykola Azarov, ex-Health Minister Raisa Bogatyryova, fugitive businessman Serhiy Kurchenko, ex-Finance Minister Yuriy Kolobov and ex-lawmaker Yuriy Ivanyushchenko had apparently been taken off the list on Jan. 22.

"The disappearance of these suspects from the Interpol database may mean only one thing – the cases involving ex-authorities of Yanukovich's times have successfully been covered up," Vitaliy Shabunin, the head of the Anti-Corruption Action Center's executive board, wrote on the center's website. He demanded that Prosecutor General Viktor Shokin and Internal Minister Arsen Avakov provide an explanation. "Now these monsters can easily enjoy life, for example, on the Cote d'Azur in France," Shabunin posted on his Facebook. Interpol reacted quickly to calm the controversy, however.

<https://www.kyivpost.com/article/content/ukraine-politics/cover-up-suspected-as-interpol-website-removes-yanukovich-allies-from-wanted-list-406488.html>  
<http://antac.org.ua/en/about-us/>

## **Kerry says effort and good faith could lead to lifting of sanctions on Russia, 22.01.2016**

In a speech to the World Economic Forum in Davos, Kerry said he and U.S. Vice President Joe Biden had met this week in the Swiss resort with Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko to help ensure full implementation of the agreements. "And I believe that, with effort and with bona-fide legitimate intent to solve the problem on both sides, it is possible in these next months to find those Minsk agreements implemented and to get to a place where sanctions can be appropriately, because of the full implementation, removed," Kerry said.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/us-davos-meeting-kerry-russia-idUSKCN0V01NM?feedType=RSS&feedName=worldNews>

## **Blocking constitution changes can lead to full-scale conflict with Russia: Poroshenko, 24.01.2016**

Some 300 parliamentary votes are required to pass changes needed for greater regional autonomy. Torpedoing the Minsk peace deal and not changing Ukraine's constitution. Both of those would lead to a full-scale war with Russia. That's according to President Petro Poroshenko. Here he is speaking during a conference of local government associations on Saturday. Among the other key statements – pledges to both reclaim the entire Donbas territory this year and also make progress on decentralization. Poroshenko says the latter depends on Moscow's fulfillment of the ceasefire deal - mainly the release of hostages, pullback of Russian troops and weapons and lawful local elections held for east Ukraine.

<http://uatoday.tv/politics/blocking-constitution-changes-can-to-full-scale-conflict-with-russia-poroshenko-577199.html>  
<http://www.elkratos.international/2016/01/poroshenko-no-black-cat-of.html>

## **'Putin is corrupt' says US Treasury, 25.01.2016**

The US government has already imposed sanctions on Mr Putin's aides, but it is thought to be the first time it has directly accused him of corruption. His spokesman told the BBC that "none of these questions or issues needs to be answered, as they are pure fiction". Last week a UK public inquiry said Mr Putin had "probably" approved the murder of ex-spy Alexander Litvinenko. Adam Szubin, who oversees US Treasury sanctions, has told BBC Panorama that the Russian president is corrupt and that the US government has known this for "many, many years". He said: "We've seen him enriching his friends, his close allies, and marginalising those who he doesn't view as friends using state assets. Whether that's Russia's energy wealth, whether it's other state contracts, he directs those to whom he believes will serve him and excludes those who don't. To me, that is a picture of corruption." The US government imposed sanctions against a number of Kremlin insiders in 2014 and stated that Vladimir Putin had secret investments in the energy sector. However, the Americans did not directly accuse him of corruption at the time.

<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-35385445>  
<http://www.reuters.com/article/us-usa-russia-treasury-whitehouse-idUSKCN0V62K6>

### **2016 to be quite difficult for Ukraine, PM Yatseniuk says, 25.01.2016**

"It must be said - the year will be anything but simple. The global economy is shaking. Prices for major goods exported by Ukraine - agricultural, metals, ores - are sliding. The world is being weakened by war conflicts, terrorism, millions of migrants and displaced residents, and political uncertainty due to elections in leading Western countries," Yatseniuk said. "Ukrainian politicum has to face the threats of 2016 in earnest, with maturity and responsibility. We must secure the stability in ruling the country and the activities of legislative and executive authorities," the prime minister stressed.

[http://en.censor.net.ua/news/370767/2016\\_to\\_be\\_quite\\_difficult\\_for\\_ukraine\\_pm\\_yatseniuk\\_says](http://en.censor.net.ua/news/370767/2016_to_be_quite_difficult_for_ukraine_pm_yatseniuk_says)  
<http://uawire.org/news/yatsenyuk-outlines-priorities-of-cabinet-of-ministers-in-2016>

### **Donbas should hold elections after border problem solved, 25.01.2016**

Ukraine's second president Leonid Kuchma who represents Ukraine in the Trilateral Contact Group, has said it was unacceptable if the Donbas area not controlled by Kyiv held local elections without having implemented all terms of the Minsk agreements.

"We should by no means pass the elections law and changes to the Constitution, if we are in this situation: they are shooting every day there [in Donbas], stepping up [shell attacks], they are deploying heavy weapons there: they are not withdrawing foreign troops, one could say, Russian ones; they do not want to talk about the Ukrainian-Russian border at all. And you understand: if our border is not there, then it is not our territory," Kuchma told reporters. Russia is doing "whatever it wants" on the nearly 400-kilometer section of the border Ukraine can no longer control, he said.

<http://en.interfax.com.ua/news/general/319706.html>

### **Poroshenko names four reform priorities in Ukraine, 25.01.2016**

"Decentralization is the first priority. The second one is judicial reform. The third item is stripping of parliamentary immunity. The fourth one is stripping of judicial immunity. We already reduced judicial immunity and introduced it into judicial reform. Three relevant bills have been submitted to the Verkhovna Rada," Poroshenko said. "One should not rely on TV or Facebook to make sure that there is a demand for decentralization, but ask the people whether they are interested in the authorities being closer to them or not, interested in the decisions being made by their community rather than by permission from Kyiv authorities; whether they have started to fill better after receiving additional 40 percent of the funds, has it become better after they started taking decisions on construction of roads, houses, or other implementation of these funds?" he said.

[http://en.censor.net.ua/news/370772/poroshenko\\_names\\_four\\_reform\\_priorities\\_in\\_ukraine](http://en.censor.net.ua/news/370772/poroshenko_names_four_reform_priorities_in_ukraine)  
<http://www.unian.info/politics/1245340-poroshenko-announces-suits-against-russia-over-crimea.html>

### **Lavrov: No Budapest memo violation, as Russia poses no nuke threat to Ukraine, 26.01.2016**

"If you mean the Budapest Memorandum, we have not violated it – the Budapest Memorandum mentions the only one commitment– not to use nuclear weapons against Ukraine. No one has threatened Ukraine with the use of nuclear weapons," Lavrov said at a news conference in Moscow, answering a question from the correspondent who asked how Russia's neighboring countries could ensure their security if the Russian Federation can give up its commitments at any time. At the same time, Lavrov said that they had heard a "reverse threat" from former Prime Minister, leader of the Batkivschyna Party Yulia Tymoshenko, who allegedly said that "pro-Russian residents in Donbas should be punished by a nuclear bomb."

<http://www.unian.info/world/1246637-lavrov-no-budapest-memo-violation-as-russia-poses-no-nuke-threat-to-ukraine.html>

### **Russian opposition leader promises to return Crimea to Ukraine, 28.01.2016**

Crimean peninsula, annexed by Russia in March 2014, will be eventually returned to Ukraine, said former Russian PM and currently opposition politician Mikhail Kasyanov to the leader of Crimean Tatars Mustafa Dzhemilev in Strasbourg, where Kasyanov took part in PACE meeting, dedicated to the assassinated Russian opposition leader Boris Nemtsov.

<http://uatoday.tv/politics/russian-opposition-leader-promises-to-return-crimea-to-ukraine-580235.html>

### **European Court of Justice repeals sanctions against Azarov, ex-officials, 28.01.2016**

"The European Court of Justice repealed the freeze on assets of five Ukrainians, including Mykola Azarov and Serhiy Arbuzov, former prime ministers of Ukraine, which had been imposed in the period from March 6, 2014 to March 5, 2015. A person cannot be held liable for the misappropriation of assets just on the basis of a preliminary investigation in the country and without the information against them in course of the investigation, available to the Council of the European Union," the Court's representative explained. This decision also refers to former MP Oleksiy Azarov, MP Serhiy Klyuyev and former Energy and Coal Industry Minister of Ukraine Eduard Stavytsky.

<http://en.vnews.agency/news/world/15290-european-court-of-justice-repeals-sanctions-against-azarov-ex-officials.html>

<http://curia.europa.eu/jcms/upload/docs/application/pdf/2016-01/cp160007en.pdf>

### **Canada signals it will reengage with Russia despite Ukraine, 28.01.2016**

Canada will seek closer relations with Russia despite deep tensions over Moscow's actions in Ukraine, new Liberal Foreign Minister Stephane Dion signaled on Thursday, marking a major policy shift. Last October the Liberals defeated the Conservatives, who had cut most high-level ties with Moscow and slapped sanctions on Russian firms, officials and business executives in response to the actions of Russian-backed militants in Ukraine. "If we don't engage with Russia we don't help Ukraine (and) we don't help Canada's interests," Dion stated. Dion said the United States, which has also imposed punitive measures on Russia, was dealing directly with Moscow on a number of international issues. It would be irresponsible for the two nations not to have such contacts, he said. "So something that is irresponsible for the United States would also be irresponsible for Canada, don't you think? So that is the approach we will have when building a foreign policy," he said.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/us-canada-russia-idUSKCN0V62EY>

### **Putin may decide on participation in 2018 election when election campaign starts — Kremlin, 29.01.2016**

"There is no need now to take a decision as it is a far long time before the elections," Peskov told reporters. The decision may be taken "when the election campaign starts." "This is not an issue at all," Peskov added. "We don't have a rule up here to speak about elections two years before them," Peskov said. "In any case, a priori a smear campaign has already started," he added commenting on Washington's fresh accusations against the Russian leader.

<http://tass.ru/en/politics/853074>

<http://www.unian.info/politics/1250277-putin-as-assured-in-kadyrovs-loyalty-as-never-before-stratfor.html>

### **"It's huge mistake to create "Ministry of Truth"," - Pyatt about information war with Russia, 29.01.2016**

In a hybrid war unleashed by the Kremlin against Ukraine, it would be a huge mistake to spend all efforts trying to resist Russia's propaganda. Instead, it is better to focus on the development and successful fight against corruption. "The biggest mistake that Ukraine could make is to spend all of your time and all of your energy trying to counter those lies - to spend all of your breath saying: "There are no fascists! What are you talking about?" That's exactly what Russia wants," he said. Pyatt recalled there is a phenomenon in psychology called mirroring, where you fall into the habit of simply reflecting the behaviors of your opponent.

[http://en.censor.net.ua/news/371720/its\\_huge\\_mistake\\_to\\_create\\_ministry\\_of\\_truth\\_pyatt\\_about\\_information\\_war\\_with\\_russia](http://en.censor.net.ua/news/371720/its_huge_mistake_to_create_ministry_of_truth_pyatt_about_information_war_with_russia)

<http://ukraine.usembassy.gov/statements/pyatt-01292016.html>

## **Actions of Ukrainian Authorities**

### **Ukraine imposes sanctions in response to Russian trade embargo, 02.01.2016**

Ukraine imposes preferential duty rates set by the Ukrainian Customs Tariff regarding all goods originating from Russia, while the preferential regime with the Russian Federation (free trade) is canceled from January 2, 2016, the governmental press service reported. According to the report, the measures are introduced for one year in accordance with decree of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine dated 30.12.2015 No. 1146 that aims at protecting economic interests and security of Ukraine, restoring the violated rights, freedoms and legitimate interests of Ukrainian citizens, society and the state, which has resulted from Russia's actions – an aggressor state. Its actions limit the exercise of Ukraine's legitimate rights and interests in the field of foreign economic activity, according to the report. The measures are introduced in response to the suspension by Russia of the Free Trade Zone agreement with Ukraine dated October 18, 2011.

<http://uatoday.tv/business/ukraine-imposes-sanctions-in-response-to-russian-trade-embargo-565237.html>

### **Ukraine to file claim against Russia at International Court of Justice, 06.01.2016**

Ukraine is to file a claim at the International Court of Justice against Russia for supporting terrorism, Ukrainian Justice Minister Pavlo Petrenko has said. "The next year will be devoted to the initiation of a large-scale lawsuit at the International Court of Justice through which Ukraine will sue Russia under the convention [for the suppression of] the financing of terrorism," Petrenko told. The minister said that the evidence had already been gathered, the pre-trial process of communication with the Russian side was about to end, and "we'll go to court." Petrenko also said that state-owned Oschadbank, and oil and gas giant NJSC Naftogaz Ukrainy were individually suing Russia at the Arbitration Institute of the Stockholm Chamber of Commerce. He also added that over 700 Ukrainians – an their number was growing every day – had filed private lawsuits at the European Court of Human Rights against Russia's annexation of the Crimea and aggression in Donbas. In his words, rulings on the first cases may be announced by the end of 2016.

<http://en.interfax.com.ua/news/general/315779.html>

### **Ukraine intel identifies Russian commander of militants in Donetsk region, 08.01.2016**

Ukrainian Military Intelligence has identified the commander of the so-called 9th separate motorized rifle regiment (stationed in Novoazovsk) of the 1st Army Corps of the Center of Territorial Troops of the Southern Military District of the Russian Armed Forces. This was reported in the press service of the military intelligence.

<http://uatoday.tv/politics/ukraine-intel-identifies-russian-commander-of-militants-in-donetsk-region-567712.html>

### **Jaresko: IMF agrees Ukraine's Budget-2016, 11.01.2016**

The International Monetary Fund has agreed that the budget adopted on December 25 meets the objectives of Ukraine's cooperation program with the Fund, that's according to Natalie Jaresko's comments to Europeiska Pravda online newspaper. "During the consideration [of the draft budget] in the Verkhovna Rada, the deputies, first of all, introduced a number of changes that had not been agreed upon with the IMF, and secondly, they refused to support the new Tax Code, which was endorsed by the President at the National Council of Reform and that formed the basis of the draft state budget, which the Ministry of Finance had agreed with the IMF," said the minister. According to her, the IMF has completed at the moment its assessment of the budget and the corresponding package of legislation adopted ahead of the voting for the budget.

<http://ukrainianwall.com/english-news/jaresko-imf-agrees-ukraines-budget-2016/>



**In Kiev, Kuchma and Gryzlov discussed new contact group meeting in Minsk, 12.01.2016**  
"During the meeting, Leonid Kuchma and Boris Gryzlov discussed preparations for the Tripartite meeting of the contact group in Minsk, which will take place on January 13"- OLiifer reported. Oliifer added that before the conversation with the Russian representative Kuchma met with OSCE representative Martin Saydiykom tripartite group, which also discussed the agenda for the first meeting of the Trilateral contact group in 2016.

<http://en.molbuk.ua/ukraine/104523-u-kyievi-kuchma-ta-gryzlov-obgovoryly-nove-zasidannya-kontaktnoyi-grupy-u-minsku.html>

[http://en.censor.net.ua/news/368722/gryzlov\\_met\\_with\\_poroshenko\\_in\\_kyiv\\_media](http://en.censor.net.ua/news/368722/gryzlov_met_with_poroshenko_in_kyiv_media)

<http://www.unian.info/politics/1235611-details-of-gryzlovs-visit-to-kyiv-revealed.html>

**Russia has no legitimate reasons to deploy nuclear weapons in Crimea – U.S. State Department, 12.01.2016**

Assistant Secretary of State for Arms Control, Verification and Compliance Frank Rose claimed that it would be illegal on the part of Russia to deploy nuclear weapons in the occupied Crimea. First, we condemn Russian illegal annexation of Crimea and we think it would be inappropriate and illegal for them to deploy nuclear weapons in Crimea," Rose said while answering a question of the correspondent. Speaking about his upcoming visit to Ukraine, the U.S. official said that he plans to discuss "a broad set of issues, for example modernization of the U.S.-Ukraine nuclear risk reduction center as well as discussion on a number of topics related to the convention arms control in Europe and space security."

<http://ukrainianlaw.blogspot.com/2016/01/russia-has-no-legitimate-reasons-to.html>

**The court arrested the pensions of Yanukovych and Azarov, 12.01.2016**

The Pechersky district court of Kiev arrested the retired former President of Ukraine Viktor Yanukovych and former Prime Minister Mykola Azarov. This is stated in the judgments of the court of 21 December 2015. Pre-trial investigation established that from October 2010 to July 2013, Yanukovych and Azarov prior agreement with the Chairman of the State service of special communication and information protection of Ukraine, Minister of Finance, member of the Supervisory Board of «Ukrtelecom», the Director of open company «ESU», abusing his official position, arranged financing from the state budget of Ukraine for the execution of works on construction of the dedicated telecommunication network special purpose, which was entrusted to LLC «ESU» in the end there was the theft of \$ 220 million. The investigator indicates that from December 17, 2007 Azarov is registered in the office of the Pension Fund of Ukraine from February 6, 2008 receives a pension of \$ 17 thousand hryvnias 252,84. Yanukovych from 10 July 2007 received a pension in the amount of 16 thousand hryvnias 947,24.

<http://en.reporter-ua.ru/the-court-arrested-the-pensions-of-yanukovych-and-azarov.html>

**President had a phone conversation with Chancellor of Germany and President of France, 13.01.2016**

The Head of State emphasized that the violation of ceasefire by Russian militants and non-admission of the OSCE observers to the occupied territory and uncontrolled area of the Ukrainian-Russian border was inadmissible. The parties discussed further steps to fulfill the Minsk agreements, particularly coordination of modality of holding local elections in certain districts of Donetsk and Luhansk regions under the Ukrainian legislation and preparation to the restoration of Ukraine's full control over the Ukrainian-Russian border. The President of Ukraine stressed the importance of establishing deadlines in 2016 with regards to the Minsk agreements as Russia disrupted the implementation of its obligations. Petro Poroshenko, Angela Merkel and Francois Hollande agreed to continue contacts the following week.

<http://www.president.gov.ua/en/news/prezident-proviv-telefonnu-rozmovu-z-federalnim-kanclerom-ni-36611>

**Ukraine, U.S. "open skies" starting today, 14.01.2016**

Ukraine and the United States have become full partners under the Open Skies Agreement starting today, according to Volodymyr Omelian, Deputy Minister of Infrastructure.

<http://www.primenewshub.com/newsfocus/ukraine-us-open-skies-starting-today/248658.html>

### **Yatseniuk orders to expand list of banned Russian goods to Ukraine, 14.01.2016**

Ukraine's Prime Minister Arsenii Yatseniuk ordered to expand the list of Russian goods that are banned from import to Ukraine. As reported, on Dec. 16 Russian President Vladimir Putin signed a decree on termination of the free trade area with Ukraine effective Jan. 1, 2016. The document read that the decision has been caused by "exclusive circumstances affecting interests and economic security of Russia." The list of countries covered by Russia's food embargo includes Ukraine, Albania, Montenegro, Iceland, and Liechtenstein. The document stipulated for special embargo conditions for Ukraine and was supposed to come into effect as soon as Kyiv launched its economic association with the European Union, "but no later than Jan. 1, 2016." The FTA between Ukraine and the EU came into effect on Jan. 1, 2016.

[http://en.censor.net.ua/news/368821/yatseniuk\\_orders\\_to\\_expand\\_list\\_of\\_banned\\_russian\\_goods\\_to\\_ukraine](http://en.censor.net.ua/news/368821/yatseniuk_orders_to_expand_list_of_banned_russian_goods_to_ukraine)

### **GENERAL STAFF ANNOUNCED THE INEVITABILITY OF THE SEVENTH WAVE OF MOBILIZATION, 15.01.2016**

"Because of the demobilization of the fourth wave will arise the need to man up APU. It is planned to complete (the armed forces – note. "Heathcliff!») by contract. Thus (...) the seventh wave is less than the previous " - said in a statement. The General Staff also encouraged to apply to a special hotline who can be mobilized in the framework of the seventh wave. In October 2015 the Prosecutor General of Ukraine counted about 16 thousand deserters in the armed forces . Only the beginning of autumn the supervisory authority identified in the army 65 thousand deserters. However as noted in the APU during the sixth wave of mobilization in the summer of Appeal declined almost 27 thousand people which is about 50-55 per cent of the total number of conscripts.

<http://rushincrash.com/ussr/ukraine/apu-general-staff-announced-the-inevitability-of-the-seventh-wave-of-mobilization/>

### **Poroshenko says 28 judges to be fired for wrong rulings on Maidan cases, 16.01.2016**

Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko has announced the dismissal of 28 judges for illegal adjudication against Maidan activists.

<http://www.primenewscenter.com/report/poroshenko-says-28-judges-to-be-fired-for-wrong-rulings-on-maidan-cases/302258.html>

### **President awarded cyborgs killed during the defense of the Donetsk airport, 16.01.2016**

President Petro Poroshenko met with families of the warriors killed during the last days of the defense of the Donetsk International Airport and considered missing until recently. In the course of the meeting with the fallen heroes families, the Head of State emphasized that the defenders of the airport will remain forever glorious cyborgs - fearless and invincible Ukrainian warriors who demonstrated to everyone the unbreakable spirit of Ukrainians and became an example for all militaries. Due to their heroic example and courage, military glory of Ukraine was revived, as stated by the President.

<http://www.president.gov.ua/en/news/prezident-nagorodiv-kiborgiv-yaki-zaginuli-pid-chas-oboroni-36622>

### **Ukraine to stop trading with occupied Crimea from Jan 17, 16.01.2016**

According to the decision of the Cabinet of Ministers, the ban does not apply to personal belongings of citizens, which are transported in carry-on baggage and/or accompanied baggage, as well as to socially important food products, the total invoice value of which does not exceed the equivalent of UAH 10,000, and the total weight does not exceed 50 kilograms per person. "The decision does not apply to the supply of electricity from the temporarily occupied territory to another territory of Ukraine and/or from the other territory of Ukraine to the temporarily occupied territory, which is carried out in accordance with the decision of the National Security and Defense Council of Ukraine, for the supply of goods from the temporarily occupied territory to another territory of Ukraine that are of strategic importance for industries and national security, on confirmation of the Ministry of Economic Development and Trade. In addition, the decision does not apply to the import of humanitarian aid in the temporarily occupied territory, which is provided by international humanitarian organizations, according to the list approved by the Ministry of Social Policy," the report says.

<http://ukrainianlaw.blogspot.com/2016/01/ukraine-to-stop-trading-with-occupied.html>

### **Ukrainian army chief ignored warnings before militants downed military cargo plane IL-76: Media, 18.01.2016**

The Ukrainian military's Chief of General Staff Viktor Muzhenko knew about the militants plans near Luhansk Airport in June 2014. A top Ukrainian military chief was provided with information militants were planning to shoot down Ukrainian military cargo planes in Luhansk on June 13, 2014 but still ordered their deployment to Luhansk Airport. That's according to an ongoing investigation into the tragedy of the shot down IL-76, news portal Chetverta Vlada reported. The Ukrainian military's Chief of General Staff Gen. Nikolai Muzhenko is implicated in the investigation by Ukraine's Ministry of Defence, which also speculates on the causes of the accident. The documents were made public by defense ministry employees to journalists, on condition of anonymity. They say Muzhenko should be held accountable for the neglect of duty, which resulted in the death of 40 paratroopers and nine flight crew.

<http://uatoday.tv/society/ukrainian-army-chief-ignored-warnings-before-militants-downed-military-transport-plane-il-76-media-573547.html>  
<http://www.unian.info/war/1240145-general-staff-says-muzhenkos-interrogation-materials-rigged.html>

### **Ukraine, Russia discuss new prisoner swap deal, 20.01.2016**

Talks on finding a diplomatic solution to stem the conflict in eastern Ukraine are continuing in Minsk today, January 20. Representatives from Ukraine, Russia and Europe's OSCE watchdog are meeting to negotiate on a signed accord to release more than 50 prisoners. On the agenda is also security, economic and humanitarian issues.

Last week a new truce was signed and an accord on a prisoner swap, Ukraine and the OSCE said the initiative was pushed by Russia's new representative Boris Gryzlov.

<http://uatoday.tv/politics/ukraine-russia-discuss-new-prisoner-swap-deal-574673.html>

### **Yatsenyuk accuses Grigorishin of anti-Ukrainian work on Russia's FSB, 20.01.2016**

Ukrainian Prime Minister Arseniy Yatsenyuk at a government sitting said that Russian businessman Konstantin Grigorishin is financing anti-Ukrainian political forces and is cooperating with the FSB of the Russian Federation. Speaking about the need of enlarging a list of persons that come under sanctions of Ukraine, Yatsenyuk noted that criminal productions had been already opened against several such persons: "That's why it may happen that they will be forced to stay in Ukraine for a while". "They are stealing money from the budget, and then they first of all finance anti-Ukrainian political forces and report to the FSB, like citizen of the Russian Federation Grigorishin does, who has been deriving benefit from the Ukrainian energy sector for the last 10 years. He is a real agent," he said.

<http://www.ukrinform.net/rubric-politics/1948363-yatsenyuk-accuses-grigorishin-of-financing-anticorruption-political-forces.html>

### **Poroshenko, Biden Agree to Coordinate Action on Donbass Elections, 21.01.2016**

The country's regions of Donetsk and Lugansk agreed to postpone their local elections until 2016. Before elections in those regions can take place, Ukrainian authorities must fulfill all their obligations under the Minsk agreement. "We enjoy full support from the United States regarding the implementation of the Minsk process. We agreed to coordinate actions in order to ensure the ceasefire and provide access to the border and heavy weapons storage facilities for the OSCE SMM [Organization for Security and Co-Operation in Europe Special Monitoring Mission]," Poroshenko said. According to the statement posted on the website, Poroshenko and Biden paid special attention to the issue of reforms in Ukraine and agreed that there is no alternative to the Minsk peace process. "Also, the parties coordinated actions to intensify political process including the elaboration of the modalities of elections in the occupied territories under the Ukrainian legislation with broad participation of the international observers."

<http://sputniknews.com/politics/20160121/1033466160/donbass-elections-poroshenko-biden.html>

### **Poroshenko creates Office for Crimea de-occupation, 21.01.2016**

The Decree approves an updated structure of representation, which will include, among other units, the office for the work with persons internally displaced from the temporarily occupied Crimea, the international relations office, as well as the office for reintegration and de-occupation of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea. Poroshenko instructed the Representative Office to promote the observance of constitutional rights and freedoms of the citizens who had lived in the temporarily occupied peninsula and moved to mainland Ukraine.

<http://ukrainianwall.com/english-news/poroshenko-creates-office-for-crimea-de-occupation/>

<http://ukrainianwall.com/english-news/poroshenko-biden-agree-cordination-on-minsk-deal-implementation/>

<http://www.unian.info/economics/1236631-poroshenko-names-condition-for-resuming-power-supply-to-crimea.html>

### **Switzerland to give Ukraine \$200 mln to replenish its reserves, 23.01.2016**

Ukraine's President Petro Poroshenko had a meeting with President of Switzerland Johann Schneider-Ammann, during which they agreed on the provision of \$200 million in additional assistance to replenish Ukraine's foreign exchange reserves. The president of Ukraine thanked the Swiss government and people for the humanitarian and financial assistance in the amount of approximately \$350 million, the Ukrainian president's press service reported on its website.

[http://rbth.com/news/2016/01/23/switzerland-to-give-ukraine-200-mln-to-replenish-its-forex-reserves-poroshenko\\_561769](http://rbth.com/news/2016/01/23/switzerland-to-give-ukraine-200-mln-to-replenish-its-forex-reserves-poroshenko_561769)

### **UN assessment mission arrives in Ukraine, 23.01.2016**

The assessment mission of the United Nations, which is now beginning its work in Ukraine, will focus on humanitarian issues, mine clearance and the issues of settlement in Donbas. The Foreign Ministry reported that the mission will include representatives of the UN Development Program, UN Children's Fund, and the UN Mine Action Office. The officials will remain in Ukraine for two weeks. Ukraine's Permanent Representative to the United Nations Volodymyr Yelchenko noted that landmines and remnants of ammunition and equipment injure and even kill civilians. According to him, the organization is ready to allocate substantial funds for demining.

<http://www.unian.info/society/1244476-un-assessment-mission-arrives-in-ukraine.html>

<http://en.reporter-ua.ru/the-permanent-representative-of-ukraine-hoped-that-the-militants-are-interested-in-the-successful-work-of-the-un-special-mission-in-the-donbass.html>

### **Ukraine's Prime Minister Calls For Referendum On New Constitution, 24.01.2016**

Yatsenyuk said the constitution would be a "new agreement on redistribution of powers between authorities, an agreement on relations between the center and the country's regions, an agreement on a new honest and fair judicial system, and on clear geopolitics" – namely, on the country's future goals of becoming members of the European Union and NATO.

Yatsenyuk's remarks came a day after President Petro Poroshenko warned the country's politicians that the collapse of the Minsk agreements aimed at ending a war with Russia-backed separatists could set off a "full-scale conflict" with Russia. Speaking at a conference of local leaders in Kyiv on January 23, Poroshenko said, "Those political forces that want to torpedo the Minsk agreements at any cost...and to block the constitutional process, must clearly understand the consequences of their actions."

<http://www.rferl.org/content/ukraine-yatsenyuk-new-constitution/27508024.html>

### **Prosecutors hand case on illegal issue of firearms to 'titushky' to court, 24.01.2016**

Hundreds of rifles and ammunition were given to groups of thugs paid by ex-President Viktor Yanukovich's regime to attack activists during one of the bloodiest days of the EuroMaidan Revolution on Feb. 20, 2014, prosecutors say. Some 12 individuals are charged with the crime of giving weapons out to use against peaceful protesters, according to Horbatiuk. At least four of them are in custody, while the remainder are on a wanted list. Three of the detainees are former police officers, the chief of the department, an inspector, and a technician, according to the investigation. Others include former Interior Minister of Ukraine Vitaliy Zakharchenko, ex-chief of the Kyiv Police Valeriy Mazan, and the head of logistics. All of them are on a wanted list. The Prosecutor General's Office has completed its investigation and passed all findings to the Kyiv city court.

<http://myinforms.com/en/a/22501129-prosecutors-hand-case-on-illegal-issue-of-firearms-to-titushky-to-court>

[http://en.censor.net.ua/news/370616/titushky\\_and\\_law\\_enforcers\\_coordinated\\_their\\_actions\\_against\\_maidan\\_protesters\\_pg0](http://en.censor.net.ua/news/370616/titushky_and_law_enforcers_coordinated_their_actions_against_maidan_protesters_pg0)

### **Poroshenko says 28 judges to be fired for wrong rulings on Maidan cases, 25.01.2016**

Poroshenko told Ukrainian TV channels in an interview on Sunday that he had recently signed a decree on the dismissal of four judges, including Rodion Kireyev, who [as a judge of Kyiv's Pechersky District Court] passed an unlawful decision on the so-called gas case against former Prime Minister, leader of the Batkivschyna Party Yulia Tymoshenko. "We are now preparing a decree on the dismissal of another 28 judges who committed crimes – let me call a spade a spade – while passing rulings during the Maidan and it should be [their] responsibility for this, and judicial reform is one of the first priorities," Poroshenko said.

<http://www.unian.info/politics/1245430-poroshenko-says-28-judges-to-be-fired-for-wrong-rulings-on-maidan-cases.html>

### **Ukraine's PGO, Office of Prosecutor of ICC decide to establish contact group to consolidate data on Maidan events, 26.01.2016**

The Prosecutor General's Office of Ukraine hosted on January 20 a meeting on the further cooperation between Ukraine and the Office of the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court (ICC) as part of the Verkhovna Rada's statement dated February 25, 2014 on the recognition of Ukraine's jurisdiction over the ICC concerning the crimes committed from November 2013 until February 2014. "The parties discussed the report of the Office of the Prosecutor of the ICC on the progress made in 2015 in the analysis of whether the events on Maidan can qualify as crimes against humanity. In addition, they announced specific issues that require joint efforts of the Prosecutor's Office of Ukraine and the public," the press service of the Prosecutor General's Office reported.

<http://en.interfax.com.ua/news/general/319999.html>

### **The NSDC of Ukraine has adopted a strategy of national cyber security, 27.01.2016**

This was reported in the press service of the NSDC. «At the meeting adopted as a basis for cyber Strategy of Ukraine in view of the challenges facing our state: the aggressive actions of the Russian Federation, increasing trends in the use of cyberspace intelligence and military organizations, terrorists and criminals», — is spoken in the message. The press service noted that the cybersecurity strategy provides for the development of the national system for the protection of cyberspace, timely detection and neutralization of cyber threats and prevent them in line with the practice of leading States-members of NATO and the EU. Also in the Strategy refers to coordination, interaction and distribution of authority and accountability of the security sector and defense of Ukraine in the issues of cyber security, cyber security and anti-cyberterrorism and cybercrime.

<http://en.reporter-ua.ru/the-nsdc-of-ukraine-has-adopted-a-strategy-of-national-cyber-security.html>

### **Samopomich threatens to quit Rada coalition if Cabinet remains in office, 31.01.2016**

"The Samopomich faction has decided to express no-confidence in the incumbent government and we demand its resignation, including the resignation of the Prime Minister, who has failed to conduct reforms – this is obvious," In her words, if this has not been done, Samopomich may withdraw its members from the coalition. "If the government has not been completely replaced, we will separately address the question of leaving the coalition depending on whether we will be represented in such a [new] government and how we will be presented there," Tetiana Ostriкова said.

<http://www.unian.info/politics/1251202-samopomich-threatens-to-quit-rada-coalition-if-cabinet-remains-in-office.html>

## Terrorism / Separatism

### **Russian proxies violate Donbas truce 42 times in last day, 02.01.2016**

In particular, militants used small arms to directly shell Ukrainian positions in the area of Sartana near Mariupol, and they used heavy machine guns to attack Shyrokyne. To the north of Horlivka, Russian-backed gangs opened fire on Ukrainian soldiers near Zaitseve using 82 mm mortars and small arms. Militants also fired rocket-propelled grenades at Ukrainian positions near Novgorod, and they used large-caliber machine guns to attack the town of Artemove. In addition, militants used rocket-propelled grenades and automatic weapons to attack Luhanske. More to the east, Russian-backed gangs shelled Ukrainian positions near Troitske using heavy machine guns and small arms. Russian-terrorist forces continue to shell positions of ATO forces near the temporarily occupied Donetsk. In particular, militants used small arms and rocket-propelled grenades to attack Pisky, Opytne and south Avdiyivka.

<http://www.unian.info/war/1227783-russian-proxies-violate-donbas-truce-42-times-in-last-day.html>

<http://en.interfax.com.ua/news/general/315280.html>

### **Militants continue provocations amid "holiday ceasefire" in Donbas, 03.01.2016**

The Russian-backed militants have repeatedly provoked the Ukrainian troops in the Donbas conflict area in the past 24 hours, trying to make them return fire, the ATO press center said.

<http://www.headlinesnews24.com/headlines/2506030/militants-continue-provocations-amid-holiday-ceasefire-in-donbas.html>

### **Holiday "ceasefire" breached again as militants fire rocket-propelled grenades, small arms, 04.01.2016**

In the late hours of Sunday, the militants led aimed fire from small arms and rocket-propelled grenades on Ukrainian positions in the area of Shyrokyne, located not far from Mariupol. "At night, the militants used small arms and opened unaimed fire at Ukrainian servicemen in Avdiyivka, who have been heroically defending a coal production facility, known as "Butovka mine," according to a statement. "The militants have opened fire at Ukrainian soldiers four times since the beginning of the day," the ATO press center reported.

<http://ukrainianwall.com/english-news/holiday-ceasefire-breached-again-as-militants-fire-rocket-propelled-grenades-small-arms/>

### **Ukrainian Military: 'Unknown special forces' attempt to contain militant infighting, 04.01.2016**

The Ukrainian military reported no casualties over the weekend near the line of contact with Russian-backed militants in the east of the country. Sporadic firing could be heard near the villages of Opytne and Pisky. Officials have also reported of militant infighting in the region. Reconnaissance groups in east Ukraine report that combined Russia-separatist forces are strengthening their positions near a main road leading to the coastal city of Mariupol.

<http://uatoday.tv/society/ukrainian-military-unknown-special-forces-attempt-to-contain-militant-infighting-565820.html>

### **Latest from OSCE Special Monitoring Mission (SMM) to Ukraine, 04.01.2016**

The SMM observed a relative calm with only a small number of ceasefire violations in Donetsk region between 31 December and 3 January[1]. From a position at "Donetsk People's Republic" ("DPR")-controlled Donetsk railway station (6km north-west of Donetsk city centre), the SMM observed no ceasefire violations on 31 December and on 3 January; one undetermined explosion on 1 January 4-5km north-east of its position and one undetermined explosion and three bursts of small-arms fire on 2 January. In southern parts of Donetsk region on 31 December, whilst in government-controlled Berdianske (18km east of Mariupol), the SMM heard 12 explosions (likely mortars) in an area 5km north-east of its position and, whilst in government-controlled Lebedynske (16km north-east of Mariupol), the SMM heard six explosions, most likely mortars, in an area to the east. The overall situation in the Luhansk region was relatively calm between 31 December and 3 January, with two explosions heard by the SMM on 2 January in "Lugansk People's Republic" ("LPR")-controlled Kalynove (58km west of Luhansk).

<http://www.osce.org/ukraine-smm/214676>

### **Ukraine intel spots militant MBTs, self-propelled guns near Makyivka, Mospine, 04.01.2016**

"The enemy attacked 11 times using small arms and rocket-propelled grenades, of which five attacks were on Troitske, Luhanske, Novhorodske (Slaviansk direction); four – on Butovka Mine and Opytne (Donetsk direction); two on Shyrokyne (Mariupol direction)," the report says. The OSCE Special Monitoring Mission was provided information on the presence in the areas of Makyivka and Mospine of the weapons banned under the Minsk agreements – tanks and self-propelled guns. During the day the efforts of the militants were concentrated on regrouping and rotation of forces in the directions of Novoaydarsk, Donetsk, Mariupol and Volnovakha; conducting reconnaissance of the ATO forces; putting the Group of Russian occupation forces in readiness for immediate engagement: and improving the material and technical base.

<http://www.unian.info/war/1228701-ukraine-intel-spots-militant-mbts-self-propelled-guns-near-makyivka-mospine.html>

### **Intensity of Russian proxies' attacks on Ukraine goes down to 10 per day, 04.01.2016**

At about 09:00 in the morning on Monday, the enemy based in the occupied city of Donetsk started firing on the Ukrainian positions near the village of Opytne from small arms and grenade launchers, and the attack lasted for half an hour. "Having opened effective fire from small arms to target the enemy's firing points, Ukrainian soldiers made the militants cease their fire. In the same location, the ATO forces were under sniper fire. All the attempts failed," the ATO press center wrote. Another targeted fire on Ukrainian defenders was opened by the enemy from small arms near the town of Maryinka. What is more, the ATO headquarters reported that illegal armed groups from the self-proclaimed Donbas republics had opened untargeted fire from grenade launchers in the direction of ATO strongholds to the south of the town of Avdiivka and near the village of Opytne. The situation remained calm in Luhansk region and in the Mariupol sector during the day, the press center said.

<http://www.unian.info/war/1229096-intensity-of-russian-proxies-attacks-on-ukraine-goes-down-to-10-per-day.html>

<http://en.interfax.com.ua/news/general/315364.html>

### **Militants fire 20 times at Ukrainian positions overnight, 05.01.2016**

Pro-Russian illegal armed groups opened fire 20 times in the direction of Ukrainian forces, twice the amount of attacks recorded the previous day, as reported by the ATO press center.

<http://www.galaxynewsmagazine.com/reportage/militants-fire-20-times-at-ukrainian-positions-overnight/1325445.html>

<http://en.interfax.com.ua/news/general/315601.html>

### **13 people put on Interpol wanted list in 2015 for serious crimes in ATO zone, 05.01.2016**

Thirteen dangerous criminals who have committed serious criminal offences and crimes against peace and security in the ATO zone in eastern Ukraine have been put on Interpol's international wanted list, the media liaison office of the Ukrainian National Police's main department in Donetsk region has reported.

"These are the people being suspected of murder, torture, kidnapping and robbery of citizens are also involved in terrorist groups' activity," the source said. What is more, a total of 137 cases were handed over to Interpol's General Secretariat in order to put the suspects on the international wanted list in 2015, the Donetsk regional police said. Among them are 27 individuals simultaneously involved in several criminal cases, including crimes against peace and security.

<http://en.interfax.com.ua/news/general/315618.html>

### **"LPR" pledges to release all captives for Christmas, 06.01.2016**

The self-proclaimed leader of the "Luhansk People's Republic," Igor Plotnitsky, is reported to have ordered release of all the Ukrainian soldiers held captive in LPR, honoring Christmas time.

"It's on the eve of and in honor of Christmas have I given the order to release all the captive soldiers of the Armed Forces of Ukraine, held in the 'LPR'," Plotnitsky said in a public address. However, the number of prisoners to be released was not specified.

<http://en.vnews.agency/news/politics/14999-lpr-pledges-to-release-all-captives-for-christmas.html>

<http://www.ukrinform.net/rubric-defense/1945021-sbu-expects-to-return-20-ukrainian-servicemen-from-militants-captivity.html>

<http://www.unian.info/war/1230843-lpr-militants-fail-to-fulfill-own-promise-no-captives-released-for-christmas.html>

[http://en.censor.net.ua/news/370243/militants\\_laid\\_down\\_unacceptable\\_conditions\\_sbu\\_head\\_adviser\\_tandit\\_on\\_failure\\_of\\_prisoners\\_exchange](http://en.censor.net.ua/news/370243/militants_laid_down_unacceptable_conditions_sbu_head_adviser_tandit_on_failure_of_prisoners_exchange)

### **Russian proxies shell Ukraine troops from 82mm mortars, 06.01.2016**

The situation in Donbas has escalated late Tuesday as the militants violated ceasefire 14 times, the press center of the Anti-Terrorist Operation reported.

<http://www.breakingnewsclub.com/headlines/2506237/russian-proxies-shell-ukraine-troops-from-82mm-mortars.html>  
<http://en.interfax.com.ua/news/general/315812.html>

### **Latest from OSCE Special Monitoring Mission (SMM) to Ukraine, 06.01.2016**

The SMM observed relative calm with a small number of ceasefire violations in Donetsk region[1]. Positioned at the Donetsk railway station (6km north-west of Donetsk city centre), the SMM heard a total of four undetermined explosions and three bursts of small-arms fire at locations 5-8km east and north-west of its position. Whilst in government-controlled Pryazovske (14km north-west of Mariupol), the SMM recorded one undetermined explosion south-south-east of its position. The overall situation in Luhansk region was relatively calm. Nonetheless, after two days of not observing ceasefire violations, the SMM recorded three incidents involving ceasefire violations, one of which consisted of 18 impacts approximately 3km south-west of its position, whilst at an "LPR" checkpoint near Sokilnyky (38km north-west of Luhansk). The SMM assessed the sound to be consistent with mortar shelling.

<http://www.osce.org/ukraine-smm/214926>

### **Militants 'celebrate' Christmas Eve with 51 attacks on ATO forces, 07.01.2016**

The pro-Russian militants shot at the Ukrainian positions 51 times overnight.

<http://www.kyivpost.com/article/content/ukraine-politics/unian-militants-celebrate-christmas-eve-with-51-attacks-on-ato-forces-405533.html>  
<http://en.interfax.com.ua/news/general/315990.html>

### **Terrorists amass armored vehicles, weapons on several directions – Def. Min, 07.01.2016**

Terrorists have amassed heavy armored equipment and weapons on several fronts in the ATO area, indicating their intention to launch a massive provocation against the Ukrainian troops.

<http://a1.am/en/terrorists-amass-armored-vehicles-weapons-on-several-directions-%E2%80%93-def-min>

### **Militants prevent OSCE monitors from getting to Kominternove twice, 07.01.2016**

"At the last Ukrainian Armed Forces checkpoint at the south-western entrance to the village, the checkpoint commander told the SMM that about 15 vehicles were "travelling back and forth per day". The SMM saw one civilian vehicle entering the village. In the vicinity of the checkpoint, the SMM observed approximately ten anti-tank mines, tied together by wire, placed along a side-track of the road. The SMM could not reach the village from the east and south, as armed "DPR" members denied the SMM access to the village," the OSCE SMM said in its report as of January 5 published on its website on January 6. According to it, militants didn't let the OSCE SMM monitors to enter Kominternove twice on Tuesday: once at a checkpoint near 'DPR'-controlled village of Zaichenko (4km east of Kominternove), without giving any explanation, and the second time armed men again denied the SMM passage to the village at a "DPR" checkpoint near the south-western entrance to Kominternove. The OSCE stressed that the SMM continues to face restrictions in fulfilling its monitoring functions in Donbas. In particular, in addition to two incidents near Kominternove, militants on Tuesday twice restricted the movement of monitor: once in Debaltseve, Donetsk region, and in the town of Komsomolsk, which is subordinated to Sverdlovsk city council, Luhansk region.

<http://en.interfax.com.ua/news/general/315988.html>

### **Ukrainian military say their positions shelled on 24 occasions in Donbas over past day, 08.01.2016**

In particular, the militants have fired 82mm mortars on the positions of the Ukrainian military situated on the northern outskirts of Lebedynske not far from Mariupol since Thursday evening. A Ukrainian checkpoint in the Zaitseve area has been shelled by the same weapons.

Since last midnight the militants, who have entrenched at the destroyed Donetsk airport, have waged the fire in the direction of Ukrainian units near Opytne.

<http://en.interfax.com.ua/news/general/316070.html>



### **Militants blame Ukrainian military of shelling Zaitseve, ATO HQ says attacks militants' doing, 09.01.2016**

"On January 9, in the first half of the day the criminals of one of the illegal armed formations of Russian terrorist troops with small arms and grenade launchers shelled the village of Zaitseve, which lies to north from occupied Horlivka. As a result of this armed provocation a local resident was injured," reads a report from the press centre.

The headquarters stressed that due to fake media, self-declared 'Donetsk People's Republic' accuses Ukrainian defenders of the shell attacks. Besides, according to the militants, they helped an injured woman, however, these were Ukrainian military men, who rendered a medical aid to her, and evacuated other local residents from the dangerous place, the ATO press centre said. Previously, the 'military administration of the self-proclaimed Donetsk People's Republic' said Ukrainian military opened fire on the part of the settlement Zaitseve. The Donetsk news agency reported, citing a source in the so-called 'DPR law enforcement structures', that a local resident, a woman, has been wounded.

<http://en.interfax.com.ua/news/general/316206.html>

<http://en.interfax.com.ua/news/general/316198.html>

### **Beyond Kyiv control town of Donetsk region recruits mercenaries for fighting in Syria, 09.01.2016**

The town of Yenakiyev, which is beyond control of the Ukrainian government, recruits mercenaries for carrying the military actions on the territory of Syria, Main Directorate of Intelligence of the Ministry of Defence of Ukraine reported. "It was established military commissariat in Yenakiyev town recruits mercenaries for involving into the military actions on the territory of Syria," reports an official website of the Defense Ministry of Ukraine on Friday. Besides, according to the Ukrainian reconnaissance, on January 8, 2016 the events to provide Russian Armed Forces in Syria included: flight of the aircraft Il-76 on Mozdok (Russia)-Humaimam (Syria) route and passage through Strait of Bosphorus in direction to Black Sea of Vologda-50 transport ship of Black Sea Fleet (without freight).

<http://en.interfax.com.ua/news/general/316174.html>

### **Russian proxies violate Donbas truce 29 times in last day, 09.01.2016**

Russian-backed militants violated the ceasefire in Donbas, eastern Ukraine, 29 times in the last day, according to the ATO press center.

<http://www.kyivpost.com/article/content/ukraine-politics/unian-russian-proxies-violate-donbas-truce-29-times-in-last-day-405591.html>

<http://www.unian.info/war/1231636-russian-proxies-violate-donbas-truce-29-times-in-last-day.html>

<http://uatoday.tv/politics/russian-backed-forces-using-lsquo-laser-guided-anti-tank-missiles-rsquo-in-eastern-ukraine-568138.html>

### **Militants deploy heavy weapons in Sloviansk and Mariupol direction – intelligence, 10.01.2016**

Representatives of the OSCE SMM operating in the ATO Zone informed about the presence of weapons, which are prohibited according to the Minsk agreements, in areas near Debaltseve and Mospyne, the Chief Directorate of Intelligence of the Ukrainian Defense Ministry reported. Militants are said to have secretly deployed large-caliber weapons banned under the Minsk peace agreement in Sloviansk and Mariupol directions, the intelligence data show.

<http://uatoday.tv/politics/militants-deploy-heavy-weapons-in-sloviansk-and-mariupol-direction-intelligence-568588.html>

### **Two Ukrainian servicemen killed in Donbas over past day, 10.01.2016**

"It happened near Mayorsk. No Ukrainian servicemen were wounded," according to spokesman Oleksandr Motuzianyk. One of the servicemen died as result of a shrapnel wound when Russian-backed militants shelled Ukrainian army positions from a grenade launcher. Motuzianyk adds: "The second casualty is a police officer, who died while saving civilians from militant shelling. A civilian car came under fire, a local woman was injured. He did everything possible to take the car out from the line of fire, but it cost him his life."

<http://uatoday.tv/crime/two-ukrainian-servicemen-killed-in-donbas-over-past-day-568600.html>

[http://joinfo.com/world/1013367\\_ato-latest-news-militants-attacked-ukrainian-positions-for-21-times-mostly-at-night.html](http://joinfo.com/world/1013367_ato-latest-news-militants-attacked-ukrainian-positions-for-21-times-mostly-at-night.html)

## **The OSCE Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine will open new forward patrol bases in Donbas on January 14-18, 11.01.2016**

This is stated on the OSCE website. "Principal Deputy Chief Monitor of the OSCE Special Monitoring Mission (SMM) to Ukraine Alexander Hug will travel to eastern Ukraine from 14 to 18 January 2016 to assess the security situation, open new Forward Patrol Bases and encourage all concerned to work towards peace and normalization of the situation in Ukraine," reads the statement. It is noted that Hug will visit Soledar, Donetsk, Kominternove, Shyrokyne, Dokuchaievsk, Svitlodarsk, Krasnoarmiisk, Luhansk, Stanytsia-Luhanska. He will meet the SMM teams, inspect the camera operations, conduct meetings with Joint Centre for Control and Co-operation representatives and other relevant interlocutors.

<http://www.ukrinform.net/rubric-defense/1943267-osce-opens-new-bases-in-donbas.html>

[http://en.censor.net.ua/news/368427/ukrainian\\_side\\_informed\\_osce\\_observers\\_on\\_deployment\\_of\\_banned\\_weapons\\_by\\_militants\\_near\\_mospyne\\_and](http://en.censor.net.ua/news/368427/ukrainian_side_informed_osce_observers_on_deployment_of_banned_weapons_by_militants_near_mospyne_and)

## **One Ukrainian soldier killed, another wounded yesterday, - ATO speaker, 11.01.2016**

One Ukrainian soldier was killed, another received injuries in combat activities in the east of Ukraine on Jan. 10, said PA representative on ATO matters, Colonel Andrii Lysenko.

[http://en.censor.net.ua/news/368444/one\\_ukrainian\\_soldier\\_killed\\_another\\_wounded\\_yesterday\\_ato\\_speaker](http://en.censor.net.ua/news/368444/one_ukrainian_soldier_killed_another_wounded_yesterday_ato_speaker)

## **Militants attack Ukraine troops 35 times overnight, 12.01.2016**

In their daily morning brief spokesmen said militants fired small arms, rocket-propelled grenade launchers and heavy machine guns on the villages of Pisky and Opytne, the town of Avdiyivka. The militants fired a hand-held grenade launcher on our positions near the town of Maryinka, and a sniper was working near the town of Krasnohorivka. Using small arms, rocket-propelled grenade launchers and heavy machine guns near the villages of Novhorodske, Zaitseve and Mayorsk to the north to the militant-held town of Horlivka, the occupiers were trying to provoke our defenders into firing back. The militants also fired heavy machine guns near the town of Svitlodarsk and areas near the village of Luhanske were under sniper fire, the press center wrote, adding that organized criminal groups opened fire from grenade launchers and banned 120mm mortars on the Ukrainian fortified positions near the village of Krymske.

<http://uatoday.tv/news/militants-attack-ukraine-troops-35-times-overnight-569605.html>

## **Militants repeatedly fire grenade launchers on Troyitske, 13.01.2016**

All in all, the combined Russian-separatist forces attacked Ukrainian army positions in eastern Ukraine 24 times in the past 24 hours, the ATO press center wrote. The militants were again using small arms, rocket-propelled grenade launchers and heavy machine guns. The armed provocations against the Ukrainian troops were staged near the villages of Pisky, Opytne, southwards of the town of Avdiyivka, as well as near the villages of Novhorodske, Zaitseve and Mayorsk. The situation was not calm in Luhansk region as well. The night was calm only in the Mariupol sector.

<http://ukrainianwall.com/english-news/militants-repeatedly-fire-grenade-launchers-on-troyitske/>

## **Latest from OSCE Special Monitoring Mission (SMM) to Ukraine, 13.01.2016**

After four consecutive days of not registering ceasefire violations at or around the destroyed "DPR"-controlled Donetsk airport (12km north-west of Donetsk), the SMM, positioned 6km north-west of Donetsk city centre between 8:30 and 13:30hrs[1], recorded eight undetermined explosions 3-5km north-west and north-north-east of its position as well as numerous bursts of heavy-machine-gun fire all north, north-west and north-north-east of its position[2]. Whilst in "DPR"-controlled Horlivka (39km north-east of Donetsk) on the evening of 12 January, the SMM heard ten outgoing explosions, assessed as artillery (152mm), 3-4km west of its location. The overall situation remained relatively calm in Luhansk region, but the SMM recorded a number of ceasefire violations concentrated in three areas: "LPR"-controlled Kalynove and Slovianoserbsk, and government-controlled Mykolaivka (58km west, 28km north-west, 76km north-west of Luhansk, respectively).

<http://www.osce.org/ukraine-smm/215921>

## **Number of attacks by Russia proxies in Donbas grows to 70 times in last day, 14.01.2016**

The combined Russian-separatist forces attacked Ukrainian army positions in eastern Ukraine 70 times in the past 24 hours, the ATO press center wrote.

<http://a1.am/en/number-of-attacks-by-russia-proxies-in-donbas-grows-to-70-times-in-last-day>

<http://www.unian.info/war/1234911-ukraine-intel-tells-osce-where-russian-proxies-keep-tanks-artillery-mrls.html>

## **OSCE Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine opens two Forward Patrol Bases in Krasnoarmiisk and Svitlodarsk, 14.01.2016**

The OSCE SMM to Ukraine today opens two new Forward Patrol Bases in the Donetsk region – in Krasnoarmiisk and Svitlodarsk, enabling monitors to be based and accommodated closer to the contact line in these areas. “The new SMM Forward Patrol Bases will enhance our monitoring by enabling us to follow up on reports about incidents faster,” said the OSCE SMM Principal Deputy Chief Monitor Alexander Hug. “Moreover, this will once again encourage the signatories of the Minsk agreements to adhere to their commitments.” Forward Patrol Bases differ from SMM offices or hubs as they are positioned in the vicinity of the contact line and allow the Mission to accommodate a number of monitors on a 24/7 basis in these areas. The monitoring staff are rotated on a weekly basis. The SMM aims to open Forward Patrol Bases on both sides of the contact line in order to ensure parity in monitoring.

<http://www.osce.org/ukraine-smm/215746>

<http://en.interfax.com.ua/news/general/317958.html>

## **Latest from OSCE Special Monitoring Mission (SMM) to Ukraine, 15.01.2016**

The SMM observed a number of ceasefire violations in Donetsk region [1]. Positioned 6km north-west of Donetsk city centre, the SMM recorded 12 undetermined explosions and multiple bursts of small-arms fire at locations 2.5-5km north-north-west of its position. In “DPR”-controlled Horlivka (39km north-east of Donetsk), the Mission recorded ceasefire violations at night on the third consecutive day. In the evening of 13 January, the SMM heard several explosions, assessed as impacts and outgoing rounds of artillery and mortar fire, and saw launch of flares (undetermined) and anti-aircraft tracers, both at locations 3-4km west of its position. Positioned on the highway E58, 2km west of Shyrokyne (20km east of Mariupol), between 12:43 and 13:14hrs [2], the SMM heard more than 20 undetermined explosions and an exchange of fire consisting of anti-aircraft-gun, small-arms fire, mortar and artillery at locations 5-10km north-east or north-north-east of its position. Whilst on the highway E58 500m west of the government-controlled checkpoint near Lebedynske (16km north-east of Mariupol), between 13:42 and 14:30hrs, the SMM heard a total of 38 explosions (including six outgoing rounds and 16 impacts of artillery fire), 430 shots and 168 bursts of small-arms, heavy-machine-gun and anti-aircraft-gun fire, 5-10km north-east of its positions. The SMM assessed that most of the ceasefire violations occurred in the wider area of “DPR”-controlled Kominternove and Vodiane (23 and 19km north-east of Mariupol, respectively).

<http://www.osce.org/ukraine-smm/216486>

## **140 Ukrainians Remain Captured In Donbas And Russia, – SSU, 15.01.2016**

This was stated by the Advisor to the Chairman of the Security Service of Ukraine (SSU) Yuri Tandit. According to him, even though representatives of the OSCE and the Red Cross are not provided with an access to imprisoned Ukrainians, Security Service of Ukraine uses its own channels to receive information about their mental and physical state. “We know where and in which conditions most of the prisoners are being kept”, said Tandit. According to him, the information comes from special services, open information sources, and patriots. As previously reported, negotiators in Minsk agreed on the New Year’s first exchange of prisoners. Security Service of Ukraine hopes to release from captivity at least 20 Ukrainians until January 20.

<http://ukraineunderattack.org/en/52390-140-ukrainians-remain-captured-in-donbas-and-russia-ssu.html>

### **Militants violate ceasefire over 60 times, 15.01.2016**

"After 18:00 till midnight, the terrorists opened mostly unaimed chaotic fire near the Donetsk Airport and north of Horlivka [39 km north-east of Donetsk]," reads the statement. In particular, the militants used small arms and grenade launchers to shell Pisky (12km north-west of Donetsk), Opytne (11.5km north-west of Donetsk), Avdiyivka (18km north of Donetsk), Novhorodske (34km north of Donetsk). The heavy machine guns were used to shell Pervomaiske (17km north-west of Donetsk), Troitske (69km west of Luhansk), Luhanske (59km north-east of Donetsk). After midnight, the enemy has already launched over five provocative attacks against the ATO forces.

<http://en.vnews.agency/news/politics/15096-militants-violate-ceasefire-over-60-times.html>

### **Militants hamper OSCE inspection in Kominternove, 15.01.2016**

The Russian-backed militants prevented the first deputy chief of the OSCE Special Monitoring Mission, Alexander Hug, from inspecting a house on one of the streets of Kominternove in Donbas despite the fact that the official was accompanied by representatives of the Russian Federation, press officer of the Joint Center for Control and Coordination of Ceasefire (JCCC) Vasyl Labai said in an interview.

<http://www.onlinenewsplanet.com/news/1733559/militants-hamper-osce-inspection-in-kominternove.html>

### **Army intelligence prevents terrorist attack near Mariupol, 15.01.2016**

Military intelligence officers of the Armed Forces of Ukraine have discovered a hidden cache of weapons and explosive devices near the village of Orel, in the Mariupol region, that were probably intended for terrorist activities in the area, Ukraine's Ministry of Defense reports on its website. The cache contained 4 kilograms of TNT, anti-tank grenades, grenade launchers, thermobaric explosives, and various detonators, and was probably created recently, intelligence officials report. Furthermore, they believe the particular explosive substances included suggest they were to be used for a bomb to blow up a passenger bus. According to the Ministry of Defense, it is "noteworthy that all the ammunition and equipment were packaged in Russian white 'humanitarian' bags and secured with special tape labeled 'Assistance fund for Novorossia.'" "One again we can see that instead of the proclaimed food products in white trucks, they are bringing weapons and ammunitions to Ukraine whose purpose is to kill Ukrainian civilians, destroy the infrastructure of our country, and bring horror into the life of the Donbas," the ministry's report concludes.

<http://euromaidanpress.com/2015/09/15/army-intelligence-prevents-terrorist-attack-near-mariupol/>

### **Ukrainian ATO forces report 40 attacks in Donbas in last day, 16.01.2016**

The militants fired 82mm and 120mm mortars three times and actively used small arms and grenade launchers to shell Ukrainian ATO forces positions near the town of Maryinka, the press center wrote. In the Mariupol section, the village of Vodiane located in the so-called gray zone was shelled with 82mm and 120mm mortars. The Ukrainian positions near the village of Mayorsk, part of the militant-held town of Horlivka were also attacked with small arms and large-caliber machineguns, while areas near the village of Novhorodske were shelled with an anti-aircraft system. Attacks on areas around the Donetsk airport did not stop. Small arms and grenade launchers were also used to shell ATO positions. The Ukrainian forces had to fire back, using allowed weapons, and the enemy ceased their attack, the press center said.

<http://en.interfax.com.ua/news/general/317869.html>

### **Russian marines from Far East come to Donbas, 16.01.2016**

Russian marines are in Donbas, replacing local rebel troops near Maryinka, Ukrainian servicemen stationed near Maryinka told. The rotation explains why enemy attacks have recently picked up in force, Ukrainian servicemen say. The newcomers are the Russian marines from the Far East Russia Pacific fleet.

[http://zik.ua/en/news/2016/01/16/russian\\_marines\\_from\\_far\\_east\\_come\\_to\\_donbas\\_663137](http://zik.ua/en/news/2016/01/16/russian_marines_from_far_east_come_to_donbas_663137)

### **Russia's 200th Motorized Infantry Brigade in the Donbass, 16.01.2016**

Going into the warzone in the Donbass, Russian military units paint over the signs of their tactical units on military equipment in order to avoid detection. Some military units apply temporary identification signs. This is done in order to minimize the chance of accidentally opening fire on one's own combat vehicles in a situation in which the enemy has the same or visually similar military equipment. However, now it is possible to identify which Russian military units fought in Ukraine by the visible identification signs. In the Armed Forces of the Russian Federation, like before in the Soviet Army, so-called tactical signs and hull numbers are applied to military vehicles in each military unit. Before the outbreak of hostilities in the Donbass, there was not a single tactical mark used for the whole 200th Separate Motorized Infantry Brigade. Instead, each unit used its own sign. The first, second, and third motorized infantry battalions had their own tactical symbols (a circle, inverted equilateral triangle, and a circle within a square, respectively, all painted in white), and their own numbering sequences: <https://www.bellingcat.com/news/uk-and-europe/2016/01/16/russias-200th-motorized-infantry-brigade-in-the-donbass/>

### **Ukraine intel reports Donbas militants shoot in public places, steal arms, 17.01.2016**

"Being under the influence of alcohol, a troop commander of a military unit stationed in the militant-held town of Makiyivka started firing small arms in a public place on January 15," the Ukrainian intelligence agency said. Thefts of weapons and property by personnel of the combined Russian-separatist forces in Donbas have also been reported. "A fighter from a motorized infantry regiment of the 1st army corps has stolen an assault rifle and ammunition for resale," the agency reported. This fact was revealed by the command of the military unit only two weeks after the incident had happened, which, according to the GUR, indicates the lack of junior commanders' control of soldiers. Head of the press center of the Ukrainian Anti-Terrorist Operation headquarters Oleksiy Mazepa reported earlier that Donbas militants had started to resign and desert their units on a large-scale basis because of reduced allowances. <http://ukrainianwall.com/english-news/ukraine-intel-reports-donbas-militants-shoot-in-public-places-steal-arms/>  
<http://en.reporter-ua.ru/the-night-in-the-ato-near-the-wct-shoot-again-sand-and-experienced-fired-from-a-grenade-launcher.html>  
<http://en.reporter-ua.ru/near-talakivka-and-novgorodian-invaders-used-82-mm-mortars-and-grenade-launchers.html>

### **Latest from OSCE Special Monitoring Mission (SMM) to Ukraine, 17.01.2016**

The situation remained tense in and around "DPR"-controlled Kominternove (23km north-east of Mariupol). Positioned immediately south-west of the village between 11:45 and 11:57hrs on 16 January, the SMM heard 30-35 single shots of small-arms and three bursts of heavy-machine-gun fire to the west-south-west. At 12:53hrs, the SMM heard one undetermined explosion and at 13:22hrs, three undetermined explosions, 10-15km to the south-south-west. The following day at the same position, the SMM heard one shot of small-arms 1km to the south. Also on 17 January – positioned on the outskirts of nearby "DPR"-controlled Oktiabr (29km north-east of Mariupol) – the SMM heard one explosion to the south-west. An armed "DPR" member present told the SMM that the explosion had been caused by a tank round impacting in Kominternove. Whilst in government-controlled Chermalyk (31km north-east of Mariupol) at 11:14hrs, the monitors heard three single shots of small-arms to the east. In "DPR"-controlled Telmanove (50km north-east of Mariupol), the SMM on 16 January observed that part of the hospital building was occupied by armed "DPR" members, and sandbags and ammunition boxes were placed around the entrance and at windows. The Mission monitors noted that another building in the town was similarly fortified.

<http://www.osce.org/ukraine-smm/216771>

### **Ukrainian troops in Donbas attacked 28 times, 18.01.2016**

The combined Russian-separatist forces have attacked the Ukrainian troops 28 times since the beginning of Jan. 18, with the use of almost all types of weapons, including those banned by the Minsk peace agreements, according to the ATO press center headquarters.

<http://www.kyivpost.com/article/content/ukraine-politics/unian-ukrainian-troops-in-donbas-attacked-28-times-on-jan-18-406176.html>  
<http://www.unian.info/war/1239891-ukrainian-troops-in-donbas-attacked-28-times-on-monday.html>  
<http://ukrainianwall.com/english-news/ukrainian-troops-in-donbas-attacked-28-times-on-monday/>  
<http://en.interfax.com.ua/news/general/318118.html>

### **Situation in Donbas tense: Militants concentrate shelling around Horlivka, 18.01.2016**

"Most of [the militants'] attacks were concentrated near the town of Horlivka. The Kremlin-backed mercenaries fired small arms and rocket-propelled grenades on the Ukrainian fortified positions near the villages of Mayorsk, Zaitseve and Novhorodske," the headquarters said. In addition, the militants were active near the village of Starohnativka in the Mariupol sector. They fired from infantry armored vehicles on the Ukrainian army positions.

<http://ukrainianwall.com/english-news/situation-in-donbas-tense-militants-concentrate-shelling-around-horlivka/>

<http://en.interfax.com.ua/news/general/318108.html>

<http://uatoday.tv/news/ukraine-intel-reports-donbas-militants-shoot-in-public-places-steal-arms-573244.html>

### **Investigation: Russian Military Base Is Being Built Near Border With Kharkiv Region, 18.01.2016**

In September 2015, the news media reported that a new military camp is being built on 300 acres in Valuysky district of Belgorod region, 25 km from the border of Ukraine. After the construction tender was conducted, the building contract worth 3.3 billion rubles was signed with the St. Petersburg company Megaline. Within the first stage of the building, administrative buildings and the barrack zone was expected to be finished until December 7, 2015. According to the contract, the whole project is supposed to be finished until 29 April, 2016. As the activists of InformNapalm reported, there are photos proving that the building was indeed started near the local railway line. Still, the tempo of the building is rather slow because of, as the investigators assume, lack of financing or shift in Russia's priorities.

<http://ukraineunderattack.org/en/52747-investigation-russian-military-base-is-being-built-near-border-with-kharkiv-region.html>

### **Latest from OSCE Special Monitoring Mission (SMM) to Ukraine, 18.01.2016**

The SMM observed the security situation in Donbas. On 17 January, based in Horlivka ("DPR"-controlled, 39km north-east of Donetsk), the SMM heard between 18:30 and 22:47hrs[1] what it assessed as an intense exchange of fire occurring in the areas of Shyroka Balka ("DPR"-controlled, 34km north-east of Donetsk) and Ozerianivka ("DPR"-controlled, 35km north-east of Donetsk). After intermittent bursts of small arms, anti-grenade launchers and heavy machine-guns, at around 19:50hrs mortar and tank fire was heard, and rapidly the event expanded to include artillery, anti-aircraft guns and automatic cannons. The SMM saw some tracers and occasional muzzle flashes, and heard several impacts of multiple launch rocket systems (MLRS). During the shelling, Horlivka experienced an electricity blackout for about 1.5hrs. The situation remained tense in and around Kominternove (23km north-east of Mariupol). While in the village, the SMM heard 12 undetermined explosions between 10:21 and 10:30hrs in an area south and south-west of its position. The SMM spoke with several local residents who stated that between 16:00 and 17:00hrs on 17 January shelling had occurred on the western edges of Kominternove. According to them, one house on Akhmatova Street had been damaged and one civilian had been injured. A "DPR" member present corroborated the information, adding that the injured man had been taken to hospital in Novoazovsk.

[http://www.osce.org/ukraine-smm/217031?utm\\_source=feedblitz&utm\\_medium=FeedBlitzRss&utm\\_campaign=oscelatestnews](http://www.osce.org/ukraine-smm/217031?utm_source=feedblitz&utm_medium=FeedBlitzRss&utm_campaign=oscelatestnews)

### **Ukraine provides OSCE SMM with information about militants' tanks, artillery systems near Luhansk, Horlivka, 19.01.2016**

"Forty-seven attacks were conducted [on Ukrainian positions] on January 18, by use of small arms, grenade launchers, infantry combat vehicles, 82mm and 120mm mortars and 100mm Rapira anti-tank cannons," the department said in a report posted on its website on Tuesday. Information about the presence of weapons forbidden by the Minsk agreements – tanks, artillery systems with calibers larger than 100mm, and 122mm Grad rocket launchers – near Luhansk, Almazna, Rozsypne and Horlivka was delivered to the OSCE SMM, the report said. According to the intelligence data, the enemy was focused on reinforcing and rotating forward units in the Donets sector over the past day and on holding routine practice. For instance, militants' units were practicing driving and shooting in the ranges in Illyria and Buhayevka.

<http://en.interfax.com.ua/news/general/318558.html>

<http://www.unian.info/war/1240103-militants-fire-mortars-rocket-propelled-grenades-small-arms-and-armored-vehicles-on-ukrainian-fortified-positions.html>

### **Ukrainian army positions come under 327 attacks over past week, with 30 times of forbidden weapon use, 20.01.2016**

Thirty attacks were conducted through the use of armaments, which were supposed to be pulled back, the JCCC press service quoted Ukrainian Representative to the JCCC Lt. Gen. Andriy Taran as saying on Wednesday. An overwhelming majority of the truce violations happened in the Donetsk and Mariupol sectors, in the evening or at night, he said. Most attacks on Ukrainian army positions over the past week were observed near Novhorodske, Maryinka, Krasnohorivka, Vodyane and Talakivka, the report said. In addition to small arms, militants weapons, which were required to be withdrawn, Taran said. "Mostly, those were 82mm mortars, but some 120mm mortars and one Grad-P, the so-called 'Partizan', were used, too," Taran said. Militants fired at least 145 82mm and 120mm mines, JCCC Ukrainian observers said. The Ukrainian representative to the JCCC also said that hostile snipers had become active in that period. In all, 22 sniper shots have been observed, Taran said.

<http://en.interfax.com.ua/news/general/318790.html>

<http://en.interfax.com.ua/news/general/318665.html>

### **Situation remains tense near Donetsk Airport, ceasefire violations decrease along frontline, 20.01.2016**

Ceasefire violations are drastically decreasing in eastern Ukraine. But Military officials say the situation remains tense near the Donetsk Airport. Europe's OSCE watchdog reports violations in Kominternove, which is near the strategic port city of Mariupol. Government troops and combined Russian separatist forces continue to accuse each other of not pulling back heavy caliber weapons from the line of contact.

<http://uatoday.tv/politics/donetsk-airport-area-epicenter-of-militant-fire-ukraine-military-574720.html>

[http://en.censor.net.ua/news/370285/militants\\_continue\\_armed\\_provocations\\_on\\_all\\_fronts\\_near\\_donetsk\\_ato\\_spokesperson\\_map](http://en.censor.net.ua/news/370285/militants_continue_armed_provocations_on_all_fronts_near_donetsk_ato_spokesperson_map)

[http://en.censor.net.ua/video\\_news/370214/ukrainian\\_soldiers\\_near\\_marinka\\_say\\_terrorists\\_regularly\\_shell\\_them\\_with\\_aimed\\_fire\\_video](http://en.censor.net.ua/video_news/370214/ukrainian_soldiers_near_marinka_say_terrorists_regularly_shell_them_with_aimed_fire_video)

### **Russia blocks expanding OSCE Observer Mission in Donbas along its border, 21.01.2016**

Russia has again blocked the expansion of the mandate of the OSCE Observer Mission at two Russian-based checkpoints Gukovo and Donetsk to all the border sections in occupied Donbas along the Russia-Ukraine border. "We regret Russia blocked expanding mandate of #OSCE Obs.Mission at 2Rus.BCP's 2all border sections, adjacent2uncontrolled part of #Donbas," Ukraine's Mission to the OSCE tweeted on Thursday. "Unwillingness to let int. observers in proves to Russia's interest in maintaining ways of reinforcement of its proxies in #Donbas," the Ukrainian mission added. The OSCE in turn reported that the mandate of the OSCE Observer Mission at Gukovo and Donetsk would be extended until April 30 without changes.

<http://ukrainianlaw.blogspot.com/2016/01/russia-blocks-expanding-osce-observer.html>

<http://www.osce.org/om/217501>

[http://en.censor.net.ua/news/370295/minsk\\_process\\_to\\_be\\_terminated\\_if\\_attacks\\_on\\_osce\\_observers\\_continue\\_osces\\_hug](http://en.censor.net.ua/news/370295/minsk_process_to_be_terminated_if_attacks_on_osce_observers_continue_osces_hug)

### **War criminals from 66th signal brigade of Russian Army revealed themselves in Donetsk, 21.01.2016**

"Late December 2015 InformNapalm team presented its article titled 'Tracking Down the Russian 66th Signal Brigade: from Donbas to Syria.' The article covered contract soldier from the 66th separate signal brigade (military unit 41600, stationed in Stavropol, Russia) Ruslan Skayev. As usual, after the publication the player's social network profile was cleaned by Russian secret services which are closely monitoring our revealing materials. Whatever Russian occupants do, these clean-ups have no sense because all the details of Skayev have been described by us and saved in multiple archives that will be used when needed. We have been following our "subjects" and the process of their transformation from real dudes into faceless babies. As reported, Ruslan Skayev was noticed taking pictures with another soldier from the 66th brigade, Andrey Shulga (links to profile and album archives). Possibly due to our publication of the image showing soldiers being sent from Novorossiysk port on Syrian trip, as well as of the 'palm-tree picture' of Ruslan Skayev, Shulga's profile has been deleted," the authors of the material wrote.

[http://en.censor.net.ua/photo\\_news/369308/war\\_criminals\\_from\\_66th\\_signal\\_brigade\\_of\\_russian\\_army\\_revealed\\_themselves\\_in\\_donetsk\\_photos](http://en.censor.net.ua/photo_news/369308/war_criminals_from_66th_signal_brigade_of_russian_army_revealed_themselves_in_donetsk_photos)

### **Latest from OSCE Special Monitoring Mission (SMM) to Ukraine, 21.01.2016**

The SMM observed a number of ceasefire violations in Donetsk region[1]. Positioned at "DPR"-controlled Donetsk railway station (6km north-west of Donetsk city centre), between 08:30 and 13:15hrs,[2] the SMM observed no ceasefire violations. From a location near Donetsk city centre, the SMM heard 36 undetermined explosions in an area 10-15km north-west and north-north-west between 13:27 and 14:00hrs. From Kominternove (23km north-east of Mariupol), the SMM heard eight-ten bursts of heavy-machine-gun fire in an area to the south at an unknown distance. In Luhansk region, the SMM heard explosions and small-arms fire near government-controlled Trokhizbenka (33km north-west of Luhansk) and "LPR"-controlled Yurivka (26km south-west of Luhansk), assessed to have been training exercises. A number of artillery explosions were heard in the area of "LPR"-controlled Troitske (31km south-west of Luhansk) – in violation of the respective withdrawal line - which were assessed to have been training exercises. The SMM saw one controlled explosion carried out by an "LPR" demining team in Brianka (49km west of Luhansk).

<http://www.osce.org/ukraine-smm/217766>

### **Situation in Donbas deteriorates, 22.01.2016**

In all, during the night of Jan. 21 the enemy opened fire against Ukraine army positions 69 times. The enemy used grenade launchers, large-caliber machine guns and small arms to fire at Ukraine army outposts near Pisky, Opytne, Krasnohorivka and Maryinka. In the Mariupol zone, the rebels used 120-mm mortars and anti-tank missiles to fire on Ukraine army outposts near Talakivka and Starohnativka, the army reports.

[http://zik.ua/en/news/2016/01/22/situation\\_in\\_donbas\\_deteriorates\\_664949](http://zik.ua/en/news/2016/01/22/situation_in_donbas_deteriorates_664949)

<http://uatoday.tv/news/donbas-escalates-militants-attack-ato-forces-69-times-in-last-day-576313.html>

<http://uatoday.tv/news/ukrainian-troops-militants-clash-near-shchastia-and-maryinka-overnight-558920.html>

### **Insurgents attack Ukrainian forces 63 times in last day, 22.01.2016**

The worst situation is at Donetsk airport and villages close to it. Last night there was a clash between Russian-backed insurgents and Ukrainian defenders at the new airport terminal. From the direction of Donetsk militants fired mortars at the meteorological tower of Donetsk airport and the village of Avdiivka. The villages of Tonenke, Pisky and Opytne were attacked with mortars, artillery and Grad multiple rocket launcher, and the village of Hranitne was attacked with antitank guided missiles.

<http://uatoday.tv/news/insurgents-attack-ukrainian-forces-63-times-in-last-day-402149.html>

[http://en.censor.net.ua/news/370538/militants\\_committed\\_17\\_attacks\\_on\\_ato\\_troops\\_today\\_ato\\_hq\\_press\\_center](http://en.censor.net.ua/news/370538/militants_committed_17_attacks_on_ato_troops_today_ato_hq_press_center)

<http://www.getprimenews.com/newsflash/militants-accuse-osce-monitor-of-intelligence-gathering-near-occupied-kominternove/2511810.html>

### **Donbas militants create "political system," prepare for "elections" - head of ATC, 23.01.2016**

"LPR-DPR" terrorist groups, the self-styled breakaway republics, are creating political systems that should become the main "pro-government parties." Local population will be forced to vote for them in case local elections are held, according to Vitaly Malikov, SBU ATO Center head.

<http://ukrain.timesofnews.com/donbas-militants-create-political-system-prepare-for-elections/>

<http://ukraineunderattack.org/en/53699-deadly-conflict-between-leaders-of-occupied-donbas.html>

<http://www.unian.info/politics/1245033-militant-leader-zakharchenko-rules-out-ukrainian-parties-participation-in-donbas-elections.html>

<https://www.kyivpost.com/article/content/kyiv-post-plus/zakharchenko-says-none-of-ukrainian-parties-would-take-part-in-donbas-elections-406586.html>

### **Ceasefire continues being broken in Donbas, 24.01.2016**

"Low-intensity fighting continues along the whole front line in Donetsk direction, except near the Svitlodarsk arc. Heavy weapons have not been used, and most of the attacks are recorded in the area of Donetsk airport," Motuzianyk said at a briefing in Kyiv. According to him, Ukrainian troops came under sniper fire in Opytne and Zaitseve, and in Mariupol direction militants were conducting aimed fire. There have been no reports of civilian casualties. Motuzianyk also reported militants had carried out powerful attacks using mortars on the ATO forces in Starohnativka. Ceasefire was also broken in Shyrokyne.

<http://www.unian.info/war/1244975-ceasefire-continues-being-broken-in-donbas.html>

<http://ukrainianlaw.blogspot.com/2016/01/ceasefire-continues-being-broken-in.html>



### **Russia proxies use grenade launchers, anti-aircraft guns against ATO forces, 25.01.2016**

Russian-backed militants do not observe the Minsk peace agreement and continue firing on the Ukrainian army position from different types of weapons, including one case of shelling from grenade launchers, small arms and anti-aircraft guns on a fortified position near the town of Maryinka, according to the press center of Anti-Terrorist Operation (ATO).

<http://www.primenewscenter.com/report/russia-proxies-use-grenade-launchers-antiaircraft-guns-against-ato-forces/301853.html>

### **Combined Russian-separatist forces mount attacks in eastern Ukraine, 25.01.2016**

Militants fired on Ukrainian positions more than two dozen times within the last 24 hours, targeting Pisky near militant-held Donetsk and mounted a multiple-rocket launcher attack on Maryinka. Spokesmen said Ukrainian troops were also shot at by snipers.

More than 3,000 Ukrainians have died in eastern Ukraine since a truce was announced in Minsk, Belarus on February 15.

<http://uatoday.tv/politics/combined-russian-separatist-forces-mount-attacks-in-eastern-ukraine-577628.html>

<http://www.unian.info/war/1245393-russia-proxies-use-grenade-launchers-anti-aircraft-guns-against-ato-forces.html>

### **Yanukovich's PM Azarov reportedly considered as new DPR leader – InfoResistance, 26.01.2016**

Former Ukrainian Prime Minister during Viktor Yanukovich's presidency Mykola Azarov and former First Deputy Prime Minister and former National Bank of Ukraine head Serhiy Arbuzov are reportedly being considered by the so-called "political circles" of Donbas militants as candidates to replace the current leader of the so-called DPR Oleksandr Zakharchenko, the Information Resistance Group reports.

<http://www.getprimenews.com/newsflash/yanukovychs-pm-azarov-reportedly-considered-as-new-dpr-leader-inforesistance/2525951.html>

### **Russian/rebel troops have 800 APCs, 500 tanks and 200 missile batteries, 26.01.2016**

"The troops of both breakaway republics are armed with 470 tanks, 800 armored personnel vehicles, and about 200 missile batteries," head of Ukraine army intelligence department Gen. Vadym Skibitsky said. As a rule, heavy weapons are deployed outside the neutral zone in major cities. A large part is in hiding and must have been transferred from the neutral zone. During their training exercises, the enemy troops practice counteroffensive operations, the general said.

[http://zik.ua/en/news/2016/01/26/russianrebel\\_troops\\_have\\_800\\_apcs\\_500\\_tanks\\_and\\_200\\_missile\\_batteries\\_666077](http://zik.ua/en/news/2016/01/26/russianrebel_troops_have_800_apcs_500_tanks_and_200_missile_batteries_666077)

### **44 attacks on Ukrainian positions near Donetsk, pro-Russian militants also used a tank near Pisky, 26.01.2016**

Pro-Russian mercenaries don't stop shelling our positions in the ATO zone. The enemy attacked our positions near Opytne, Pisky, Luhanske, Novhorodske, Zaitseve and Mariinka. The situation near Donetsk Airport was most tense. The enemy was shelling Ukrainian positions using small firearms, high caliber machine guns and different types of grenade launchers. Pro-Russian mercenaries attacked our fortifications near Pisky using a tank. The situation near temporarily occupied Horlivka was also tense. Militants shelled our positions in that area near Novhorodske and Zaitseve using different types of weapon. In total the enemy attacked fortifications of ATO forces 44 times in the last 24 hours.

<http://lugansk-news.com/>

### **Putin's envoy goes to occupied Luhansk to resolve militant leadership crisis, 27.01.2016**

A leadership reshuffle is being discussed in the "political circles" of the so-called self-proclaimed LPR after this issue became part of the agenda of the other unrecognized republic in Donbas, DPR, head of the Information Resistance Group and MP Dmytro Tymchuk wrote. In particular, the LPR's "political circles" are spreading information about possible resignation of their leader Ihor Plotnytskiy. "This issue will reportedly be resolved in the near future during a visit of the Russian president's envoy Vladislav Surkov to Luhansk," Tymchuk said.

<http://uatoday.tv/news/putin-s-envoy-goes-to-occupied-luhansk-to-resolve-militant-leadership-crisis-579329.html>

<http://www.worldnewsmagazine.com/news/1490420/lpr-leader-plotnytskiy-may-resign-during-putins-envoys-visit-to-luhansk-tymchuk.html>

### **Donbas militants dramatically increase number of attacks in last day, 27.01.2016**

The enemy used all available weapons to shell fortified positions near the town of Maryinka. The occupiers fired grenade launchers of various systems, heavy machine guns and even anti-aircraft guns. In addition, the Ukrainian troops deployed not far from the town of Krasnohorivka were under grenade and mortar fire. The enemy also used infantry fighting vehicles, automatic grenade launchers and machine guns to attack the Ukrainian fortified positions near the village of Novhorodske. What is more, the Ukrainian fortified positions in the villages of Troyitske and Zaitseve were attacked by Russian-backed militants with mortars.

<http://www.unian.info/war/1247439-donbas-militants-dramatically-increase-number-of-attacks-in-last-day.html>

### **ATO forces near Svitlodarsk bridgehead attacked with mortars, grenade launchers, 28.01.2016**

The combined Russian-separatist forces attacked Ukrainian army positions in eastern Ukraine 40 times in the past 24 hours, including near the Svitlodarsk bridgehead with the use of mortars and grenade launchers, according to the ATO press center.

<https://www.trendingnewsbulletin.com/update/418727/ato-forces-near-svitlodarsk-bridgehead-attacked-with-mortars-grenade-launchers.html>

<http://uatoday.tv/politics/russian-proxies-violate-donbas-truce-35-times-in-last-day-562632.html>

### **Donbas seeing escalation, militants start to shell checkpoint, civilians, 29.01.2016**

The combined Russian-separatist violated the ceasefire in eastern Ukraine 71 times in the past 24 hours, including one case of firing on the Ukrainian checkpoint, the ATO press center said.

<https://www.kyivpost.com/article/content/ukraine-politics/unian-donbas-seeing-escalation-militants-start-to-shell-checkpoint-civilians-406935.html>

<http://www.kyivpost.com/article/content/ukraine-politics/kyiv-reports-wounding-of-two-troops-exacerbation-of-situation-in-donbas-406972.html>

### **Poroshenko: 2,269 Ukrainian troops killed in Donbas since ATO start, 29.01.2016**

Since the start of the ATO in eastern Ukraine, a total of 2,269 Ukrainian soldiers died defending Ukraine from the Russian aggression. Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko said during a "Lesson of Courage" to students of Kyiv military lyceum named after Ivan Bohun and students of higher military establishments. The president stressed that on the Day of Heroes of Kruty it becomes a tradition in Ukraine to commemorate ATO soldiers as well. "All of them were killed in the fight for independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine," the President stressed. He also called on all those present at the event to observe a minute of silence.

<http://www.ukrinform.net/rubric-defense/1956393-poroshenko-2269-ukrainian-soldier-died-since-ato-start.html>

### **Russian proxies attack ATO forces 38 times in last day, 30.01.2016**

In the Donetsk sector, the enemy fired small arms and rocket-propelled grenades on the Ukrainian fortified positions in the villages of Pisky, Opytne, the town of Avdiyivka and Butivka coal mine. The militants fired 82mm and 120mm mortars on the Ukrainian fortified positions near the village of Zaitseve. "The situation was also tense near the village of Mayorsk, where the enemy used grenade launchers of different systems," the press center said. In addition, the enemy fired mortars on a fortified position near the village of Hnutove in the Mariupol sector.

<http://www.unian.info/war/1250620-russian-proxies-attack-ato-forces-38-times-in-last-day.html>

### **Humanitarian Activist Missing In Ukraine's Donetsk, 30.01.2016**

Activists with the Responsible Citizens group reported on social media on January 30 that Cherenkova sent a late-night text message that said simply, "I have been taken by MGB," referring to the separatists' "security ministry." She has not been heard from since despite activists spending the entire night trying to learn of her whereabouts. The activists said police told them they do not have Cherenkova. Since the conflict between Ukraine and Russia-backed separatists began, Cherenkova has been active in securing humanitarian relief for civilians in the Donetsk conflict zone.

<http://www.rferl.org/content/ukraine-humanitarian-activist-missing-donetsk/27520441.html>

### **Ukraine mulling closure of all crossing points along contact line in Donbas, 31.01.2016**

The Ukrainian Command of the ATO in Donbas, eastern Ukraine, is mulling the temporary closure of crossing points along the contact line because the combined Russian-separatist forces have been shelling not only Ukrainian troops, but also civilians and civil infrastructure.

<http://www.businessnewsworld.com/news/ukraine-mulling-closure-of-all-crossing-points-along-contact-line-in-donbas.html>

### **Ukraine intel informs OSCE about militants' banned weapons, killed locals, 31.01.2016**

In particular, Donbas militants have tanks, self-propelled artillery systems, and 122mm Grad multiple rocket launchers in the towns of Krasny Luch and Pervomaisk, both in Luhansk region, and the militant-controlled city of Donetsk, the source said. The intelligence department also reported that members of the so-called State Security Ministry of the self-proclaimed Donetsk People's Republic (DPR) on January 29 conducted an operation to disarm the Troy special purpose militant unit and detained 24 fighters of the said unit. Four captive women aged between 24 and 30 who had illegally been held hostage for a long period of time were found at the Troy unit's base camp.

<http://www.unian.info/war/1251130-ukraine-intel-informs-osce-about-militants-banned-weapons-killed-locals.html>

### **Militants shell Ukrainian troops 38 times, 31.01.2016**

The number of attacks is traditionally increased in the night. The militants used small arms and grenade launchers to shell Ukrainian positions in Avdiyivka, Pisky, Opytne, and Butovka coal mine. Ukrainian positions near Zaitseve were shelled from 82mm and 120mm mortars mm. The pro-Russian militants opened fire on the positions of the Armed Forces of Ukraine 38 times over the past day.

<http://www.ukrinform.net/rubric-defense/1956930-militants-shell-ukrainian-troops-38-times.html>

## **Pilot Savchenko**

### **Nadia Savchenko: Remind Putin that the era of slave trade is long gone, 14.01.2016**

Savchenko's lawyers offered an interview with the Ukrainian captive to any media who would bring up the issue of Nadia's release at Vladimir Putin's annual press conference. The answers from imprisoned Ukrainian MO and fighter pilot to questions were handed over with the assistance of diplomats from Ukraine's Consulate General in Rostov-on-Don. In her second exclusive interview, Nadia Savchenko said she was very cautious about the information on a possibility of her exchange and return home. She stressed that there should be an all-for-all or one-for-one formula for the swap, rejecting being exchanged for two Russian GRU [military intel] officers.

<http://www.unian.info/society/1236807-nadia-savchenko-remind-putin-that-the-era-of-slave-trade-is-long-gone.html>

## Ukraine Worldwide

### **Russia bans all transit of Ukrainian goods, 05.01.2016**

According to the ministry, such prohibition is opaque, unjustified and discriminatory. Thus, Russia has violated its obligations assumed in the framework of its membership in the World Trade Organization, as well as of the Free Trade Agreement as of October 18, 2011, the ministry reported. The ministry notes that the Russian legislation adopted in the early days of 2016 envisages certain restrictions regarding the transit of goods from Ukraine. Such restrictions are provided for in Russian President's decree No. 1 "On measures to ensure the economic security and national interests of the Russian Federation during the transportation of goods from the territory of Ukraine to the Republic of Kazakhstan through the RF," and a similar resolution of the Russian government. In this regard, the Ukrainian Economic Development Ministry called on Ukrainian companies to take into account this information during transit arrangements.

<http://www.unian.info/economics/1229314-russia-bans-all-transit-of-ukrainian-goods.html>

<http://en.interfax.com.ua/news/economic/315940.html>

<http://uatoday.tv/news/ukraine-trade-representative-estimates-losses-due-to-declining-export-to-russia-566449.html>

### **EU to give Ukraine EUR 30 mln worth of grant aid, 09.01.2016**

"Thanks to the signed agreements, the EU extended until December 31, 2016 Cross-border Cooperation Joint Operational Programs Romania-Ukraine-Republic of Moldova 2007-2013, Poland - Belarus - Ukraine 2007-2013, Hungary - Slovakia - Romania - Ukraine 2007 -2013 and the Black Sea Basin 2007-2013," the press service reported. According to the report, the funds will be used for further development and modernization of international road border crossing points on Ukraine's border with Romania, Poland and Hungary. Also, a waterway border crossing point for kayakers will be built in Vylk on the border with Hungary. Part of the grant package will be channeled into the development of modern IT infrastructure in border and customs service offices, reinforcement of flood hazard areas within the borders, improvement of the environmental situation in the "Lower Danube" region, provision of expertise to integrate Ukraine's and Moldova's power systems into ENTSO-E Continental European Power System.

<http://ukrainianwall.com/english-news/eu-to-give-ukraine-eur-30-mln-worth-of-grant-aid/>

### **Russian representative in Trilateral Contact Group Gryzlov arrives in Kyiv, 11.01.2016**

Boris Gryzlov, Russia's representative in the Trilateral Contact Group on the settlement of the situation in Donbas, arrived in Kyiv on Monday, a source with knowledge on the matter told Interfax. The source linked the visit to the meeting of the Trilateral Contact Group scheduled to be held in Minsk on January 13. Interfax has no official information on this matter. Gryzlov was appointed permanent representative of Russia in the Trilateral Contact Group on the settlement of the situation in eastern Ukraine by a decree issued by Russian President Vladimir Putin on December 26, 2015.

<http://en.interfax.com.ua/news/general/316474.html>

### **Russia will not prolong agreement on purchases of electricity from Ukraine — media, 12.01.2016**

"Russia isn't conducting any talks on supplies of electric power from Ukraine," the source said. "We won't prolong it [the agreement] as it was tied to an agreement on the supplies of Ukrainian electricity to Crimea." In 2014, Ukraine purchased electric power from the Russian energy system under an agreement between the companies Inter RAO and Ukrinterenergo that was effective through to the end of 2015. Simultaneously, the two sides signed an agreement on the purchases of power from Ukraine for Russia's Republic of Crimea and the federal city of Sevastopol. However, supplies of Ukrainian electricity to Crimea stopped on November 22, 2015, when Ukrainian ultra-nationalists and radical factions of the ethnic Crimean Tatars siding with the government in Kiev demolished the pylons of all the four high-

voltage transmission lines leading to the Crimean Peninsula and thus knocked them out of operation. Ukraine partly resumed the transmissions to Crimea in December 2015 but the Russian authorities did not sign an agreement on supplies in 2016 in the wake of Kiev's demand to specify Crimea as a Ukrainian territory in it.

<http://tass.ru/en/economy/848841>

### **Yanukovich tops TI corruption list, 13.01.2016**

Ukrainian society has received a unique opportunity. The case of disgraced ex-president Viktor Yanukovich could finally be investigated by the best detectives in the world as Yanukovich heads the top of the world's corruption list. So far nearly 12 000 people have voted for him during the Unmask the Corrupt campaign launched by Transparency International. There are plenty of jokes and legends about Yanukovich's fortune, about golden loaves and ostriches, which could be funny if they were not so true, or if at least a third of his loot were recovered by Ukraine.

<http://euromaidanpress.com/2016/01/13/87874/#arvlbdata>

<https://www.unmaskthecorrupt.org/#section-example-cases>

### **Crimea blackout - approximate damage from energy blockade announced, 13.01.2016**

According to the preliminary assessment by de-facto Crimean authorities, the damage from the energy blockade of the occupied peninsula amounts to \$ 4.71 million to date, Kryminform reported.

<http://www.kyivpost.com/article/content/ukraine-politics/unian-crimea-blackout-approximate-damage-from-energy-blockade-announced-405838.html>

### **Russia accused of clandestine funding of European parties as US conducts major review of Vladimir Putin's strategy, 16.01.2016**

American intelligence agencies are to conduct a major investigation into how the Kremlin is infiltrating political parties in Europe, it can be revealed. James Clapper, the US Director of National Intelligence, has been instructed by the US Congress to conduct a major review into Russian clandestine funding of European parties over the last decade. The review reflects mounting concerns in Washington over Moscow's determination to exploit European disunity in order to undermine Nato, block US missile defense programs and revoke the punitive economic sanctions regime imposed after the annexation of Crimea. The US move came as senior British government officials told The Telegraph of growing fears that "a new cold war" was now unfolding in Europe, with Russian meddling taking on a breadth, range and depth far greater than previously thought. "It really is a new Cold War out there," the source said, "Right across the EU we are seeing alarming evidence of Russian efforts to unpick the fabric of European unity on a whole range of vital strategic issues."

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/europe/russia/12103602/America-to-investigate-Russian-meddling-in-EU.html#>

### **WTO shares Ukraine's complaints about Russia's trade discrimination with WTO members, 16.01.2016**

The Secretariat of the World Trade Organization (WTO) has sent WTO member states a statement by Ukraine saying that Russia has been using illegal and discriminatory trade restrictions as of January 1, 2016, Ukraine's Ministry of Economic Development and Trade reported on its website. In its statement, Ukraine draws the WTO member states' attention to the fact that after Ukraine had decided to introduce a deep and comprehensive free trade area with the European Union, Russia on January 1, 2016, took several politically motivated trade restriction measures. Ukraine emphasizes that such measures as an embargo on the import of certain types of farm produce, raw materials and food products originating from Ukraine, a halt to a preferential trade regime under the CIS Free Trade Agreement and limitations on transit shipments of Ukrainian goods to Kazakhstan via Russian territory violate international law, the WTO Agreement and the Organization's fundamental principles, and the obligations of the Russian Federation as a WTO member state.

<http://en.interfax.com.ua/news/economic/317920.html>

### **Dzhemilev arrested in absentia in occupied Crimea, 21.01.2016**

The Kyivsky District Court in occupied Simferopol ruled to arrest in absentia leader of the Crimean Tatar people, Ukrainian MP Mustafa Dzhemilev. This was reported by lawyer Dzhemil Temishev: "The investigator and the prosecutor, justifying their request, said that a criminal case had been initiated against Dzhemilev under three articles of the Criminal Code of the Russian Federation, and he was hiding from the investigation and trial, able to put pressure on witnesses, destroy evidence," Temishev posted. The lawyer added that Dzhemilev had been put on the federal wanted list.

<http://www.ukrinform.net/rubric-politics/1948901-crimean-court-arrests-mustafa-dzhemilev-in-absentia.html>

### **EP welcomes first steps of Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine on implementation of agreements with EU, 21.01.2016**

According to a press release posted on EP website, success of Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine becoming closer to political and economic integration with the European Union "depends on many factors, including stable and economic situation, strategic thinking, definite reform planning and proper use of international financial and technical support."

MEPs also pointed out that still EU financial support must be matched by concrete progress on reform. The EP condemned Russia's suspension of its free trade agreement with Ukraine at the very moment when the EU-Ukraine free trade deal entered into force. They deplored the "heavy trade restrictions" on Ukraine's exports to Russia, voice concerns about Ukraine's economic and financial standstill and repeat the need for further EU financial assistance.

<http://en.interfax.com.ua/news/general/319131.html>

### **Russia plots terrorist attacks in Crimea, to blame Ukraine - battalion commander Osmaev, 22.01.2016**

Russia is now scheming bloody terrorist attacks in the occupied Crimea, in order to accuse leaders of the Crimean Tatars and launch an offensive against Ukraine from the south, the commander of the international battalion named after Dzhokhar Dudaev, Adam Osmaev, has told the reporters. "We have obtained information from reliable sources that between January 5 and January 9, four groups, five to seven people each, arrived in Crimea. The people belong to the Terek spec-ops unit trained at the base in Gudermes (Chechnya, Russian Federation). Their task is to conduct a number of terrorist attacks in Crimea, so that the Russian authorities could accuse Ukraine and the Crimean Tatars, in particular," he said. Osmaev added that that the terrorist attacks aim at accusing Ukraine of disrupting the Minsk agreements and starting a full-blown offensive from both the annexed Crimean peninsula and the Donbas occupied parts.

<http://www.unian.info/politics/1243355-russia-plots-terrorist-attacks-in-crimea-to-blame-ukraine-battalion-commander-osmaev.html>

<http://tass.ru/en/politics/851392>

### **Council of Europe human rights mission starts in Crimea today, 25.01.2016**

The Secretary General of the Council of Europe, Thorbjørn Jagland, has announced his decision to send a delegation to Crimea today to assess the human right situation on the peninsula. "More than 2.5 million people live in Crimea, they are all covered by the European Convention on Human Rights and should be able to benefit from it," Jagland said. "However, for more than a year, no delegation from an international organisation has been able to go there." "The mission will be conducted with full independence and will not deal with any issue related to the territorial status of Crimea," Jagland stressed. "It will help us receive clear and comprehensive information on the human rights situation and make sure the people of Crimea are not forgotten." The mission's mandate covers all major human rights issues including freedom of expression and media freedom; freedom of association and of assembly; minority rights and prison conditions. Ambassador Stoudmann will be assisted by three members of the Council of Europe Secretariat. The mission which starts in Crimea today will conclude with a report and recommendations submitted to the Secretary General in late February or March.

[http://www.coe.int/en/web/portal/-/council-of-europe-human-rights-mission-starts-in-crimea-today?redirect=http://www.coe.int/en/web/portal/home?p\\_p\\_id=101\\_INSTANCE\\_DibKFqnpE518&p\\_p\\_lifecycle=0&p\\_p\\_state=normal&p\\_p\\_m](http://www.coe.int/en/web/portal/-/council-of-europe-human-rights-mission-starts-in-crimea-today?redirect=http://www.coe.int/en/web/portal/home?p_p_id=101_INSTANCE_DibKFqnpE518&p_p_lifecycle=0&p_p_state=normal&p_p_mode=view&p_p_col_id=column-1&p_p_col_count=2)

[ode=view&p\\_p\\_col\\_id=column-1&p\\_p\\_col\\_count=2](http://www.coe.int/en/web/portal/home?p_p_id=101_INSTANCE_DibKFqnpE518&p_p_lifecycle=0&p_p_state=normal&p_p_mode=view&p_p_col_id=column-1&p_p_col_count=2)

## **PACE SAYS RUSSIA DELEGATION MAY RESUME WORK IN 2017, AFTER DUMA ELECTION, 25.01.2016**

The Steering Committee of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (Bureau of the Assembly) supports PACE President Anne Brasseur's position that the RF delegation will not be eligible to participate in the Assembly until a new election of the Russian Duma this autumn and formation of a new delegation, which will be able to start work only in 2017.

<http://www.kyivpost.com/article/content/russia/unian-pace-says-russia-delegation-may-resume-work-in-2017-after-duma-election-406637.html>

## **NATO looks to combat Russia's 'information weapon': document, 27.01.2016**

NATO may combat Kremlin "weaponisation of information" used to support action such as the 2014 seizure of Crimea by creating a new more powerful communications section and declassifying more sensitive material, according to draft plans.

Both NATO and the European Union are concerned by Russia's ability to use television and the Internet to project what they say is deliberate disinformation. The EU set up a special unit last year to counter what it considers overt propaganda. Draft proposals by NATO's military committee seen by Reuters set out how military tactics - to understand adversaries and then influence foreign audiences - could become part of a more integrated communications strategy. The 23-page document, part of a long-running debate at the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, is sensitive. NATO, in its own parlance, is considering "strategic narratives that lead to aligned words and actions ... appropriately adapted and culturally attuned to resonate with all audiences and counter opposing narratives." NATO declined to comment on the draft but said its military committee is working on a policy of strategic communications.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/us-nato-reform-idUSKCN0V51RU>