



Monitoring of Xenophobia and Extremism in Ukraine July 2016

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Introduction

The death of Pavlo Sheremet could trigger a social and political crisis. A terrorist attack is different from a "regular" homicide with the former having an apparent political purpose. It's too early for law enforcement agencies to know for sure who wanted eminent journalist Pavlo Sheremet dead. However, the targeted car blast in the center of Ukraine's capital Kyiv on July 20 can lead to a new period of social and political turmoil in the country.

Meanwhile, a so-called cross procession across Ukraine heading towards Kyiv, organized by the Moscow Patriarchate of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church, is being seen by many as deliberate provocation.

Nadia Savchenko is dancing to someone else's tune. Nadia's intention to become president with dictatorial powers has come as no surprise: she seems to be too preoccupied with catching up with all that she's missed following her release from a Russian prison and, unfortunately, hasn't noticed that she's become a tool in someone else's dirty hands.

The anniversary of Volodymyr Groysman's first 100 days in office was a rather routine affair. The premier says the Ukrainian economy is sending positive signals, these can only be felt by the experts. Millions of Ukrainians hear much more distinctly the populist outcries of some politicians, who forecast a terrible winter following an increase in the gas tariffs.

Rada Speaker Andriy Parubiy appears overly optimistic about Parliament's performance. According to him, the lawmakers were able to overcome the crisis at work and are now willing to work effectively for the sake of Ukraine.

Prognosis

Over 40% of Ukrainians say NATO membership fundamental guarantee of national security, 06.07.2016

A total of 43% of Ukrainians consider NATO membership Ukraine's main national security guarantee, according to a study by Ilko Kucheriv Democratic Initiatives Foundation and the Razumkov Center, a political analyst of the Democratic Initiatives Foundation Maria Zolkina said at a press conference on Wednesday.

<http://en.uazmi.com/news/post/gG8xk5PkrElq6vbpvqvLvS>

Less than 25% of liberated Donbas residents back economic, political alliance with Russia – poll, 14.07.2016

Only 22% of respondents in the liberated territory of Donetsk region supported an economic and political alliance with Russia, while almost half of the residents of the uncontrolled territories, some 48%, back this idea. At the same time, the option of joining the European Union was supported by 23% of respondents in the liberated territories, whereas only 9% of respondents in the occupied areas favor this option. Further, at least one-third of the respondents in both parts of the Donetsk region would prefer that Ukraine not join any political or economic associations, voicing these positions by 38% and 30%, respectively. Head of Think Tank Donbas Dmytro Tkachenko has said that after two years into the conflict, the region remains unique, in terms of socio-cultural features. "If we are talking about the portrait of residents in controlled and uncontrolled territories, we say, straight away, that we witness a very strong phenomenon in both parts of the region that we call paternalism: the desire for a strong state and a strong leader, underdeveloped civic engagement and civic positions, low level responsibility and unwillingness to take responsibility," said Tkachenko. He added that the Donbas residents declared that their rights and freedoms remain important.

<http://www.unian.info/society/1418035-less-than-25-of-liberated-donbas-residents-back-economic-political-alliance-with-russia-poll.html>

Statements of officials

Oleksandr Turchynov: The evidence of Russia's war against Ukraine can be found on the website of the President of the Russian Federation, 01.07.2016

In Ukraine, there is no internal conflict but an undeclared brutal war waged by Russia against us. This was stressed by Secretary of the National Security and Defense of Ukraine Oleksandr Turchynov in his comment on another statement of President of the Russian Federation Volodymyr Putin regarding the "internal nature of the conflict in Ukraine". "Having claimed about noninvolvement of the Russian Federation in the military confrontation in Ukraine, Volodymyr Putin once again demonstrated that the Kremlin's policy is based on cynical lies and guile", - Oleksandr Turchynov noted. NSDC Secretary of Ukraine noticed that another indisputable evidence of the Russian military aggression against Ukraine "can be found event on the official website of the Presidential Administration of Russia". "In such a way, in June this year, Putin signed the decree on awarding generalship to professional Russian soldiers for crimes committed in the east of our country", - he said.

<http://www.rnbo.gov.ua/en/news/2522.html>

Putin hints Russia will react if Finland joins NATO, 01.07.2016

President Vladimir Putin suggested on Friday Russia could move its troops closer to the Finnish-Russian border if Finland joins NATO and called for measures to improve conflict prevention over the Baltic. Finnish armed forces "would become part of NATO's military infrastructure, which overnight would be at the borders of the Russian Federation", Putin said after meeting Finnish President Sauli Niinisto. "Do you think we will keep it as it is: our troops at 1,500 (kilometers, 900 miles) away?"

<http://www.reuters.com/article/us-russia-finland-nato-putin-idUSKCN0ZH5IV>

Groysman predicts EU membership in 10 years, 01.07.2016

Ukrainian Prime Minister Volodymyr Groysman has predicted his country will join the EU within 10 years.

<http://www.kyivpost.com/article/content/ukraine-politics/newsweek-groysman-predicts-eu-membership-in-10-years-416132.html>

NATO's Warsaw summit will stabilize eastern flank: Polish minister, 01.07.2016

Polish Defence Minister Antoni Macierewicz said: "We are confident that this summit will stabilize the situation both in the east and south. NATO is a defensive alliance. It responds to threats. "The response which will be given on 8 and 9 July will be a sufficient response, an effective response, a response which is an effective deterrent and providing security for our countries and nations." Macierewicz added that 8-9 July gathering in Warsaw would be "the largest NATO summit so far, both in terms of numbers and decisions [and] the breakthrough nature of these decisions. The forces of our allies will finally be in place permanently on the eastern flank." Asked about NATO's relations with Russia, Macierewicz said talks with Moscow should take place "from a position where decisions have been taken" to beef up the alliance's presence on its eastern borders. "Prior to this decision, there was no reason to talk. After the decision we can talk about how to maintain peace in the world," Macierewicz said.

<http://www.thenews.pl/1/10/Artyku/259740.NATO%E2%80%99s-Warsaw-summit-will-stabilize-eastern-flank-Polish-minister>

Poroshenko: Russia trains terrorists in special centers for attacks on Ukrainian soil, 01.07.2016

"In last year alone, we prevented 300 terrorist attacks in Ukraine, which had been plotted by the RF," he said. According to the President, the terrorists were trained in the training centers in Kursk, Belgorod, and Rostov regions. "We detained them with explosives on hand, in the process of setting up terrorist attacks, and we showed them to the world. Of course, in the fight against terrorism, we must unite all our efforts," said Poroshenko.

<http://www.unian.info/society/1396699-poroshenko-russia-trains-terrorists-in-special-centers-for-attacks-on-ukrainian-soil.html>

President: Sanctions are great motivation for Russia to fulfill Minsk agreements, 03.07.2016

"It is a powerful motivation for Russians to sit down at the negotiating table and fulfill their obligations. First of all - security component of the Minsk agreements: ceasefire, withdrawal of artillery, heavy armament, liberation of hostages and access to all occupied territories for the OSCE SMM," the Head of State told journalists in Odesa.

"We insist on that and we hope that we will achieve that," the President added.

"Sanctions are applied, because the world recognizes that Russia doesn't fulfill the undertaken commitments," Petro Poroshenko stressed and thanked the EU leaders for unilateral approval of the decision on prolongation of sanctions. He also expressed gratitude to USA and other countries for synchronous continuation of sanctions.

<http://www.president.gov.ua/en/news/glava-derzhavi-sankciyi-potuzhna-motivaciya-dlya-vikonannya-37545>

Kwasniewski: Ukraine should abandon the dream of being a NATO member and full partner of the EU, 04.07.2016

In his words, «has nothing against the goals of Kiev ever to become a full member of the Alliance». Kwasniewski, speaking at the event of the Fund named Cerberus in Warsaw, expressed concern about the security of their country, the Baltic States and Moldova.

Kwasniewski said that the situation in this region is the least secure for 17 years, since Poland joined NATO. This situation, according to Kwasniewski, was formed due to the high activity of the Russian military in the region, especially near the borders of Estonia and Latvia, in addition, in the vicinity of Moldova. He also noted that because of the teachings of Russia on the Eastern borders of the Alliance rely on the fact that during the summit of countries-members of NATO on 8 and 9 July in Warsaw will be taken the decision to strengthen its military presence in Poland and the Baltic States.

<http://en.reporter-ua.ru/kwasniewski-ukraine-should-abandon-the-dream-of-being-a-nato-member-and-full-partner-of-the-eu.html>

<http://uatoday.tv/politics/ukraine-should-abandon-dreams-of-nato-membership-686264.html>

Russian aggression in Ukraine raises questions over security of neighboring states: UK Parliament, 05.07.2016

“Russian actions in Ukraine have created a deep instability within Europe of a type not witnessed since the end of the Cold War,” the report reads. British parliamentarians admit that this “is a problem for Europe in general and for the NATO alliance in particular.” While Ukraine is not a member of NATO and therefore not subject to Article 5 guarantees, it was guaranteed by the Budapest Agreement. Russian military action there thus raises questions over the security of neighboring countries which fall within Russia’s military reach and which Russia would like to bring into its sphere of influence. Noting that Russia has harnessed a wide range of capabilities which can rapidly be deployed for use in conjunction with classic military power, the MPs say NATO needs to respond in kind if it is to counter unconventional as well as conventional warfare. The report strongly recommends that NATO, as part of its response to Russia, “addresses its shortcomings in terms of the full range of unconventional warfare.”

<http://www.unian.info/world/1400716-russian-aggression-in-ukraine-raises-questions-over-security-of-neighboring-states-uk-parliament.html>
http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201617/cmselect/cmdfence/107/10710.htm#_idTextAnchor084

OSCE Parliamentary Assembly passes declaration condemning Russian aggression in Crimea, 05.07.2016

The Parliamentary Assembly of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe has adopted at its meeting held in Georgia a so-called “Tbilisi Declaration” which condemns the aggression of the Russian Federation in Crimea, according to a Ukrainian MP Anton Gerashchenko. “Right now, the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly at its meeting in Tbilisi adopted a ‘Tbilisi Declaration,’ part of which is a tough resolution on Crimea, proposed by the Ukrainian delegation. Representatives of more than 50 parliaments of OSCE member states have voted for [the declaration], which once again showed strong rejection by the European community of Russia’s aggression. 122 votes were ‘For,’” the official wrote. Only 6 votes of the Russian and Armenian delegates were cast against the document.

<http://uaposition.com/latest-news/osce-parliamentary-assembly-passes-declaration-condemning-russian-aggression-in-crimea/>

Ukraine seeks to set up joint production of lethal weapons with U.S. – Ambassador, 05.07.2016

According to the diplomat, in such a way Kyiv can compensate for Western unwillingness to openly provide lethal aid to Ukraine. Ukraine may also gain a strategic advantage in the long run. “We’re talking about how we can deepen cooperation with the United States in the overall production of weapons, general action in this sector. It is much more important, it is the strategic direction,” Chaly said. According to the Ambassador, Kyiv has changed its position on receiving lethal aid, taking into account the reaction of the U.S. allies. “The official position of the White House now is that they are not talking about lethal weapons. Meanwhile, frankly speaking, we have also changed our approach. That’s because we can produce lethal weapons in Ukraine,” the diplomat said.

<http://www.unian.info/politics/1401529-ukraine-seeks-to-set-up-joint-production-of-lethal-weapons-with-us-ambassador.html>

"1st combat test": Poroshenko links liberation of Sloviansk with revival of Ukrainian army, 05.07.2016

The president congratulated the residents of the towns of Sloviansk and Kramatorsk, the Armed Forces of Ukraine and the whole Ukraine with the second anniversary of the liberation of the northern towns of Donetsk region. “Those days became a turning point in the fate of Sloviansk, in its history. In those days, Ukraine demonstrated to the whole world how strongly the Ukrainians came to the defense of freedom, democracy, independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of our state,” he said. “Those days in July can rightly be considered momentous, a turning point in the revival of the Ukrainian Armed Forces, because it was then that the Ukrainian military had passed their first combat test in this truly patriotic war,” Poroshenko said.

<http://www.unian.info/society/1401740-1st-combat-test-poroshenko-links-liberation-of-sloviansk-with-revival-of-ukrainian-army.html>

Savchenko insists on direct contact with "DPR", "LPR": "We need to talk beyond Minsk process", 06.07.2016

Batkivshchyna MP Nadiia Savchenko calls for direct talks with the leaders of the so-called "LPR" and "DPR", bypassing the Minsk agreements. In phone conversation with Nadiia Savchenko, who is currently visiting Ukraine's east, she stressed that the Minsk agreements can not stop the war but they stopped the barrage. When asked how to resolve the situation in the Donbas, she suggested three steps. In particular, she called for seeking mutual understanding and noted the importance of mutual forgiveness. She added that both Chechen and Dagestani scenarios are unsuitable for the Donbas as Ukraine needs to refrain from carnage. "There are three steps. First, the sanctions against Russia should be extended. as it has not yet realized it has to withdraw. Second, we should launch direct, internal talks beyond the Minsk agreements with the "DPR" and "LPR", excluding any third or fourth party," the deputy stressed.

http://en.censor.net.ua/news/392155/savchenko_insists_on_direct_contact_with_dpr_lpr_we_need_to_talk_beyond_minsk_process

Norwegian FM: Donbas elections impossible until Russia withdraws troops, 06.07.2016

"We shouldn't think that the Minsk agreements only mean elections and decentralization. Minsk also means the withdrawal of Russian armed forces, Russian military vehicles from Donbas, the stoppage of their financial support for their mercenaries," Brende said at a joint press conference with Ukrainian Foreign Minister Pavlo Klimkin in Kyiv on Wednesday. According to Brende, there are still Russian troops and weapons in Donbas, and the Russian Federation continues to finance mercenaries. "Do the OSCE observers have full access to Donbas? Does Ukraine have full control over its borders? I think we know the answers to these questions. I agree with Minister Klimkin that elections are important, but they must be held only after other Minsk conditions are fulfilled," he said. At the same time, Brende noted that it was very important how the Minsk agreements would be implemented within the time frame.

<http://www.unian.info/politics/1403585-norwegian-fm-donbas-elections-impossible-until-russia-withdraws-troops.html>

Russian-backed leaders will not rule in Donbas - Ukraine's FM, 07.07.2016

Ukraine will never let the current leaders of Russian-backed separatists rule the Donbas region, even in case they are officially elected, Ukrainian Foreign Minister Pavlo Klimkin said. Kyiv is ready to fully implement the Minsk agreements, stressed Klimkin, but only after Russia withdraws its troops and heavy weapon along with returning total border control to Ukrainian border guards. The first issue to fulfil is the immediate ceasefire and releasing the prisoners.

<http://uatoday.tv/politics/russian-backed-leaders-will-not-rule-in-donbas-ukraine-s-fm-688922.html>

EU is concerned that work of Ukrainian parliament is "almost paralyzed", 07.07.2016

During the presentation of the first systematic report "Ukraine and Association Agreement: monitoring the implementation of the 2014-2016 years", prepared by the Public Association "Ukrainian center of European policy", Head of EU Delegation to Ukraine Ian Tombinski expressed concern over blocking of Verkhovna Rada. In the context of Ukrainian prospects of gaining membership in the European Union for 10 years, the Ambassador stressed that Ukraine needs to set such tasks, but also "needs to move from declaratory policy to a policy of real action". "We are very concerned that the Ukrainian parliament is almost paralyzed in the last week", Tombinski said. "It need to continue working", the ambassador said, adding that it is necessary first of all to implement and launch the necessary reforms.

<http://112.international/politics/eu-is-concerned-that-work-of-ukrainian-parliament-is-almost-paralyzed-6760.html>

Merkel defends NATO plans for greater troop presence near Russian border, 07.07.2016

German chancellor defended NATO's plans for a greater troop presence near the Russian border as a necessary deterrence measure, despite nervousness among Germans about confronting Moscow's perceived military threat.

<http://www.istackr.com/page/1758052/Merkel-Defends-NATO-Plan-to-Counter-Russia/>

<http://www.unian.info/world/1405045-wsj-merkel-defends-nato-plans-for-greater-troop-presence-near-russian-border.html>

Kerry convinced full Minsk implementation may begin "in short order", 07.07.2016

U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry says that there is the ability in short order to begin the process of the full implementation of the Minsk peace agreements on Donbas.

"Without excessive optimism, with a pure note of reality, I am convinced that in the time left there's the ability in short order, frankly, to begin the process of the full implementation," he said at a joint press conference with Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko in Kyiv on Thursday. "Now, I think that it is necessary to find a path forward that unites the interests of the parties in a way that is fair and sensible, and provides assurance to both sides – to all sides, because there's more than one, or two – that the requirements of Minsk are in fact being met and being met in a way that gives everybody an assurance that their needs are going to be satisfied," he said while commenting prospects for the completion of the implementation of the Minsk security component until the end of Barack Obama's presidency. Kerry also pointed to Ukraine's significant progress in the implementation of the Minsk agreements, particularly, their political aspects.

<http://uaposition.com/latest-news/kerry-convinced-full-minsk-implementation-may-begin-in-short-order/>

<http://uatoday.tv/politics/sanctions-to-continue-if-russia-refuses-to-address-donbas-and-crimea-issues-kerry-689777.html>

<http://www.unian.info/politics/1406903-us-stands-by-open-door-policy-for-ukraine-but-long-way-to-modernization-lies-ahead-kerry.html>

<http://en.reporter-ua.ru/parubiy-kerry-ukraine-hopes-for-further-support-and-cooperation-with-usa.html>

Obama calls on NATO, EU to boost support for Ukraine, 08.07.2016

"We need to deepen security co-operation between NATO and the EU and increase our support for Ukraine as it defends its sovereignty and territorial integrity. And even as our nations remain open to a more constructive relationship with Russia, we should agree that sanctions on Russia must remain in place until Moscow fully implements its obligations under the Minsk agreements," he wrote in his piece for FT. According to Obama, "in Warsaw, we must reaffirm our determination — our duty under Article 5 of the North Atlantic Treaty — to defend every NATO ally." "We need to bolster the defense of our allies in central and eastern Europe, strengthen deterrence and boost our resilience against new threats, including cyber-attacks," he said.

<http://www.unian.info/politics/1407656-obama-calls-on-nato-eu-to-boost-support-for-ukraine.html>

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2016/07/08/remarks-president-obama-president-tusk-european-council-and-president>

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2016/07/09/press-conference-president-obama-after-nato-summit>

Meeting between President of Ukraine and UK Prime Minister: We will find ways to continue supporting Ukraine in Brexit conditions, 09.07.2016

In the framework of the working visit to Warsaw, President of Ukraine Petro Poroshenko had a meeting with UK Prime Minister David Cameron. The parties discussed topical international and security issues in the context of the Brexit referendum. "We will find ways to continue supporting Ukraine in Brexit conditions," David Cameron said. Petro Poroshenko thanked the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom for his firm position in support of Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity. The President also praised financial and expert assistance of the United Kingdom in the implementation of reforms and training of the Ukrainian Armed Forces.

<http://www.president.gov.ua/en/news/mi-znajdemo-shlyahi-yak-prodovzhiti-pidtrimku-ukrayini-v-umo-37597>

<http://ukrainianwall.com/english-news/poroshenko-donbas-election-to-take-place-when-russians-stop-killing-ukrainians/>

<https://democrats-foreignaffairs.house.gov/news/press-releases/engel-applauds-committee-passage-ukraine-bill>

Dzhemilev sees no military solution to regaining Crimea, 11.07.2016

Dzhemilev made this statement during an interview with the Voice of America's Russian Service. In discussing how Ukraine might counter Russia's aggression, Dzhemilev noted that Ukraine's most realistic option remains assistance from the North Atlantic Treaty Organization. However, according to Dzhemilev, NATO has not shown sufficient determination in assisting Ukraine. He further said NATO could have displayed the same determination as they demonstrated during the NATO campaign, in response to the genocide in Kosovo. At the same time, Dzhemilev said there is no military solution to allow Ukraine to regain Crimea, since that would result in a tragedy.

<http://www.unian.info/politics/1410572-dzhemilev-sees-no-military-solution-to-regaining-crimea.html>

Quasi-Russian protectorate in Donbas to never be integrated into Ukraine – Klimkin, 11.07.2016

Ukrainian Foreign Minister Pavlo Klimkin stressed that the Minsk agreements were “not in a dead end”. “Firstly, it’s not the Minsk agreements which are in a dead end. We have a problem with Russia’s reluctance to fulfill any agreements on security issues,” said Klimkin. “Russia does this absolutely deliberately, in order to create, as a result, a quasi-Russian protectorate in Donbas and try to integrate this quasi-Russian protectorate back into Ukraine, in line with [Russia’s] logic, as we understand it, so as to destroy [Ukraine],” said Klimkin. “It’s clear that this will never happen,” the minister said.

According to Ukraine’s top diplomat, it is possible to say that Russia is blocking the implementation of the Minsk agreements.

<http://uaposition.com/latest-news/quasi-russian-protectorate-in-donbas-to-never-be-integrated-into-ukraine-klimkin/>

Russia exploits new methods of hybrid war against Ukraine, 12.07.2016

Kyiv is expecting mass provocations during the upcoming celebrations of Kyivan Rus' Christianization. According to official sources, Russian secret services have organized bands of provocateurs and extremists. Disguised as orthodox believers, the recruited bandits are anticipated to destabilize the situation in Ukraine with mass uprisings. A couple of days ago a big group of Moscow Patriarchate parishioners set from the city of Kharkiv in eastern Ukraine heading for Kyiv. Ukraine's Parliamentary Speaker Andriy Parubiy: "Kremlin has already elaborated the scenario of provocations in Kyiv on July 26th. Except for the believers heading to Kyiv to celebrate the anniversary of Kyivan Rus' Christianization, numerous provocateurs and extremists hurry up here carrying the prohibited symbols of communism and Russian propaganda".

<http://uatoday.tv/society/russia-experiences-new-methods-of-hybrid-war-against-ukraine-694129.html>

Russia plotting offensive operations in Donbas – Turchynov, 13.07.2016

Turchynov visited the frontline of the Ukrainian defenses in connection with the escalation in the east of Ukraine, according to the press service of the NSDC. As noted in the report, the secretary held a working meeting with the ATO military commanders and inspected the combat readiness of the Ukrainian military units in the area of the Ukrainian strategic stronghold at the Azov Sea Mariupol, visited the outposts in Shyrokyne and other areas on the southern defensive lines. According to Turchynov, the Russian occupation troops of the "1st and 2nd Army Corps" have significantly increased the number of attacks, which “defiantly disregard the agreements on the withdrawal of heavy weapons from the contact line.” “The enemy uses 152-mm and 122-mm artillery, 120-millimeter mortars, and MLRS’s banned by the Minsk deal in daily shellings,” said the secretary, adding that the activity of professionally trained sabotage and reconnaissance groups and snipers increased significantly.

<http://www.unian.info/war/1415998-russia-plotting-offensive-operations-in-donbas-turchynov.html>

Russia's permanent representative to NATO: There is no Russian military activity in Ukraine, 13.07.2016

Grushko said the sides talked about how to “deal with the crisis in Ukraine”, Grushko said: “There is no Russian military activity in Ukraine”. Speaking about the recent decision of NATO to strengthen its presence in the East of the Alliance, the Russian diplomat said that Russia considers these measures as those that “have no basis, excessive and counterproductive”. “They are confrontational, they weaken the common European regional security and bring us back to the safety circuits of the Cold War. Russia is not a threat to Alliance members”, Grushko said. The Russian diplomat also expressed the point that NATO's open door policy “is not a contribution to the security of Europe”. “The territory of the Eastern European members of the Alliance is transformed into a base for military deployment and implementation of military and political pressure on Russia. It does not increase, but reduces the security of the region”, he said.

<http://112.international/russia/russias-permanent-representative-to-nato-there-is-no-russian-military-activity-in-ukraine-7060.html>

Sajdik supports creation of Minsk subgroup on Ukraine`s regaining border with Russia, 14.07.2016

"This issue has long been discussed....it was raised last year and is part of the Minsk Agreements. And I believe this issue needs to be discussed. Unfortunately, it`s not clear now how we`ll be implementing it. But, in the end, one should finally start discussing and addressing this problem," Sajdik said, after a Trilateral Contact Group meeting in Minsk on Wednesday. The creation of the subgroup is an initiative of Ukraine. Ukraine`s Border Service reported in October 2015 that Ukraine did not control a length of the Ukrainian-Russian border exceeding 409 km. The next Trilateral Contact Group meeting in Minsk is slated for July 27, Sajdik said.

<http://uaoposition.com/latest-news/sajdik-supports-creation-of-minsk-subgroup-on-ukraines-regaining-border-with-russia/>

Readout of Secretary Kerry's Meeting With Russian President Putin, 14.07.2016

The following is attributable to Spokesperson John Kirby: Secretary Kerry met this evening in Moscow with Russian President Putin to advance efforts to restore the nationwide cessation of hostilities in Syria and to establish conditions that can enable political transition talks to resume between the opposition and the Assad regime. The Secretary expressed concern about repeated violations of the cessation of hostilities by the Syrian regime. The two also discussed the need to increase pressure on terrorist groups like Daesh and the al Qaeda affiliate in Syria, Jabhat al Nusra. Secretary Kerry emphasized that absent concrete, near-term steps, diplomatic efforts could not continue indefinitely. Discussions in the morning between Secretary Kerry and Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov were expected to explore initiatives in more detail. On Ukraine, the Secretary urged an acceleration of negotiations on implementation of the Minsk agreements, especially on the security elements.

<http://www.state.gov/r/pa/prs/ps/2016/07/260047.htm>

Transparency International Ukraine head says he was attacked in Kyiv, 16.07.2016

Marusov believes these incidents were connected with his work. The laptop had a data about the current activity of Transparency International and the organization`s archive, he said. "I consider this as a pressure at Ukraine`s department of Transparency International related to its anti-corruption activity," Marusov wrote. Transparency International condemned the return of a military prosecutor Kostiantyn Kulyk to his post. The National Anti-Corruption Bureau suspects Kulyk of corruption and illegal enrichment. Marusov said that Kulyk and Chief Executive Prosecutor Anatoly Matios recently publicly accused Vitaly Kasko, a member of Transparency International board of directors, of meddling the investigation of corruption activity of oligarch Sergiy Kurchenko. Earlier, the same accusations also voiced lawmaker Serhiy Pashynsky, head of the parliament committee on security and defence.

<http://www.kyivpost.com/article/content/ukraine-politics/transparency-international-ukraine-head-says-he-was-attacked-in-kyiv-418835.html>

OSCE SMM says no evidence its interpreter was SBU agent, 18.07.2016

"The Mission takes such allegations seriously; however, at this moment we have no evidence to support these claims. As such, the SMM will not comment on these allegations at the moment, but is reviewing the situation," the OSCE SMM said in a statement on Monday. Presently, the OSCE Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine includes international monitors originating from more than 45 countries, as well as 305 national staff, it said. According to the OSCE SMM, any serious violation of the Code of Conduct, to which all mission members agree when they join the organization, leads to an immediate dismissal of the member of the mission. "On rare occasions we have already taken such decisions, and if required in future we will do so again," the statement said. The OSCE says that its SMM is a civilian monitoring mission, with a mandate that does not include any intelligence gathering activity and operates on the principals of transparency and impartiality.

<http://www.unian.info/war/1424712-osce-smm-says-no-evidence-its-interpreter-was-sbu-agent.html>

Militants torture our guys, where's reaction from OSCE? - Poroshenko's envoy, 18.07.2016

Ukraine has sent a letter to OSCE Chairperson Frank-Walter Steinmeier, demanding help in prisoner exchange. According to President Poroshenko's envoy Iryna Herashchenko, the Russian-backed separatists have blocked the negotiations on the release of Ukrainian prisoners, captured in Donbas. According to Herashchenko, the militants refuse to provide information about the numbers of the prisoners. The envoy also claims, the hostages are outright being tortured by their kidnappers. "The situation is only getting worse. During our last meeting, the militants admitted to putting a critically ill patient without limbs and eyes in jail. Our guys are being threatened, their relatives are dismayed!" Herashchenko posted.

<http://uatoday.tv/crime/militants-torture-our-guys-where-s-reaction-from-osce-poroshenko-s-envoy-675170.html>

Russia FSB charges of OSCE interpreter are groundless - Ukraine Security Service, 19.07.2016

SBU said FSB's statements are "completely unfounded". The fact that Russian authorities released Shestakov "confirms his innocence", SBU's representative Oleksandr Tkachuk told. OSCE spokeswoman Alexandra Taylor did not confirm that Shestakov was detained while on duty. She said it probably happened during the last three days when he was away on vacation. The OSCE SMM reported they are clarifying the situation. "The Mission is serious about such statements, but currently we have no evidence to support these charges. The OSCE observers will not comment on this message - we are studying the circumstances", the OSCE officials state.

<http://uatoday.tv/politics/russia-fsb-charges-of-osce-interpreter-are-groundless-ukraine-security-service-699741.html>

Alexander Hug: "We note a sustained supply of ammunition in areas not controlled by Gov't", 19.07.2016

Mr. Hug, the Political Committee of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly recently adopted a resolution calling for setting up a peacekeeping operation in Ukraine. In particular, the document stipulates the strengthening of control over the borders as well as providing access of the international mission to all locations in the temporarily occupied areas of Donetsk and Luhansk regions, Crimea and Sevastopol. I'd like to make a comment that the Parliamentary Assembly is not a decision making body upon which field operations are established. Such decisions are to be taken by the Permanent Council of the OSCE in Vienna, the delegations of 57 participating states that represent their governments. So the decision reached in the Parliamentary Council does not create a mission on the ground. It is indeed true that the OSCE SMM has great difficulties in freely accessing the conflict area. What is worse, the lack of access translates into the lack of being able to monitor, which also equals the lack of being able to verify whether the sides comply with Minsk agreements. And that in return does not build trust, and that does not allow the situation to normalize. So the access is key for us to provide assistance to the process.

<http://www.unian.info/war/1426143-alexander-hug-we-note-a-sustained-supply-of-ammunition-in-areas-not-controlled-by-the-ukrainian-government.html>

Ukraine to consider martial law option amid further escalation in Donbas, 19.07.2016

Oleksandr Turchynov says that the NSDC may consider the introduction of martial law should escalation continue in Donbas. Should these dangerous trends go on, Ukraine will take all necessary measures to protect its integrity and the safety of its citizens, up to consideration by the NSDC of the introduction of martial law," Turchynov said. "Continuous barrages when Russian aggressors use heavy weapons, which are banned by the Minsk agreements, along with modern means of weapon guidance and fire adjustment cause heavy losses among our soldiers," he said. "In the past 24 hours, our casualties were 21 soldiers – seven of them were killed and 14 were wounded," he added. In his words, the Ukrainian armed forces strictly abide by the Minsk agreements and use weapons only in response to "bloodshed acts of provocation by the Russian invaders."

http://www.fm-tv.kiev.ua/main_news/77669/view/

NO ELECTIONS AT GUNPOINT: GROYSMAN, 19.07.2016

Asked by Reuters whether Ukraine could hold elections in the militant-controlled parts of Donbas this year, Groysman said: "Here is the question to Russia: when they will meet their obligations? When will they withdraw their troops and withdraw fighters and mercenaries, and when do we regain control over the territory?" Elections are impossible "under the barrel of a gun," according to the Ukrainian prime minister.

<http://ukrainianwall.com/english-news/no-elections-at-gunpoint-groysman/>
<http://ec.europa.eu/avservices/video/player.cfm?sitelang=en&ref=1124752#>

U.S. State Department reacts to recent deadly militant attacks in Donbas, 20.07.2016

"I know that on July 18, there were some series of attacks in eastern Ukraine that frankly raises concerns... Seven members of Ukrainian armed forces were killed and 14 were injured," Toner said. "This is the highest number of casualties in a single day in the past year," said the official. "And this endangers the ceasefire and Minsk implementation," he said. "And I think we're all concerned about it." "Ukraine is always a topic of discussion," Toner added.

<http://www.unian.info/war/1427252-us-state-department-reacts-to-recent-deadly-militant-attacks-in-donbas.html>

Estonian MEP: Eastern Ukraine, Crimea must not vanish in the shadow of new conflicts, 20.07.2016

Worldwide attention to the circumstances in eastern Ukraine and Russian-annexed Crimea must not decrease as, unfortunately, nothing has changed, Estonian member of the European Parliament Urmas Paet stressed at a meeting with Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko in Kyiv. "As new crises emerge, the danger exists that earlier conflicts move out of the focus of attention, which further adjourns finding a solution to them. Therefore, the situation of Ukraine requires constant visible action (until) Ukraine has full control over its territory again," Paet said. Poroshenko noted at the meeting with members of the group of Liberals in the European Parliament that the ceasefire in eastern Ukraine is ineffective and Ukrainian soldiers are killed every day. Additionally, Russia is making regular use of heavy weapons and is not abiding by the Minsk agreements, he said. It's vital to ensure access for OSCE observers to all parts of eastern Ukraine, as well as the Russia-Ukraine border. "Ukraine wishes an OSCE police mission both on the front line as well as on the Russia-Ukraine border, and this must be supported," the MEP stated.

http://www.baltictimes.com/estonian_mep_eastern_ukraine_crimea_must_not_vanish_in_the_shadow_of_new_conflicts/

Ukraine's President orders immediate probe of journalist's death, 20.07.2016

"I ordered law enforcement agencies to immediately investigate this crime. Those responsible should be punished," Poroshenko wrote. "A terrible tragedy in Kyiv. That's a shock - I have no other words," the president wrote. Ukraine's Prosecutor General Yuriy Lutsenko said that the journalist's car was blown up by an explosive device.

<http://www.unian.info/society/1427598-ukraines-president-orders-immediate-probe-of-journalists-death.html>

Crimean Tatars` Chubarov: NATO to boost presence in seaport closest to occupied Crimea, 21.07.2016

Head of the Mejlis of the Crimean Tatars and a Ukrainian MP Refat Chubarov said Romania initiated the issue of deploying a permanent contingent of NATO naval forces in the countries in the Black Sea. Chubarov has said the rapprochement between Turkey and Russia will not hinder the implementation of NATO's plan. "The shift in the Turkey-Russia relations in any direction does not in any way prevent the implementation by NATO of its plans it deems necessary in the Black Sea region," Chubarov said. "These parallels are completely disjoint. NATO's collective security principle was never brought to the detriment of someone's personal relations. NATO member states, including Turkey, are absolutely aware of the threat that comes from Russia. I would not say that Turkey would not support [NATO's] project in the Black sea if its economic relations with Russia improved," said the MP.

<http://uaposition.com/latest-news/crimean-tatars-chubarov-nato-to-boost-presence-in-seaport-closest-to-occupied-crimea/>

Militants threaten Ukrainian prisoners with 30-year imprisonment – Gerashchenko, 24.07.2016

Militants in the Donbas moved Ukrainian hostages in jail and threaten them with 30 years in prison. About this said the representative of Ukraine in the humanitarian sub-group, the first Deputy head of the Verkhovna Rada Irina Gerashchenko. "The prisoners are still in prison, even in the worst conditions, because they transferred to a detention center and threatened a 30-year imprisonment," – said Gerashchenko. As previously reported, the process of release of prisoners in the Donbass was blocked by the representatives of illegal armed groups. Militants in the Donbas moved Ukrainian hostages in jail and threaten them with 30 years in prison. About this Facebook said the representative of Ukraine in the humanitarian sub-group, the first Deputy head of the Verkhovna Rada Irina Gerashchenko. "The prisoners are still in prison, even in the worst conditions, because they transferred to a detention center and threatened a 30-year imprisonment," – said Gerashchenko. As previously reported, the process of release of prisoners in the Donbass was blocked by the representatives of illegal armed groups.

<http://true-news.info/militants-threaten-ukrainian-prisoners-is-30-years-of-imprisonment-gerashchenko/>

Ukrainian MP calls Savchenko 'Putin's Trojan Horse', 24.07.2016

Nadiya Savchenko, the Ukrainian military officer who became a national hero after spending nearly two years in a Russian prison, called for reconciliation to end the conflict in eastern Ukraine, sparking outrage among some lawmakers.

Savchenko, who was elected to parliament while in prison, said in an interview broadcast July 21 on Ukraine's Channel Five that Ukrainians must "ask for forgiveness." Otherwise, she said, the violence that has gripped the country's Donbas region since April 2014 would continue. Her comments infuriated nationalist lawmakers and others, including Anton Herashchenko who also serves as an aide to the Interior Ministry.

<http://uatoday.tv/politics/ukrainian-mp-calls-savchenko-putin-s-trojan-horse-702571.html>

Trump to look at recognizing Crimea as Russian territory, lifting sanctions, 27.07.2016

Donald Trump said he would consider recognizing Crimea as Russian territory and lifting the sanctions against the country if he's elected president.

At a wide-ranging news conference, Trump said he "would be looking into that" when asked about his stance on Crimea and Russia.

<http://www.politico.eu/article/donald-trump-to-look-at-recognizing-crimea-as-russian-territory-lifting-sanctions-putin/>

<http://euromaidanpress.com/2016/08/02/ukrainian-politicians-denounce-trumps-readiness-to-legitimize-putins-crimean-anschluss-euromaidan-press/#arvibdata>

Poroshenko: Donbas invaded by intruders, 28.07.2016

"I categorically do not accept palliative descriptions such as an 'abstract armed conflict' or 'armed confrontation.' These are definitions given by others, not Ukrainians. What is happening in eastern Ukraine now should be called an invasion by intruders," he said on Thursday, during an official event at St. Volodymyr's Hill in Kyiv on the occasion of the Day of Introducing Christianity into Kyivan Rus-Ukraine. "Two and a half years ago, Moscow unleashed war against the golden-domed Kyiv. Things should be called by their proper names. The Savior teaches that there is a clear boundary between the truth and lies," Poroshenko stated. "I am convinced that religious peace and mutual respect of the state-and-church partnership are significant accomplishments by Ukraine, and we should staunchly protect these achievements, especially now, during times of great trial," he added. In addition, Poroshenko expressed gratitude to the churches and religious leaders, organizations, and communities who have firmly defended Ukraine as a God-given duty. "Thanks to those of you who continue to support our armed forces and all the defenders of Ukraine with the word of God, prayers, and humanitarian aid. I express my gratitude to everyone who is helping alleviate the suffering of civilians caused by Russian aggression and Moscow-backed formations," he said.

<http://www.unian.info/politics/1441042-poroshenko-donbas-invaded-by-intruders.html>

Crimea to be "cleared up" according to "Russian world" standards – Mejlis leader, 28.07.2016

The change in Crimea status within Russia means the peninsula is going to be a subject of Russian "unified state policy". Moscow is going to "clear up" the region until it meets the standards of the so-called Russian world, says Crimean Tatar Mejlis leader Refat Chubarov. President Putin terminated the "Crimean Federal District" within Russia and integrated it into the Southern Federal District with the administrative center in Rostov-on-Don. "This move indicates that Russian leadership plans to treat Crimea as every other Russian region where unified state policy is applied. It means ethnic, historic and cultural diversity in the region will exist as a cover until Crimea is cleared up to meet the "Russian world" standards", Chubarov posted.

<http://uatoday.tv/politics/crimea-to-be-cleared-up-according-to-russian-world-standards-mejlis-leader-705931.html>
<http://www.pravda.com.ua/news/2016/07/31/7116438/>

Easing of sanctions against Russia not ruled out: German FM, 29.07.2016

"In my mind, if we achieve considerable success, nothing will interfere with the gradual easing of sanctions," he said in an interview with Passauer Neue Presse published July 29. The minister also stressed that Germany and France were together negotiating with Ukraine and Russia to execute the Minsk agreements. "By maximum September, we will know whether something works," the official added. Read also Trump to look at recognizing Crimea as Russian territory, lifting sanctions Until now, the European Union has called for the full implementation of the Minsk agreements as the condition of easing sanctions, and subsequently the possible abolition of the restrictive measures imposed against Russia. This implies a cessation of hostilities and the withdrawal of heavy weapons from the contact line in Donbas. In late May, the German minister referred to the possibility of easing the sanctions, but in early July, the European Union extended their action for another six months.

<http://www.unian.info/politics/1443138-german-fm-admits-to-easing-of-sanctions-against-russia.html>

Putin steps up drive to kill sanctions amid signs of EU disunity, 29.07.2016

Vladimir Putin will step up Russia's campaign to end European Union sanctions with a visit to Slovenia on Saturday, encouraged by signs his tactic of lobbying what he views as more pliant southern and eastern European states is starting to pay off. The sanctions, imposed over the Ukraine crisis, are designed to block access to Western credit and technology for people and businesses linked to President Putin. Combined with American and Group of Seven sanctions, they have made it harder for Russia to weather an economic crisis fueled by low oil prices. The EU earlier this month extended economic sanctions on Russia until the start of 2017, despite misgivings from some countries such as Slovakia who are keen to debate their effectiveness. Several Moscow-based EU diplomats say Russia's tactic of methodically lobbying southern and eastern EU member states is starting to seriously erode the bloc's unity on the issue, making it potentially harder to renew them next time. "Russia is constantly trying to find a way around the sanctions, targeting countries it thinks are softer. They are trying to kill the sanctions with a softly softly approach," one of the diplomats, from a country which favors their continuation. "The result is that we are seeing more and more countries saying we should analyze the sanctions, assess what effect they are having, and review them again."

<http://www.reuters.com/article/us-russia-sanctions-putin-idUSKCN1091NT>

Actions of Ukrainian Authorities

Ukraine ready to swap 8 captured militants for Ukrainian hostages – Gerashchenko, 01.07.2016

The Ukrainian side is ready to exchange the eight pro-Russian militants earlier detained in the area of Shyrokyne in Donbas for the Ukrainian hostages, Ukraine's representative in the humanitarian subgroup at the Trilateral Contact Group on Donbas settlement, first Deputy Chairperson of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine Iryna Gerashchenko has told.

<http://uk.makemefeed.com/2016/07/02/ukraine-ready-to-swap-8-captured-militants-for-ukrainian-hostages-gerashchenko-1608125.html>

Nadia Savchenko's former commander arrested, Aidar fighters block courtroom, 02.07.2016

Activists say that Valentyn Lyholit, callsign "Batya", was detained at separatists' complaint; prosecutors insist he is suspected of setting up an armed gang

The military prosecutors detained in Kyiv Friday the former commander of Nadiya Savchenko from the Aidar volunteer battalion, Valentyn Lyholit, callsign "Batya" [Dad]; later the same night, a judge of the Pechersk district court ruled on the measure of restraint against Lyholit – a 60-day arrest, until August 28, 2016.

<http://uatoday.tv/politics/nadia-savchenko-s-former-commander-arrested-aidar-fighters-block-courtroom-685134.html>

Ukraine's National Police chief stages two wars: against criminals and corrupt officials, 05.07.2016

One year after the launch of brand new police force and its chief fears that poor financing may lead to more corruption. In July 2015 the Ukrainian government started to gradually introduce the brand-new police force in the country's cities. Now, almost a year since, we are joined by Ukraine's police chief Khatia Dekanoidze to discuss this major reform of the Ukrainian government. "I can't say that of course that all police officers are fair right now – of course they are not. But we're trying to get rid of the corrupted officers. I can face this pressure or stress every day, because it's my everyday job. And nobody can't deny that this is a tough job. Of course, it is tough. Because on the one hand we have to fight against criminals, and on the other hand – do some reforms.

<http://uatoday.tv/opinion/ukraine-s-national-police-chief-stages-two-wras-against-criminals-on-streets-and-corrupt-officials-in-government-offices-686654.html>

Ukrainian "Amber war": police arrests several high-rank officials in Rivne region, 05.07.2016

Unprecedented operation against illegal amber diggers in Ukraine's western Rivne region on June 4 police arrested several high-rank officials, suspected of controlling and covering the so-called mines. More than 300 Special task officers conducted around 123 searches of homes of the persons, linked to the criminal case, and confiscated sacks of gold, amber, collections of expensive and elite watches and more. "This is just the beginning of the war against the amber mafia with police badges", Ukraine's recently-appointed Prosecutor General Yuriy Lutsenko said. The first persons detained by the police were the deputy prosecutor of the Rivne region Andriy Borovyk, allegedly the leader of the criminal group, and a lieutenant-colonel of Ukraine's national security service SSU, whose name wasn't told.

<http://en.vnews.agency/newshead/23031-ukrainian-amber-war-police-arrests-several-high-rank-officials-in-rivne-region.html>

<http://yearago.unian.info/multimedia/photo/34784-sokrovishcha-yantarnoy-mafii-v-rivnenskoy-oblasti.html>

<http://en.uazmi.com/news/post/fBwOXsACKjoDW2WPjq8lly>

http://en.censor.net.ua/news/396870/illegal_amber_dealers_yearly_earnings_equal_to_ukraines_defense_budget_prosecutor_general_says

Rada greenlights arrest of MP Onyshchenko after he flees Ukraine, 05.07.2016

The Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine at its meeting July 5 supported the proposal of Prosecutor General Yuriy Lutsenko to prosecute, detain, and arrest MP from the Volia Narodu [Will of the People] faction Oleksandr Onyshchenko, who has already fled Ukraine, reportedly to Austria.

<http://uk.makemefeed.com/2016/07/06/rada-greenlights-arrest-of-mp-onyshchenko-after-he-flees-ukraine-1651475.html>

<http://en.uazmi.com/news/post/e8PVHmJw8DaT9EVC8VHr0>

Kyiv says Ukrainian colonel free after 2-year captivity in Donbas, 06.07.2016

Colonel Ivan Bezyazykov, a Ukrainian army officer, has been released from captivity in Donbas, Ukraine's representative in the Trilateral Contact Group humanitarian subgroup Iryna Gerashchenko said. Bezyazykov was in militant captivity since August 2014.

<http://en.interfax.com.ua/news/general/354845.html>

Record number of illegal arms from Donbas found at premises of Dnipro-1 Regiment, 06.07.2016

A record number of weapons, ammunition and explosives illegally brought from the Donbas conflict zone has been found at the premises of Dnipro-1 Regiment of Patrol Police Service of the Main Department of the National Police in Dnipropetrovsk region, the Office of Public Relations and Mass Media of the Prosecutor General's Office of Ukraine told.

<http://en.uazmi.com/news/post/bmQICPG0yEtfOot22lkPpO>

SBU busts Kyiv police investigator on \$15,000 bribe, 07.07.2016

The blackmailer demanded \$15,000 from a resident of the capital for the closure of criminal proceedings with respect to a fictitious business and appropriation and embezzlement. For this money, the police officer also promised to return to the suspect the physical evidence seized during the investigation. Law enforcers detained the police captain upon receiving a bribe in the amount of EUR 8,500. Criminal proceedings were initiated under Part 3 Article 368 of the Criminal Code of Ukraine. Investigative actions are under way. Source

<http://ukrainianwall.com/english-news/sbu-busts-kyiv-police-investigator-on-15000-bribe/>

Rada approves amnesty for ATO fighters in 2016, 07.07.2016

The law provides for an amnesty and is to extend its action primarily on the combatants, those who defended the independence, sovereignty, and territorial integrity of Ukraine, took part in the ATO, on the juveniles and women, as well as men who have children under 16 years or disabled children, on disabled persons of the first, second and third groups, patients with tuberculosis, cancer, and those who have reached retirement age. The Verkhovna Rada also defined categories of convicts in respect of which an amnesty could not be applied. Above all, these are the persons who have committed grave and especially grave crimes, as well as persons who have committed corruption offenses. The amnesty does not apply to persons convicted of crimes against Ukraine's national security.

<http://www.unian.info/society/1405210-rada-approves-amnesty-for-ato-fighters-in-2016.html>

Two ex-NBU officials arrested on suspicion of embezzling UAH 787 million, 13.07.2016

Two former NBU officials have been arrested for participation in a criminal organization, which had been controlled by the ousted ex-president Viktor Yanukovich, according to Ukraine's chief military prosecutor Anatoliy Matios. Among the detainees is NBU ex-deputy head Oleksiy Tkachenko and former head of the general department of banking supervision Roman Yakovlev, Matios wrote. It is noted that the two former officials are charged with embezzlement through abuse of power of UAH 787,396,148. "The investigation was personally headed by Prosecutor General Yuriy Lutsenko and Head of the SBU Security Service Vasyl Hrytsak and conducted by the Military Prosecutor's Office," reads the statement.

<http://uaposition.com/latest-news/two-ex-nbu-officials-arrested-on-suspicion-of-embezzling-uah-787-million/>

PM Groyzman announces large-scale customs reform in a month, 15.07.2016

"We're now getting ready for the launch of the customs reform. I'm sure it will be done within 12 months. We've got the U.S. government's support, what is more – they are ready to allocate funds for this reform," he said. "A few days ago, a U.S. mission which examined Ukrainian customs offices' needs left for home. Eleven best U.S. expert were working for two weeks here. The recommendations will appear in 30 days, and we'll start modernization and will root out corruption," Groyzman said. In his words, the first steps to reform the sector have been taken – video surveillance was introduced, the activity of the so-called "nut mafia" has been eliminated, and many more.

<http://uaposition.com/latest-news/pm-groyzman-announces-large-scale-customs-reform-in-a-month/>

Ukrainians vote for Kyiv`s international airport to be renamed after hetman, 18.07.2016

Voting on renaming Boryspil, Kyiv`s international airport, has ended. A majority of participants have voted for the airport to be renamed after Ukrainian hetman Ivan Mazepa, the Infrastructure Ministry reported on its website. The hetman`s name received 12,800 votes, while 9,297 votes went to aircraft designer Igor Sikorsky. The third most-popular name proposed during voting was of Russian painter Kazimir Malevich, which received 9,224 votes.
<http://uaposition.com/latest-news/ukrainians-vote-for-kyivs-international-airport-to-be-renamed-after-hetman/>

Government dismisses deputy chief of State Labor Service, 19.07.2016

The Ukrainian government has dismissed from office First Deputy Chief of the State Labor Service of Ukraine Mykhailo Bardonov, who was earlier detained for taking a bribe, as stated in the government`s resolution dated July 18 and published in the Ukrainian government`s Uriadovy Kurier newspaper.

<http://uaposition.com/latest-news/government-dismisses-deputy-chief-of-state-labor-service/>

MFA Ukraine responds to Medvedev's visit to occupied Crimea, called justification "void", 25.07.2016

According to a comment by Ukraine`s Foreign Ministry, provided to UNIAN in connection with Medvedev`s stay on a temporarily occupied territory of Crimea, "Yet another visit by an official of the Russian Federation to the Autonomous Republic of Crimea, which is an integral part of Ukraine, is an evidence of the continuing disregard by Russia of the UN Charter, Resolution of the UNGA A/RES/68/262 on the territorial integrity of Ukraine, the Baku Declaration, the resolutions of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, and other principles and norms of international law" Read also Russia builds drill towers on Ukrainian gas fields in Black Sea (video) The ministry stressed that the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol have been, are and will remain the territory of Ukraine within its internationally recognized borders. "This is recognized by the entire civilized world, which gave a proper assessment of the actions of the Russian side and continues to apply the relevant restrictive measures," the ministry said. Read also Russian occupation authorities ban activists` rally in Crimea`s Sevastopol "Consequently, the attempts of Russian officials to interpret such "visits" to Ukraine as domestic travel are void," said Ukraine`s Foreign Ministry.

<http://www.unian.info/politics/1436207-mfa-ukraine-responded-to-medvedevs-visit-to-occupied-crimea-called-justification-void.html>

Poroshenko discusses with Merkel constant violations of Minsk deal by Russia, 26.07.2016

President Poroshenko`s press service reported that the Head of the state `expressed deep concern over the worsened situation in Donbas, growing number of casualties due to the constant artillery strikes, and the continuing weapons supplies from Russia`. The Ukrainian leader also insisted on increasing activity of Russian saboteurs in the war-torn eastern Ukraine. Poroshenko also reiterated that Russia has been constantly violating Minsk agreements. He added that Europe should stay united and consolidated when it comes to anti-Russian sanctions, keeping and even strengthening cooperation in the Normandy format.

<http://112.international/politics/poroshenko-merkel-hollande-discuss-roadmap-of-minsk-deal-implementation-7647.html>

Russian Companies Cooperating With Militants to be Expelled From Ukraine, 29.07.2016

SBU initiated the termination of trade activities with 243 Russian companies that were discovered to be conducting business with Ukrainian companies and at the same time cooperating with commercial structures on the occupied territories, the SBU press service reports. After identifying these companies, the SBU sent the information on them to the Ministry of Economic Development and Trade. The Ministry concluded that Ukrainian producers are able to fully substitute for the Russian entities. Subsequently, it was decided to stop foreign trade activities with the said 243 companies from the RF.

<http://www.pravda.com.ua/eng/news/2016/07/29/7116277/>

Ex-head of Regions Party faction Yefremov detained on suspicion of violation of Ukraine's territorial integrity, 30.07.2016

"Ex-head of the Regions Party faction Yefremov has been detained on suspicion of infringement of the territorial integrity and inviolability of Ukraine," Lutsenko wrote on his Facebook page on Saturday. "He has been detained at the airport with a ticket to Vienna this morning," the press secretary of the Prosecutor General, Larysa Sarhan, told. On November 21, 2015, the Prosecutor General's Office of Ukraine (PGO) sent materials regarding the indictment of former Party of Regions MPs Oleksandr Yefremov and Oleksandr Stoyan, and Serhiy Hordiyenko of the Communist Party, to a court over their voting for the "dictatorship laws" on January 16, 2014. The former MPs are suspected under Part 2 of Article 364 (abuse of power or office), and Part 2 of Article 366 (forgery by an official) of Criminal Code of Ukraine. On November 30, 2015, the Pechersky District Court returned to the prosecutor's office the indictment against Yefremov, Stoyan and Hordiyenko in the case of voting for the "dictatorial laws" on January 16, 2014. The relevant decision was made by a panel of three judges, who said that the indictment did not meet the requirements of the Criminal Procedure Code of Ukraine.

<http://en.interfax.com.ua/news/general/361090.html>

<http://www.unian.info/politics/1444957-lutsenko-names-grounds-for-yefremovs-detention-including-participation-in-creating-lpr.html>

Terrorism / Separatism

Russian proxies attack Ukraine 58 times in last day, 01.07.2016

The combined Russian-separatist forces attacked the Ukrainian army positions in eastern Ukraine 58 times in the past 24 hours, including 34 times in the Donetsk sector, 17 times in the Mariupol sector, and 7 times in the Luhansk sector, according to the ATO HQ press center.

<http://www.breakingnewspoint.com/story/3262153/russian-proxies-attack-ukraine-58-times-in-last-day.html>

<http://www.unian.info/war/1396761-ato-forces-seize-russian-army-gear-ammo-from-subversive-group-photos.html>

Ukraine intelligence reports at least 22 militant Grad systems still on the frontline, 02.07.2016

Ukrainian military intelligence has reported the presence of 39 tanks, 53 artillery systems and self-propelled artillery systems of Russia-backed separatist forces in Donbas combat zone. According to Ukraine Crisis Media Center, in addition to multiple rocket launching systems and Uragan-type rocket launchers deployed to the contact line by militants, there are also more than twenty Grad systems discovered in the area of Horlivka.

<http://uatoday.tv/society/ukraine-intelligence-reports-least-22-militant-grad-systems-still-on-the-frontline-685354.html>

Donbas seeing escalation with 69 attacks on Ukraine in last day, 03.07.2016

Most of all, 38 cases of the use of weapons by the enemy were recorded in the Mariupol sector. In particular, the militants fired banned 122mm artillery systems near the village of Vodiane, as well as 120mm mortars on the Ukrainian fortified positions in the villages of Talakivka and Berezove, and the town of Krasnohorivka. In addition, enemy UAVs conducted aerial reconnaissance near the villages of Shyrokyne, Pavlopil and Novotroytske, the ATO HQ said. The situation remains tense in the Donetsk sector.

<http://www.unian.info/war/1397995-donbas-seeing-escalation-with-69-attacks-on-ukraine-in-last-day.html>

Russian troops near Ukraine's borders may exceed 70,000 by 2018 – intel, 04.07.2016

7,000 Russian regular servicemen are currently stationed in the Donbas conflict zone, as part of the self-proclaimed Donetsk and Luhansk People's Republics. Vadym Skibitsky, Intelligence Department of Ukraine's Defence Ministry, said: "In the meantime, three new (Russian) divisions are deployed near the borders of our country. Two Russian army corps are stationed in eastern Ukraine on the militant-held Luhansk and Donetsk regions, comprising 35,000 people, including 7,000 Russian regular troops," Skibitsky said.

<http://uatoday.tv/politics/russian-troops-near-ukraine-s-borders-may-exceed-70-000-by-2018-intel-686329.html>

Russian proxies attack Ukraine troops 61 times in last day, 04.07.2016

Ukrainian army positions in eastern Ukraine were attacked 61 times in the past 24 hours, which is almost half more than in the previous day and night, according to the ATO press center. "Using mortars of various calibers, the Russian-backed mercenaries fired on our positions almost along the entire demarcation line," the report says.

<http://uatoday.tv/news/russian-proxies-attack-ukraine-troops-61-times-in-last-day-624600.html>

Russian officer on active service killed in Donbas – Ukraine intel, 04.07.2016

"The death is confirmed of the commander of the 7th separate motorized rifle brigade, Colonel of the Russian Armed Forces Alexander Bushuev near the town of Khartsyzk as a result of a detonation of a fragmentation landmine of directed action as he was heading with his security escort to Donetsk," the reports says. It is noted that the event was preceded by threats from the commanders of individual units of the 7th separate motorized rifle brigade to set up a fair trial against the commander. According to intelligence, the brigade commanders were outraged by Bushuev's panic and erroneous actions on June 29-30, which resulted in the 7th separate motorized rifle brigade suffering significant losses.

<http://www.unian.info/war/1399180-russian-officer-on-active-service-killed-in-donbas-ukraine-intel.html>

New division to be deployed near Russia's Smolensk by mid – 2017, 05.07.2016

"The General Staff with the approval of the defense minister has made the final decision that the new Yelnya Motorized Rifle Division along with the Tamanskaya Motorized Rifle and Kantemirovskaya Tank Division will be part of the 1st Guards Tank Army," the source said. "The formation of the division in the Smolensk region began much later than the formation of similar forces in the Voronezh and Rostov regions, so the completion of its recruitment and construction of infrastructure facilities is planned not for December this year, but for the end of the first half of next year", he said. The source said that the number of personnel of the division with the headquarters in Yelnya will be around 10,000 men.

<http://tass.ru/en/defense/886421>

<http://www.theworldnewstimes.com/post/1602372/russian-proxies-attack-ato-forces-63-times-in-last-day-situation-escalates.html>

Russian proxies attack Ukraine 61 times in last day, use 152mm artillery in Shyrokyne, 06.07.2016

The combined Russian-separatist forces attacked the Ukrainian army positions in eastern Ukraine 61 times in the past 24 hours, according to the ATO HQ press center.

<http://a1.am/en/ua/2016/07/06/russian-proxies-attack-ukraine-61-times-in-last-day-use-152mm-artillery-in-shyrokyne>

Latest from OSCE Special Monitoring Mission (SMM) to Ukraine, 06.07.2016

In Donetsk region, the SMM recorded more ceasefire violations compared to the previous reporting period. Most of the fighting was recorded in the areas around Yasynuvata, Shyrokyne and Donetsk city. In Luhansk region, the SMM recorded a number of ceasefire violations, most of which were assessed as live-fire exercises. The Mission confirmed reports of three children killed by a grenade explosion in Yenakiieve. The SMM followed up on reports of shelling and conducted crater analysis in Kominternove, Horlivka and Myronivka. It continued to monitor the withdrawal of weapons and observed the presence of armoured combat vehicles in the security zone. The Mission continued to monitor the situation of civilians at entry-exit checkpoints along the contact line. The SMM observed the situation at the administrative boundary line between Kherson and Crimea. The SMM observed more ceasefire violations [1] in Donetsk region compared to the previous reporting period.

<http://www.osce.org/ukraine-smm/251071>

Militants intensify fire in Luhansk region, 07.07.2016

The combined Russian-separatist forces attacked the Ukrainian army positions in eastern Ukraine 57 times in the past 24 hours, including 30 times in the Donetsk sector, 16 times in the Mariupol sector, and 11 times in the Luhansk sector, according to the ATO HQ press center.

<http://uk.makemefeed.com/2016/07/07/militants-intensify-fire-in-luhansk-region-1666389.html>

<http://www.unian.info/war/1405150-human-rights-activists-collect-evidence-of-donbas-shelling-from-russian-territory.html>

<http://iphronline.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/07/Joint-report-on-cross-border-shelling-June-2016.pdf>

<http://www.unian.info/war/1405365-ukraine-suffers-more-losses-in-donbas-2-kias-6-wias-in-last-24-hrs.html>

ATO HQ: Russian proxies attack Ukraine 72 times in last day, 09.07.2016

In particular, 33 cases of enemy fire were reported in Donetsk and Mariupol sectors, and six attacks in Luhansk region. Thus, in Mariupol sector, the militants fired 122mm artillery on the village of Vodiane 20 times, while Shyrokyne, Talakivka and Starohnativka were attacked with 120mm mortars. Moreover, the militants used 82mm mortars, grenade launchers, and BMP weapons to shell Ukrainian positions near Talakivka. In Donetsk sector, the situation was especially tense near the villages of Avdiyivka, Zaitseve, Mayorsk and Luhanske, where Russian-backed militants shelled Ukrainian strongholds with 120mm mortars. In addition, the militants fired from 82mm mortars, grenade launchers of various systems, heavy machine guns and small arms.

<http://www.unian.info/war/1408974-ato-hq-russian-proxies-attack-ukraine-72-times-in-last-day.html>

Russian proxies intensify shelling in all sectors in Donbas in last day, 10.07.2016

"In particular, 24 attacks were recorded in the Donetsk sector, 22 in the Mariupol sector, and five in the Luhansk sector," the press center wrote on Facebook. Russian-backed militants used weapons that are banned under the Minsk peace agreements. They used 122mm artillery systems to shell the areas near the villages of Luhanske and Travneve in Donetsk region. Areas near the villages of Novoselivka Druha, the town of Avdiyivka, the villages of Dacha and Luhanska came under 120mm mortar fire. Grenade launchers and small arms were used to shell the villages of Novhorodske and Zaitseve, and Avdiyivka. The village of Shyrokyne, which is about 24 km from the Ukrainian-controlled strategic port city of Mariupol at the Sea of Azov, remains the hot spot in the Mariupol sector. The enemy used 120mm mortars, grenade launchers and small arms to shell the village. Ukrainian troops stationed near the village of Chermalyk and the town of Krasnohorivka were attacked with the use of 82mm mortars and armored vehicles.

<http://ukrainianwall.com/english-news/russian-proxies-intensify-shelling-in-all-sectors-in-donbas-in-last-day/>

<http://uatoday.tv/politics/donbas-sees-escalation-amid-94-militant-barrages-yesterday-693082.html>

<http://www.unian.info/war/1412766-village-24-km-from-ukraines-strategic-port-city-remains-hottest-spot-in-donbas-war.html>

Three Russian fighters captured amid skirmish near Troyitske in Donbas, 11.07.2016

"In the early hours of July 11, an enemy sabotage and reconnaissance group, consisting of up to 23 men, attacked Ukrainian military positions and entered into battle with our troops. As a result, professional action by ATO soldiers let them repel the main group, who left three wounded persons behind," the ATO HQ wrote. The captives were evacuated, provided first aid and sent to a medical unit. One of them later died of a gunshot wound, the ATO HQ said, revealing his identity.

<http://www.unian.info/war/1411038-three-russian-fighters-captured-amid-skirmish-near-troyitske-in-donbas.html>

<http://uatoday.tv/politics/hostile-locals-in-occupied-horlivka-confront-osce-monitors-video-693347.html>

<http://www.unian.info/war/1412818-captive-russian-soldier-calls-on-donbas-comrades-in-arms-to-go-home.html>

Zakharchenko's ex-guard surrenders to Ukraine forces, 12.07.2016

A Russian militant from the so-called Vostok unit of the terrorist forces in Donbas on Tuesday surrendered to the Ukrainian border guards at checkpoint Maryinka after allegedly shooting dead two "DPR police" employees, that's according to a report by the press service of the National Police Department in Donetsk region. The man, who voluntarily came to the Ukrainian checkpoint in an attempt to "confess" to his crimes, had previously worked as a guard of the leader of the terrorist group "DPR" Alexander Zakharchenko, according to the report. Police have identified that the man between May 2015 and March 2016 had fought in the so-called "Republican Guard," took part in the fighting outside the village of Shyrokyne and worked in Zakharchenko's personal security service.

http://www.liveleak.com/view?i=d9d_1468361048

Ukraine Today: ATO HQ says Russian proxies attack Ukraine 64 times in last 24 hours, 15.07.2016

Russian-backed separatist forces attacked Ukrainian army positions in eastern Ukraine 64 times in the last 24 hours according to the ATO HQ press centre.

<http://www.kyivpost.com/article/content/ukraine-politics/ukraine-today-ato-hq-says-russian-proxies-attack-ukraine-64-times-in-last-24-hours-418789.html>

<http://www.unian.info/war/1421133-militants-continue-to-use-banned-weapons-65-attacks-reported-in-last-day.html>

Russian proxies attack ATO forces 77 times overnight, 17.07.2016

The combined Russian-militant forces attacked Ukrainian army positions in eastern Ukraine 77 times overnight, using banned artillery systems three times, mortars 20 times, and rocket-propelled grenade launchers 32 times, the press center of the Anti-Terrorist Operation wrote.

<http://uatoday.tv/news/russian-proxies-attack-ato-forces-77-times-overnight-481024.html>

Large protest in occupied Horlivka against crippling militant 'taxes', 18.07.2016

Attempts by Kremlin-backed militants in Horlivka, a city in the so-called 'Donetsk people's republic' [DNR] to milk small business owners has prompted the first mass demonstration in the city since 2014. Over a thousand people, mainly traders from the local market, are reported to have gathered outside the city administration protesting against the militants' methods for extracting money and demanding a system like what they had under Ukrainian government control. Ironically, it seems that the last major demonstration in Horlivka in 2014 was in favour of the May 11 pseudo-referendum, with the residents wanting to join Russia. Since Russia has changed its position many times, with the militants forced to follow suit, it is worth recalling that the militants who first seized control were assuming – and promising - that Donbas would join Russia, and they did have support from a part of the population. Two years later the situation – and the attitude to Ukraine - is dramatically different. Over a thousand small business owners gathered on July 16 outside the city administration. They were protesting against a new 'law' on small businesses which increases tax and 'customs' tariffs, and brings in a system where absolutely everything, including goods obtained before the militants seized control, must be included in an inventory of goods liable to taxation.

<http://khpg.org/en/index.php?id=1468789216>

<http://uatoday.tv/politics/three-civilians-wounded-as-militants-disperse-rally-dispersal-in-donbas-intel-698886.html>

<http://www.unian.info/war/1424472-four-civilians-wounded-in-shelling-by-donbas-militants-in-past-two-days.html>

Ukrainian army positions come under 78 attacks in Donbas in past 24 hours, 19.07.2016

"The enemy fired 122mm artillery systems near the village of Myronivsky and Pisky in Donetsk region. Besides, 120mm mortars were used near the villages of Mayorsk, Nyznye Lozove, Zaitseve, Luhanske and the town of Avdiyivka," it said. According to the press center, 82mm mortars shelled Avdiyivka, the villages of Kamyanka, Pisky, Zaitseve, Troyitske, Opytne, and Nevelske. Grenade launchers, large-caliber machine-guns, an anti-aircraft gun and an infantry combat vehicle attacked Ukrainian army positions near Novhorodske, it said. In the Mariupol sector, illegal armed formations opened 120mm mortar fire on Ukrainian army positions near the towns of Maryinka and Krasnohorivka, and the village of Starohnativka. Militants used 82mm mortars, grenade launchers and small arms in the village of Vodiane, and lobbed shells of grenade launchers, large-caliber machineguns and weapons of armored vehicles into Maryinka, the report said.

<http://en.interfax.com.ua/news/general/358381.html>

Russian Troops in Donbas: Ukrainian soldiers find new proof, 19.07.2016

Soldiers from Ukrainian 54th brigade have captured a Russian militant. The lieutenant Oleksiy Sedikov confirmed Russian-backed separatist forces shell their own positions in order to blame the Ukrainians. Ukrainian journalist arrives at the hospital where the seized Russian militant is currently being treated. He is reluctant to start talking, demanding instead he should be accompanied by Russian diplomats. - I will not speak without Russian consul. Do you doubt my Russian origin? Look at my personal data. According to official data the soldier is referring to his name is Oleksiy Sedikov. 36-year-old reservist officer was born in Severodvinsk in Arkhangelsk region, that is northern Russia. Unofficial information provided tells Sedikov before being captured was commanding the 7th brigade of the so called armed forces of the self-proclaimed Luhansk People's Republic.

<http://uatoday.tv/politics/ukrainian-soldiers-to-find-new-proof-of-russia-s-presence-in-donbas-region-699161.html>

Kremlin deploys more tanks to eastern Ukraine, 19.07.2016

More Russian military hardware and fuel materials are reported to have been deployed to the militant-occupied city of Khartsyzk in the Donetsk region. This was announced by Ukrainian top military spokesman Andriy Lysenko said. "According to intelligence, Russia continues to send military equipment and ammunition to the temporarily occupied territory in eastern Ukraine. The convoy includes five trucks with ammunition for tanks and 122mm Grad multiple-launch rocket systems, railway platforms carrying six tanks, four infantry fighting vehicles, three 152-mm self-propelled guns as well as fuel, lubricants and ammunition", said Lysenko.

<http://uatoday.tv/politics/kremlin-deploys-more-tanks-to-eastern-ukraine-671329.html>

Senior manager of Ukraine Railways kidnapped in Kyiv, 19.07.2016

Head of the electrification department at Ukrzaliznytsya Valeriy Lyudmirsky was kidnapped in Kyiv late Monday, July 18, according to the TSN news service. The incident took place at about 21:00 Kyiv time near the official's home on Kudryashova street in the capital's Solomenskiy district, TSN reported from the scene. Valeriy Lyudmirsky is reported to have gone for a walk with his dog. As he was returning home, he was confronted by the attackers who killed the dog, and used a stun-gun against Lyudmirsky. The unidentified perpetrators then took the Ukraine Railways' manager to an unknown location. The investigation is under way.

<http://eurasiadiary.com/news/security/55588-senior-manager-of-ukraine-railways-kidnapped-in-kyiv>

Militants reject Ukraine's hostage swap scheme, 19.07.2016

Pro-Russian militants in Donbas have refused the hostage exchange offer proposed by the Ukrainian government, instead putting forward a "phantasmagoric list" of 600 people to be swapped, according to Ukraine's envoy to the humanitarian subgroup of the Tripartite Liaison Group Iryna Gerashchenko.

<http://www.morningnewstime.com/update/2321730/militants-reject-ukraines-hostage-swap-scheme.html>

Donbas death toll rises: Ukraine reports 7 KIA, 14 WIA in 24 hours, 19.07.2016

Seven Ukrainian soldiers were killed and another 14 were injured in the Donbas conflict zone over the past 24 hours, according to the Presidential Administration's spokesman for ATO. "Over the past day, seven Ukrainian soldiers were killed and 14 were injured in the fighting," Andriy Lysenko, ATO spokesman for the president's staff, said at a briefing in Kyiv Tuesday. Lysenko expressed condolences to the families and friends of the victims. ATO REPORT: 78 militant attacks in last 24 hrs Over the past day, Russian occupation forces opened fire, including from the weapons BANNED by the Minsk agreements, 78 times on positions of the Ukrainian Armed Forces in the Donbas conflict zone, according to the Headquarters of the Anti-Terrorist Operation. 43 attacks have been recorded in the Donetsk direction, another 22 – in the Mariupol direction, and 13 – in the Luhansk direction, the ATO HQ wrote. The enemy used 122mm artillery near Myronivske and Pisky in Donetsk region. In addition, the militants used 120 mm mortars near Maiorsk, Nyzhnye, Lozove, Zaitseve, Avdiyivka, and Luhanske. The adversary fired from 82mm mortars at Kamenka, Avdiyivka, Pisky, Zaitseve, Troitske, Opytne, and Nevelske.

<http://www.freerepublic.com/focus/f-news/3450794/posts>

Russian sniper unit arrives in Donbas – Intel, 21.07.2016

Twelve Russian snipers armed with hi-end rifles have been deployed in the militant-held Svitlodarsk in Donetsk region, speaker for the presidential administration on ATO issues Andriy Lysenko has told the reporters at a Kyiv briefing Thursday, July 21, citing Ukraine's military intelligence.

<http://uk.makemefeed.com/2016/07/22/russian-sniper-unit-arrives-in-donbas-intel-1866277.html>

On Russia's Ongoing Violations in Ukraine | Statement to the PC, 21.07.2016

The United States remains deeply concerned about the sharp uptick of attacks launched by combined Russian-separatist forces in eastern Ukraine. On July 19 alone, seven Ukrainian soldiers lost their lives and 14 others were injured, the highest number of casualties in a single day this year. Combined Russian-separatist forces are taking provocative actions even in what had been relatively quiet areas along the line of contact. Luhansk had been quiet over the past six months, partly because a river served as a natural barrier dividing the sides. However, combined Russian-separatist forces have initiated a dangerous escalation in Stanitsya Luhanska, where they crossed the river and set up a new position in government-controlled territory. This transformed Stanitsya Luhanska into a new hotspot, further endangering the local population. As a result of this provocative action, ceasefire violations surged more than sevenfold in Luhansk over the past week, according to reports from the Special Monitoring Mission (SMM). Colleagues — a real ceasefire, followed by the disengagement of forces, would create the circumstances necessary for progress on the political aspects of Minsk. Yet for the third week in a row, the SMM was denied access to proposed sites for disengagement, yet another setback in making this vital stabilization measure a reality. The SMM has also encountered problems with the Joint Center for Control and Coordination (JCCC). The SMM reported that on July 16, a Russian Armed Forces representative to the JCCC refused to provide the SMM information on ceasefire violations in the hotspot of Yasynuvata.

<https://osce.usmission.gov/russias-ongoing-violations-ukraine-statement-pc-4-8/>

Ukraine troops warn of threat of full-scale war, 22.07.2016

According to Ukraine's military intelligence, the leaders of the so-called Donetsk and Luhansk People's Republic, which Ukraine considers terrorist organizations, urgently called all the militants out from holidays and vacations, and banned them from leaving their bases, TSN news service reported. In the last two days, the enemy has been much more active, said the Ukrainian soldiers defending their positions near Krasnohorivka as the enemy is just 700 meters away. The roar of armored vehicles is heard from the other side more often. "The smoke and dust are all over the place. "Maybe they've brought some new equipment... They will regroup now preparing for the night," say the soldiers.

<http://uatoday.tv/news/ukraine-troops-warn-of-threat-of-full-scale-war-701766.html>

<http://www.unian.info/war/1432018-ukraine-estimates-potential-losses-in-first-two-days-of-full-scale-war-with-russia.html>

ATO report: militants attack Ukraine forces 54 times overnight, 23.07.2016

Over the past day, Russian occupation forces opened fire 54 times on positions of the Ukrainian military in Donbas, of which 26 times – in the Mariupol sector, 24 – in the Donetsk sector, and four – in the Luhansk sector, the press center of the Anti-Terrorist Operation (ATO) headquarters reported on Saturday morning.

<http://www.businessnewsworld.com/news/ato-report-militants-attack-ukraine-forces-54-times-overnight.html>

Revenge on Commanders: Russian soldiers in Ukraine's Donbas burn down their own rocket launcher, 23.07.2016

Russian soldiers stationed in the occupied city of Horlivka deliberately destroyed their artillery system to protest a theft of their phones and rough treatment from commanders. The incident was reported by the Main Intelligence Directorate of the Ukrainian Defense Ministry. In a Facebook posting the representatives of Ukrainian intelligence said Russian soldiers, dispirited by long stay on combat positions, lack of financial support and ill-treatment, intentionally burned down their BM-21 Grad - a truck-mounted 122 mm multiple rocket launcher.

<http://uatoday.tv/society/revenge-on-commanders-russian-soldiers-in-ukraine-s-donbas-burn-down-their-rocket-launcher-702706.html>

<http://uatoday.tv/society/ukraine-intelligence-reports-least-22-militant-grad-systems-still-on-the-frontline-685354.html>

ATO HQ reports 77 attacks in last day: Mariupol direction hottest, 24.07.2016

Forty attacks were recorded in the Mariupol sector, another 19 – in the Donetsk sector, and 18 - in the Luhansk sector, according to data released by the press center of the ATO Headquarters as of 06:00 July 24. The situation was tense in Maryinka, Mariupol direction, the HQ reported. "Here the enemy subversive groups tried twice to seize our strong points but the Ukrainian troops gave a fitting rebuff to the saboteurs. In addition, the Russian occupiers fired from 120mm mortars on Chermalyk, Hnutove, Novohryhorivka, Shyrokyne, Vodiane and Starohnativka. 82mm mortars, grenade launchers, weapons installed on infantry combat vehicles, large-caliber machine guns and small arms were fired at the positions of ATO forces in Pryazovia. Russian tanks shot eight times near Novohryhorivka," reads the statement.

<http://www.unian.info/war/1434058-ato-hq-reports-77-attacks-in-last-day-mariupol-direction-hottest.html>

Russian proxies attack Ukraine 58 times in last day, focus on Mariupol sector, 25.07.2016

The combined Russian-separatist forces attacked the Ukrainian army positions in eastern Ukraine 58 times in the past 24 hours, according to the ATO HQ press center.

<http://uk.makemefeed.com/2016/07/25/russian-proxies-attack-ukraine-58-times-in-last-day-focus-on-mariupol-sector-1897479.html>

Russia creating three divisions for deployment at Ukraine border – Intel, 26.07.2016

The Russian Federation is actively regrouping its two armies near the border with Ukraine and new divisions are being formed, according to the representative of Ukraine's military intelligence agency. "The 1st Tank Army, which is stationed in Moscow region, is being built up, as well as the 20th Army with Headquarters in Voronezh. Three new divisions are being created. The plans of the Russian leadership are changing," told the representative of the Main Directorate of Intelligence of the Ministry of Defence of Ukraine Vadym Skibitskiy. "A few years ago they said that near the border with Ukraine, three brigades were deployed. Now, these brigades have turned into three divisions," said Skibitskiy.

<http://uatoday.tv/politics/russia-creating-three-divisions-for-deployment-at-ukraine-border-intel-704021.html>

<http://www.unian.info/war/1436742-donbas-war-update-61-attacks-on-ukraine-three-skirmishes-in-last-day.html>

Russia sends up to 40 "instructors" for Donetsk militants: NGO, 26.07.2016

Forty Russian "instructors" have arrived at the self-proclaimed Donetsk People's Republic (DPR) to train militants, according to Information Resistance, a non-governmental project on information security.

<http://www.businessnewsworld.com/news/russia-sends-up-to-40-instructors-for-donetsk-militants-ngo.html>

2 OSCE SMM's UAVs come under fire in Donbas, another one downed, 26.07.2016

"At 23:51 on July 25, while flying over government-controlled Avdiivka, approximately 600m north-west of the contact line and 12.5 km north of Donetsk, an SMM long-range unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) experienced a loss of signals with the Ground Control Station and the SMM lost all communication with the UAV," the mission's spot report says. After 30 minutes from the loss of communication with the UAV, a Ukrainian Armed Forces liaison officer in the Joint Centre for Control and Co-ordination (JCCC) informed the SMM that the Ukrainian Armed Forces had identified a crash site. At 08:00 on July 26, the Ukrainian Armed Forces Major General, Head of the Ukrainian side to the JCCC, informed the SMM that Ukrainian Armed Forces soldiers had retrieved the UAV. The Ukrainian Armed Forces later handed over to the SMM the UAV's tail rotor and the anti-jamming equipment that had been located in the tail. Read also Alexander Hug: "We note a sustained supply of ammunition in areas not controlled by Gov't" In addition, it has been reported that at 12:48 on July 25, "the SMM conducted a flight of its mini UAV on the southern edge of "LPR"-controlled Kalynove (58 km west of Luhansk). The SMM heard four shots which it assessed as being fired from an assault rifle targeting the UAV. At the time of the incident, the UAV was flying 800 metres south-west of the launch site."

<http://www.unian.info/war/1438288-2-osce-smms-uavs-come-under-fire-in-donbas-another-one-downed.html>

Russian proxies use 122mm artillery to attack Ukraine troops in Avdiyivka, 27.07.2016

"The town of Avdiyivka remains a hot spot. The enemy fired 122mm artillery systems, 120mm and 82mm mortars, rocket-propelled grenades, heavy machine-guns and small arms on our fortified positions there," the press center said. Most of the attacks – 22 incidents – were recorded in the Mariupol sector. The Russian-backed mercenaries continue armed provocations in the Donetsk sector where 17 cases of violation of the ceasefire were recorded in the past day.

<http://www.unian.info/war/1438757-russian-proxies-use-122mm-artillery-to-attack-ukraine-troops-in-avdiyivka.html>

<http://uaposition.com/latest-news/russian-troops-to-provoke-ato-forces-to-violate-minsk-accords-ukraine-intel/>

<http://uaposition.com/latest-news/ukraine-intel-reveals-names-of-20-russian-snipers-deployed-in-donbas/>

Luhansk militant leader is to create task group on talks with Savchenko, 27.07.2016

The leader of the so-called LPR Ihor Plotnitsky ordered to create a workgroup which would conduct talks with Ukrainian MP Nadiya Savchenko, militant websites report. Plotnitsky said that Savchenko voiced readiness to meet with some fighters, so she could talk to those LPR "deputies" who took part in the battle, where the Ukrainian MP was taken prisoner. "I think we can create a kind of a deputy group, of three persons. Basically, we can talk as a deputy to a deputy, if one wants to find a compromise and resolve the situation peacefully,"- he said. He gave instructions to get in touch with Savchenko, and pledged to guarantee her security if she comes to Luhansk.

<http://uatoday.tv/politics/luhansk-militant-leader-is-to-create-task-group-on-talks-with-savchenko-705121.html>

<http://uaposition.com/latest-news/militant-leader-on-possible-meeting-with-savchenko-i-dont-know-what-we-can-talk-about/>

Spot Report by OSCE Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine, 29.07.2016

The SMM saw fresh tracks, assessed as caused by an infantry fighting vehicle leading south from "DPR"-controlled Lukove (72km south of Donetsk). At 13:47, while following the tracks, it was stopped by two armed "DPR" members who blocked the road with a camouflaged-style jeep (vehicle #1) and pointed their guns at the SMM. They ordered the SMM to leave the area, which they did. At 13:49, when leaving the area, a second camouflaged-style jeep (vehicle #2), approached from a side road at high speed, almost hit the lead SMM vehicle and came to an abrupt stop in front of the patrol, blocking its way. At the same time, the two armed "DPR" members in vehicle #1 blocked the SMM from behind. Three armed "DPR" members jumped out of vehicle #2 and pointed their guns at the first SMM vehicle in a very aggressive manner and screamed at the driver to open the vehicle door. One "DPR" member made a "cut throat" sign to the SMM and took photographs of both SMM vehicles and the drivers. The SMM was ordered to follow the "DPR" members to a checkpoint in Prymorske (76km south of Donetsk, 5km south of Lukove). One of the "DPR" members in vehicle #2 kept his gun pointed at the SMM for the duration. At this point the patrol called the SMM Regional Security Officer, who in turn informed the JCCC.

<http://www.osce.org/ukraine-smm/257131>

Russian proxies attack Ukraine 52 times in last 24 hours, use banned artillery, mortars, 30.07.2016

Combined Russian-separatist forces attacked Ukrainian army positions in eastern Ukraine 52 times in the past 24 hours, according to the ATO HQ press center.

<http://uk.makemefeed.com/2016/07/31/russian-proxies-attack-ukraine-52-times-in-last-24-hours-use-banned-artillery-mortars-1981533.html>

Ukraine reports skirmish near Maryinka, up to eight enemy troops killed, 31.07.2016

The Ukrainian ATO HQ has reported an attempt by the enemy's two special forces units to break through Ukrainian positions near the town of Maryinka at about 19:00 local time on Saturday. "The Ukrainian military repelled them successfully. The coordinated efforts of the personnel made the enemy retreat to the initial firing positions. The enemy suffered losses of up to eight men. There were no losses among Ukrainian troops," the ATO HQ wrote.

<http://uatoday.tv/politics/ukraine-reports-skirmish-near-maryinka-up-to-eight-enemy-troops-killed-707291.html>

<http://uatoday.tv/politics/militants-keep-tanks-rocket-launchers-near-makiyivka-and-donetsk-ukraine-intel-707376.html>

Mass Media

Expulsions and barrings of Russian journalists from Ukraine, 01.07.2016

The latest expulsion of a Russian journalist from Ukraine took place on July 1. The State Security Service of Ukraine (SBU) detained and deported journalist Aleksandra Cherepnina of Russia's *Channel One*. She is barred from re-entry to the country for three years. Below are three news reports on her expulsion.

<https://newcoldwar.org/expulsions-and-barrings-of-russian-journalists-from-ukraine/>

Ukrainian court of appeal acquits journalist sentenced for high treason, 14.07.2016

Kotsaba's lawyer in his final speech has stressed that the charges claiming the defendant allegedly impeding the activities of the armed forces of Ukraine are unfounded, according to Halka news outlet. He also said that none of the witnesses who spoke in court said anything about the actual effect of Kotsaba's calls on mobilization. In turn, the prosecutor noted that the court had failed to examine the evidence in full, which made it impossible to find Kotsaba guilty of high treason. The accused journalist, who also spoke in court before the ruling was handed down, reiterated his beliefs that it's a fratricidal war that is ongoing in Donbas, although he pleaded not guilty of high treason and impeding the activities of the armed forces.

<http://www.unian.info/politics/1417986-ukrainian-court-of-appeal-acquits-journalist-sentenced-for-high-treason.html>

Ukrainian-Belarusian journalist Pavel Sheremet killed in Kyiv, 20.07.2016

Journalist Pavel Sheremet was killed in a car explosion in Kyiv on the morning of July 20. Sheremet worked in *Ukrainska Pravda*, a popular online news outlet. The car exploded when Sheremet was driving it at 7.45 a.m. in the central part of Kyiv, on the corner of Ivan Franko and Bohdan Khmelnytskyi Streets. The car belonged to Olena Prytula, a founding editor of *Ukrainska Pravda*. Sheremet hosted a morning show on Radio Vesti. According to the radio's website, the journalist was heading to the radio's office to host his show when the car exploded. Lyubov Pereyenko, a witness of the explosion, was selling fruits in her kiosk nearby. According to her words, the ambulance came very quickly, some 7-8 minutes, and police came after that. "Law enforcement came just after ambulance, and took (everyone) to the safe distance," Pereyenko said. "The explosion was so strong that the parts (of the car) were lying near my kiosk." Aleksandr Rotan, a waiter at Device Club, located meters from where the explosion took place, helped drag Sheremet out of his car immediately after the explosion. "It sounded like a shell," Rotan said, adding that Sheremet was still alive, though unconscious immediately after the blast.

<http://www.kyivpost.com/article/content/ukraine-politics/ukrainian-belarusian-journalist-pavlo-sheremet-killed-in-kyiv-419071.html>

<http://www.unian.info/society/1427442-lutsenko-calls-journalists-death-murder.html>

SBU chief's adviser: Murder of journalist aimed to discredit security services, 21.07.2016

"There is an ongoing war in the east [of Ukraine], and all means are being used to discredit security forces within the state. They can't tackle us in the open as we do our best to preserve Ukraine's integrity, so they even resort to such despicable methods, cynically killing a journalist. And we must do everything possible to find not only the killers, but also those who organized this murder," he said.

<http://www.unian.info/society/1429317-sbu-chiefs-adviser-murder-of-journalist-aimed-to-discredit-security-services.html>

<http://www.unian.info/society/1433713-revenge-for-professional-activity-believed-to-be-key-motive-for-sheremets-murder-lutsenko.html>

Ukraine Worldwide

PROSECUTOR: MH17 INVESTIGATION GOING WELL, 01.07.2015

The criminal investigation into the cause of the disaster with flight MH17 in eastern Ukraine is going well, according to chief prosecutor Fred Westerbeke.

The chief prosecutor of the Public Prosecutor's national office said that though the investigators haven't reached the point of "formally" identifying suspects, they have a group of potential suspects in view, NU reports. "We are getting closer to legal and convincing evidence," he said. According to the Public Prosecutor, the most likely scenario is that the Malaysian Airlines airplane was shot down by a BUK-missile. But that is not the only scenario that the Prosecutor is looking at. Experts are busy investigating alternative scenarios in order to substantiate or exclude them.

The families of the 298 victims were also informed of the status of the investigation on Tuesday.

<http://www.nltimes.nl/2015/06/30/prosecutor-mh17-investigation-going-well/>

<http://www.unian.info/world/1095848-netherlands-say-when-mh17-report-will-be-published.html>

Russia: EU prolongs economic sanctions by six months, 01.07.2016

These measures were introduced on 31 July 2014 initially for one year in response to Russia's actions destabilising the situation in Ukraine. They were reinforced in September 2014. They target the financial, energy and defence sectors, and the area of dual-use goods. On 19 March 2015, the European Council agreed to link the duration of the sanctions to the complete implementation of the Minsk agreements, which was foreseen to take place by 31 December 2015. Since the Minsk agreements were not fully implemented by 31 December 2015, the Council extended the sanctions until 31 July 2016. Having assessed the implementation of the Minsk agreements, the Council decided to renew the sanctions for a further six months, until 31 January 2017.

<http://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2016/07/01-russia-sanctions/>

http://en.censor.net.ua/news/395682/us_imposes_new_sanctions_on_russian_companies

Putin tells Obama Ukraine and Donbas need 'real direct dialogue', 07.07.2016

During his telephone conversation with U.S. President Barack Obama, RF President Vladimir Putin has stressed the need of a "real direct dialogue" between the Ukrainian authorities and the self-proclaimed republics in Donbas, according to the Kremlin's press service.

<http://www.kyivpost.com/article/content/ukraine-politics/unian-putin-tells-obama-ukraine-and-donbas-need-real-direct-dialogue-418008.html>

<http://en.kremlin.ru/events/president/news/52484>

Kremlin dubs Crimean journalists, activists as `terrorists`, 13.07.2016

Authorities in Moscow have listed 22 people who were born on Ukraine's Crimea Peninsula as "terrorists and extremists". The list, published on July 12 by Russia's Federal Financial Monitoring Service (Rosfinmonitoring), includes journalists, civil activists, and political prisoners who have criticized Moscow's occupation and illegal annexation of Ukraine's Crimea region, RFE/RL reported Tuesday. Mykola Semena, a contributor to a news site about Crimea that is run by Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty, is also on the list. Semena has been charged by officials in Russia-annexed Crimea with using media to make separatist calls.

<http://uaposition.com/latest-news/kremlin-dubs-crimean-journalists-activists-as-terrorists/>

Jitters in Ukraine As Politically Charged Religious Processions Approach Kyiv, 24.07.2016

The All-Ukrainian Procession of the Cross for Peace, Love and Prayer for Ukraine includes thousands of believers from the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the Moscow Patriarchate -- an affiliate of the Russian Orthodox Church and a rival of a major Kyiv-based church. Marching in two groups -- one from the west of the country and another from the east -- they plan to converge on Kyiv's Volodymyrska Hill and then at the Kyiv-Pechersk Monastery on July 27, the eve of the celebration of the 10th-century Baptism of Kievan Rus. Moscow Patriarchate leaders say they will pray for peace and prosperity in Ukraine. The church's Bishop Clement that there

will be no provocations, at least from their side. Ukrainian authorities say they suspect the marches are merely a front for a Moscow-orchestrated plot to stir unrest and prove what Russia has claimed since Euromaidan protests drove a Moscow-aligned president from power in 2014: that the rights of Russians, Russian speakers, and members of the Moscow-based church's flock are at risk here.

<http://www.rferl.org/content/ukraine-church-rival-processions-orthodox-provocations/27867962.html>