



Monitoring of Xenophobia and Extremism in Ukraine June 2015

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Introduction

Upcoming holidays for politicians in both the Old World and the New prompt a search for new ways to resolve the Donbas conflict. The latest PACE session can be seen as quite successful for the Ukrainian delegation, and NATO continues to support Ukraine.

The situation in the Donbas continues to teeter between peace and war. The constant provocations by militants seem to cause no surprise any more, and nor does Russia's desire at any cost to "return" to Ukraine the now occupied territories - on Moscow's own terms. To do this, the Kremlin even let Viktor Yanukovich graze for a little while in the information field. The disgraced ex-president diligently duplicated in his interview with the BBC Russia's freshest messages on the prospects of settlement the Donbas crisis and the return of Crimea.

It is no wonder that a meeting of the Contact Group in Minsk, and the summit of the Foreign Ministers' Normandy Quartet in Paris ended with no results. The only interesting thing that happened in the capital of Belarus was the debut of a new OSCE representative from Austria, Martin Sajdik, who replaced his Swiss colleague Heidi Tagliavini. The foreign ministers agreed to negotiate. Reports that the European Union is putting pressure on Ukraine to ensure the unilateral implementation of the Minsk Agreement regarding the holding of elections in the occupied areas of Donbas were not confirmed. However, it should be understood that the EU is concerned about the current situation, while Ukraine is a member of the international community, and it is actually convenient to put pressure on it, especially now, when the state looks weak as never before. The best response for Kyiv would be to provide a sensible policy for the Donbas and implement reforms as soon as possible.

However, Russia still lacks consistency in its actions. Trying to portray itself as a civilized member of the international community, Putin's regime fails in important details. A good example

was the Kremlin's negative reaction toward the idea of establishing a special UN tribunal to investigate the MH17 case.

No less interesting is to see how the Russian media try to convince their viewers that the mass protests in Yerevan are due to Ukraine's influence. They seem to have forgotten that Armenia's foreign policy has always been and still remains Moscow-oriented. But any "Maidan" is regarded by the Kremlin as a threat.

The Russian delegation to the PACE will be deprived of voting powers until January 2016, so RF representatives do not personally visit Strasbourg but use their various agents of influence, among them Ukrainian Communists leader Petro Symonenko. However, this did not save Russia from the the first mentioning of the term "Russian aggression" in the official documents of the PACE. There is no need to exaggerate, but it really is a milestone on the path of changes in the European attitude toward the Donbas conflict.

Today, there is consistent political and financial support through trust funds from NATO, but Ukraine's Defense Minister Stepan Poltorak says the supply of lethal weapons is also possible in the event of an escalation in the Donbas. NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg assured that NATO would never recognize the annexation of Crimea and will intensify its efforts to support Ukraine.

However, against the background of a dramatically altered security environment, the modernisation of the Ukrainian army and the finalisation of the unfinished defence reforms are urgent, not only in order to guarantee the country's security, but also within the framework of the consolidation of democracy in post-Maidan Ukraine.

Prognosis and polls

Expert assessment "President Poroshenko's First Year in Power", DIF, 05.06.2015

General score for the first year in Office was 5.3 points out of 10 possible. The most successful, in the view of experts, is – foreign policy achievements (7.3 points). Also, mostly positive assessment the President received for cooperation with the Parliament (6.4 points) and government (5.8 points). Furthermore, the experts gave Poroshenko (5.5 points) for his actions in defence policy, the functions guarantor of the Constitution and the rights and freedoms of citizens (5.4 points) and interaction with society (4.6 points). As for progress in reforms most experts assessed this are in negative term with only 4 points and this bring fulfilment of his election promises, in the eyes of the experts to only 3.7 points.

Analysing the achievements of the President, the experts pointed first of all to his role in the formation of an international coalition of countries and organizations that supported Ukraine in its conflict with Russia. He also was praised for signing the Association Agreement with the EU. As for domestic policy, Poroshenko's main achievements are: successful early parliamentary elections, freezing the acute phase of hostilities in the Donbas, preventing the spread of separatism in other regions of Ukraine, as well as enhancing the combat readiness of the Ukrainian armed forces. Some experts also mentioned Poroshenko efforts in preserving political stability in the country and some individual reform efforts. As for main failures during the first year, experts agreed on poor human resources policy (in particular in the context of the appointment of the Prosecutor General Vitaliy Yarema, Defense Minister Valery Gelety and head of the National Bank of Valerie Gontareva) and a very weak progress in implementing reforms expected by society. The inability of the President to perform one of the most high-profile campaign promises – to sell his business – has been the subject of criticism among the surveyed experts. In addition, some experts said Poroshenko failed to successfully complete the anti-terrorist operation despite his promises before the elections.

<https://ukraine-office.eu/en/05-06-2015-%D0%BE%D1%86%D1%96%D0%BD%D0%BA%D0%B0-expert-assessment-president-poroshenkos-first-year-in-power-dif/>

NATO Publics Blame Russia for Ukrainian Crisis, but Reluctant to Provide Military Aid, 10.06.2015

Publics of key member nations of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) blame Russia for the ongoing conflict in Ukraine. Many also see Russia as a military threat to other neighboring states. But few support sending arms to Ukraine. Moreover, at least half of Germans, French and Italians say their country should *not* use military force to defend a NATO ally if attacked by Russia. A median of 39% among NATO publics say Russia is the main culprit in the ongoing conflict in eastern Ukraine. The pro-Russian separatists in Luhans'k and Donets'k (18%) are a distant second. Half say Russia is a major military threat to other neighboring nations. In response to the crisis, 70% among allied countries say Western countries should send economic aid to Ukraine. A majority (57%) also supports Ukraine becoming a member of NATO. NATO nations are hesitant, however, to escalate their involvement in the conflict, especially militarily. Comparatively few support sending arms to Ukraine (median of 41%). And many allied countries are reluctant to uphold Article 5 of the North Atlantic Treaty, which requires NATO members to defend an ally with armed force if necessary. A median of 48% among these publics say their country should use military force if Russia gets into a serious military conflict with a neighboring nation that is a NATO ally, while 42% are opposed. Americans and Canadians are the only publics where more than half think their country should use military action if Russia attacks a fellow NATO member (56% and 53%, respectively). Germans (58%) are the most likely to say their country should *not*. All NATO member publics are more likely to think the United States *will* come to an ally's defense (median of 68%) than to be willing to do so themselves.

<http://www.pewglobal.org/2015/06/10/nato-publics-blame-russia-for-ukrainian-crisis-but-reluctant-to-provide-military-aid/>

Yatseniuk-led People's Front doesn't make 5% barrier in hypothetical Rada elections – poll, 19.06.2015

Seven political forces that have the support of 5% or more voters could have a chance of making it to the Verkhovna Rada if parliamentary elections were held in Ukraine this coming Sunday, shows a poll conducted by the sociological group Rating on June 3-13.

A total of 16.4% of the respondents who said they would vote said they would vote for Petro Poroshenko's bloc Solidarnist, and Samopomich, Opposition Bloc and Batkivschyna would get 10.5%, 10.2% and 10.0%, respectively. A total of 6.3% of the respondents said they back the Radical Party, 5.7% said they would vote for Civil Position, 5.3% said they would vote for Right Sector, 3.8% said they would vote for Svoboda, 2.7% said they would vote for the People's Front, 2.5% said they would vote for the Ukrainian Communist Party, and 2.1% said they would vote for Strong Ukraine. The other parties received the support of less than 1% of the respondents each, and one out of every five respondents was undecided. Up to 60% of the respondents said they would come to vote if the elections were held this coming Sunday and 28% said they would definitely come to vote.

<http://en.interfax.com.ua/news/general/273116.html>

Putin's approval ratings hit 89 percent, the highest they've ever been, 24.06.2015

Think Russians are tiring of conflict with the West? Not according to President Vladimir Putin's approval ratings, which hit all-time highs of 89 percent Wednesday. Putin has been riding sky-high ever since the March 2014 annexation of Ukraine's Crimean Peninsula, which Russians embraced as a restoration of their place at the table of superpowers. Neither Western sanctions nor an economy in the doldrums nor NATO's bolstering its presence along the borders have been able to dislodge Putin's support ever since. Those who were planning for a collapse in Putin's support might want to pin their aspirations elsewhere. Putin's ratings jumped from 65 percent in January 2014 to 80 percent two months later, and they've stayed in the 80s ever since, according to measurements from the Moscow-based Levada Center, the only independent polling organization in Russia. They've kept going up: In Putin's 15 years in office, they've never been higher than June's 89 percent.

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/worldviews/wp/2015/06/24/putins-approval-ratings-hit-89-percent-the-highest-theyve-ever-been/>

Statements of officials

IMF sees signs of emerging economic stability in Ukraine, 01.06.2015

"The foreign exchange market has remained broadly stable. Gross international reserves, although still very low, have increased to US\$9.6 billion at end-April. Banks' deposits in domestic currency have been recovering. The budget outturn in the first months of 2015 was stronger than expected, partly due to temporary factors," IMF Chief for Ukraine Nikolay Gueorguiev said in the statement. "The authorities are also determined to complete the ongoing debt operation in line with program objectives. This will ensure that public debt is sustainable with high probability and the program remains fully financed, which are requirements for the completion of the review. More broadly, continued financial support for Ukraine's reform efforts from official and private creditors is vital for the success of the program," he said.

<http://www.unian.info/economics/1084103-imf-sees-signs-of-emerging-economic-stability-in-ukraine.html>
<http://www.imf.org/external/np/sec/pr/2015/pr15243.htm>

U.N. finds growing signs of Russian involvement in Ukraine war, 01.06.2015

A separatist conflict in eastern Ukraine is revealing increasing evidence, but not yet conclusive legal proof, of Russian state involvement, senior United Nations human rights officials said on Monday. "We are speaking about increasing inflow of (unofficial) fighters and increasing evidence that there are also some (Russian) servicemen involved in fighting," Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights Ivan Simonovic told a news conference in Geneva.

Russia denies Western accusations that it is backing pro-Russian rebels with arms and troops. On May 21, U.N. officials interviewed two Russians captured in eastern Ukraine. The two men believe they should be treated as captured servicemen, but Russia says they are former soldiers who had left the military.

The pair were charged with terrorism by Ukrainian authorities, putting them "between a rock and a hard place", Simonovic said.

"It is very difficult to prove whether they are servicemen or not. That is why mostly we are speaking about 'fighters' of the Russian federation," said Armen Harutyunyan, head of the U.N. Human Rights Monitoring Mission in Ukraine.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2015/06/01/us-ukraine-crisis-un-idUSKBN0OH2SK20150601>

Lavrov: Russian retaliatory sanctions affected supporters of Ukraine state coup, 01.06.2015

Russia imposed its entry ban on those European politicians and military leaders who actively supported last February's state coup in Ukraine, Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov said on Monday. "We did not want to make the list public," Lavrov said. "We naturally could not break the main law of international relations - the principle of mutuality. And when the European Union introduced restrictions on 150 Russian citizens, we acted in a similar way but targeted a much smaller number of EU citizens. We did not want to follow the EU's bad example and turn the disclosure of these names into a loud campaign."

"We simply informed our EU partners that we also have a sanctions list, but we will not make it public and will not hand it to Brussels to avoid stirring up a scandal," he said. "But we asked the European Commission to notify those parliamentary, political and social functionaries from EU countries planning to visit Russia that they should enquire in Russian consulates in their country if they were allowed to travel with documents they had, whether it was a diplomatic passport or an open visa or their visa was closed."

<http://tass.ru/en/world/797945>

U.S. committed to supporting Dutch investigation into MH17 disaster – Obama, 01.06.2015

Washington is committed to supporting the investigation into the Malaysia Airlines Flight MH17 disaster which occurred in eastern Ukraine, the White House Press Office has reported.

"And I continue to make the solemn commitment to support the Dutch in the investigation of the Malaysia Airlines tragedy, and to make sure that not only is the truth brought forward, but there's accountability for what took place," Obama said while hosting King Willem-Alexander and Queen Maxima of the Netherlands at the White House on Monday.

Obama expressed gratitude to the Netherlands over how it is conducting the investigation into the MH17 disaster

<http://en.interfax.com.ua/news/general/269235.html>

Time for U.S., NATO to step up and help Ukraine: U.S. Senator Rob Portman, 03.06.2015

As multiple global crises compete for our attention, we must not neglect the situation in Ukraine.

I recently returned from trip to Ukraine, a year after Senator Cardin and I led a Congressional delegation to monitor last year's presidential election.

Much has happened since then. Ukrainians have made incredible sacrifices in the hopes of securing a democratic future but they need sustained economic, political, and military support from the United States and NATO to ensure a successful future.

They have also made an unequivocal choice to pursue a pro-Western, democratic path, and are making progress in fighting decades of corruption that left Ukraine weak, while dealing with a blatant Russian invasion. Successful follow-through on these reforms will be essential to the long-term success and prosperity of Ukraine.

http://www.cleveland.com/metro/index.ssf/2015/05/post_304.html

European Parliament's relations with Russia, 03.06.2015

Following the publication of the blacklist of European politicians and officials, the President of the European Parliament, Martin Schulz, today informed the Russian Ambassador to the EU that insofar as the Russian authorities have failed to ensure transparency in their decisions, in line with international law and legal obligations, and allow the targeted individuals the right of defence and of appeal, he considers that it is now justified to take appropriate measures in response.

Consequently, pending the lifting of the blacklist, Parliament is:

- restricting free access to Parliament to the Ambassador and one other named diplomat;
- assessing requests for access by Members of the Duma and the Federation Council on a case-by-case basis;
- suspending Parliament's engagement with the EU-Russia Parliamentary Cooperation Committee.

http://www.europarl.europa.eu/the-president/en/press/press_release_speeches/press_release/press_release-2015/press_release-2015-june/html/european-parliament-s-relations-with-russia

"Terrorists won't get any food from our side until they release prisoners and stop shelling," – Lutsenko, 03.06.2015

Poroshenko Bloc faction leader Yuriy Lutsenko says economic blockade of the gangs in the occupied territories of the Donbas is necessary.

"The terrorists won't get any food from our side until they release the prisoners and stop shelling. All our citizens who understand the situation shall leave for the free territory of Ukraine," Lutsenko said. According to him, not a single refugee family in the territory of the Luhansk region lives in the open - they live in difficult conditions, but have a roof over their heads. "Right now, the militants receive all the food from Ukraine - drinks, canned food, meat and so on. Of course the prices are higher. But the food is delivered by Ukrainian citizens who corrupt our checkpoints on the way, who in turn corrupt Kyiv officials, since for some reason the permission to pass is granted by Kyiv, not by local service," the MP said.

http://en.censor.net.ua/news/338713/terrorists_wont_get_any_food_from_our_side_until_they_release_prisoners_and_stop_shelling_lutsenko

Berlin: G7 Format Cannot Last Long, Russia Can Renew Membership, 04.06.2015

The current G7 format of the world's leading economies cannot remain for long and Russia may renew its membership in the group, German Foreign Minister Frank-Walter Steinmeier said. Leaders of the G7, comprising the United Kingdom, the United States, Canada, France, Germany, Italy and Japan, agreed to hold a June 2014 summit in Brussels instead of the originally planned Russian city of Sochi. The 41st G7 summit is scheduled to take place in the Bavarian Elmau Castle, outside Munich, on June 7-8, 2015. Russia did not receive an invitation to participate in the meeting of the world's largest economies.

According to Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov, Russia cannot be excluded from the G8 because the group is an informal club bringing together world leaders to discuss issues of mutual interest. German Development Minister Gerd Mueller said Thursday that Russia's return to the G7 depended on the implementation of the Minsk peace deal on the Ukrainian crisis.

<http://sputniknews.com/politics/20150604/1022935709.html>

<http://sputniknews.com/europe/20150604/1022927996.html>

Over 9,000 Russian servicemen operate within 14 tactical groups in Ukraine – Poroshenko, 04.06.2015

"A colossal threat of the resumption of large-scale hostilities posed by Russian-terrorist groups is lingering on. Fourteen Russian battalion tactical groups consisting of over 9,000 servicemen remain in the territory of Ukraine. The concentration of Russian servicemen near the state border is 1.5 times larger than it was a year ago," the president said in his annual message delivered at the Verkhovna Rada on Thursday.

"The so-called 'Rosvoyentorg' is regularly delivering not only ammunition, food, clothing and fuel but also brand new weapons and military hardware," he said.

<http://en.interfax.com.ua/news/general/269842.html>

German Gov't Source Calls Fighting Near Donetsk Violation of Minsk Accord, 04.06.2015

"It is a violation of the Minsk agreements, a serious violation of the ceasefire regime," the source said, adding that the situation at the line of contact raised concerns.

The ceasefire was agreed upon by Kiev forces and Donbass militias in February in Minsk but both sides have since reported violations of the peace deal.

On Wednesday, the self-proclaimed Donetsk People's Republic said that the Ukrainian army had launched intense shelling along the line of contact, killing at least three independence fighters. The shelling also left dozens of civilians injured.

Kiev forces in their turn accused local militia of making advances in the direction of Ukrainian government forces in the country's east.

On Wednesday, Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said Moscow was "deeply concerned" about alleged provocations by Kiev-led forces in eastern Ukraine.

<http://sputniknews.com/europe/20150604/1022929396.html>

Poroshenko Says Unable to Instate Martial Law in Ukraine Despite Pressure, 04.06.2015

Poroshenko said during his annual address to the country's parliament that majority of authorities pressured him personally calling for martial law.

"During the war we contained the country democratically. And this is besides the limitations on rights and freedoms that had a full, moral, and by the way legal right in law in line with martial law. But I could not [install martial law], regardless of political pressure from all sides and the majority of the authorities pressuring me personally."

Kiev will continue to increase expenses on military defense, the Ukrainian president said.

"Our priority task is to rearm our military since the Ukrainian Armed Forces already have the best fighting spirit and combat experience. A renewal of the command staff of the armed forces has begun and is continuing."

<http://sputniknews.com/europe/20150604/1022927750.html>

Ukrainian citizens in occupied Donbas have been taken prisoner by aggressors – Poroshenko, 04.06.2015

Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko has said that the Ukrainian citizens who live in the occupied territories of Donetsk and Luhansk regions are held as prisoners.

"Citizens of Ukraine, who now are in the temporarily occupied territories, I consider to be Ukrainian prisoners, who now are kept by invaders," he said in his annual address to the parliament on Thursday. Poroshenko said Ukraine and its international partners are prepared to help these areas of Donbas as an integral part of Ukraine.

"But they [Ukraine and its international partners] will finance the restoration of the infrastructure just when they will be sure that all [that is] rebuilt for today won't be destroyed by a full-scale Russian invasion tomorrow," Poroshenko added.

<http://en.interfax.com.ua/news/general/269904.html>

I'm dissatisfied with government's work as are Ukrainians – Poroshenko, 04.06.2015

"I'm often asked if I'm satisfied with the work of the government. No. If I'm satisfied with the work of the Verkhovna Rada. Obviously, also not."

Poroshenko said that he often gets complaints for the lack of criticism of the government in the media. "Do you know why? Because the people are dissatisfied with all of us," he added.

<http://sputniknews.com/politics/20150604/1022928309.html>

Canadian Economy Suffers From Anti-Russian Sanctions – Minister, 04.06.2015

Western European countries that do business with Canada are experiencing economic fallout from anti-Russian sanctions that, in turn, has a negative effect on the Canadian economy, Canadian Finance Minister Joe Oliver said.

That, in turn, reaches across the Atlantic because when the growth of the EU economy slows down, it also has a negative effect on the Canadian economy, he said.

"I think most European countries would acknowledge there has been some economic impact on Europe from these sanctions," Oliver said.

<http://sputniknews.com/us/20150604/1022925473.html>

Putin may use armed forces beyond territory of the Russian Federation, Peskov says, 04.06.2015

Russian President Vladimir Putin may exercise the right to ask the Federation Council to allow him to use the Armed Forces abroad in connection with the resolution of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine which sanctions presence of the NATO forces in the country. Press secretary of the Russian President Dmitry Peskov told journalists.

http://en.censor.net.ua/news/338859/putin_may_use_armed_forces_beyond_territory_of_the_russian_federation_peskov_says

<http://www.unian.info/world/1085634-peskov-putin-may-ask-russian-senates-permission-to-use-armed-forces-abroad.html>

Portman Offers Amendments to Provide Military Assistance to Ukraine, 04.06.2015

Today, U.S. Senator Rob Portman (R-Ohio), co-chair of the Senate Ukraine Caucus, announced that he has filed two amendments to the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) for Fiscal Year 2016 to help Ukraine as they continue to face Russian aggression.

"Ukraine has reached a pivotal moment," Portman stated. "The Ukrainian people have made incredible sacrifices in the hopes of securing a democratic future for their country. However, sustained economic, political, and military support from the United States and NATO is absolutely crucial to ensuring that their vision comes to fruition.

"My first amendment will help to ensure that U.S. military assistance has a meaningful impact on the ground and gives Ukraine the tools they need to defend themselves. My second amendment will allow us to study the lessons learned from the conflict and their implications for the U.S. military. Some elements of this report, such as the report on armored warfare, will also highlight the importance of armored vehicles like the Abrams tanks and Strykers manufactured in Lima, Ohio. "I'm pleased to offer these amendments and will continue to push for steadfast support of the Ukrainian people during this critical time."

<http://www.portman.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/press-releases?ID=2bfd33b6-a250-4a5e-83c9-9f2bde983196>

Klimkin: Russia's lies give the EU illusion of security. They have been using euphemisms in Europe for more than a year talking about events in Ukraine, 04.06.2015

Many people in Europe still do not want to see the truth about the events that are taking place in Ukraine and prefer to indulge themselves in illusions while our country needs their support, including by debunking the propaganda lies.

Minister of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine Pavlo Klimkin stated, speaking Wednesday evening in Berlin in front of the guests of the German ZDF broadcaster during the Burns Dinner - a traditional dinner meeting of leading journalists with prominent politicians, cultural and public figures.

"The truth is bitter and the lie is sweet. It gives Europe a false feeling, the illusion of stability and security ... Many people in Europe have been talking about the events in Ukraine using euphemisms for more than a year, without calling them what they are," Klimkin said.

"What we really need," the head of the Ukrainian diplomacy stressed, "is assistance of the society, the media, above all in persuading people, providing them with real information. This can be achieved through the social networks, but this is not enough. We need a good Russian-speaking social media, for example, TV, target audience of which could be Russian-speaking residents of Germany, because there are more than 300,000 of them only in Berlin, and a considerable part of them are victims of the Russian propaganda."

"This is also a feature of this war - the greatest experiment with the human minds. The minds of the Russian population are meant first of all, then the ones of the residents of the eastern Ukraine and Europe," Pavlo Klimkin said.

http://en.censor.net.ua/news/338801/klimkin_russias_lies_give_the_eu_illusion_of_security_they_have_been_using_euphemisms_in_europe_for

Ukraine is on high alert for a 'full-scale invasion by Russia', 05.06.2015

"The military must be ready as much for a renewal of an offensive by the enemy in the Donbass as they are for a full-scale invasion along the whole length of the border with Russia. We must be truly ready for this," President Petro Poroshenko said in an address to the Ukrainian parliament yesterday. "We must be really prepared for this."

Mr Poroshenko claimed there are already 9,000 Russian troops in separatist-held territory inside Ukraine, and said there was a "colossal threat" that Russian-backed forces would launch large-scale operations in the near future. Russia denies deploying troops to east Ukraine. Ukrainian generals said they would order heavy weapons back to the frontline to respond to what they described as a large-scale separatist offensive.

The withdrawal of high-calibre artillery and armour was a key part of the Minsk peace accords, and the move has raised fears that the ceasefire is close to total collapse.

<http://www.independent.ie/world-news/europe/ukraine-is-on-high-alert-for-a-fullscale-invasion-by-russia-31279410.html>

Japan's Ambassador says G7 sanctions against Russia will remain until Donbas conflict over, 05.06.2015

The ambassador says that the G7's solidarity with Ukraine is the Group's very important position. "And this means that we reaffirm our position vis-à-vis Russia. And it also means that we will never recognize the illegal annexation of Crimea and destabilizing actions by Russia," the ambassador said at a briefing in Kyiv.

"We will continue the policy of sanctions against Russia," he added.

The ambassador also expressed hope that there would be a dialogue between the G7 and Russia for a peaceful resolution to the conflict in the east of Ukraine and problems existing in the country. According to him, the Minsk Agreement is one of the ways to peacefully settle the situation in the east of Ukraine. If the situation in Donbas hasn't been resolved until the next year, Japan will make every effort to settle it peacefully during its G7 presidency in 2016, he said.

<http://www.unian.info/politics/1085749-japans-ambassador-says-g7-sanctions-against-russia-will-remain-until-donbas-conflict-over.html>

EU to extend Crimea sanctions, - Yeliseiev, 05.06.2015

Ambassador of Ukraine to the European Union Kostiantyn Yeliseiev announced that the EU will soon decide on extension of sanctions on Crimea for another year.

"This decision is another evidence of the EU' policy firmness regarding non-acknowledgment of Crimea and Sevastopol annexation by the Russian Federation," Yeliseiev announced.

As known, the current Crimea sanctions expire on June 23.

http://en.censor.net.ua/news/338872/eu_to_extend_crimea_sanctions_yeliseiev

Canadian PM Says Russia With Putin Shouldn't Rejoin G7, 05.06.2015

Harper said in an AP interview on June 4 that he didn't expect the G7 to ever allow Putin to return and Canada would "very, very strongly oppose Putin ever sitting around that [G7] table again."

The G7 suspended Russia from the grouping last year over its illegal annexation of the Crimean Peninsula and Moscow's involvement in the fighting in eastern Ukraine.

Harper's comments come ahead of the G7 summit in southern Germany on June 7-8.

He added that "Russia is more often than not trying deliberately to be a strategic rival, to deliberately counter the good things we're trying to achieve in the world than for no other reason than to just counter them."

Harper said Russian foreign policy was "to say black is white even though everyone knows the contrary" and that as long as they will "treat us like we are all stupid, there really is no point in having a dialogue with them."

<http://www.rferl.org/content/russia-canada-g7/27054595.html>

Soros Flaring Flames of Ukraine War to Force Regime Change in Russia, 05.06.2015

The confidential document, allegedly part of communications between Soros and Ukrainian authorities, was published by hacktivists from CyberBerkut, known for releasing embarrassing revelations with regard to the US meddling in Ukraine.

"While it would be more desirable to have Russia as a partner than an enemy, that is impossible as long as Putin persists in his current policies," Zuesse quoted Soros as saying. In other words, Moscow should be a partner but Russian leader has to go, the historian said referring to Soros' stance.

"Soros wants Ukrainians to get rid of Vladimir Putin, and this requires heavily arming Ukraine," Zuesse commented. Billionaire's logic is simple: Ukraine should receive lethal weapons from the West as a preparation for an offensive on Crimea.

The Ukrainian invasion of the Russian peninsula will not take place, "however the threat of it happening is important to Soros," Zuesse underscored, adding that the European Union, especially Germany and France will never support the US initiative of arming Ukrainians.

<http://sputniknews.com/politics/20150605/1022978438.html>

Gas-Transit Deal Shows Cost to Russia of Bypassing Ukraine, 05.06.2015

Gazprom has a "ship-or-pay" transit contract with Eustream SA until 2028, Vahram Chuguryan, a spokesman for the Slovak gas pipeline operator, said in a telephone interview on Thursday. That obliges the Russian gas producer to pay transit fees for a minimum of 50 billion cubic meters a year whether the commodity is shipped or not, he said.

Slovakia, a nation of 5.4 million people that shares a border with Ukraine, is a major point of entry for Russian gas into the European Union and southeastern Europe. Its role as a transit country will be diminished if Russia builds a planned link to southeastern Europe through Turkey. "We have not received any official information from the Russian side that gas transit will be stopped after 2020," Chuguryan said. "The contract is clear. It's not something we would need to negotiate." Gazprom's press service declined to comment.

Russia, the EU's largest provider of natural gas, has been looking for ways to avoid the Ukrainian pipeline network because of disputes over prices and allegations of unpaid debt. The loss of transit revenue would be an enormous blow to the Ukrainian economy, kept afloat by a bailout from the International Monetary Fund.

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2015-06-05/slovak-gas-transit-deal-shows-bypassing-ukraine-will-cost-russia>

Ukraine truce 'very fragile' – NATO chief, 05.06.2015

"What we have seen in the past 24 hours in Ukraine is a reminder that the truce is very fragile, that there are still violations, and that it is increasingly important to support all the efforts, all the initiatives, to respect the ceasefire," he said at a press conference on Thursday.

He called all parties of the conflict to honor Minsk accords, which in addition to ceasefire foresee withdrawal of the heavy armament from the contact line between two conflicting parties.

<http://en.interfax.com.ua/news/general/270055.html>

Yatseniuk accuses Firtash, Liovochkin of privatizing Federation of Employers of Ukraine, 05.06.2015

"I'd like to address the Federation of Employers of Ukraine which has become the federation of job-takers instead of federation of employers. This is one of the key agencies that is to protect the rights of those who work and who give jobs, and today it is privatized by oligarch Firtash and head of Yanukovich's presidential administration Liovochkin," Ukrainian Prime Minister Arseniy Yatseniuk said in the parliament during question time on Friday.

<http://en.interfax.com.ua/news/general/270112.html>

Poroshenko Vows to Speed Up Decision on Sending Peacekeepers to Ukraine, 05.06.2015

"A UN support office will be opened in Ukraine and their first task will be to study the possibility of deploying peacekeepers...I'll do everything in order to speed up this process," Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko said. The idea to deploy foreign military forces in Ukraine has been avidly discussed since mid-April. Poroshenko earlier called for sending UK peacekeepers and a UN mission to the war-ridden eastern regions.

<http://sputniknews.com/politics/20150605/1022979699.html>

Daryna Kalenyuk: Poroshenko attempts to control anti-corruption investigation and prosecution, 05.06.2015

Civil society organizations and international donors have had high hopes for the National Anti-Corruption Bureau, a law enforcement agency with a mandate to investigate the corrupt conduct of senior state officials. The bureau already has a director and his staff, a building for their operations, and the selection process for investigators has already begun. However, the bureau will be unable to start and develop any corruption investigations without the aid of anti-corruption prosecution, which has yet to be established. According to the Ukrainian Criminal Procedure Code, the prosecutor is obliged to provide procedural guidance and oversight of the work of the bureau's investigators. In other words, the prosecutor has the power to give obligatory instructions to the investigators, to change the actual participating investigators, and to approve the majority of court requests for obtaining evidence, like bank account information. The head of the anti-corruption prosecution must be selected through a competitive, independent selection procedure, conducted by an independent selection commission. The general prosecutor should be allowed to appoint only one candidate, approved by the selection commission. The selection procedure must be transparent and broadcast online. The head of the anti-corruption prosecution must have the right to appoint his own staff.

<http://www.kyivpost.com/opinion/op-ed/daryna-kalenyuk-poroshenko-attempts-to-control-anti-corruption-investigation-and-prosecution-390368.html>

http://ti-ukraine.org/en/system/files/docs/news/statement_national_corruption_prevention_agency.pdf

Swiss diplomat Tagliavini reportedly steps down as OSCE special envoy in Ukraine, 06.06.2015

"On Friday evening, the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs of Switzerland confirmed reports by SDA news agency broadcast by the Swiss TV that Tagliavini would like to cease to work as the Special Representative [of the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office in Ukraine] soon. However, neither the causes behind the decision nor the date of the resignation has been disclosed by the Department," srf.ch reported.

<http://www.unian.info/politics/1086242-swiss-diplomat-tagliavini-reportedly-steps-down-as-osce-special-envoy-in-ukraine.html>

Putin: self-proclaimed republics' readiness to remain in Ukraine is precondition for talks, 06.06.2015

The leaders of the self-proclaimed republics in eastern Ukraine have publicly stated that under certain conditions – meaning the implementation of the Minsk agreements – they are ready to consider themselves part of the Ukrainian state, Russian President Vladimir Putin said in an interview in an Italian newspaper on Saturday.

<http://www.digitalnewsworld.com/news/putin-selfproclaimed-republics-readiness-to-remain-in-ukraine-is-precondition-for-talks.html>
<http://en.kremlin.ru/events/president/news/49629>

Japanese PM says in Kyiv his country supports Ukraine's sovereignty, 06.06.2015

Prime Minister of Japan Shinzō Abe, who on Saturday was on the first visit to Ukraine in the history of the bilateral relations, stresses that his country strongly disapproves of a military resolution to the Donbas conflict and supports Ukraine's sovereignty.

"Prior to discussions at the Group of Seven summit, we have devoted much time to the exchange of opinions about this issue. I have once again explained our consistent position, which includes a resolute non-recognition of the use-of-force scenario, as well as respect for the rule of law, sovereignty and territorial integrity," the Japanese head of government said.

He said he regretted that the ceasefire in eastern Ukraine was violated, and hostilities happened occasionally. Shinzō Abe also stressed that all parties to the conflict – Russia and Ukraine – should consistently adhere to the Donbas peace agreements.

<http://www.freerepublic.com/focus/f-chat/3297908/posts>

Russia backs Ukraine peace deal but Kiev is blocking progress, says Putin, 06.06.2015

"Russia is interested in and will strive to ensure the full and unconditional implementation of the Minsk Agreements," Russian president, Vladimir Putin, said in an interview in Italian newspaper Corriere della Sera on Saturday, calling the February deal "right, just and feasible".

His comments came a few days after the most serious outbreak of fighting in eastern Ukraine since February's ceasefire, which has cast doubt on the durability of the peace deal. Putin said large-scale hostilities in eastern Ukraine had on the whole ceased and a pull-back of heavy weapons had been implemented, despite occasional shooting and casualties.

"It is time to begin implementing the Minsk Agreements," he said.

"The problem is that the current Kiev authorities don't even want to sit down to talks with them. And there is nothing we can do about it," he said. "Only our European and American partners can influence this situation." Putin also said that Kiev's cutting off of economic ties with the rebel territories was causing a humanitarian disaster, and said the European Union should fulfill its obligations to restore the banking system in the region.

<http://www.theguardian.com/world/2015/jun/06/russia-backs-ukraine-peace-deal-but-kiev-is-blocking-progress-says-putin>

Tusk hopes EU's formal decision on sanctions against Russia to be taken in near future, 08.06.2015

"When it comes to the Russian sanctions, of course, I think it's the most important thing today - because I want to be realistic - is to maintain sanctions against Russia because of this clear violation of the Minsk agreement," President of the European Council Donald Tusk said.

"I have no doubt and it's not my personal opinion that this is the moment when we have to reconfirm our position, and it's not about radicalism. Maybe I'm the first in the European Council with also my personal wish to have Russia as a partner not as an enemy, or a public and European problem. But in fact, we have no choice," he said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/tusk_hopes_eus_formal_decision_on_sanctions_against_russia_to_be_taken_in_near_future_332081

White house: U.S. will not supply Ukraine offensive weapons, 08.06.2015

The U.S. does not wish to supply offensive weapons to Ukraine, as this will not help the peaceful solution of the conflict in the East of the country, said White house press Secretary Josh Earnest.

"I can say that the position of the President (USA) has not changed, so as not to put additional offensive weapons to Ukraine.

<http://news.rin.ru/eng/news/113548/>

Canada allocates \$5 mln to Ukraine for training road police, 08.06.2015

"Canada has decided to allocate Ukraine \$5 million for training new Ukrainian road patrol police. This is a real help for Ukraine to become a strong and secure state," Ukraine, Prime Minister of Ukraine Arseniy Yatseniuk said after his meeting with his Canadian counterpart Stephen Harper, who was on a working visit to Ukraine.. According to Yatseniuk, Ukraine also expects the arrival of a team of Canadian soldiers to train the Ukrainian National Guard.

http://www.fm-tv.kiev.ua/main_news/61208/view/

Obama says there must be peaceful resolution to Donbas conflict, 08.06.2015

"We'll be talking about Russia and Ukraine, and the importance of us maintaining the sanctions regime to put pressure on Russian and separatist forces to implement fully the Minsk agreement," he said. "We think that there can be a peaceful, diplomatic resolution to this problem, but it's going to require that Europe, the United States and the Transatlantic Partnership, as well as the world, stay vigilant and stay focused on the importance of upholding the principles of territorial integrity and sovereignty," Obama said.

<http://www.unian.info/politics/1086532-obama-says-there-must-be-peaceful-resolution-to-donbas-conflict.html>

G7 countries agreed to tighten sanctions against Russia if Donbas situation gets worse, 08.06.2015

At a press conference on Monday following the G7 summit in Elmau, Merkel expressed general readiness to impose new sanctions against Russia and unwillingness to do so.

As she said before the summit, the West is still connecting the possibility of prolonging the sanctions against Russia with implementation of Minsk agreements signed this February. Similar statement was delivered by the Chancellor together with U.S. President Barack Obama. They said sanctions against Russia should be effective until full implementation of Minsk agreements. Later the Kremlin commented on the summit participants statements. President Putin's press secretary Dmitrii Peskov said the summit declarations were not "new theses."

http://en.censor.net.ua/news/339252/g7_countries_agreed_to_tighten_sanctions_against_russia_if_donbas_situation_gets_worse

http://en.censor.net.ua/news/339269/g7_to_aid_ukraine_in_implementation_of_reforms_german_chancellor_says

Defense minister: more than 150 people killed, including 50 civilians, since February 15, 08.06.2015

According to Poltorak, the recent battle in Maryinka demonstrates that "the militants and their Russian handlers are not willing to comply with Minsk agreements," and these agreements are once again in jeopardy. In addition, the minister said, the militants impede the work of the OSCE observer mission and are not withdrawing their heavy weapons.

The number of militants' attacks has more than doubled compared to April, while since the announcement of the ceasefire on February 15, the militants have violated it more than 4,000 thousand times, while also carrying out 120 attacks on Ukrainian residential areas.

"As a result, more than 100 members of the Armed Forces of Ukraine have been killed, and over 50 civilians," Poltorak said.

<http://www.unian.info/war/1086587-defense-minister-more-than-150-people-killed-including-50-civilians-since-february-15.html>

Russia must pay 'high price' for aggression in Donbas: Ukraine-NATO Parliamentary Council, 08.06.2015

Canadian Senator Anita Raynell Andreychuk was in Kyiv for the bi-annual conference on Monday. The meeting was attended by Ukrainian government officials.

Anita Raynell Andreychuk: "Ukraine is fighting not only for its own future, but also in defence of freedom, independence and international law".

Andreychuk argued that Russia took a strategic choice after seeing it's western neighbor as a threat after the EuroMaidan Revolution in February last year – and sought to illegally annex Crimean peninsula and launch a campaign in Ukraine's industrial east.

The NATO Parliamentary Assembly representative went onto pledge that only the Ukrainian people can decide whether the country should join the NATO alliance.

<http://uatoday.tv/politics/russia-must-pay-high-price-for-aggression-in-donbas-ukraine-nato-parliamentary-council-434898.html>

Russia is no longer strategic partner of EU, 10.06.2015

The EU must critically re-assess its relations with Russia, which have been profoundly damaged by Russia's deliberate violation of democratic principles, fundamental values and international law with its violent action and destabilization of its neighbors, EP rapporteur Gabrielius Landsbergis said on Wednesday.

"With its aggression against Ukraine and annexation of Crimea, the Russian leadership has put our relations at a crossroads. It is up to the Kremlin to decide now which way it will go – cooperation or deepening alienation," Landsbergis said.

"I am convinced that the Russian people, as all of us, want peace, not war. A change in Russia can, and will, come from within. Meanwhile we must send a strong message to the Russian leadership that we stand united with the victims of its aggression and those who stand for the values the EU is founded on," he added. The resolution he steered through parliament was passed by 494 votes to 135, with 69 abstentions.

http://www.fm-tv.kiev.ua/main_news/61344/view/

Russia defeats during Normandy Format meeting, 11.06.2015

During the Normandy Format meeting, Ukraine, Germany and France have categorically ruled out the possibility that the representatives of the so-called "DPR" and "LPR" may join the Trilateral Contact Group. Russian diplomats have had very unpleasant conversation.

"For the Russians, the meeting was not a cakewalk, as they received diplomatic iron 'no' on three key points," Ukrainian Foreign Ministry Ambassador at Large Dmytro Kuleba wrote.

"No to shelling and attacks by terrorists and Russian troops. It is not a secret for anyone in the world that the cause of the deterioration of the security situation in the ATO area is the actions of the 'DPR' and 'LPR' militants, as well as the Russian military," Kuleba said.

http://www.fm-tv.kiev.ua/main_news/61410/view/

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/russia_receives_three_no_on_key_issues_during_normandy_format_meeting_332195

Sanctions against Russia should be extended and tightened - EP resolution, 11.06.2015

This has been reported in the European Parliament resolution on military and strategic situation in the Black Sea region after the illegal annexation of Crimea by Russia that was adopted in Strasbourg on Thursday, an Ukrinform correspondent reported.

"The European Parliament believes that the sanctions should be extended and even tightened if Russia does not perform the Minsk agreements on ceasefire and continues destabilizing situation in the east of Ukraine, as well as the illegal annexation of Crimea," the document says. MEPs expressed the need to consider the possible supply of defense weapons to Ukraine and help the state to strengthen its defense capabilities.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/sanctions_against_russia_should_be_extended_and_tightened_ep_resolution_332182

Marinka events prove that Russia is getting ready to launch an aggression, Turchynov says, 12.06.2015

He said that the terrorists' attempt to assault and seize territories near Marinka was a total failure. According to Turchynov, Ukrainian military demonstrated they were ready to repel any assault at any time, and terrorists have suffered serious losses. "We do not rule out that this was a fighting reconnaissance; the Russians wanted to check how fast the Ukrainian army would react to a military provocation," the NSDC Secretary said.

Turchynov reminded that under the Minsk agreements, Ukraine had withdrawn heavy weapons from the demarcation line, and this was exactly what the terrorists wanted - to redeploy tank units and artillery under cover in order to battle through the Ukrainian positions.

"The Ukrainian Army showed enough mobility and efficiency of its operations, and it was like a cold shower for those who had prepared the provocation and the large-scale offensive. I am sure they will be now correcting their provocative plans," Turchynov said.

http://en.censor.net.ua/news/339774/marinka_events_prove_that_russia_is_getting_ready_to_launch_an_aggression_turchynov_says

U.S. envoy: Other than UN Security Council mechanisms needed to resolve Ukraine problem, 12.06.2015

"We can't get out of the [UN] Security Council what we need, and the Security Council doesn't live up to its responsibilities because it has given a country – that is an aggressor – in 2014 and 2015 this privilege of having a veto, but we can work through other mechanisms," US permanent Representative to the United Nations, Ambassador Samantha Power she said.

"And the other mechanism <...> is Western democracy, is Europe and the United States, and others who have – within their power – the ability to stand up for these norms and to put in place measures that will definitely take their toll on the Russian economy in the first instance and – over time – will take their toll on the Russian calculus," she added.

According to her, "workarounds" need to be found to resolve Ukraine's problem.

In her words, Russia uses its right to veto at the UN Security Council not only in case with Ukraine, but also with Syria, for example.

<http://ukrnews.today/u-s-envoy-other-than-un-security-council-mechanisms-needed-to-resolve-ukraine-problem/>

Poroshenko pledges to restore ties with Donbas after Minsk fully implemented, 12.06.2015

Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko says that economic ties with temporarily occupied territory in Donetsk and Luhansk regions will be restored in the event significant progress is made in the implementation of the Minsk agreements.

"We want and are ready at any time to fully restore economic ties with the temporarily occupied territory in Donetsk and Luhansk regions, to lift all internal barriers and limitations [earlier imposed] on the movement of people and freight. But there is one condition: we will have to regain control of the external border as it is stipulated in the Minsk agreements. If not, there should be no complaints about checks along the line of contact... Until there is no progress in the Minsk Implementation Plan, the level of economic ties will remain at the current level," the president said at a meeting with activists of Donetsk region in Mariupol on Thursday.

<http://ukrnews.today/poroshenko-pledges-to-restore-ties-with-donbas-after-minsk-fully-implemented/>

Russia is preparing to invade Ukraine – Turchynov, 12.06.2015

"The issues of conflict again returning to an active military phase is still on the table. Moreover, it's very relevant, especially in the coming days. According to our information, Russia is preparing for an invasion, for unleashing aggression. And that's why the task of our military, our defense complex is to prepare for that," Turchynov said in an interview on Channel 5, which was broadcast on Thursday.

<http://en.interfax.com.ua/news/general/271834.html>

Washington accuses Russia of 'outright lies' on Ukraine, 12.06.2015

Samantha Power's address to a crowd of hundreds in Kiev delivered one of Washington's toughest messages to Moscow since the warring sides grudgingly signed off on a loosely defined truce in February that threatened to collapse last week. Her emotional 70-minute speech also came a year into a presidency Petro Poroshenko has used to try to wipe out decades of crippling corruption and anaemic economic growth that left Ukraine reliant on Russian help. Power said Russia launched the war in Ukraine's vital eastern industrial heartland 14 months ago in order to drain the new government's remaining financial resources and undermine its public support. She charged that the Kremlin then tried to disguise its agenda through a torrent of media propaganda and disingenuous speeches at global venues such as the United Nations Security Council -- messages that helped President Vladimir Putin's domestic support touch record highs. "The focus on Ukraine in the Security Council is important because it gives me the chance – on behalf of the United States – to lay out the mounting evidence of Russia's aggression, its obfuscation, and its outright lies," said Power.

<http://www.rappler.com/world/regions/europe/96147-washington-russia-outright-lies-ukraine>

Poland Looking Forward to Ukraine's EU Membership, 12.06.2015

The EU is waiting for Ukraine to become a fully-fledged member country of the union and looking for ways to resolve the Ukrainian crisis, Polish Foreign Minister Grzegorz Schetyna said during the Wroclaw Global Forum in Poland. The ongoing political turmoil in Ukraine and the Donbass crisis is only strengthening unity in Europe. He also rebuffed as unjustified the criticism of Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko's policy. "Those who put Poroshenko's political course in doubts, his cooperation with the Ukrainian parliament and the efforts the country makes to implement economic reforms, wish Ukraine worse," Schetyna said.

<http://sputniknews.com/politics/20150612/1023286627.html>

HILLARY: 'I'VE STOOD UP TO' PUTIN, 13.06.2015

Democratic presidential candidate and former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton boasted "I've stood up to adversaries like Putin" during her campaign announcement on Saturday.

Hillary said, "I've stood up to adversaries like Putin, and reinforced allies like Israel. And I was in the situation room on the day we got bin laden. But I know, I know we have to be smart, as well as strong. Meeting today's global challenges requires every element of America's power, including skillful diplomacy, economic influence, and building partnerships to improve lives around the world with people, not just their governments."

<http://www.breitbart.com/video/2015/06/13/hillary-ive-stood-up-to-putin/>

Saakashvili wants to reduce Odesa region's administrative staff by over 90%, 14.06.2015

"Our structure consists of 800 people. Not more than 50 are needed to work normally, to be honest. I used to visit Odesa many times, but I don't know anybody. This is my weak and strong point at the same time. We will look for new people. Some good people work for the administration now, but in general we'd like to see new faces," Saakashvili said.

He also asked participants in the congress to help form a team from "absolutely new people."

A contest has been announced already to hire personnel, he said. A fund will be set up soon to pay decent salaries to the members of the new team.

Saakashvili mentioned an audit department as an example – it is large in number, but its auditors in fact do not carry out any inspection.

<http://www.unian.info/politics/1089212-saakashvili-wants-to-reduce-odesa-regions-administrative-staff-by-over-90.html>

EU no longer a strategic partner for Russia. Ukraine still is, for now..., 15.06.2015

According to the document adopted by the European Parliament, the Russian Federation cannot be considered as a strategic partner of the EU member states after Crimea's annexation and the continuing escalation of the Donbas conflict. "Russia openly opposes the international democratic community and the rule of law, in particular, trying to redraw Europe's borders by force," reads the resolution. Also the European Parliament drew attention to the "atmosphere of hatred directed against opposition activists, human rights activists, minorities and neighboring countries, and the deterioration of the human rights and the rule of law" in Russia, itself. In this context, MEPs called for "making a critical reassessment of relations with Russia."

<http://uknews.today/eu-no-longer-a-strategic-partner-for-russia-ukraine-still-is-for-now/>

Kremlin wants Kiev to say whether it considers itself legal successor to former government, 15.06.2015

"When we hear such statements [by Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko], first of all we want to know whether the current authorities denounce their liabilities, of which we are most concerned about their financial liabilities," Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov told journalists, commenting on Poroshenko's pronouncements that the Russian three-billion-dollar loan to Ukraine was a "bribe" to former head of state Viktor Yanukovich for his abandoning association with the European Union. "Viktor Yanukovich, who was Ukraine's president at that time [in 2013] was toppled in an illegal and anti-constitutional state coup," Peskov noted. "So far, we have no answer to the question [about legal succession]. Frankly speaking, I find it difficult to say whether Poroshenko's words could be taken as an answer to that question."

<http://tass.ru/en/russia/800909>

Pushkov: More sanctions against Russia won't help Ukraine, 15.06.2015

"If the West imposes new sanctions against Russia, it will not help Ukraine, but will result in the removal of Russia from the West in politics and in the economy," Pushkov wrote.

<http://www.unian.info/politics/1089346-pushkov-more-sanctions-against-russia-wont-help-ukraine.html>

Russia can resolve the situation in Donbas in one day, - Nuland, 15.06.2015

Assistant Secretary of State Victoria Nuland noted that the U.S. efforts were focused on how to restore peace and stability in Ukraine during the reign of Obama's administration so the next president does not face it. Nuland stated that Russia had decided to destabilize the east of Ukraine and had made its choice in favor of separatism. The situation can be resolved in a day, a week, a month, with one right decision. According to her, relations between the U.S. and the Russian Federation will not improve until the situation continues to be a source of insecurity and instability not only for Ukraine but also for the entire region.

<http://en.censor.net.ua/news/340185/russia-can-resolve-the-situation-in-donbas-in-one-day-nuland>

Failure to provide weapons to Ukraine is one of the most shameful chapters in American history – McCain, 16.06.2015

Influential US senator, one of the leaders of the Republican party John McCain called the policy of the current White House administration on not providing weapons to Ukraine one of the most shameful things in the history of the United States.

"But, let me just say that one of the most shameful chapters in American history is our failure to provide the Ukrainians with weapons to defend themselves while Vladimir Putin dismembers their country," the Arizona senator said. McCain stated that Ukrainians do not ask U.S. boots on the ground and further added the failure to arm the Ukrainians was "disgraceful." The senator also called this problem the greatest concern for the U.S. policy.

<http://en.censor.net.ua/news/340330/failure-to-provide-weapons-to-ukraine-is-one-of-the-most-shameful-chapters-in-american-history-mccain>

Poroshenko confirmed escalation of conflict in Donbas, 17.06.2015

President Petro Poroshenko had a phone conversation with President of Finland Sauli Niinistö. The parties discussed the situation in the Donbas. President Poroshenko stated the escalation of the conflict and the absence of real progress in the fulfillment of the Minsk agreements, particularly regarding the liberation of hostages. The parties also underlined importance of considering the issue of prolongation of sanctions by the EU. Poroshenko also emphasized the necessity of compliance with the fundamental principles laid down in the Helsinki Final Act. "Illegal annexation of Crimea and aggression of Russia in the Donbas became brutal violations of these fundamental principles, particularly territorial integrity and sovereignty of an independent state," the president said.

<http://en.censor.net.ua/news/340447/poroshenko-confirmed-escalation-of-conflict-in-donbas>

Stoltenberg, Breelove say Russia's policies 'a challenge for NATO and world order', 17.06.2015

The Allied Shield NATO military exercises will demonstrate that NATO is able to deploy combat forces anywhere within NATO's territory within days should a crisis break out, or if allies are threatened. These exercises will show the world that this alliance is ready, willing and able to deal with whatever challenges it faces, Stoltenberg and Breedlove wrote in their article. "The exercises are necessary because the world is changing. After the Cold War, we entered a new era of freedom and democracy based on internationally recognized rules," they said. During this era there was an unprecedented level of international cooperation that has brought prosperity to billions of people around the world, but now "this order is challenged."

"To our south, Islamic State and other extremist groups are spreading chaos and inspiring terrorist attacks from Paris to Texas. To the east, Russia is imposing its will on its neighbors with scant regard for their sovereignty." In this new environment, NATO must be ready to make and implement decisions quickly, the NATO officials said.

<http://www.unian.info/world/1090312-stoltenberg-breelove-say-russias-policies-a-challenge-for-nato-and-world-order.html>

'Russia and US far too powerful, cooperation has to be possible', 17.06.2015

Jeffery Sommers: Of course, there is some significant pressure that's emanating from both Poland and the Baltic States for the US to have an increasing commitment with NATO troops on their respective territories. In some measure, it is actually a quite measured response. In other words, I don't think we should be too alarmed by this. On one level, it's rather unfortunate that the US didn't honor its verbal commitment to not expand NATO beyond the original positioning of troops in Germany, as the German Democratic Republic was brought into NATO with the unification of Germany in 1990. Now that we do have these additional countries such as Poland and the Baltic States within NATO, I think that this is a fairly measured response.

The number of troops, roughly we're talking about 5,000 troops - is not enough to pose any threat to Russia, but instead it's kind of a reprise of the mutual assured destruction policies of the Cold War: if Russia was ever to intervene the Baltic States, something which I think is extremely unlikely, then of course that would trigger a greater US response given that it has troops there. So I can see some reason for concerns here, but at the same time we should remain calm.

<http://rt.com/op-edge/267511-nato-eastern-europe-russia-military/>

Canada's Ambassador to Ukraine's leadership: Do not assign dull people to be responsible for cooperation with NATO, 17.06.2015

The problem for the Euro-Atlantic integration of Ukraine is dull people in the position of power. This was stated by Canadian Ambassador to Ukraine Roman Vashchuk during the Ukraine-NATO Partnership Diagnostics conference. "I have a tip for Ukraine: do not put dull people on posts responsible for cooperation with NATO," he said. "There are a lot of problems at the level of middle management. When I come to NATO office, I can talk about the fantastic reforms in Ukraine, but in response I hear that the Ukrainian authorities with whom they communicate do not respond for weeks and months," Vashchuk said. At the same time, he noted positive changes in the Ministry of Defense. Earlier, Deputy Defense Minister on European integration, former ambassador to NATO, Ihor Dolhov said that Ukraine should not rely on the military intervention of NATO but shall reform the army.

http://en.censor.net.ua/news/340409/canadas_ambassador_to_ukraines_leadership_do_not_assign_dull_people_to_be_responsible_for_cooperation

Decentralization to help Ukraine move forward - EU Commissioner Hahn, 18.06.2015

EU Commissioner for Enlargement and Enlargement Negotiations Johannes Hahn said this during a joint briefing with Chairman of the Verkhovna Rada Volodymyr Hroisman on Thursday. "A lot of EU countries have a successful experience in the area of decentralization, so we believe that this process will help Ukraine to move forward, will contribute to the European integration, and Ukraine will be able to achieve significantly better results than in the past," Hahn said. According to him, the EU experience shows that countries thrive only when their regions are encouraged to develop their own potential. At the same time, he said that the EU "appreciates the legislative work being done by the Verkhovna Rada," but emphasized that Ukraine needs to "ensure effective implementation of these decisions." Hroisman, in his turn, noted that the Ukrainian parliament has a responsible attitude to decision-making.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/decentralization_to_help_ukraine_move_forward_eu_commissioner_hahn_332403

NATO Chief Jens Stoltenberg Unveils Biggest Build-Up Since Cold War, 18.06.2015

NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg has said the alliance was increasing its pressure on Russia by massively boosting the deployment of troops and military assets in Eastern Europe and the Mediterranean. "NATO is facing a new security environment, both caused by violence, turmoil, instability in the south — ISIL in Iraq, Syria, North Africa — but also caused by the behaviour of a more assertive Russia, which has used force to change borders, to annex Crimea and to destabilize eastern Ukraine," Stoltenberg said.

<http://sputniknews.com/europe/20150618/1023519120.html>

Frozen conflict in the Donbas is advantageous for Putin, - Khodorkovsky, 18.06.2015

Russian oppositionist Mikhail Khodorkovsky announced that neither halt nor escalation of the military conflict in Ukraine is advantageous for Russian President Vladimir Putin at the moment. "End of the conflict in the Eastern Ukraine is not a good solution for the Russian authorities, for Vladimir Putin in particular, at the moment. For number of nationalists who are currently deployed there will not be grateful to Putin upon return to Russia," Khodorkovsky said. However, he also suggests that "enlargement of the conflict zone is not a winning situation for him (Putin - ed.) as well, because the number of these potentially destabilizing elements will only increase." According too Khodorkovsky, the freezing of the Donbas conflict might be a solution to this matter for Putin. "I believe that freezing of the conflict will be a solution to this matter at this stage, and unfortunately, this is the only real solution as of now, as for me," Russian oppositionist noted.

http://en.censor.net.ua/news/340520/frozen_conflict_in_the_donbas_is_advantageous_for_putin_khodorkovsky

US, EU Ready Tough Russia Sanctions, in Case They're Needed, 18.06.2015

Determined to prevent another Moscow-led rebel advance, the United States and European governments have prepared a new round of penalties targeting Russia's energy and financial sectors as part of a sanctions-in-waiting strategy that officials hope will help the West respond immediately if insurgents push deeper into Ukraine.

The penalties could start with banning more Russian government officials and businessmen from traveling and doing business in the West, U.S. and European officials said. But they can climb dramatically to include new measures to crimp the country's all-important fuel exports, cut Russian banks off from international financial transactions and severely limit the capacity of Russian businesses to engage in lucrative business deals overseas. The Americans and the Europeans are working off the same menu of contingency measures, the officials said, though there is no agreement yet on what level of response would be appropriate for each type of infraction. Secretary of State John Kerry told reporters this week that imposing additional sanctions on Russia "depends on what happens on the ground" and on President Vladimir Putin's support for fully implementing a February ceasefire in Ukraine. If violence stops and separatists can reach a political agreement with Ukraine's Western-backed government in Kiev, sanctions can be rolled back, he said. But, "if President Putin chooses to play a double game and continues to allow the separatists to press forward, then obviously we have a very big challenge ahead of us." The European Union will extend its current penalties on Russia next week, though officials said there is no consensus among its 28 members of new measures.

http://www.nytimes.com/aponline/2015/06/18/us/politics/ap-us-russia-sanctions.html?_r=2

Poroshenko says Russia changes tactics towards Ukraine, 18.06.2015

"Russia has actually altered its tactics," Poroshenko stated throughout a conference with elderly policemen of the Safety and security Solution of Ukraine, or the SBU, throughout which the head of state presented acting principal of the SBU Vasyl Hrytsak, that had actually functioned as the SBU's very first replacement chairman before his consultation, inning accordance with the governmental press solution. Poroshenko says that if earlier the Russian Alliance relied on armed forces success along the get in touch with line, it has actually now established a job to magnify subversive task inside Ukraine in the middle of the maximized effectiveness and also battle capability of the Ukrainian military. "A fully grown, battle-trying, reputable and also skilled|knowledgeable and also reputable expert– I make sure that of these your characteristics will certainly assist the SBU satisfy the concern jobs, which have actually been established and also stated in present legislations and also the authorized National Safety Technique," Poroshenko stated, attending to Hrytsak.

<http://journalfocus.com/2015/06/poroshenko-says-russia-changes-tactics-towards-ukraine/>

New Russian offensive possible in Donbas - Presidential Administration, 18.06.2015

The probability of an escalation of Russian military aggression against Ukraine continues to exist, as evidenced by the presence of Russian troops on the country's border and by the activity of subversive groups in Ukrainian cities. Deputy Head of the Presidential Administration of Ukraine Andriy Taranov said this during the presentation of the report on the situation in Ukraine on Wednesday in Washington, an Ukrinform correspondent reported. "I want to say that, regarding the number of Russian troops deployed in the territory of Ukraine, the probability of [further] aggression exists," the Ukrainian representative said. However, he says that all the previous cases of aggression on the part of the Russian Federation took place at a time when there were subversive organizations in the territory of [Ukrainian] cities, ready to meet the troops." At the same time Taranov noted that in the Mariupol sector there was a preventive work aimed at neutralizing saboteurs conducted. "At the moment there are no pro-Russian elements in Mariupol. Mariupol wants to be a part of Ukraine," he said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/new_russian_offensive_possible_in_donbas_presidential_administration_332404

Europe may give Ukraine another 70 mln euros, 18.06.2015

The European Union will provide Ukraine with additional funds, taking into account progress in the rule of law. European Commissioner for European Neighbourhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiations Johannes Hahn said this during joint statements with Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko. "I am honored to announce that there will be additional funds due to the fact that Ukraine has reached a significant progress in ensuring the rule of law," he said.

However, the commissioner noted that Ukraine has a lot of work, and the main issue is the fight against corruption. "We can allocate additional 70 million euros," he said.

At the same time, he added that these funds would be provided under certain conditions, so Ukraine had to ensure the implementation of these conditions.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/europe_may_give_ukraine_another_70 mln_euros_332399

Minsk-2 not broken, but tension increasing, Latvian FM says, 18.06.2015

"I think that what we are witnessing [in relations between the West and the East] is unprecedented since 1962, since [the] Cuban missile crisis," Latvian Foreign Minister Edgars Rinkevics said. According to him, Moscow's nuclear rhetoric demonstrated the need for more NATO troops and equipment in the region, and that the military alliance must "be prepared for all kinds of contingencies." "It shows that we have to be really prepared to respond as NATO to such kinds of threats through more troops, more military equipment in the Baltic States, in Poland," the minister said. Rinkevics also stressed that the violation of the peace agreements in Donbas had led to a tightening of sanctions against Russia, amid rising tensions in the region. "We cannot say that the Minsk agreement is totally broken, but what we have seen recently is that the level of tension is increasing," Rinkevics said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/minsk_2_not_broken_but_tension_increasing_latvian_fm_says_332400

Putin: West already supplies arms to Kiev, but Moscow optimistic about Minsk deal, 18.06.2015

"According to our data, weapons are already being supplied [to Kiev]," the Russian leader said at a press conference following his meeting with Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orban. "This is not surprising. I am convinced that whoever is supplying the weapons, the number of victims may grow, but the outcome will not change. The vast majority of soldiers serving in the Ukrainian army have no motivation to participate in an internecine conflict away from home, while the Donbass militia have every reason to defend their families." Putin urged the Ukrainian government "not to prevent the soldiers in the Debaltsevo cauldron from surrendering, or at least not punish those who simply want to save their lives." Up to 5,000 Ukrainian troops are thought to be surrounded in this key area deep inside rebel territory. "Our mission is to save the lives of those caught in the cauldron, and to make sure that the situation does not inflame relations between Kiev and the rebels further," Putin said.

<http://rt.com/news/233231-putin-ukraine-conflict-west/>

EU to extend sanctions against Crimea without any discussion, 19.06.2015

The decision to extend economic sanctions against Crimea will be adopted without any discussion at the EU Council on Economic and Financial Affairs in Luxembourg on Friday. Thus, the agenda of the meeting includes the issue on amendments to the EU Council decision "concerning restrictive measures in response to the annexation of Crimea and Sevastopol" in the A section that means this issue will be adopted without any discussion. This issue was agreed on June 17 at a meeting of the Committee of EU Permanent Representatives. According to the EU diplomatic source, it will be approved before the end of the week, and it will not be submitted for a meeting of the EU Council for Foreign Affairs on June 22. "There is a political decision to extend the EU measures on Crimea for one year. It does not require debate," the spokesman said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/eu_to_extend_sanctions_against_crimea_without_any_discussion_332410

Russia's invasion of Ukraine to unblock neutrality of NATO - ex-head of Ukraine's Foreign Intelligence Service, 19.06.2015

"During my last visit to Europe, I spoke with NATO representatives from Germany, Belgium, Poland, and France - the people who form the policy of the Alliance member states. While talking, I heard assurances that NATO would remain neutral to the last and support the peace process by helping Ukraine with political means, but not applying arming. However, if Russia starts a blatant attack, NATO will unblock its neutrality," former chairman of the Foreign Intelligence Service of Ukraine, head of social and political movement "For the Future of Ukraine" Mykola Malomuzh said.

In case Russia starts large-scale invasion of Ukraine, its army will move directly to the border with NATO. "And the Alliance will take it not simply as a threat to Ukraine, but as a threat to the NATO countries. There will be a preparation for global war," Malomuzh stressed.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/russias_invasion_of_ukraine_to_unblock_neutrality_of_nato_ex_head_of_ukraines_foreign_intelligence_service_332418

Belarus voices concern about flow of illegal arms from Ukraine, 19.06.2015

"Unfortunately, Ukraine has in fact free circulation of weapons, and it is posing a threat for our country. If we almost did not record any attempts to smuggle arms on the border with Poland and Lithuania, it is an issue on the Ukrainian sec of the border. Arms smuggling cases are rare, but they did occur. We must not to allow any penetration of weapons into our peaceful country by all means," said Chairman of Belarus Customs Committee Yuri Senko.

According to him, after the Belarus Border Service had organized an additional detachment on the Belarus-Ukraine border, Belarus customs committee has tasked its personnel to deal with this issue. Control measures relating to the vehicles inspections have been also strengthened.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/belarus_voices_concern_about_flow_of_illegal_arms_from_ukraine_332419

Worsening of situation in Donbas to lead to further sanctions against Russia - U.S. State Department, 19.06.2015

"Russia bears direct responsibility for these aggressive actions by combined Russian-separatist forces, which are unacceptable and contravene those agreements. Any attempts to seize additional Ukrainian territory will be met with increased cost [for Russia] ... The sanctions have a negative impact on Russia's economy and should be continued and strengthened in the case of deterioration of the situation," U.S. State Department spokesman John Kirby said. He also noted that Washington was closely following the situation in Ukraine and the Russian troops stayed there. "We're still trying to gather more information about them. But it is certainly a continuation of the kind of support to Russian separatists that we've seen in the past and, again, another - more violations of international law on Ukrainian territory. We don't have an exact laydown of the separatist forces. But when I say combined separatists, obviously that connotes that there are some Russian force components to it. But it's hard to characterize exactly what that means and how many there are," Kirby said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/worsening_of_situation_in_donbas_to_lead_to_further_sanctions_against_russia_us_state_department_332420

Amid Russian Threats, Dutch Foreign Minister Says NATO BALTOPS 2015 Exercise Is A Warning To Russia, 19.06.2015

The comments from Bert Koenders contradict a NATO statement earlier this month that the exercise was not aimed at any country in particular. It also comes after Russia announced plans to boost the nuclear arsenal in its Baltic exclave of Kaliningrad. "There are NATO member states in Eastern Europe that feel threatened by what is happening in eastern Ukraine. These drills are also a warning to President Putin," Koenders said. "This is not an aggressive approach. This is a combination of pressure and dialogue, rather than a lack of judgment when dealing with Putin." Russia, which under Putin's leadership annexed Crimea in March last year and has remained involved in the 15-month war in eastern Ukraine, also aims to increase the number of its intercontinental ballistic missiles, which can carry nuclear warheads. The U.S. has condemned Russia's move by saying it amounted to "nuclear saber-rattling." The BALTOPS exercise included 14 NATO members plus three countries not part of the alliance -- Sweden, Finland and Georgia -- which have all been the subject of speculation that they may join the U.S.-led alliance in the face of increasing Russian hostility. Georgia, which is by far the most keen to join, went to war with Russia in 2008 over the regions of South Ossetia and Abkhazia. Finland and Sweden have been partners in NATO drills.

<http://www.ibtimes.com/amid-russian-threats-dutch-foreign-minister-says-nato-baltops-2015-exercise-warning-1975399>

France hopes Donbas conflict to be resolved by year-end, 19.06.2015

"French Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Development Laurent Fabius will meet with German, Ukrainian and Russian colleagues in Paris on June 23 to summarize the implementation of the Minsk agreements, the purpose of which is to resolve the crisis before the end of the year," French Foreign Ministry spokesman Romain Nadal said in respect to the agenda of the coming Normandy Four meeting.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/france_hopes_donbas_conflict_to_be_resolved_by_year_end_332416

NATO Secretary General: Russia Has Transferred Well Over 1,000 Pieces Of Heavy Equipment To Separatists, 19.06.2015

NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg tells about the alliance's concerns about the Kremlin's nuclear rhetoric, international military agreements that are violated by Russia, and about the allies' reaction to Moscow's "sabre-rattling." We have a strong and long-standing political and practical partnership with Ukraine. We have an intensive political dialogue through the NATO-Ukraine Commission. We strongly support Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity. The NATO allies do not and will not recognise Russia's illegal and illegitimate "annexation" of Crimea. NATO is also providing practical support to Ukraine, as you pursue your reforms. We are making progress on the trust funds we set up to support your reforms and to help rehabilitate soldiers hurt in the fighting in the east. We have deployed additional personnel to the NATO liaison office in Kyiv and sent experts to the Ministry of Defence. NATO allies are also providing significant support bilaterally. All allies agree that Russia continues to support the separatists in eastern Ukraine with forces, equipment and training. This was last confirmed by all 28 allied foreign ministers in our joint statement when we met in Antalya in May. In recent months, Russia has transferred well over 1,000 pieces of heavy equipment to the separatists. This has included tanks, artillery and advanced air defence systems. We know this from our own intelligence. But there is also evidence published by the media, NGOs and from Russian soldiers themselves that Russia is supporting the separatists. Think tanks have also published reports, most recently the Atlantic Council, which gathered proof from various open sources, including satellite imagery. So the overall picture is clear. As you remember, Russia first claimed that its troops had not been involved in Crimea, then admitted that the annexation had long been planned and conducted by Russian troops, and President Putin even gave medals to the forces involved.

http://en.censor.net.ua/resonance/340750/nato_secretary_general_russia_has_transferred_well_over_1000_pieces_of_heavy_equipment_to_separatists

US to provide Ukraine with antitank weapons, - Presidential Administration, 19.06.2015

"U.S. authorities are keen to support Ukraine and provide it with antitank weapons," Taranov said adding that Ukraine expects counter-battery and radio-electronic devices, as well as systems of communications. The official also confirmed information about the U.S. Senate having made a decision on granting Ukraine \$300 million for military needs.

http://en.censor.net.ua/news/340702/us_to_provide_ukraine_with_antitank_weapons_presidential_administration

US says it holds Russia directly responsible for militant aggression in Donbas, 19.06.2015

New spokesman of the U.S. State Department John Kirby said on Thursday, according to Radio Liberty. He said that any attempt by the militants to occupy more Ukrainian territory would lead to "an increase in the price" of such Russian actions, that is, to a strengthening of sanctions. The situation has recently been tense on the front line in the east of Ukraine. Russian-backed militants are constantly firing on the positions of the Ukrainian troops and settlements in order to provoke return fire from the Ukrainian side, the Ukrainian military says. Some analysts say that the militant forces and Russian troops in the east of Ukraine are preparing for a new offensive to try to increase the amount of territory they control in the Donbas.

<http://uatoday.tv/politics/us-says-it-holds-russia-directly-responsible-for-militant-aggression-in-donbas-442092.html>

NATO: Russia now using nuclear weapons as tool in strategy of intimidation, 19.06.2015

"Russia has begun to use nuclear weapons as a tool in its strategy of intimidation," Stoltenberg said. The recent use of nuclear rhetoric by Russia raises deep concerns about compliance with the Treaty on elimination of intermediate-range and shorter-range missiles. Such actions and rhetoric do not promote transparency and predictability in the context of security environment, which has changed dramatically due to the aggressive actions of Russia in Ukraine."

"NATO is a defensive alliance, and NATO nuclear doctrine is fully consistent with the Treaty on Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons," he said. "We have revised our nuclear policy, and decided at the summit in Chicago three years ago that it was appropriate."

<http://world.korupciya.com/2015/06/19/nato-russia-now-using-nuclear-weapons-as-tool-in-strategy-of-intimidation/>

US Participation in 'Normandy' Group May Destroy Format – Kremlin, 20.06.2015

Accession of new mediators to the so-called Normandy group on Ukraine reconciliation, in particular from the US, may destroy the format, Kremlin Chief of Staff Sergei Ivanov said. "Basically, we could do it by supplementing the Normandy Format with one more party, the United States. However, the Normandy Format is so fragile now that this step would be simply risky," Ivanov said.

<http://sputniknews.com/politics/20150620/1023621628.html>

Kremlin: U.S., Russia to jointly coordinate Ukraine crisis settlement, 20.06.2015

The Kremlin has actually revealed that the Usa and also Russia have actually consented to coordinate efforts on a reciprocal basis to control the circumstance in Ukraine, without involving Washington in the Normandy style.

"And also, so as not to damage every little thing up, we have actually concurred with each other that we will certainly be collaborating our tasks on Ukraine on a reciprocal basis for the time being," Russian governmental principal of personnel Sergei Ivanov stated in a job interview revealed in a Sunday logical process held by Sergei Brilyov on the Rossiya-1 TELEVISION Network. Based on him, there was a contract to establish an unique U.S.-Russian reciprocal style with the involvement of U.S. Aide Assistant of State Victoria Nuland and also Russian Replacement Foreign Priest Grigory Karasin, that needed to coordinate U.S. and also Russian efforts in clearing up the Ukraine crisis. "In concept, we might do this– broaden the Normandy style by consisting of another nation, involving the united state. However the Normandy style is so vulnerable since this action would just be dangerous," Ivanov stated. | The Normandy style is so delicate now that this action would just be dangerous," Ivanov stated.

<http://journalfocus.com/2015/06/kremlin-u-s-russia-to-jointly-coordinate-ukraine-crisis-settlement/>

Russia Stands for Keeping Ukraine's Current Borders – Kremlin, 20.06.2015

"The ideal is the Minsk agreements. Russian President [Vladimir Putin] was right to say in February that if Russia was discontent with something at the talks, he would not sign the document. But he signed it. Thus he believes that the Minsk accords are a perfect way to settle the Ukrainian domestic conflict. I'm repeating – domestic," Ivanov said answering a question on where the Ukrainian border should be marked. Ivanov also clarified that this means the actual Ukrainian state borders. "Donbass self-defense forces already recognized that," he said. There have been numerous calls to Russia to assert influence on Donbass militia forces. However, they have already changed their stance, he added.

<http://sputniknews.com/politics/20150620/1023638738.html>

Russia slams EU sanctions renewal as pointless 'blackmail', 20.06.2015

Russia on Saturday (Jun 20) slammed the EU's extension of sanctions over its annexation of Crimea as "blackmail" and vowed it would not be pressured into returning the peninsula to Ukraine. "Crimea and Sevastopol are an integral part of the Russian Federation. It's time to recognise this as a fact that cannot be changed with methods of economic and political blackmail," a statement by the Russian foreign ministry said. Sanctions have "no prospects," the statement said, further criticising the EU's decision on Friday (Jun 19) as "discrimination" and comparing them with "historical examples of collective punishment of nations."

<http://www.channelnewsasia.com/news/world/russia-slams-eu-sanctions/1929750.html>

U.S. Senators Call For Arming Ukraine, 20.06.2015

Senator John McCain has again called on the United States to send weapons to Ukrainian forces fighting pro-Russia separatists in the east of the country. The U.S. senator McCain (Republican-Arizona) said it would be "disgraceful and shameful" for the West not to act as Russian President Vladimir Putin, in McCain's view, sought to dismember Ukraine. McCain, one of the most vocal supporters in the U.S. Congress on arming Ukraine, said the Ukrainians had "proven they are willing to fight." "This is shameful that we will not provide [the Ukrainians] with weapons to defend themselves. They are fighting with 20th-century weapons against Russia's 21st-century weapons. That's not a fair fight," McCain said.

<http://www.rferl.org/content/us-senators-call-for-arming-ukraine/27082770.html>

Russia testing new weapons in Donbas - Poroshenko, 21.06.2015

Meeting with a delegation of U.S. senators led by John McCain, Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko informed them of the situation in Donbas, noting that Russia and militants were escalating the hostilities and failing to comply with the Minsk agreements. Ukraine has managed to build a strong army, Poroshenko said. "However, we are fighting with 20th century weapons against 21st century weapons, as Russia is shipping modern weapons to Donbas, using Ukraine as a test range for testing its advanced systems," Poroshenko said.

<http://en.interfax.com.ua/news/general/273318.html>

Ukraine, NATO join hands in countering Russian propaganda, 21.06.2015

"NATO takes an information threat very seriously. So, of course, we are the absolute allies. We are about to launch a large-scale joint project, which is unprecedented in cooperation between Ukraine and NATO," Kuleba told. According to him, a Ukrainian delegation has already been discussing key elements of the cooperation. An official document, which will be signed between Ukraine and NATO, is "a qualitatively new segment of cooperation with the Alliance in the information sphere," he said. "Our delegation has already set out to discuss the key parameters of the project and algorithm of its launch. If things work out well for us, the document will be signed soon," he added.

<http://www.unian.info/world/1091999-ukraine-nato-join-hands-in-countering-russian-propaganda.html>

Russian authorities: Revolution in Ukraine 'started by US to weaken Russia', 22.06.2015

The USA lagged "a state successful stroke" in Ukraine having actually invested \$ 5 billion on these functions, Russian Safety Council assistant Nikolai Patrushev stated. Patrushev stated it was definitely clear that behind the "destabilization job in Ukraine was an effort to produce a tool to weaken Russia significantly." "Simultaneously, they are looking for to fix the job of staying the European Union nations on a brief chain by enforcing anti-Russian permissions and also methods on them, overlooking their nationwide passions," Patrushev stated.

<http://journalfocus.com/2015/06/russian-official-revolution-in-ukraine-initiated-by-us-to-weaken-russia/>

EU extends sanctions on Russia, 22.06.2015

The sanctions were imposed a year ago to punish Russia for its annexation of the Ukrainian peninsula of Crimea and its military support for separatists in the eastern regions of Ukraine, which border Russia. A Kremlin spokesman condemned the extension of the sanctions. "Russia, naturally, considers these sanctions to be unfounded and illegal, and we have never been the instigators of sanction measures," the spokesman, Dmitry Peskov, told journalists. Peskov said Russia would respond by extending measures against the EU, which include restrictions on the import to Russia of foodstuffs from the EU. The Kremlin spokesman said the restrictive measures undermine the interest of EU taxpayers.

<http://edition.cnn.com/2015/06/22/europe/eu-extends-russia-sanctions/index.html>

France, Germany warn of slow Ukraine progress, 22.06.2015

"The chancellor and the president (Hollande) raised the need to put pressure on the various parties" given that progress is "insufficient," the source said, a day before foreign ministers from Ukraine, Russia, France and Germany hold talks in Paris on the crisis.

The three-way call, which lasted 45 minutes, came after EU foreign ministers formally agreed to prolong damaging economic sanctions against Russia until January 2016, in order to pressure Moscow to fully implement a February peace deal.

<http://www.thelocal.de/20150622/france-germany-merkel-hollande-ukraine-slow-progress>

OSCE appoints new Special Representative in Ukraine, 22.06.2015

The OSCE has published a statement announcing Martin Sajdik of Austria as its new representative to the Trilateral Contact group which includes Russia, Ukraine and representatives of the so-called People's Republics in east Ukraine. "Ambassador Sajdik is a very experienced diplomat with a broad scope of knowledge, ranging from international law to multilateral affairs, and we are very glad to welcome him to the team," said the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office and Serbia's Foreign Minister Ivica Dačić.

<http://uatoday.tv/politics/osce-appoints-new-special-representative-in-ukraine-443556.html>

Ukraine crisis: Yanukovich regrets bloodshed in Kiev, 22.06.2015

Ukraine's former President Viktor Yanukovich has said he accepts some responsibility for the killings that led to his overthrow in February 2014.

"I don't deny my responsibility," he told BBC Newsnight, when asked about the shooting of demonstrators in Kiev's Maidan Square. He never ordered the security forces to open fire, he said, but admitted he had not done enough to prevent bloodshed. It is his first Western media interview since the civil war erupted last year. "I did not give any orders [to use firearms], that was not my authority... I was against any use of force, let alone the use of firearms, I was against bloodshed. "But the members of the security forces fulfilled their duties according to existing laws. They had the right to use weapons," he said.

<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-33224138>

SOROS: SANCTIONS ALLOW PUTIN TO PLAY 'VICTIM' OF ANGLO-SAXON WORLD, BUILD UP FORCES, 22.06.2015

Sanctions on Russia are not enough and they must be coupled with political commitment by Ukraine's allies to do whatever it takes to enable the country not only to survive, but to succeed in implementing far-reaching political and economic reforms, despite the implacable opposition of Russian President Vladimir Putin, U.S. billionaire and philanthropist George Soros wrote in an article for Project Syndicate on June 17. "Sanctions, though necessary, are harmful not only to Russia but also to Europe's economy. By contrast, enabling the Ukrainian economy to flourish would benefit both Ukraine and Europe," he said.

<http://utr.tv/en/news/hot-news/item/34301-soros-sanctions-allow-putin-to-play-victim-of-anglo-saxon-world-build-up-forces.html>

PM SAYS NEITHER RUSSIA NOR ANYONE ELSE TO STOP THE IMPLEMENTATION OF FTA WITH THE EU, 23.06.2015

The free trade agreement with the European Union will come into force from January 1, 2016: "Neither Russia nor anyone else will stop this process. This is our bilateral agreement with the European Union, and we decide as to the content and form of this agreement," Prime Minister of Ukraine Arseniy Yatsenyuk underlined at a meeting of the collegium of the Ministry of Economy of Ukraine on Tuesday, June 23. "It's our right to decide that this agreement will enter into force and be realized in our bilateral relations on January 1, 2016", he stressed.

"We have finally given up the use of "USSR State standard specifications" and gone to the technical regulations, standards and quality of products, which are in the European Union. This is the only way in order to conquer new markets," Arseniy Yatsenyuk pointed out.

<http://utr.tv/en/news/hot-news/item/34469-pm-says-neither-russia-nor-anyone-else-to-stop-the-implementation-of-fta-with-the-eu.html>

NORMANDY FOUR FOREIGN MINISTERS VOICE 'DEEP CONCERN' OVER WORSENING VIOLENCE IN DONBAS, 24.06.2015

The "Normandy Four" foreign ministers of Ukraine, Russia, France and Germany have called for the withdrawal of tanks and weapons of calibers less than 100mm out of range of the front line in eastern Ukraine by June 26, according to a joint statement after they met on Tuesday.

According to the statement, the Normandy Four foreign ministers have reiterated their full commitment to the Minsk agreements. The countries also expressed "deep concern" over the deteriorating situation in the Donbas. In addition, the ministers emphasized the role of the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) of the OSCE in the preparation for and conducting of local elections. The Normandy Four foreign ministers also urged parties to the conflict to carry out a full withdrawal of heavy weapons and a further de-escalation in the village of Shyrokyne in Donetsk region. They also stressed the need for OSCE observers to be allowed unfettered access to all areas and the removal of barriers to the delivery of aid by the International Committee of the Red Cross. The ministers also called for a prisoner exchange on the "all for all" principle.

<http://utr.tv/en/news/hot-news/item/34556-normandy-four-foreign-ministers-voice-deep-concern-over-worsening-violence-in-donbas.html>
<http://www.sbs.com.au/news/article/2015/06/24/ministers-call-ukraine-de-escalation>

Britain to step up training of Ukrainian armed forces, 24.06.2015

Defence Secretary Michael Fallon said Britain would announce at a NATO meeting with Ukraine plans to double spending on the training to around 6 million pounds (\$9.4 million). "We are doubling up our training of Ukrainian forces. We've already trained around 650. By this autumn we will have trained nearly 1,000," he said.

"We've already been training in battlefield medicine, infantry skills, logistics, in tactical intelligence," he said. To those tasks will be added training in medical evacuation, operating in winter conditions and reconnaissance skills. Britain now has 75 trainers working at six sites in western Ukraine and that number will increase "a little" under the expanded programme, Fallon added. "This is not designed to be escalatory or provocative. This is helping to save lives," Fallon said.

<http://uk.reuters.com/article/2015/06/24/uk-ukraine-crisis-britain-idUKKBN0P42EQ20150624>

STATEMENT OF THE MFA OF UKRAINE IN VIEW OF THE DECISION BY THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION TO EXTEND THE SANCTIONS AGAINST RUSSIA, 24.06.2015

This decision has once again demonstrated the solidarity of the European Union with our state, its commitment to the protection of the territorial integrity and independence of Ukraine.

The entire civilized world and the EU in particular call on the Russian Federation to observe the obligations under the Minsk agreements to cease the supply of weapons, ammunition and mercenaries, thus promoting respect for the ceasefire, and influence Russia-controlled fighters. Only the full implementation by Russia of all its obligations can be a condition for the revision of the sanction regime. The Ukrainian side adheres to the position that in case of further escalation of the situation or continuous neglect by Moscow of international law and its commitments, the international community should strengthen sanctions and other pressure on the Russian Federation. The Minsk agreements will be considered implemented only when Ukraine retakes the full control over the Ukrainian-Russian border, the situation in Donbas stabilizes, and it returns under Ukrainian jurisdiction. This is the common stand of Ukraine, the European Union and the whole civilized world.

<http://utr.tv/en/news/politics/item/34566-statement-of-the-mfa-of-ukraine-in-view-of-the-decision-by-the-council-of-the-european-union-to-extend-the-sanctions-against-russia.html>

NATO warns of risk of heavy fighting in Ukraine, 25.06.2015

NATO head Jens Stoltenberg warned there was still a risk of heavy fighting in Ukraine and urged Russia to halt its support for pro-Moscow rebels.

A February ceasefire brokered in Minsk by France and Germany has largely held but in recent weeks there has been an upsurge in fighting, threatening to undo the accord as the death toll tops 6,500. "Ceasefire violations persist. There is still a risk of a return to heavy fighting," Stoltenberg said. "Russia continues to support the separatists with training, weapons and soldiers; it has a large number of forces stationed on its border with Ukraine," he added.

"The best chance for peace is the full implementation of the Minsk agreements. I urge all parties to do so and Russia has a special responsibility in this regard."

Russia denies that it is directly involved in the 15-month conflict in Ukraine.

Stoltenberg was speaking at the opening of the NATO-Ukraine Council which the alliance set up to coordinate relations with non-member Kiev after the end of the Cold War.

He said NATO remained committed to Ukraine's territorial integrity and sovereignty, and would not recognise Russia's "illegal and illegitimate annexation of Crimea."

<http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/defence/nato-warns-of-risk-of-heavy-fighting-in-ukraine/articleshow/47812649.cms>

PACE maintains sanctions against Russian delegation, but leaves door open to dialogue, 24.06.2015

PACE – while keeping in place all sanctions against the Russian delegation decided in January in response to the situation in Ukraine – has decided not to go further and annul the delegation's credentials at this time, "as a signal of its commitment to an open and constructive dialogue".

Adopting a resolution based on a report by Stefan Schennach (Austria, SOC), the Assembly said there had been "a manifest lack of progress" as regards its January demands, but said it remained convinced that "an open dialogue, in good faith, between the Assembly and the Russian delegation" was important for finding a lasting solution to the conflict in eastern Ukraine and the illegal annexation of Crimea. The parliamentarians called on the Russian delegation – which has not taken part in the work of PACE since the sanctions were applied – to reverse its refusal to co-operate with the Assembly and to re-establish dialogue. The Assembly also repeated its call on the Russian authorities to – among other things – withdraw all its troops from Ukrainian territory, fully implement the Minsk agreements, reverse the illegal annexation of Crimea, and release Nadiia Savchenko and others.

<http://assembly.coe.int/nw/xml/News/News-View-EN.asp?newsid=5683&lang=2&cat=8>

NATO to review nuclear weapon policy as attitude to Russia hardens, 25.06.2015

NATO, in an echo of the cold war, is preparing to re-evaluate its nuclear weapons strategy in response to growing tension with Russia over Ukraine, sources at the organisation have said. A NATO diplomat said: "There is very real concern about the way in which Russia publicly bandies around nuclear stuff. So there are quite a lot of deliberations in the alliance about nuclear [weapons], but it is being done very slowly and deliberately. We need to do due diligence on where we are."

<http://www.theguardian.com/world/2015/jun/24/nato-to-review-nuclear-weapon-policy-as-attitude-to-russia-hardens>

Defense Minister Poltorak: NATO may give Ukraine lethal weapons if Donbas escalates, 26.06.2015

"During the meeting, all member countries have strongly condemned the violation by the Russian Federation and terrorist groups of the Minsk agreements and confirmed the possibility of reviewing the issue of providing Ukraine with lethal weapons if the Russian Federation and the terrorists continue gross violations of the Minsk accords," Poltorak said. A technical agreement on the creation of a Lithuanian-Polish-Ukrainian brigade may be signed in Kyiv late in July, and related military exercises may take place late this year or early next year, he added.

<http://www.unian.info/war/1094015-defense-minister-poltorak-nato-may-give-ukraine-lethal-weapons-if-donbas-escalates.html>

Poroshenko hopes Ukraine will become candidate for EU membership in years to coming, 27.06.2015

Attending to the Ukrainian country on the event of the 1 year wedding anniversary of the finalizing of the Organization Contract with the European Union on Sunday, Ukrainian Head of state Petro Poroshenko revealed he thought that Ukraine would certainly be given a right for condition of a candidate for EU membership in the following couple of years.

<http://journalfocus.com/2015/06/poroshenko-hopes-ukraine-will-become-candidate-for-eu-membership-in-coming-years/>

60,000 military involved in E. Ukraine op – President Poroshenko, 27.06.2015

The number of government troops deployed in the conflict in eastern Ukraine has reached 60,000 troops, according to President Petro Poroshenko. The statement comes as the total of Ukrainian refugees has exceeded 900,000 people, according to UN.

"We are doing our best to ensure the security of our state. We have brought the number of our armed forces in the ATO zone to 60,000 servicemen today. There used to be no more than 30,000 in peak periods in the past," President Poroshenko said.

<http://rt.com/news/270139-ukraine-troops-operation-refugees/>

Ukraine Today: Jaresko says Yanukovych bankrupted Ukraine, 29.06.2015

Fugitive former President Viktor Yanukovych and his 'family' of business associates stole tens of billions of dollars of state funds - 90% of the debt Ukraine owes, Finance Minister Natalie Jaresko has said.

<http://uazmi.com/news/post/drtMBk13oORO1vC10044KQ>

Poroshenko: Decentralization Has Nothing In Common With Federalization, 29.06.2015

"Decentralization will not weaken central authorities in such issues as defense, national security, rule of law, compliance with civil freedoms, and has nothing in common with federalization," Poroshenko said at Kyiv-Mohyla Academy. "I deliberately and voluntarily agree to give a significant part of powers and financial resources to the level of communities. Central government will have only functions of control," he said. After decentralization, the following steps will be the abolishment of parliamentary and judicial immunity and reformation of the judicial system, he added.

"On the Day of Constitution, I would like to reiterate my commitment to the parliamentary-presidential model that was restored in Ukraine after the Revolution of Dignity. Present form of government is optimal for Ukraine. I call on politicians to stop instigating people with empty chatter and start learning the art of compromise," he said.

<http://x-news.com.ua/poroshenko-decentralization-has-nothing-in-common-with-federalization-41658/>

Russia's gas discount for Ukraine to be cut to \$40/kcm, 29.06.2015

Russia will reduce the discount of the natural gas it sells to Ukrainian incumbent supplier Naftogaz to \$40/thousand cubic metre (kcm) for the third quarter of this year, prime minister Dmitry Medvedev said on Monday. That effectively leaves the purchasing price for Naftogaz unchanged, as the outright contract price has fallen considerably quarter on quarter. It could also curb Ukrainian demand for gas shipped from Europe. This is because the gas supply contract is indexed to the price of oil with a time-lag, and Brent crude prices plunged in the second half of 2014. For the coming three months Russian gas sold by incumbent Gazprom to Naftogaz will cost \$247.18/kcm, equivalent to €21.03/MWh.

The current discount of \$100/kcm expires at the end of Tuesday. But the outright price for Q2 was \$347.18/kcm.

<http://www.icis.com/resources/news/2015/06/29/9899076/russia-s-gas-discount-for-ukraine-to-be-cut-to-40-kcm/>

Russia continues to send troops, weapons, and \$1 billion to finance terrorists in Ukraine, President Poroshenko says, 30.06.2015

President Petro Poroshenko gave interview to Italian newspaper Corriere della Sera, known for being supportive of Russian authorities. In his interview, Poroshenko spoke of the situation in the Donbas and Russian aggression. The medium published harsh statements by the Ukrainian President regarding Russia, despite the fact that Corriere della Sera's editorial is usually more cautious about criticism towards Russian Federation. Poroshenko announced that the Parliament of Ukraine is discussing the procedure for conducting elections in the separatists-occupied territories of the Donbas. "Russia continues to send troops, weapons, and \$1 billion of financing to the Donbas terrorists. But we are ready for dialogue. Our parliament is discussing a special law to hold elections in these areas," Poroshenko said. Poroshenko also said in his interview that Ukraine is ready to spend money on the Donbas reconstruction.

"We are ready to reconstruct destroyed villages and cities, to renew the banking system. But until mercenaries with Kalashnikovs block our humanitarian convoys, steal money we deliver to local banks, and use them to finance attacks on Kharkiv, Odesa, and other cities, we cannot do that," Poroshenko said.

http://en.censor.net.ua/news/342016/russia_continues_to_send_troops_weapons_and_1_billion_to_finance_terrorists_in_ukraine_president_poroshenko

Brzezinski suggests using Finland role model to solve Ukrainian crisis, 30.06.2015

Russia and the United States have long been in a state of "cold war," but it is still unlikely that it will be a "hot conflict", Brzezinski said. A new "cold war" will not last long because events in the modern world are developing much faster than before, the American political scientist said. When asked whether the United States' intentions to deploy heavy military equipment in Eastern Europe and the Baltics are proper in response to a credible threat of Russia's invasion, Brzezinski said it was about "action and reaction." "I do not want war, but I'm not prepared to be intimidated by the assertion that we provoke a war with a symmetrical response. On the contrary, we do not react – this is the most likely way to bring about a war," the expert said.

If Russian soldiers enter the Baltic States, NATO will certainly counter this, Brzezinski noted.

<http://www.unian.info/politics/1095203-brzezinski-suggests-using-finland-role-model-to-solve-ukrainian-crisis.html>

IMF to support Ukraine in talks with creditors - Ukraine's Deputy Finance Minister, 30.06.2015

KYIV, June 30 /Ukrinform/. The IMF will support Ukraine's position at the tripartite meeting of creditors' committee, representatives of the Ukrainian Government and the IMF on sovereign debt restructuring to be held in Washington on Tuesday.

"Tomorrow's talks are very important for us, and, I think, for our creditors as well. It is a new meeting, as it will be held in a trilateral format, involving the IMF representatives," Ukraine's Deputy Finance Minister on European Integration Artem Shevchuk said the Deputy Minister.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/imf_to_support_ukraine_in_talks_with_creditors_ukraines_deputy_finance_minister_332687

Actions of Ukrainian Authorities

Head of Odesa region military enlistment office detained for bribery, 03.06.2015

The report of Head of Odesa Regional State Administration Mikheil Saakashvili reads: "Head of military enlistment office of the Odesa region and his associates were detained on charges of extortion and taking bribes from the recruits. The head of the regional state administration supported the actions of the prosecutor's office, but at the same time called for a much broader fight against corrupt officials who put a crimp into normal life of people."

http://en.censor.net.ua/news/338692/head_of_odesa_region_military_enlistment_office_detained_for_bribery

<http://utr.tv/en/news/politics/item/32022-head-of-odesa-region-military-enlistment-office-detained-for-bribery.html>

Rada grants access to foreign forces to maintain peace, security, 04.06.2015

The Ukrainian Verkhovna Rada has backed amendments to the Law "On the Access Procedure and Terms of the Presence of Foreign Military Units on the Territory of Ukraine."

The law, which gives foreign forces access to Ukraine for maintaining peace and security, was supported by 240 deputies on Thursday.

<http://en.interfax.com.ua/news/general/269887.html>

Terrorist network created by Russian security services in Kharkiv destroyed. More than 20 mercenaries arrested, - Butusov, 04.06.2015

Russia continues to send mercenaries who went through commando training in schools of the Chief Intelligence Department of the Russian Federation General Staff in Belgorod and the Rostov region into peaceful Ukrainian cities.

"There are people in each institution that give result notwithstanding the circumstances. An officer of Kharkiv Department of the Security Service of Ukraine obtained the rank of Colonel yesterday ahead of time for taking part in operation on liquidation of sabotage groups in the Kharkiv region. The operation began on April, 8. More than 30 kg of TNT, three latest silent sniper rifles

"Vintorez", used by Russian special forces, Shmel portable rocket launchers, silent pistols, rifle SVD, about 20 automatic weapons, a lot of ammunition were confiscated," Butusov writes.

According to him, the most resonant terrorist attacks of the Russian special forces in the Kharkiv region, including tank explosions on railways, attack on the military Commissariat, night club explosion, volunteers' office attack, have been solved.

http://en.censor.net.ua/photo_news/338751/terrorist_network_created_by_russian_security_services_in_kharkiv_destroyed_more_than_20_mercenaries

Poroshenko: Zguldze may be appointed new police head, 04.06.2015

First Deputy Interior Minister Eka Zguldze may become the new head of the Ukrainian police, President of Ukraine Petro Poroshenko stated during his annual address to the Verkhovna Rada devoted to the internal and external situation of Ukraine in 2015.

"The adoption of laws has started regulating the reform of the Interior Ministry, they aim to separate the functions of law enforcement forces from political ones, establish new municipal guards and the police," the president said.

<http://www.unian.info/politics/1085477-poroshenko-zguldze-may-be-appointed-new-police-head.html>

Ukrainian border guards confirm parliamentarian Kliuyev tried to flee to Austria, 04.06.2015

"We do confirm the fact that people's deputy Serhiy Kliuyev intended to fly to Vienna at about 1:00 p.m. yesterday but was not allowed to pass by Ukrainian State Border Service officers," Oleh Slobodian, a spokesman for the Ukrainian State Border Service, said at a press conference in Kyiv on Thursday. Slobodian refused to give the reason why Kliuyev was barred from leaving Ukraine, explaining only that Border Service officials "acted within the limits of their powers, and the reason was indicated in a writ" that Kliuyev refused to take. He said at the same time that the Border Service is not entitled to issue such writs itself and acts in such instances in coordination with other law enforcement bodies.

<http://en.interfax.com.ua/news/economic/269886.html>

Poroshenko signs law on rights of banks to offer fixed deposits without early deposit withdrawal, 04.06.2015

"I signed the law on the conditions of returning fixed deposits, which would promote the stabilization of the banking system," Poroshenko wrote on his Twitter page.

The draft law divides deposits into fixed deposits and fixed deposits with the option of early withdrawal, and retains the category of called deposits.

Amendments to the Civil Code have been made stating that under the banking deposit agreement, the bank is obliged to issue deposits and rates accrued when the term of deposits stipulated in the banking agreement expires.

The new conditions for deposits will apply to the period after the day when the law takes effect and will not apply to deposits that have been already opened.

<http://en.interfax.com.ua/news/economic/269874.html>

Ukraine called upon EU to intensify sectoral sanctions against Russia due to Marinka assault, 04.06.2015

Ukraine's Ambassador to EU Kostiantyn Yelisieiev called upon the EU authorities to properly react to events in the Ukrainian Marinka, the Donetsk region.

Ukraine's mission to EU informed on Thursday that in his address, the Ambassador noted that for the first time since the Debaltseve offensive, the Minsk agreements are under threat of total failure. "The Marinka assault should become a jumping-off point for enhancement of sectoral sanctions against Moscow," Yelisieiev noted.

http://en.censor.net.ua/news/338788/ukraine_called_upon_eu_to_intensify_sectoral_sanctions_against_russia_due_to_marinka_assault

Kyiv police chief dismissed under lustration law – Yatseniuk, 05.06.2015

"Today, Kyiv police chief [Oleksandr Tereschuk], who challenged lustration, [has been] dismissed," he said in parliament during an hour of questions to the government.

<http://en.interfax.com.ua/news/general/270091.html>

Ukraine, Japan consent to liberalize visa regime, 08.06.2015

"We have actually substantively talked about, to name a few points, methods to streamline visa regime for Ukrainian residents taking a trip to Japan and also concurred that we will certainly perform crucial actions in this instructions in the close to future," the head of state stated.

Baseding on Poroshenko, the conference with the Japanese premier likewise "concentrated on useful elements of growing teamwork in between Ukraine and also Japan in profession, power, scientific research and also innovation|power, innovation and also scientific research|scientific research, power and also innovation|scientific research, innovation and also power|innovation, power and also scientific research|innovation, scientific research and also power, facilities property development, altruistic ball and also ball of social get in touches with."

<http://journalfocus.com/2015/06/ukraine-japan-agree-to-liberalize-visa-regime/>

Poroshenko signs laws on denunciation of agreements with Russia on military cooperation, 08.06.2015

In particular, Poroshenko has signed law "on denunciation of the agreement between the Government of Ukraine and the Government of the Russian Federation on transit of military units of the Russian Federation temporarily deployed in the territory of the Republic of Moldova through Ukrainian territory " and the bill "on denunciation of the agreement between the Government of Ukraine and the Government of the Russian Federation on the organization of inter-state military transportation and payment for them." The laws №463-VIII and №465-VIII were adopted by the Verkhovna Rada on May 21.

http://en.censor.net.ua/news/339267/poroshenko_signs_laws_on_denunciation_of_agreements_with_russia_on_military_cooperation

SBU declares Kliuyev wanted, 08.06.2015

Ukraine's SBU state security service has issued a search warrant for MP Serhiy Kliuyev, the Interior Ministry reported on its official Web site on Monday.

http://www.fm-tv.kiev.ua/main_news/61205/view/

Moskal sends prosecutors list of 65 crimes committed by Aidar Battalion, 08.06.2015

The list of crimes includes "a mass of incidents of kidnapping, extortion, torture, robbery and the illegal use of weapons" along the front line, Moskal wrote. His allegations come days after the battalion's former commander, Sergei Melnichuk, was stripped of his parliamentary immunity by the Verkhovna Rada. Melnichuk, of the "People's Will" faction, now faces charges for the illegal formation of armed groups, although the Verkhovna Rada stopped short of approving his arrest on June 3. "Once again, I would like to stress that part of Aidar is actually defending the territorial integrity of Ukraine on the front line, with weapons in their hands, while another part has decided to make money off of war. In the list, only 25 percent of the crimes are heinous and high profile -- including kidnapping civil servants and demanding ransom, resisting the work of law enforcement bodies and robbing entrepreneurs, etc.," Moskal wrote on his official website on June 8. Moskal claims that many members of the volunteer battalion were not officially registered at the time the crimes were committed, though they were nonetheless given weapons and Aidar badges while Melnichuk was in charge. In total, the list includes 65 separate crimes, all of which took place throughout 2014. In the online statement, Moskal explained the list's publication by saying the Verkhovna Rada had given consent to investigate crimes committed only in the Kyiv and Zhitomorsk regions, not Luhansk.

<http://www.kyivpost.com/content/kyiv-post-plus/moskal-sends-prosecutors-list-of-65-crimes-committed-by-aidar-battalion-390560.html>

Rescuers evacuate two-kilometer zone around burning fuel depot near Kyiv, 09.06.2015

Ukrainian rescue teams on Tuesday began a temporary evacuation of residents within a two-kilometer zone around a burning fuel depot just outside Kyiv, Chairman of the State Emergency Service Mykolai Chechetkin said at the scene of the fire, the service's press service has reported. "The temporary resettlement of citizens within a two-kilometer zone from the danger zone has started," Chechetkin said. "The resettlement of people within a 10-kilometer zone may take place if needed. The fire is being brought under control. Rescuers from Zhytomyr, Cherkasy, Chernihiv regions have been involved in building up resources and carrying out monitoring of the situation. The main efforts are aimed at preventing the spread of fire in the direction of a military unit located 50 meters away from the fire's edge."

Chechetkin said that the situation is totally under control, posing no obvious threat to the lives of people there. However, there is a likelihood of more explosions, he said.

http://www.fm-tv.kiev.ua/main_news/61296/view/

Ukraine has formally notified the Council of Europe on the Russian occupation of its state territories, 10.06.2015

It is the first time when Kyiv formalizes at the international level that the anti-terrorist operation area is occupied by the Russian Federation according to the official notification on derogation from certain obligations of Ukraine under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms.

The text of Ukraine's appeal is published on the website of the Council of Europe, Censor.NET reports. Kyiv has repeatedly stated that due to the annexation and temporary occupation by the Russian Federation of integral part of Ukraine - the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol - as a result of armed aggression against Ukraine, the Russian Federation is fully responsible for respect of human rights and implementation of the relevant treaties in annexed and temporary occupied territory of Ukraine. The letter signed by Foreign Minister Pavlo Klimkin stresses that certain areas of the Luhansk and Donetsk regions have this status as well.

http://en.censor.net.ua/news/339590/ukraine_has_formally_notified_the_council_of_europe_on_the_russian_occupation_of_its_state_territories

Poroshenko appointed Zhebrivskiyi governor of the Donetsk region, 11.06.2015

President Petro Poroshenko dismissed Oleksandr Kikhtenko from the position of the chairman of the Donetsk military-civilian administration and appointed Pavlo Zhebrivskiyi to this post.

http://en.censor.net.ua/news/339730/poroshenko_appointed_zhebrivskiyi_governor_of_the_donetsk_region

Poroshenko and Zhebrivskiy inspected fortifications near Mariupol, 11.06.2015

President of Ukraine Petro Poroshenko arrived in Mariupol. He is accompanied by incumbent head of the Donetsk Regional State Administration Oleksandr Kikhtenko and presumptive future Governor of the Donetsk region Pavlo Zhebrivskiy.

Itinerary of Poroshenko's travel is not disclosed. Activities are scheduled to be held at several strongpoints. It is known that the president has already inspected a fortification structure.

http://en.censor.net.ua/photo_news/339705/poroshenko_and_zhebrivskiy_inspected_fortifications_near_mariupol_photos

Future head of Odesa police Lortkipanidze obtains Ukrainian citizenship, 12.06.2015

Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko has signed a decree granting Ukrainian citizenship to a native of Georgia, Gia Lortkipanidze, who is to be appointed head of the Ukrainian Interior Ministry's Main Department in Odesa region.

The text of the decree No. 327/2015 was published on the official Web site of the President. In the decree, it is written that the adoption of the citizenship of Ukraine Lortkipanidze is in the interests of the state of Ukraine.

<http://ukrnews.today/future-head-of-odesa-police-lortkipanidze-obtains-ukrainian-citizenship/>

Yatseniuk, Power discuss situation in Donbas, implementation of Minsk agreements, 12.06.2015

Ukrainian Prime Minister Arseniy Yatseniuk and U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations Samantha Power at a meeting on Thursday discussed the situation in Ukraine's east and the implementation of the Minsk agreements, the Ukrainian government's press service reported.

"During the meeting, the interlocutors discussed the situation in the east of Ukraine, the implementation of the agreements in Minsk, as well as further steps to step up the actions of the United Nations in the peaceful settlement and aimed at strengthening international solidarity around Ukraine," the statement reads. Yatseniuk stressed that Ukraine appreciated firm and unequivocal position of Power its defense against the Russian aggression.

The head of government thanked Power for her efforts to support Ukraine within the UN.

<http://ukrnews.today/yatseniuk-power-discuss-situation-in-donbas-implementation-of-minsk-agreements/>

Poroshenko signs decree on demobilization in July-September 2015, 12.06.2015

The Ministry of Defense of Ukraine, Ministry of Internal Affairs of Ukraine, the Security Service of Ukraine, the Administration of the State Border Service of Ukraine, the State Special Transport Service were tasked to ensure demobilization, transportation, provision of clothes and food during the transportation of the demobilized servicemen to the place of their residence.

<http://uatoday.tv/politics/poroshenko-signs-decree-on-demobilization-in-july-september-2015-438198.html>

In the course of the visit to the USA Andriy Taranov provided evidence of Russia's participation in the Donbas conflict, 16.06.2015

In the course of Washington visit, Deputy Head of the Presidential Administration of Ukraine Andriy Taranov and Head of Department of Security Service of Ukraine Vitaly Naida met with U.S. Vice-President's Special Advisor for Europe and Eurasia Michael Carpenter and National Security Council's Director for Eastern Europe Liz Zentos.

White House's representatives were informed about the situation in the Anti-Terrorist Operation zone and about the facts of participation of regular units of the Armed Forces of the Russian Federation in developments in the Autonomous Republic of Crimea followed by developments in Donetsk and Luhansk Oblasts. It was stressed that the Russian special services, along with Russia's Armed Forces, provoke instability and inspire subversive activity of illegal armed formations in the territory of Ukraine; they are also responsible for supplying arms and heavy weaponry to the terrorists.

In response, the American side expressed its clear understanding of the Russian military presence in the east of Ukraine, declaring its support of the Ukrainian people in their fight for territorial integrity and independence of their state.

<http://www.president.gov.ua/en/news/andriy-taranov-u-ssha-predstaviv-dokazi-uchasti-rosiyi-u-kon-35512>

Officer recruited by Russian special services found operating in SBU ranks, 16.06.2015

SBU has identified and detained a traitor in its ranks, Markiy Lubkivsky, an adviser to the chairman of the SBU, wrote on his page in Facebook on Tuesday. In the course of a special operation SBU counterintelligence, in cooperation with the military prosecutor's office, detained an officer of the Security Service of Ukraine in Donetsk region, Lieutenant Colonel Oleksandr Tretyakov, born in 1974, whose activities were detrimental to the security of Ukraine, Lubkivsky wrote. "Upon instructions from the enemy, he collected and passed on information about the personal composition of the management, in particular, materials with limited access regarding operational activity, data on personnel, locations and armaments of the Armed Forces and the National Guard of Ukraine.

http://www.fm-tv.kiev.ua/main_news/61593/view/

Minsk talks: Progress, but no breakthrough, say officials, 17.06.2015

"There has been progress, but no breakthrough. We still have to work," the representative of the OSCE in Ukraine Heidi Tagliavini said on Tuesday evening after the meeting of the Trilateral Contact Group. The representatives of the self-proclaimed Donetsk and Luhansk People's Republics, who are traditionally invited to the meeting, were more categorical.

"We expected more. There are positive steps, but they are not enough to fully resolve the conflict and to consolidate the ceasefire," the representative of the DPR militant organization Denis Pushylin told journalists. The latest round of negotiations on the implementation of the Minsk agreements was as usual closed to the press. A closing meeting of the Trilateral Contact Group was preceded by the work of subgroups that had been formed earlier with the participation of the representatives of the DPR and LPR militant organizations. But only three out of four subgroups worked this time on security, political and humanitarian issues in Minsk.

The work of a subgroup on economic issues was also disrupted last time, according to reports, because of the absence of the Russian representative. But it has not officially announced the reason for the recent failure. However, the parties have managed to make some decisions.

<http://www.unian.info/politics/1090340-minsk-talks-progress-but-no-breakthrough-say-officials.html>

PM says reform of the State Fiscal Service to provide with European standards of work, 17.06.2015

The Government of Ukraine will present a new fiscal system of the State Fiscal Service of Ukraine. Prime Minister Arseniy Yatsenyuk announced this at a meeting of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine on Wednesday, June 17. "Our reform of the State Fiscal Service will provide with European business standards, improving performance and changing the whole system of work of both prosecutors and customs officials, as well as tax police," he noted. The Prime Minister stressed that Finance Minister Natalie Jaresko started reform of the State Fiscal Service together with Head of the State Fiscal Service Roman Nasirov. "A next meeting of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine will present a new system of the State Fiscal Service of Ukraine. Moreover, we are going to announce the Government's vision as to the way in which Ukrainian customs should operate at the Parliament after tomorrow," he informed.

http://www.kmu.gov.ua/control/en/publish/article?art_id=248253977&cat_id=244314971

Poroshenko asks Verkhovna Rada to dismiss SBU chief Nalyvaichenko, 18.06.2015

Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko submitted a draft resolution that proposes dismissing Valentyn Nalyvaichenko as head of Ukraine's Security Service (SBU) to the Verkhovna Rada on Thursday morning, the Ukrainian parliament said on its website.

Following the president's consultations with the leaders of the parliamentary coalition's factions on June 17, Petro Poroshenko Bloc faction leader Yuriy Lutsenko told reporters that the head of state would submit a draft resolution concerning Nalyvaichenko's possible dismissal to parliament before the end of the day. Several candidates for the post of SBU chief were named at the consultations with the president, Lutsenko said.

<http://en.interfax.com.ua/news/general/272837.html>

Law enforcers detained two suspects in Buzyna murder case, - Prosecutor's Office, 18.06.2015

Law enforcers have detained two suspects in the killing of journalist Oles Buzyna in Kyiv. They are the city residents aged 25 and 26. "Withing investigation of the criminal case of the murder of famous Ukrainian journalist Oles Buzyna, the city prosecutor's office and Interior ministry department jointly found and detained two persons who are in good faith suspected in committing this high profile crime," the message reads.

http://en.censor.net.ua/news/340530/law_enforcers_detained_two_suspects_in_buzyna_murder_case_prosecutors_office

http://en.censor.net.ua/news/340634/court_arrests_suspect_in_murder_of_journalist_buzyna_and_sets_bail_at_5_million_hryvnia

<http://en.interfax.com.ua/news/general/273115.html>

<http://www.unian.info/society/1092810-suspect-in-journalist-buzynas-murder-polishchuk-released-from-kyiv-detention-center.html>

Sixth wave of military draft starts today, 18.06.2015

As reported, it will last for 60 days, as stipulated by the law 113-VIII "On partial mobilization." The General Staff of the Ukrainian army announced that there will be no differences from the previous wave. As of now, there is no information on how many people will be drafted. Military prosecutor Anatolii Matios said it would be 50,000 persons. Under the above mentioned law, military draft in 2015 is conducted in three waves of 210 days in total. The fourth wave of the draft, 90 days long, was announced on Jan. 20; the fifth lasted for 60 days and started in April, and the sixth stage has been planned for June and will last for 60 days as well.

http://en.censor.net.ua/news/340536/sixth_wave_of_military_draft_starts_today

<http://ukr-online.com/en/society/16561-shestaya-volna-mobilizacii-kto-nuzhen-armii.html>

SBU chief's first deputy Hrytsak appointed to temporarily head the agency, 18.06.2015

First Deputy Chairman of Ukraine's State Security Service (SBU) Vasyl Hrytsak has been appointed as an interim head of the agency. The corresponding order was published at the official website of the Ukraine's President Petro Poroshenko.

<http://uatoday.tv/news/sbu-chief-s-first-deputy-hrytsak-appointed-to-temporarily-head-the-agency-441870.html>

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/poroshenko_appoints_sbu_acting_head_332408

Registration Service by example of Georgia to be created in Odesa region, Saakashvili says, 19.06.2015

Saakashvili said that the U.S. Embassy was ready to finance creation of a fund which would develop reforms program in key sectors, including registration service. "In Odesa region, we will create registration service by example of Georgia. No bribes, and registration will take a few minutes," the governor said, Butusov wrote. "Right after Lortkipanidze was appointed new Interior Ministry Regional Department head in the Odesa region, a person came to the dept to file a claim that one of the colleges' professor demanded a bribe for enrollment. Next morning, this professor was arrested. A line of those who wish to file claims appeared at the regional Interior Administration," Saakashvili said about newly appointed head of Interior Ministry administration in the region Lortkipanidze. He also said Lortkipanidze would sack a number of key officials in his department who are not competent and trustworthy.

http://en.censor.net.ua/news/340681/registration_service_by_example_of_georgia_to_be_created_in_odesa_region_governor_saakashvili_says

Poroshenko purges SBU after dismissal of its chief, 20.06.2015

Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko has dismissed SBU First Deputy Chairman who headed the SBU Central Division's department for the fight against corruption and organized crime Yuriy Artiukhov. Two deputies of the SBU Chairman Vitaliy Tsyhanok and Viktor Yahun, and chief of the SBU's Main Investigation Department Vasyl Vovk were also dismissed.

Respective presidential orders Nos. 347/2015, 348/2015, 349/2015 and 350/2015 dated June 19, 2015, were posted on the presidential websites.

<http://www.unian.info/politics/1091688-poroshenko-purges-sbu-after-dismissal-of-its-chief.html>

Poroshenko sees law stripping Yanukovich of presidential rank as unconstitutional, 21.06.2015

Back in February this year Ukraine's parliament has passed a bill stripping the ousted former Ukrainian president Viktor Yanukovich of his title. Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko has sent a request to Ukraine's Constitutional Court, asking for designating as unconstitutional the law on depriving Viktor Yanukovich of the title of President of Ukraine because the law is not of "a regulatory character," the court's press service said. "Since the law whose constitutionality is being challenged is not of a regulatory character, the Verkhovna Rada passed it in contradiction to the provisions of the Constitution of Ukraine, which means that this contradicts Part 2 of Article 19 of the Constitution, which obliges the parliament to act within the powers and in the manner stipulated in the Constitution of Ukraine. In this connection, I request designating the law of Ukraine dated February 4, 2015, on depriving Viktor Yanukovich of the title of President of Ukraine as not complying with the Constitution of Ukraine and therefore unconstitutional," the president's request reads.

Poroshenko also stresses that in keeping with the Constitution of Ukraine, the Verkhovna Rada has no right to strip a person of the title of President of Ukraine, and therefore the Ukrainian parliament has exceeded its constitutional authority.

<http://defence.pk/threads/poroshenko-sees-law-stripping-yanukovich-of-presidential-rank-as-unconstitutional.381918/>
<http://rinf.com/alt-news/editorials/ukraines-pres-poroshenko-says-overthrow-of-yanukovich-was-a-coup/>

Kuleba: Foreign Ministry to make list of Russians involved in violations of human rights of Ukrainians, 22.06.2015

The aim of this initiative is to punish offenders for the illegal detention of political prisoners - such as Nadia Savchenko and Oleh Sentsov. However, the Foreign Ministry has not said when it will compile the list. "It is necessary to make a list of Russian officials involved in violations of human rights of our citizens in order to apply individual sanctions against them, [and] so that the names of these people became known to all - from an investigator or a security guard up to the political leadership responsible for the bullying that our citizens have been subjected to," Kuleba said. "As one of the prisoners who finally escaped from Russia said yesterday - they are afraid of publicity, the Russians want to keep everything in silence and 'under the carpet'. We will not allow them to do this," he said.

http://www.fm-tv.kiev.ua/main_news/61849/view/

Poroshenko's people still can't find list of 2,702 convicted corrupt officials, 22.06.2015

Ukrainian authorities have faced intense criticism for a stumbling anti-corruption drive that has failed to catch or convict any of the major allies of ousted President Viktor Yanukovich, much less bring them to court, despite staggering evidence of murder and multibillion-dollar theft.

In a Wall Street Journal op-ed published on June 10, Poroshenko wrote: "Over the past year, 2,702 former officials have been convicted of corruption."

The administration's department for providing access to public information said on June 22 in an e-mail that the Kyiv Post request for a list of the officials, which had been sent on June 17, did not comply with the law on access to public information.

<http://www.kyivpost.com/content/kyiv-post-plus/poroshenkos-people-still-cant-find-list-of-2702-convicted-corrupt-officials-391736.html>

Ukraine's Poroshenko Misses His Own Speech at Global Security Forum, 22.06.2015

Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko missed the 10th annual GLOBSEC Global Security Forum in Slovakia this weekend, during which he was supposed to be give a presentation. Earlier it was reported that Poroshenko, along with a dozen European leaders, was expected to attend the summit that tackles rising security challenges in the Slovak capital of Bratislava. Poroshenko, however, didn't show up at the summit, forcing organizers to change the event's agenda and speakers' list at the last minute. The Ukrainian leader neither called in nor sent a formal notification to warn the summit organizers about his absence.

<http://sputniknews.com/politics/20150620/1023634546.html>

Ukrainian foreign minister goes to Paris to meet with 'Normandy Four' colleagues, 23.06.2015

Ukrainian Foreign Minister Pavlo Klimkin departed on Tuesday morning for a meeting of the foreign ministers of the 'Normandy Four' – Germany, France, Ukraine and Russia, Ukrainian Foreign Ministry Politics and Communication Department Director Oleksiy Makeyev has said.

<http://en.interfax.com.ua/news/general/273683.html>

SBU seizes Russian flame thrower during fighting in Donbas, 23.06.2015

During clashes with militants near the village of Oktiabr in Donetsk region, the SBU seized a small MPO-A "Bumblebee" flamethrower produced in 2008, which until has been used only by the Russian army, the press office of the SBU reported.

In addition, near the village Stanitsa-Lugansk in an area where ATO forces were being shelled by the militants, the SBU found and seized two containers for RShG-2 rocket-propelled grenades, made in 2006 and 2011, which are also used only by the Russian armed forces," according to the press office.

<http://www.unian.info/war/1092748-sbu-seizes-russian-flame-thrower-during-fighting-in-donbas.html>

Poroshenko appoints new head of SBU's Anti-Terrorist Center, 24.06.2015

Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko has dismissed acting Chairman of the SBU Security Service of Ukraine Vasyl Hrytsak from the office of the head of the SBU's Anti-Terrorist Center and tapped SBU Deputy Chairman Vitaliy Malikov to head the center.

<http://www.unian.info/politics/1093008-poroshenko-appoints-new-head-of-sbus-anti-terrorist-center.html>

Poroshenko announces dismissal of about 300 judges in Ukraine, 26.07.2015

"After the High Council of Justice began work, about 300 judges must have been fired already," he told Inter TV Channel on Friday evening.

According to Poroshenko, the Prosecutor General's Office (PGO) is going to ask the Ukrainian parliament to strip several judges of their immunity from prosecution on Tuesday and to authorize their arrest, according to online publication Ukrainska Pravda. What is more, Poroshenko announced he knew that the PGO was "preparing quite a lot of requests" to strip some lawmakers of their parliamentary immunity.

<http://www.unian.info/politics/1094479-poroshenko-announces-dismissal-of-about-300-judges-in-ukraine.html?>

Prosecutor's Office brings more charges against escaped deputy Kliuiev, 30.06.2015

This was announced by acting Prosecutor General Volodymyr Huzyr at the regulation committee of the Verkhovna Rada meeting. According to Huzyr, the volume of charges against Kliuiev has increased significantly over the past month. He was previously charged under articles 191 and 364 of the Criminal Code of Ukraine, and now more articles have been added, including 209, 203, 358, 368, 369. In particular, they concern giving improper advantage to former president Yanukovich in the form of free use of buildings and premises in Mezhyhiria.

http://en.censor.net.ua/news/341987/prosecutors_office_brings_more_charges_against_escaped_deputy_kliuiev

Some 130 hectares on fire in Chernobyl exclusion zone, 30.06.2015

A wildfire covering an area of approximately 130 hectares is burning in the exclusion zone on the premises of the 'Chornobylska Puscha' specialized forestry enterprise, Ukraine's State Emergency Situations Service said in a press release on Tuesday morning.

As many as 117 people and 24 units of hardware, including 82 specialists and 13 units of equipment provided by the State Emergency Situations Service, are working to extinguish the blaze. A firefighting coordination center and a mobile group headed by the deputy chief of the emergencies service's branch for the Kyiv region are working at the site. The first deputy director of the State Emergency Situations Service is overseeing the effort.

<http://en.interfax.com.ua/news/general/274909.html>

<http://www.unian.info/kyiv/1095407-aviation-involved-in-firefighting-operation-in-chernobyl-zone.html>

Terrorism / Separatism

ATO upgrade: Militants continue firing on Ukrainian troops from artillery systems, 01.06.2015

Russian-backed militants do not quit shelling Ukrainian troops/ Picture from a militant web site Militants continue firing on the placements of Ukraine's ATO pressures, the ATO press facility composed. Particularly, given that 1800 Kyiv time on Sunday, they have actually been shelling the town of Pisky, which lies near the ruined Donetsk flight terminal, the town of Starohnativka and also Butivka coalmine in Donetsk area, utilizing large-caliber mortars prohibited by the Minsk peace contracts. "The town of Krasny Pakhar in the Artemivsk industry was assaulted by a storage tank, which lasted for regarding a hr. The town of Leninske was under mortar fire, combined with hefty elliptical trainer shooting," the ATO press facility stated.

<http://journalfocus.com/2015/06/ato-update-militants-continue-firing-on-ukrainian-troops-from-artillery-systems/>

Two Ukrainian soldiers captured in Maryinka fight on Sunday– update, 01.06.2015

Press Assistant of the Ukrainian Presidential Management for the Anti-Terrorist Procedure (ATO) problems Andriy Lysenko stated that two Ukrainian soldiers were captured throughout a fight outside Maryinka on Sunday.

"Procedures are being required to find them and also launch," he stated at a rundown in Kyiv on Monday. In the previous day, 3 Ukrainian soldiers were eliminated and also 4 were injured, he included.

Replacement Principal of the Ukrainian Inside Ministry's local branch in Donetsk area Illia Kiva previously stated that two Ukrainian soldiers were eliminated and also one was captured in an assault by a militant sabotage and also reconnaissance team outside the community of Maryinka on Sunday.

<http://journalfocus.com/2015/06/two-ukrainian-soldiers-taken-captive-in-maryinka-fight-on-sunday-update/>

UNHR report on Ukraine: a minimum of 6,417 people killed in Donbas war, 01.06.2015

The conflict in the south-east of Ukraine claimed the lives of 6417 people, reported in the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights.

In addition, since April last year on May 30, 2015 at least 15 962 people have been wounded in the conflict zone. In the United Nations do not rule out that the actual numbers may be higher than the public. In mid-April, the Organization reported 6,116 dead and 15,474 wounded in the Ukrainian conflict.

<http://www.mnogovbloge.com/?p=12642&lang=en>

Latest from OSCE Special Monitoring Mission (SMM) to Ukraine, 02.06.2015

The SMM observed continuing ceasefire violations in and around Donetsk airport ("Donetsk People's Republic" ("DPR")-controlled, 12km north-west of Donetsk city centre). During the day, at the Joint Centre for Control and Co-ordination observation point at **Donetsk** central railway station ("DPR"-controlled, 8km north-west of Donetsk city centre) the SMM heard a total of 109 mainly outgoing explosions from the north, north-north-west and north-east consistent with heavy and light weapons (122mm howitzers, 120 and 82mm mortars), and (23mm) anti-aircraft fire. In line with current security considerations, the SMM did not visit the area of Shyrokyne (20km east of Mariupol).

<http://www.osce.org/ukraine-smm/161686>

16 doctors killed, another 60 wounded during ATO, 02.06.2015

A total of 16 health workers have been killed and another 60 injured during the Anti-Terrorist Operation in the Donbas conflict zone, Chairman of the Verkhovna Rada Committee on Health, Advisor to the President of Ukraine Olha Bohomolets said on Tuesday at the board meeting of the Ministry of Health, with the participation of Ukrainian Prime Minister Arseniy Yatseniuk.

<http://www.unian.info/politics/1084516-16-doctors-killed-another-60-wounded-during-ato.html>

Eight Ukrainian soldiers wounded in Donbas conflict zone in last day, 02.06.2015

During the last day no casualties among Ukrainian servicemen have been reported, eight soldiers have been wounded in the area of the anti-terrorist operation in Donbas as a result of hostilities and military clashes. Spokesman for the Presidential Administration on the anti-terrorist operation, Colonel Andriy Lysenko said this at a briefing in Kyiv on Tuesday, an Ukrinform correspondent reported. "Over the past day, fortunately, no our soldiers were killed, another eight were injured as a result of military clashes and provocations," he said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/eight_ukrainian_soldiers_wounded_in_donbas_conflict_zone_in_last_day_331883

Four Russian GRU operatives killed during attack on Marinka – SBU, 03.06.2015

Advisor to the head of the Security Service of Ukraine Markiiian Lubkivskyi released information about the losses of the Russian special forces near Marinka.

Lubkivskyi wrote: "Urgent and important information! According to the ATO HQ and SBU, the Armed Forces have given a fitting rebuff to the militants in Krasnohorivka and Marinka!

"The losses among the militants during the engagement of the Armed Forces of Ukraine units with the illegal armed formations were established: 10 killed and more than 80 injured.

http://en.censor.net.ua/news/338686/four_russian_gru_operatives_killed_during_attack_on_marinka_sbu

Five Ukrainian soldiers killed, 38 wounded over past day, - ATO speaker, 04.06.2015

This was announced by the Presidential Administration representative on the ATO matters, Colonel Andrii Lysenko at a briefing: "Over the past day, five Ukrainian soldiers were killed, 38 received injuries in combat activities in the ATO area. The most losses were incurred in fighting near Marinka and Luhanske," he said.

http://en.censor.net.ua/news/338780/five_ukrainian_soldiers_killed_38_wounded_over_past_day_ato_speaker

<http://sputniknews.com/europe/20150604/1022924385.html>

Spot report by the OSCE Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine, 04.06.2015

Fighting erupted around the government-controlled town of Marinka (23km west-south-west of Donetsk city centre) in the morning of 3 June. The SMM observed the movement of a large amount of heavy weapons in "Donetsk People's Republic" ("DPR")-controlled areas – generally in a westerly direction towards the contact line – close to Marinka, preceding and during the fighting. Calm was restored by the early evening.

<http://www.osce.org/ukraine-smm/162116>

<http://sputniknews.com/europe/20150604/1022922950.html>

50 Russian mercenaries killed in attempted assault on Marinka, - ATO headquarters, 04.06.2015

This was stated by Chief Inspector of the Defense Ministry Valentyn Fedichev.

"We are now learning initial numbers of people and military equipment engaged by the enemy. In the morning there was information about 300, then 1,000, after clarification it's 500. That is a battalion task force, reinforced by artillery, multiple rocket launchers, and tanks. The numbers for losses among the militants are: more than 50 dead, destroyed equipment - two tanks. We'll find out about artillery systems late," he said.

At the same time you cannot say that the Minsk agreement was violated. Fedichev noted that this is what the Russian side had hoped for: "[They hoped] that in the preparation of deflecting these assault actions we will conduct a preemptive strike in violation of the Minsk agreements. That we would start hostilities, and in that case they would have shown losses among the civilian population in Donetsk ... And [would say] that the Minsk agreement was disrupted by the Ukrainian side." He noted that after receiving information about preparations for a provocation the Ukrainian military addressed the international community to receive authorization to use heavy weapons.

http://en.censor.net.ua/news/338725/50_russian_mercenaries_killed_in_attempted_assault_on_marinka_ato_headquarters

European Commission: Fighting in Ukraine's Marinka Huge Ceasefire Violation, 04.06.2015

"In our opinion, yesterday's fighting around Marinka near Donetsk in eastern Ukraine is a huge violation in the Minsk ceasefire agreement," EU Foreign Affairs & Security Policy spokeswoman Maja Kocijančič said. She said the escalations in the conflict had led to the redeployment of a large number of heavy artillery back near the line of contact.

<http://sputniknews.com/europe/20150604/1022934145.html>

Donetsk Abiding by Minsk Accord, but Will Not Tolerate Kiev Forces' Strikes, 04.06.2015

"We are holding to the Minsk agreements, but from our position our territory needs to be defended and we'll do that. We are doing everything possible so that the situation is solved at the negotiations table through political methods, but we will stop any attempts to solve the situation through military methods and won't tolerate brazen [military] strikes," Pushilin said in an interview on Rossiya-24 television. He also warned Kiev of consequences should military strikes continue.

<http://sputniknews.com/europe/20150604/1022939604.html>

Biriukov: Five soldiers killed in Donbas in last day, 04.06.2015

"The final data on the combat losses for the last day: five soldiers dead, four of whom were killed near the town of Maryinka, 39 injured, one GAZ-66 truck and two UAZ-452 vans were destroyed," he said. Russian backed militants launched a major attack on Ukrainian forces at the village of Maryinka near the city of Donetsk at dawn on Wednesday, with the battle lasting well into the evening. The militants accused Ukrainian forces of provoking the battle, but the OSCE has reported that it observed the movement of militant forces towards the area on the day before the militant attack.

<http://www.unian.info/war/1085379-biriukov-five-soldiers-killed-in-donbas-in-last-day.html>

Eighty militants killed, over 100 wounded in Maryinka – Kyiv, 04.06.2015

"Yesterday, in disregard of the Minsk agreements, the militants tried to mount an offensive on the Ukrainian positions in the Donetsk sector. The fighting was severest in the Donetsk airport area, the northwestern outskirts of Maryinka, and Svitlodarsk. In addition to the broad use of large-caliber tube artillery, 120mm mortars and tanks, the illegal armed units conducted at least eleven attacks on our positions using Grad rocket launchers," ATO spokesman Andriy Lysenko said. Considering the threat to the life of Ukrainian servicemen and Maryinka civilians, the Ukrainian command decided to use the artillery weapons which had been earlier pulled out to comply with the Minsk accords, Lysenko said. "The move was coordinated with international partners and observed by the OSCE mission. Our servicemen defended their lines courageously and professionally, and the enemy had to retreat. As before, Maryinka is under full control of the Ukrainian authorities," he said. In his words, militants had suffered heavy losses.

"Yesterday, in the Maryinka battle, the illegal armed units lost up to ten armored vehicles, up to 80 militants were killed and over 100 were wounded. The bodies of dead militants are lying on the neutral ground," he said.

<http://en.interfax.com.ua/news/general/269966.html>

<http://www.unian.info/war/1085493-five-ukrainian-soldiers-killed-38-wounded-in-conflict-zone-in-last-day.html>

The night in ATO area was restless. The enemy shelled Ukrainian army positions and towns with Grads and tanks, 05.06.2015

Last night the situation in the area of the anti-terrorist operation was uneasy.

According to the HQ, from 6 p.m. of June 4 until midnight there were more than forty attacks, mostly with the use of mortars and tube artillery of calibers prohibited by the Minsk agreements.

"The situation is most difficult at the Donetsk direction: "the militants used artillery and mortars against Pisky, Berezove, Pervomaisk, Opytne, Bohdanivka, Butivka mine, Novobakhmutivka. Berezove and Vodiane were also fired at by tanks. Starohnativka was hit by MLRS". It is also noted that the situation near Marinka remains troubling.

http://en.censor.net.ua/news/338873/the_night_in_ato_area_was_restless_the_enemy_shelled_ukrainian_army_positions_and_towns_with_grads_and

Luhansk governor Moskal orders to halt water supply to 'LPR' in return to latter's power supply discontinuation in Stanytsia, 05.06.2015

The blackout in Stanytsia Luhanska and eight villages around it began on Wednesday afternoon, the Moskal press service has reported. The local power line had been previously damaged by shells, and the area was receiving electricity via a reserve line across territories uncontrolled by Kyiv. Moskal claimed that Ukraine was footing its electricity bills.

The governor said that the militia was barring repairmen from entering their territory. "Repairmen have tried to reach the damaged sections [of the power line] many times but to no avail. The blackout has disrupted the water supply to Stanytsia [Luhanska] and a part of the district, and mobile phone service is unstable," Moskal said.

"They are waging a war on our public utilities, and I cannot help but bring to a complete halt the water supply to the occupied territory. The order took effect at 9 a.m. The water supply will be restored as soon as they resume the power supply to Stanytsia and guarantee its stability. We will act like Ostap Bender did: we get electricity in the evening and give them water in the morning," the head of the regional administration said.

<http://en.interfax.com.ua/news/general/270078.html>

KyivPride 2015: smoke bombs, scuffles, injured police, 06.06.2015

Agents of the regional LGBT neighborhood attempted to organize a Ukrainian gay satisfaction march, KyivPride 2015, along Kyiv's Obolon esplanade on Sunday early morning.

At the start of the march, regarding 30 hostile youths, that pertained to the website of the event of individuals in case, assaulted participants of the gay satisfaction by splashing tear gas and also tossing smoke bombs and also firecrackers.

Law enforcement officer aligned a cordon and also avoided open clashes in between the marchers and also the KyivPride challengers. 9 law enforcement officer were injured throughout the occasion, the media intermediary workplace of the Ukrainian Inside Ministry's primary division in Kyiv.

They had firecrackers, screwdrivers, blades and also various other hazardous products.

Wrongdoer procedures under Component 4 of Short article 296 of the Crook Code of Ukraine (hooliganism) were introduced.

<http://journalfocus.com/2015/06/kyivpride-2015-smoke-bombs-scuffles-injured-police/>

Militants continue firing on Ukrainian troops from heavy weapons on Saturday, 06.06.2015

Russian-backed militants proceeded firing on the ATO pressures near the towns of Hranitne and also Starohnativka, utilizing heavy weapons, specifically 122mm-caliber weapons systems and also 120mm-caliber mortars.

In Luhansk area, militants were shelling on the town of Krymske from grenade launchers.

OSCE screens have actually once again stated that Russian-backed militants did not allow them obtain accessibility to the busy areas.

<http://journalfocus.com/2015/06/militants-continue-firing-on-ukrainian-troops-from-heavy-weapons-on-saturday/>

Russian-backed militants continue to shell Ukrainian army positions in east Ukraine, 07.06.2015

Russian-backed militants fired on the positions of Ukrainian troops near the village of Pisky from 120mm-caliber mortars, while the village of Vodiane was shelled from 122mm-caliber artillery systems overnight, the Anti-Terrorist Operation (ATO) press center wrote in an update on Facebook on Sunday. In the early hours of Sunday, the situation in the ATO zone was relatively calm. However, almost 30 cases of shelling by militants were recorded overnight.

"Militants from illegal armed groups shelled our defenders almost 30 times. In some of the cases, they used the weapons that are prohibited by the Minsk agreements," the update said.

<http://uatoday.tv/news/russian-backed-militants-continue-to-shell-ukrainian-army-positions-in-east-ukraine-434283.html>

Ukrainian coastguard motor boat explodes at sea near Mariupol on Sunday, 07.06.2015

The cause of the blast has not yet been determined, as well as the exact number of the wounded. "There were seven crewmen aboard the vessel. It is known at the moment that two State Border Service servicemen have been wounded in the blast. Information about the health of the remaining men is being verified," the State Border Service wrote on its website.

The vessel has been considerably damaged, it added.

Emergency rescue teams and investigators are currently on the scene at sea near the Ukrainian-controlled city of Mariupol.

<http://www.unian.info/society/1086382-ukrainian-coastguard-motor-boat-explodes-at-sea-near-mariupol-on-sunday.html>

<http://www.unian.info/war/1086541-ato-coastguard-boat-blown-up-by-militant-ied.html>

OSCE SMM, JCCC personnel come under militant fire, 07.06.2015

The event occurred near the community of Schastia at 1115 Kyiv time on June 7, the Anti-Terrorist Procedure (ATO) press facility stated.

"Screens from the SMM and also the JCCC have actually come under attack on the locations of the Army of Ukraine from 82mm-caliber mortars almost a bridge throughout the Stream Siversky Donets, where the screens were taking photos and also determining openings left by previous shelling by unlawful armed teams," the record stated.

The fire originated from the town of Vesela Hora, which is regulated by the supposed Luhansk Individuals's Republic. "Coverings blew up at a range of 200 meters from the screens. After the beginning of the shelling, the participants of a tracking team needed to transfer to a risk-free range. No casualties and also no vehicle damages have actually been stated," journalism facility stated. Basing on the resource, militants shell the Ukrainian locations because town everyday, one of the most extensive fire was tape-recorded on June 5 and also June 6 when militants utilized 120mm-caliber and also 82mm-caliber|82mm-caliber and also 120mm-caliber mortars.

<http://journalfocus.com/2015/06/osce-smm-jccc-personnel-come-under-militant-fire/>

Terrorists shell Marinka again using 122-mm missiles, 08.06.2015

According to press officer of the Joint Center for Cease-Fire Coordination and Control Ruslan Semeniuk, illegal armed gangs started to shell Marinka at 6 a.m. After 10:30 a.m. the enemy added 122-mm missiles to the shelling. As of afternoon, Semeniuk said, there were no large-scale offensive and combat activities at the location.

After massive offensive of 1,000 terrorists with 10 tanks and Gvozdikas, the Ukrainian party was forced to use artillery against the mercenaries. Ukraine has informed its partners of the decision. Ukrainian presidential adviser Yuri Biriukov said that as of 9 p.m. that day, three Ukrainian soldiers were killed and 38 wounded.

http://en.censor.net.ua/news/339209/terrorists_shell_marinka_again_using_122mm_missiles

Over 42,000 militants in east, 55,000 Russian soldiers on border - Defense Ministry, 08.06.2015

The minister has said this at the Ukraine-NATO Inter-Parliamentary Council meeting, an Ukrinform correspondent reports. "As of now, the joint contingent of the Russian Armed Forces and illegal armed units stationed on the temporarily occupied territories of Donetsk and Luhansk regions consists of over 42,500 persons," the minister said.

Poltorak also noted that the militants had doubled attacks on positions of Ukrainian troops in May - beginning of June in comparison with April. "Russia keeps its forces along the border with Ukraine... The total number is about 55,000 soldiers and about 3,700 units of weapons and equipment of the Russian Federation," he added. According to forecasts of the Armed Forces of Ukraine, the major terrorist efforts are expected to be directed at creating the armed forces of the self-proclaimed "DPR" and "LPR" republics.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/over_42000_militants_in_east_55000_russian_soldiers_on_border_defense_ministry_332074

Fighting escalates near Artemivsk, 08.06.2015

Fighting between Ukrainian forces and Russian-backed militants intensified in the area of Artemivsk in the early hours of Monday. "In the area of the villages of Semyhiria and Pershe Travnia, the militants fired 122mm artillery on the positions of the Ukrainian army," Ukrainian Defense Ministry press centre said. Artillery of this caliber should have been pulled out of range of the front line weeks ago according to the Minsk peace agreements. But the OSCE, which is monitoring the fulfillment of the agreement's terms, has noted breaches of this point on many occasions.

<http://uatoday.tv/politics/fighting-escalating-near-artemivsk-434565.html>

Situation in Donbas, 09.06.2015

Over the past day, the fighters were shelling our positions mainly from small arms, but they also used the forbidden under the Minsk agreements arms in particular 152 mm artillery, 122 mm cannons, tanks and "grads". Yesterday the fights took place at the Mariupol direction in the villages of Lomakyne and Shyrokyne. At the Donetsk direction, the most active fights were near Horlivka, in particular at its north-west outskirts. The enemy is conducting heavy mortar fire, and near the village of Chervonyi Palhar (close to Sverdlovsk) it used the 122-mm cannons and tanks, firing from two different points. The enemy was also actively firing at our positions to the west of Donetsk at a broad part of the front from Avdiivka to Marinka. In particular, the use of tanks by the fighters was registered near Vodiane and Opytne.

http://www.fm-tv.kiev.ua/main_news/61299/view/

http://en.censor.net.ua/news/339578/situation_in_donbas_not_calm_enemy_sniper_neutralized_in_luhanske_ato_press_center

Fighting intensifies near Donetsk airport, 10.06.2015

"Apart from using actively guns and mortars, the enemy has brought armored vehicles - tanks and infantry fighting vehicles – up to the line of contact," The situation in the area of Horlivka was not calm either, according to Lysenko. The sound of firing was heard in its western, northern and eastern suburbs. There are also reports of tanks and 152-mm artillery shells being used by the militants to the east and west of Svetlodarsk water reservoir.

"It should be noted that the enemy is firing at our positions and settlements not only along the line of contact, but deep into Ukrainian territory at a distance of 5-10 km from the front, where shots can be fired only from artillery of 122 mm caliber or more," Lysenko said.

At the same time, according to Lysenko, the most intense confrontations in the Luhansk area were near Zolote and Popasna, where militants launched a large mortar barrage that damaged power lines. Intense attacks with infantry combat vehicle were launched by the militants in the village of Krymske.

http://www.fm-tv.kiev.ua/main_news/61348/view/

Two Ukrainian soldiers killed, 13 wounded over past day, - ATO speaker, 11.06.2015

"Over the past day, two Ukrainian soldiers were killed, 13 were wounded in combat activities. Given intensified volume of fighting, increased number of provocations and heavy weapons use by the enemy, the ATO forces incurred losses along the demarcation line," Lysenko said.

http://en.censor.net.ua/news/339676/two_ukrainian_soldiers_killed_13_wounded_over_past_day_ato_speaker

Ukrainian servicemen destroyed militants' ammunition stock in meteorological tower near Donetsk airport, 11.06.2015

According to the Ukrainian soldiers, they fired back to suppress the militants' firing points after the terrorists had shelled Opytne village.

Ukrainian soldiers hit the meteorological tower near the Donetsk airport where the militants' stored their ammunition reserve. The ammunition exploded as a result of a direct hit. According to the Ukrainian military, one of the militants' chieftains nicknamed Koshmar (the nightmare) is currently near the tower together with his henchmen.

http://en.censor.net.ua/news/339761/ukrainian_servicemen_destroyed_militants_ammunition_stock_in_meteorological_tower_near_donetsk_airport

Situation in Donbas, 11.06.2015

The situation in eastern Ukraine remains tense. Despite the declared ceasefire, Russian-backed terrorists continue to fire at Ukrainian army positions and settlements in Donbas.

During the last day two Ukrainian servicemen have been killed, another 13 injured in the area of the anti-terrorist operation in Donbas as a result of hostilities and military clashes.

http://www.fm-tv.kiev.ua/main_news/61407/view/

http://en.censor.net.ua/news/339751/situation_in_the_donbas_remains_troubled_it_was_tensest_at_the_donetsk_direction_ato_press_center

Latest from OSCE Special Monitoring Mission (SMM) to Ukraine, 11.06.2015

The SMM monitored the implementation of the "Package of measures for the implementation of the Minsk agreements". Its monitoring was restricted by third parties and security considerations*. The SMM observed a high level of violence in and around Donetsk airport. The SMM resumed monitoring activities at observation points west of Shyrokyne.

The level of violence in and around Donetsk airport ("Donetsk People's Republic" ("DPR")-controlled, 12km north-west of Donetsk) remained high. From the Joint Centre for Control and Co-ordination (JCCC) observation point at the Donetsk central railway station ("DPR"-controlled, 8km north-west of Donetsk city centre), over a five hour period, the SMM heard over 250 bursts of small arms and light weapons fire, heavy machinegun, automatic grenade launchers and anti-aircraft guns as well as 134 explosions, both incoming and outgoing at one to eight kilometres north, north-west, north-east and west of its location.[1]At 15:35hrs, explosions only 500 meters from the SMM's position forced it to leave the observation point. The JCCC Ukrainian Armed Forces and Russian Federation Armed Forces representatives present at the observation point negotiated three ceasefires during the day, at 13:10, 14:00 and 15:15hrs, but neither held longer than ten minutes.

<http://www.osce.org/ukraine-smm/164126>

Two powerful explosions hit Odesa overnight, 12.06.2015

The explosions were heard in almost all districts of the city. According to preliminary reports, the blasts caused no casualties.

<http://www.unian.info/society/1088569-two-powerful-explosions-hit-odesa-overnight.html>

<http://www.unian.info/society/1088627-police-give-details-of-overnight-explosions-in-odesa.html>

Terrorists opened fire 30 times overnight using tanks and artillery, - ATO press center, 12.06.2015

"Since yesterday evening the situation in the anti-terrorist operation area is stable but tense. Pro-Russian gangs shelled Ukrainian army's positions and peaceful villages for 30 times at night. It was the hottest at Donetsk direction. The enemy fired at Pisky eight times using 120-mm mortars, 122-mm artillery systems, small arms, and military vehicles. Butivka mine and Opytne village in the same area were fired upon numerous times," the message reads.

http://en.censor.net.ua/news/339776/terrorists_opened_fire_30_times_overnight_using_tanks_and_artillery_ato_press_center

<http://www.unian.info/war/1088572-ato-militants-fire-tank-shells-on-avdiyivka-and-vodiane-overnight.html>

<http://ukrnews.today/ato-militants-fire-tank-shells-on-avdiyivka-and-vodiane-overnight/>

Latest from OSCE Special Monitoring Mission (SMM) to Ukraine, 12.06.2015

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<http://www.osce.org/ukraine-smm/164126>

Donbas militants shell Ukrainian troops almost 60 times, 12.06.2015

"The towns of Pisky, Opytne, Vodiane, the communities of Maryinka and also Avdiyivka, and also the town of Novomykhailivka were under extreme fire. The opponent utilized a 122mm-caliber cannon, 120mm-caliber mortars, storage tanks, grenade launchers, and also little arms. A total amount of 40 situations of shooting were signed up because industry," journalism facility stated. Opponent storage tanks likewise discharged on suburbs of Vodiane and also Avdiyivka. "Militants were shooting on the towns of Lozove, Mayorsk and also Luhanske near the community of Artemivsk from 120mm-caliber mortars and also 152mm-caliber weapons systems," the record stated. |"The towns of Pisky, Opytne, Vodiane, the communities of Maryinka and also Avdiyivka, and also the town of Novomykhailivka were under extreme fire. The adversary utilized a 122mm-caliber cannon, 120mm-caliber mortars, storage tanks, grenade launchers, and also little arms.

<http://journalfocus.com/2015/06/donbas-militants-shell-ukrainian-troops-almost-60-times-on-friday/>

Latest from OSCE Special Monitoring Mission (SMM) to Ukraine, 13.06.2015

From the Joint Centre for Control and Co-ordination (JCCC) observation post at the Donetsk central railway station ("Donetsk People's Republic" ("DPR")-controlled, 8km north-west of Donetsk city centre), the SMM saw and heard 142 explosions from unspecified types of weapons and 34 anti-aircraft gun bursts at a distance between three to seven kilometres north-north-east, north, north-west and west-north-west of the SMM's location.[1]

From the observation post at the railway station, the SMM observed a large fire approximately 2.5km north of its position and on the other side of the destroyed new terminal at Donetsk airport ("DPR"-controlled, 12km north-north-west of Donetsk airport).

The SMM monitored the implementation of the "Package of measures for the implementation of the Minsk agreements". Its monitoring was restricted by third parties and security considerations*. The SMM observed *continued ceasefire violations at and around Donetsk airport. The SMM conducted impact crater analysis and visited heavy weapons holding areas of Ukrainian Armed Forces and "DPR".*

<http://www.osce.org/ukraine-smm/164141>

Six Ukrainian soldiers killed, fourteen wounded in Donbas in last day, 13.06.2015

"In the previous 24 Hr, six Ukrainian soldiers were killed and also fourteen were wounded in violences, shelling and also altercations". The locations of the Ukrainian soldiers in the ATO area were shelled 40 times over night alone, the ATO press facility stated.

<http://journalfocus.com/2015/06/six-ukrainian-soldiers-killed-fourteen-wounded-in-donbas-in-last-day/>

Militants fire on Ukraine forces 65 times on Saturday, hit civilian facilities near Donetsk, 13.06.2015

In the past few days, Russian-backed militants have been most active over the last month, the ATO press center said. "The most complicated situation is still near Donetsk. Militants have been shelling the villages of Pisky, Vodiane, Opytne, and the towns of Maryinka and Krasnohorivka since the very morning," the source said. They have used almost all available weapons, including 120mm-caliber mortars and 122mm-caliber howitzers banned by the Minsk peace agreement. What is more, the enemy used tanks, guns of combat vehicles and 122mm-caliber artillery systems to fire on facilities in the village of Opytne five times. They also hit and destroyed residential areas in the village of Vodiane. "After a short break, the area around the Ukrainian-controlled city of Mariupol has again become a hot spot: ATO forces in the village of Shyrokyne were attacked eight times by militants, who used mortars and howitzers whose caliber is over 100 mm, as well as grenade launchers, heavy machine guns and small arms. The town of Schastia and the villages of Krymske and Bolotne in Luhansk region were under 120mm mortar fire. At the same time, the ATO press center said, the ATO forces have been beefing up their combat strength to be able to repel possible breakthrough battles and land grabs.

<http://mfa.gov.ua/en/news-feeds/foreign-offices-news/37320-militants-fire-on-ukraine-forces-65-times-on-saturday>

Ukrainian soldiers repel new attack by enemy infantry on Maryinka, 14.06.2015

On Sunday night, Ukrainian soldiers fended off a new attack by militants' infantry on the community of Maryinka in Donetsk area. "At regarding 2130 Kyiv time [on Sunday, June 13], the enemy began shelling our locations near the community of Maryinka, utilizing 122mm-caliber weapons systems and also 120mm-caliber mortars. Sabotage-reconnaissance teams were trying to damage through," the tweet checks out.

At regarding 2230 Kyiv time, the strength of shooting on the Ukrainian locations deteriorated, though it proceeded. The Ukrainian soldiers opened up extensive returned fire on the enemy. "By 2300, an attack by 2 enemy infantry teams had actually been pushed back. After an appropriate rebuff, the enemy's efforts to tornado have actually significantly been reduced," the tweet checks out. | At regarding 2230 Kyiv time, the strength of shooting on the Ukrainian locations deteriorated, though it proceeded."By 2300, an attack by 2 enemy infantry teams had actually been warded off.

<http://journalfocus.com/2015/06/ukrainian-soldiers-repel-new-attack-by-enemy-infantry-on-maryinka/>

One soldier killed, 21 wounded in Donbas, 14.06.2015

Militants shelled both Ukrainian army positions and residential areas with Grad rockets and self-propelled artillery weapons. One Ukrainian soldier was killed and 21 were wounded the Anti-Terrorist Operation (ATO) zone in eastern Ukraine over the last 24 hours, presidential administration speaker for ATO issues Oleksandr Motuzyanyk said in Kyiv on Sunday.

He said militants continue to shell villages and towns on the front line, using tanks, artillery and infantry fighting vehicles. In the Luhansk region, the Russian-backed fighters shelled several communities with Grad rockets, damaging houses and power lines. No civilian casualties have been reported. On Saturday the Ukrainian military reported a record number of attacks as militants shelled Ukrainian army positions 109 times, resulting in the death of 6 servicemen.

<http://uatoday.tv/news/one-soldier-killed-21-wounded-in-donbas-438813.html>

<http://www.unian.info/war/1089170-militants-fire-grad-systems-on-luhansk-villages-on-saturday.html>

Ukrainian volunteer Right Sector group captures Russian fighter in Shyrokyne, 15.06.2015

The captured man is reportedly a driver-mechanic of a military unit fighting in Shyrokyne and a resident of Stavropol region in Russia. Troops belonging the Rights Sector group near Mariupol in southeastern Ukraine have released a video clip of a 33-year old Russian they claim to have arrested over the weeked in Shyrokyne outside of the port city.

The man - named Roman Tolstokorov - hails from the Stravropol region of Russia and is heavily tattooed. Tolstokorov said he was being paid 15,000 roubles a month to fight against Ukrainians.

<http://uatoday.tv/politics/ukrainian-army-captures-russian-mercenary-in-shyrokyne-439122.html>

Tymchuk: 1,000 militants and artillery sent to Horlivka and Debaltseve, 15.06.2015

"In the area of the town of Horlivka, through the towns of Yasynuvata and Yenakieve, the militants have sent units of 450-500 people in several batches. At the same time, they are sending artillery: Six 2S1 Gvozdika 152-mm self-propelled artillery systems and five D-30 122mm howitzers have been redeployed in the last day," he said.

In addition, two TOR surface-to-air missile systems have been redeployed through the town of Shakhtarsk. "The Ukrainian army also recorded the movement of three 9K35 Strela-10 short-range surface-to-air missile systems between the village of Sadove and the town of Khartsyzk," Tymchuk said. Moreover, from the town of Alchevsk to Debaltseve, the militants have sent five-six trucks with local fighters, with at least 550 fighters now in the town.

According to Tymchuk, a column of four BTR-80 amphibious armored personnel carriers and four 2S1 Gvozdika 152-mm self-propelled artillery systems passed through the town of Alchevsk in the direction of the Isakovske water reservoir. In addition, to the south of Luhansk, the Ukrainian armed forces have recorded 20 trucks with a pontoon bridge system (all of them had obscured tactical numbers).

<http://uknews.today/tymchuk-1000-militants-and-artillery-sent-to-horlivka-and-debaltseve/>

Two Ukrainian soldiers killed, 20 wounded in Donbas conflict zone in last day, 15.06.2015

"Over the past day, as a result of active hostilities we have lost two our soldiers, another 20 were injured," spokesman for the Presidential Administration on the ATO, Colonel Andriy Lysenko said.
http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/two_ukrainian_soldiers_killed_20_wounded_in_donbas_conflict_zone_in_last_day_332261

About 500 people attend anti-war protest in center of Donetsk, 15.06.2015

A spontaneous anti-war rally that started at 1100 on Monday early morning before the federal government structure of the Donetsk People's Republic is still proceeding, inning accordance with Russian paper Novaya Gazeta.

<http://journalfocus.com/2015/06/about-500-people-attend-anti-war-protest-in-center-of-donetsk/>
<http://www.unian.info/politics/1089525-about-500-people-attend-anti-war-protest-in-center-of-donetsk.html>

Militants attacked Ukrainian positions using all available means. Most attacks took place at Donetsk direction, - ATO press center, 15.06.2015

Today, June 15, illegal armed groups of the pro-Russian militants continued to actively provoke Ukrainian soldiers using practically all available weapons systems.

The report reads: "Out of the 33 shootings of the positions of our troops, 27 were carried out in the area of Donetsk. The Invaders manically fired 120-mm mortars at Berezove, Hranitne, Starohnativka, and twice at Marinka. Hranitne, Bohdanivka and Novohryhorivka were shelled by 122-mm howitzers. "The same artillery systems were also used by criminals against Toshkivka, Novotoshkivske in the Luhansk region, and Stepove at the Artemivsk direction.

"Today it was hot near Opytne and Pisky. The Kremlin's mercenaries systematically used small arms, rocket-propelled grenades, combat vehicles' weapons and artillery prohibited by the Minsk agreements against our soldiers there. "In addition, the militants fired 122-mm artillery systems at urban infrastructure in Hranitne and Prokhorivka. In Shyrokyne the militants only used firearms twice.

http://en.censor.net.ua/news/340178/militants_attacked_ukrainian_positions_using_all_available_means_most_attacks_took_place_at_donetsk

Terrorists shelled Ukrainian army's positions and villages for more than 100 times, - ATO press center, 15.06.2015

"Starting from 6 p.m. yesterday until now, the Russian-terrorist troops used weapons against Ukrainian soldiers 40 times," the message reads. Terrorists shelled Opytne, Taramchuk, Berezove, Pisky, Marinka, Krasnohorivka with Minsk-banned weapons, including mortars and howitzers of caliber of over 100 mm. At the Artemivsk area, mercenaries shelled Zolote, Komyshuvakha with 120-mm mortars, and Sokilnyky was fired upon at the Luhansk direction. After midnight, Marinka was the most shelled spot, being fired upon with 120-mm mortars and MLRSes. Hranitne, Novohryhorivka, Bohdanivka, and Krasnohorivka were shelled with 122-mm howitzers from temporarily occupied territories.

http://en.censor.net.ua/news/340050/terrorists_shelled_ukrainian_armys_positions_and_villages_for_more_than_100_times_ato_press_center

Terrorists shelled Ukrainian army's positions nearly 30 times before midnight, - ATO press center, 16.06.2015

"In the evening, Russian terrorist troops became extremely active. They committed about 30 cases of shelling of the ATO positions by midnight," the message reads.

Near Donetsk, mercenaries continued to shell Ukrainian military from 120-mm mortars and 122-mm howitzers, including near villages of Pisky, Opytne, Starohnativka. Near Artemivsk, mortars were used to fire upon Troitske and Novhorodske. Near Luhansk, Krymske village has been shelled by Minsk-banned weapons. Stanytsia Luhanska and Shchastia, the Luhansk region, were fired at from small arms. In Shyrokyne, Kremlin mercenaries conducted seven cases of shelling with 120-mm mortars and 122-mm howitzers in the evening. After midnight, terrorists were using mortars and artillery systems of over 100-m caliber near Shyrokyne, Zolote in the Luhansk region, and Orikhove near Artemivsk. Pisky, Opytne and Stanytsia Luhanska were fired upon from small arms.

Enemy sniper was operating actively in Marinka.

http://en.censor.net.ua/news/340212/terrorists_shelled_ukrainian_armys_positions_nearly_30_times_before_midnight_ato_press_center

Shyrokyne shelled seven times over past day. Terrorist troops are being concentrated near Hranitne, - Mariupol Defense HQ, 17.06.2015

In particular, it is reported that the enemy used 122-mm artillery once, 82-mm and 120-mm mortars twice, and small arms for four times. This night, illegal armed gangs shelled Ukrainian positions in Shyrokyne three times. All of the shelling was conducted with small arms. No casualties are reported. The enemy did not conduct aerial reconnaissance yesterday and overnight - no drone flights were recorded. Information of Russian-terrorist troop concentration near Hranitne village is confirmed. ATO forces follow the situation development. Head of Joint Center for Control and Coordination, Major General Taran announced that Ukrainian military are ready to repulse terrorists' attacks in the event of deployment of the equipment in question.

http://en.censor.net.ua/news/340384/shyrokyne_shelled_seven_times_over_past_day_terrorist_troops_are_being_concentrated_near_hranitne_mariupol

Donbas militants shell Ukrainian troops more than 30 times on Wednesday, 17.06.2015

Thirty-one situations of shooting on Ukrainian troops and also 2 altercations were signed up in eastern Ukraine on June 17, in accordance with the ATO press facility.

After not successful efforts to damage with the locations of the ATO pressures near the community of Maryinka, militants began to proactively discharge on Ukrainian troops from every kind of the weapons they had.

<http://journalfocus.com/2015/06/donbas-militants-shell-ukrainian-troops-more-than-30-times-on-wednesday/>

http://en.censor.net.ua/news/340489/militants_continue_to_use_prohibited_weapons_31_fire_attacks_and_two_clashes_recorded_today_ato_press

Ukrainian side informed OSCE about night attack on Marinka - militants do not stop attempts at revenge, 17.06.2015

Today, June 17, daily briefing for representatives of the OSCE SMM on the situation along the demarcation line took place at the Joint Center for Control and Coordination of the cease-fire. According to the report, Head of the Ukrainian side of the JCCC, Major General Andrii Taran told about attempts of the armed gangs to infiltrate the territory controlled by Ukraine in order to seize the positions. In particular, last night there were two clashes of the Ukrainian Armed Forces with militant groups of 30 and 150 people with small arms and mortars near Marinka. All attacks were repulsed. The cessation of the militants' activities in this case was encouraged by the intervention of the Ukrainian and Russian sides in the Joint Center. The OSCE representatives also received facts of the destruction of the infrastructure of towns by the militants, recorded on June 15. Thus, fire from the SPG-9 and armor-piercing incendiary bullets from heavy machine guns destroyed two buildings on the outskirts of Stanytsia Luhanska. The Ukrainian side also transferred recorded results of the shelling by 152-mm artillery and Grad of Toshkivka village and other violations of the Minsk agreements by the terrorists.

http://en.censor.net.ua/photo_news/340459/ukrainian_side_informed_osce_about_night_attack_on_marinka_militants_do_not_stop_attempts_at_revenge

Three Ukrainian soldiers killed, 14 wounded over past day, - ATO speaker, 18.06.2015

"Over the past day, three Ukrainian soldiers were killed, 14 were wounded in combat activities, provocations and clashes," Lysenko said.

http://en.censor.net.ua/news/340568/three_ukrainian_soldiers_killed_14_wounded_over_past_day_ato_speaker

<http://uatoday.tv/news/three-ukrainian-soldiers-killed-14-wounded-in-conflict-zone-in-last-day-441621.html>

Militants try to break through front line at Maryinka three times overnight, 18.06.2015

According to the report, on 17 June, the situation in the Donbas conflict zone was tense, but under control of the Ukrainian armed forces. According to Ukrainian military reports, the number of attacks on Ukrainian forces has risen to levels similar to those seen before the latest ceasefire was supposed to have come into force in February.

As in previous "ceasefires," the number of militant attacks initially lessened greatly, only to steadily rise again in the following weeks and months, with no true ceasefire ever fully taking hold. Over the last day, the militants fired along the demarcation line all types of weaponry that they should have withdrawn according to the Minsk peace deal, including 120mm, 122mm and 152mm caliber artillery and Grad multiple rocket launchers, the military press center said.

<http://www.unian.info/war/1090794-militants-try-to-break-through-front-line-at-maryinka-three-times-overnight.html>

Fighting in Donbas likely to intensify – OSCE, 18.06.2015

OSCE warns of high possibility of a sudden intensification of hostilities in the ATO area. Spokesperson of the OSCE Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine Michael Bociurkiw has said this at a briefing in Kyiv on Thursday, an Ukrinform correspondent reports. "Despite the fact that the situation remained relatively calm over the past 48 hours, the possibility of a sudden intensification of hostilities remains high," he stressed. According to Bociurkiw, the overall situation in Donbas remains unstable and tense. "The level of hostilities remained high. The parties continued to exchange fire, in most cases from artillery and mortars," Bociurkiw said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/fighting_in_donbas_likely_to_intensify_osce_332386

"LPR" terrorist leaders lifted restrictions for heavy weapons use, - ATO press center, 19.06.2015

Leaders of the terrorist organization 'Luhansk People's Republic' ordered their units and detachments to lift restrictions on use of heavy weapons. This was announced by deputy head of the ATO headquarters Serhii Halushko. "According to our information, military leadership of 'LPR' ordered its units and detachments to lift restrictions on use of heavy weapons. It is known that the terrorists have planned additional deployment of artillery units at the demarcation line. Given possible increase in losses in case of resumed combat activities near Horlivka, the leadership of illegal armed gangs ordered to enhance medical care system and increase the number of beds in hospitals and sanatoria," he announced. According to Halushko, it is possible that in order to deceive about intentions and real assault directions, the following information is spread among the terrorists: combat activities will be increased between June 17 and 22 at directions of Stanychno-Luhanske, Artemivsk, Dzerzhynsk, and Hranitne.

http://en.censor.net.ua/news/340669/lpr_terrorist_leaders_lifted_restrictions_for_heavy_weapons_use_ato_press_center

Night in ATO zone: 55 enemy shelling, fighting in Maryinka, 19.06.2015

During the night terrorists have shelled positions of Ukrainian troops in the ATO area using Grad MLRS, artillery, combat vehicles, small arms and rocket-propelled grenades.

According to the press center for the anti-terrorist operation, the militants fired on the Ukrainian military and residential areas 55 times at night. "Militants fired powerful 152mm howitzers at the village of Shyroka Balka near Artemivsk and the village of Shyrokyne. In the area of Mariupol the mercenaries shelled the village of Chermalyk with 120mm mortars. Near Donetsk the villages of Pisky and Opytne, and the towns of Krasnohorivka and Maryinka were systematically fired by the invaders using small arms and 82mm mortars. According to the headquarters, militants most actively fired on Ukrainian position in Maryinka, having carried out at least ten attacks using 120mm mortars, infantry fighting vehicles, rocket-propelled grenades and small arms.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/night_in_ato_zone_55_enemy_shelling_fighting_in_maryinka_332409

OSCE reports 120 explosions in LPR-controlled territory, 19.06.2015

In recent days, the overall situation in the Luhansk region was tense. In the territory controlled by the militants, more than 120 explosions were observed. This is stated in the latest report of the organization as of June 17. "The situation at and around Donetsk airport was relatively calm for the third consecutive day... The overall situation in the Luhansk region was tense," the statement reads. At the same time, at the observation point at Donetsk central railway station, which is under the control of insurgents, the SMM observed a total of 19 explosions caused by unspecified types of weapon, seven bursts of heavy machine-gun fire and six bursts of small arms fire at distances between 3 to 6km in areas north, west and north-west of its position, and on the territory of Luhansk region the SMM heard over 120 explosions. The report also noted that at the "DPR"- controlled Parus village near Mariupol, the OSCE drone was fired from an anti-aircraft gun mounted on a military vehicle and rifles.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/osce_reports_120_explosions_in_lpr_controlled_territory_332414

Column of military equipment enters Donetsk on Thursday night, 19.06.2015

According to local residents, the column was moving in the direction of Donetsk. The convoy consisted of 13 T-72 tanks with Kontakt reactive armor, five BMP-2 infantry fighting vehicles, one Ural truck and one Kamaz truck. Russian-made T-72B3 tanks are equipped with the Kontakt-5 reactive armor system. Russia denies sending troops tanks, and other weapons into Ukraine, but a large and growing body of evidence indicates that it in fact does so regularly.

<http://www.unian.info/war/1091301-column-of-military-equipment-enters-donetsk-on-thursday-night.html>

Marinka of Donetsk Region Remains the Hottest Spot Of ATO Area, 19.06.2015

Yesterday pro-Russian militants conducted 90 ceasefire violations in ATO area. Along the entire clash line the militants attacked the positions of Ukrainian troops with MLRS "Grad", artillery, combat vehicles, small arms and grenade launchers. In the evening the militants intensified their activity. Overall during the night they shelled Ukrainian military positions and civilians 55 times. Shyroka Balka (near Artemivsk) and Shyrokyne were attacked with 152mm howitzers. Near Mariupol the militants shelled Chermalyk with 120mm mortars. In Donetsk direction Pisky, Opytne, Krasnohorivka and Marinka suffered attacks with small arms and 82mm mortars. After midnight, Russian-terrorist gangs shelled Zolote and Sokolnyky (Luhansk region). But the most active enemy attacks were observed in Marinka, where at least 10 attacks were recorded. The militants used 120mm mortars, infantry fighting vehicles, grenade launchers and small arms. Under the cover of dense fire the terrorists' subversive and intelligence groups twice tried to wrest ground from ATO forces, but suffered considerable losses, and had to retreat.

<http://ukraineunderattack.org/en/18473-marinka-of-donetsk-region-remains-the-hottest-spot-of-ato-area.html>

Latest from OSCE Special Monitoring Mission (SMM) to Ukraine, 19.06.2015

Donetsk airport and its environs were relatively calm for the fourth consecutive day. Both Ukrainian Armed Forces and Russian Federation Armed Forces personnel at the Joint Centre for Control and Co-ordination (JCCC) observation post at "Donetsk People's Republic" ("DPR")-controlled Donetsk railway station (8km north-west of Donetsk city) told the SMM that there were no significant incidents during the night of 18-19 June. The SMM observed incoming artillery hits (possibly 122mm or 152mm calibre), airbursts, mortars (outgoing and incoming), as well as small arms and light weapons (SALW) fire in the area of Shyrokyne (20km east of Mariupol). In government-controlled Volnovakha (35km south-west of Donetsk) the head of administration told the SMM that the 16 June decree adding amendments to the T-144 order on crossing between government and non-government-controlled areas is not yet in force (The amendments include, *inter alia*, electronic permits replacing the paper-based system). The SMM observed eight trucks marked "Humanitarian Aid of the Rinat Akhmetov Foundation" in a government-controlled area to the north of Horlivka (36km north-east of Donetsk) proceeding south towards "DPR"-controlled areas. The Luhansk region remains tense with shelling heard in several places.

<http://www.osce.org/ukraine-smm/165461>

ATO upgrade: Seven Ukrainian soldiers wounded in Donbas in last day, 20.06.2015

No Ukrainian soldiers were eliminated in the Anti-Terrorist Use (ATO) area in eastern Ukraine on Friday, however seven servicemen were wounded, in accordance with governmental management spokesperson for ATO problems Colonel Andriy Lysenko.

<http://journalfocus.com/2015/06/ato-update-seven-ukrainian-soldiers-wounded-in-donbas-in-last-day/>

Ukrainian troops repel five attacks by Russian-backed militants on Friday, 20.06.2015

On June 19, illegal armed groups in the Donbas conflict zone violated the ceasefire 72 times, using 152mm-caliber howitzers and Grad multiple rocket launchers. What is more, Russian-backed militants' sabotage and reconnaissance groups attacked the Ukrainian troops five times, but the enemy had to retreat every time after suffering casualties, the ATO press center wrote on Facebook.

<http://www.unian.info/war/1091777-ukrainian-troops-repel-five-attacks-by-russian-backed-militants-on-friday.html>

Latest from OSCE Special Monitoring Mission (SMM) to Ukraine, 20.06.2015

Donetsk airport and its environs saw an uptick in violence from recent days. Both Ukrainian Armed Forces and Russian Federation Armed Forces personnel at the Joint Centre for Control and Co-ordination (JCCC) observation post at the “DPR”-controlled Donetsk railway station (8km north-west of Donetsk city) told the SMM that there had been no ceasefire violations during the night of 18-19 June and until 13:00hrs on 19 June. Starting at 13:00hrs, the SMM observed during a four-and-a-half-hour period 144 incoming and outgoing explosions, consistent with mortar and artillery fire, whilst at the Donetsk railway station. At the JCCC headquarters in Soledar (government-controlled, 75km north-east of Donetsk) the SMM was presented with two ceasefire violation logbooks for 18 June, compiled independently by the Ukrainian Armed Forces and the Russian Federation Armed Forces representatives at the JCCC. The Ukrainian Armed Forces logbook recorded 113 ceasefire violations, 23 of which were attributed to the Ukrainian Armed Forces and 90 to “DPR” and/or “Lugansk People’s Republic” (“LPR”). The Russian Federation Armed Forces logbook recorded 71 ceasefire violations, of which 15 were attributed to the Ukrainian Armed Forces and 56 to “DPR” and/or “LPR”. The security situation was tense in Shyrokyne (20km east of Mariupol). From observation points just west of the town, the SMM saw and heard various explosions, outgoing and incoming mortar fire, as well as small-arms fire in the Shyrokyne area.

<http://www.osce.org/ukraine-smm/165476>

This Is What the Ukraine War Looks Like: 8 Days on the Front Line, 20.06.2015

Ukraine—The notion that the Ukraine cease-fire is still largely holding, or even being followed at all, is fiction. In the eastern Ukrainian village of Pisky, only six kilometers from the separatist stronghold of Donetsk, and two kilometers from the ruined Donetsk airport, the Ukrainian army 93rd Mechanized Brigade is engaged in sustained combat with combined Russian-separatist forces. In Pisky, combined Russian-separatist forces violate the cease-fire every day with heavy artillery barrages, including 120-mm and 152-mm shells, tank attacks, and sniper and automatic grenade launcher fire. Separatist reconnaissance units also slip behind the lines after dark, and gun battles are a nightly routine. “I dance with death every day,” said Sergei Kozin, a red-bearded 43-year-old machine gunner from Dnipropetrovsk, who has been on the front lines in Pisky for more than two months. Facing these persistent, lethal attacks, the Ukrainian forces are forced to defend themselves by bringing up heavy weapons banned from the front lines under the Minsk II agreements, resulting in a complete collapse of the Feb. 12 cease-fire. “We have orders to fire only if we are directly under fire, only if they are trying to take our position,” Kozin said. “We can only fire if they shoot at us,” Volodymyr said. “But we usually won’t bother shooting back if it’s just small arms fire.”

<http://dailysignal.com/2015/06/20/ukraine-war-looks-like-8-days-front-line/>

ATO representative demands withdrawal of militants' ' heavy weaponry from contact line, 21.06.2015

Russian-backed militants’ fight storage tanks and also Gvozdika weapons systems just recently discovered by the OSCE Unique Tracking Objective in area managed by the self-proclaimed DPR are as well near the predetermined contact line and also must be taken out as the Minsk contracts state. “The OSCE objective has actually tape-recorded the motion of 2 T-72 storage tanks with the community of Shakhtarsk, which is managed by the DPR’s unlawful armed teams. 4 armoured cars have actually been viewed in the eastern areas of the community of Zuhres,” ATO spokesperson Colonel Andriy Lysenko stated. An SMM unmanned airborne car found a focus of 10 storage tanks and also 27 armoured cars in the community of Komsomolske and also 4 self-propelled Gvozdika weapons systems near the town of Vasylivka in Donetsk area. “These inhabited areas are extremely near the line of contact concurred since September 19, 2014, as a result this heavy weaponry managed by the unlawful armed teams must leave these locations,” Lysenko stated.]”The OSCE objective has actually tape-recorded the motion of 2 T-72 storage tanks with the community of Shakhtarsk, which is managed by the DPR’s unlawful armed teams.

<http://journalfocus.com/2015/06/ato-representative-insists-on-withdrawal-of-militants-heavy-weaponry-from-contact-line/>

Two Ukrainian soldiers killed, six wounded yesterday, 21.06.2015

"Over the past day, two Ukrainian soldiers were killed, six were wounded in combat activities, provocations and clashes," Lysenko said.

http://en.censor.net.ua/news/340902/two_ukrainian_soldiers_killed_six_wounded_yesterday

Militants fire towards Ukrainian positions 85 times overnight, 22.06.2015

According to the report, the epicenter of the attacks was in the area of Donetsk, where the militants attacked Ukrainian army positions and residential areas 52 times. After midnight, the militants fired rocket-propelled grenades on the village of Krymske and the town of Zolote in Luhansk region. Near the town of Artemivsk, they fired mortars on the village of Bohuslavske. Enemy snipers were working in the town of Maryinka, the press center said. "At dawn the militants fired 20 Grad rockets on the village of Nyzhnie. In general, the militants had already attacked the positions of the Ukrainian army about 10 times by morning," the report reads.

<http://uatoday.tv/politics/militants-attack-ukrainian-troops-and-settlements-85-times-overnight-443289.html>

<http://uazmi.com/news/post/mcBR2bc6a6nwFTtQekIUq>

Two Ukrainian soldiers killed, three wounded in conflict zone in last day, 22.06.2015

Two Ukrainian soldiers have been killed and another three injured in the Donbas conflict zone over the last 24 hours, spokesman for ATO issues Colonel Andriy Lysenko said .

<http://www.unian.info/war/1092242-two-ukrainian-soldiers-killed-three-wounded-in-conflict-zone-in-last-day.html>

Former Advisor to Ukraine's Defense Minister Defects to Donbass, 22.06.2015

"I am Alexander Kolomiyets, a Major-General of the Ukrainian armed forces... My latest position was that of an advisor to the Ukrainian Defense Minister and a senior defense analyst," the General said during a news conference at the Donetsk News Agency headquarters on Monday. Alexander Kolomiyets said that he had spent 19 years serving as the military commandant of Donetsk Region. He also said that many of his fellow commanders were ready to join the pro-independence militia in Donbass. The General added that Ukrainian army morale was extremely low with "all Generals and officers realizing the criminal nature of Kiev's actions and refusing to fight any longer." Meanwhile, the Ukrainian Defense Ministry confirmed General Kolomiyets' defection to the independence supporters in Donbass. Alexander Kolomiyets is not the first senior Ukrainian military officer to have sided with the pro-independence militia in Donetsk and Lugansk.

<http://sputniknews.com/europe/20150622/1023692395.html>

OSCE MONITORS CONFIRM MILITANTS IN DONBAS USE HEAVY WEAPONRY, 22.06.2015

The OSCE Special Monitoring Mission (SMM) to Ukraine reports that Russian-backed militants continue using heavy weapons, including the Grad multiple rocket launchers. The situation around the destroyed Donetsk airport and in the village of Shyrokyne near the Ukrainian-controlled city of Mariupol remains tense, according to an OSCE SMM update based on information as of 1930 Kyiv time on June 19 and published on June 20.

"In government-controlled Popasna (69km north-west of Luhansk), the SMM observed five fresh craters, which it assessed to have been caused by impacts from multiple-launch rocket system (MLRS) fire (122mm BM-21 Grad)," the update reads.

<http://utr.tv/en/news/hot-news/item/34149-osce-monitors-confirm-militants-in-donbas-use-heavy-weaponry.html>

Two explosions hit Kyiv branches of Sberbank of Russia, 22.06.2015

According to eyewitnesses, the first explosion hit the office in Pozniaky district. The bank's doors and signs were damaged. Information about casualties is being verified, but no injuries have yet been reported. The Interior Ministry put a security cordon in place, and Akhmatova and Urlivska streets have been closed off. The second explosion occurred almost at the same time, in Kurenivka district. "There was an attempt to hit the office of Sberbank of Russia in Kurenivka district at about 0100," one eyewitness wrote on Facebook. "No [major] damage, just [damage to] stucco and partially its windows."

<http://www.unian.info/kyiv/1092126-two-explosions-hit-kyiv-branches-of-sberbank-of-russia.html>

One Ukrainian soldier killed, twelve wounded in conflict zone in last day, 23.06.2015

"Over the last day, we have lost one Ukrainian soldier, and another twelve were injured as a result of military clashes," Lysenko said. As reported earlier, Russian-backed militants in the Donbas attacked Ukrainian army positions and civilian areas 85 times on June 22.

http://www.fm-tv.kiev.ua/main_news/61887/view/

Militants shell Ukrainian army positions in Donbas 80 times in past 24 hours, 23.06.2015

The press center of the Ukrainian army operation in the country's south-eastern regions has accused militants of firing multiple-launch rocket systems, tanks, howitzers and mortars on the Ukrainian army's positions and civilian infrastructure in Donbas 85 times in the past 24 hours.

<http://en.interfax.com.ua/news/general/273663.html>

OSCE monitors observe approx. 700 explosions in Donbas over last weekend, 23.06.2015

"During the weekend, fighting intensified in Donetsk, where substantially increased shelling was observed. A high level of violence was observed in and around Donetsk airport," said the report released on Monday evening. "Over a period of two days, from its position at the Joint Centre for Control and Co-ordination (JCCC) observation point at Donetsk central railway station ("DPR"-controlled, 8km north-west of Donetsk city centre) and other observation posts in and near Donetsk city centre, the SMM observed more than 500 incoming and outgoing explosions consistent with artillery and mortar fire," it said. "The SMM heard 187 of these explosions from its observation post at the central railway station, at locations to the north, north-north-west, south-west, and north-east at distances 2 to 8km," the monitors reported.

An increase in ceasefire violations was also observed in areas near Mariupol over the weekend. In Luhansk the situation was calm over the weekend with sporadic shelling observed.

<http://en.interfax.com.ua/news/general/273671.html>

Latest from OSCE Special Monitoring Mission (SMM) to Ukraine, 23.06.2015

The situation at and around Donetsk airport was tense. Between 09:00 and 17:00hrs, at the Joint Centre for Control and Co-ordination (JCCC) observation point at Donetsk central railway station ("Donetsk People's Republic" ("DPR")-controlled, 8km north-west of Donetsk city centre), the SMM observed a total of 362 explosions consistent with artillery and mortar fire as well as bursts consistent with automatic grenade launcher, heavy machine gun and small-arms and light-weapons fire. The SMM assessed that the explosions occurred at locations to the north, north-west, north-east and west and at distances ranging between 2 and 10km from its position. The SMM also observed 26 airbursts of anti-aircraft weapon at 2-3km west and north-west of its position. In the early evening hours of 21 June, the SMM unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) spotted burning houses in Shyrokyne. The situation around Shyrokyne (20km east of Mariupol) was quiet between 06:30 and 13:50hrs; during this period of time the SMM did not observe any ceasefire violations from its observation points located 1.5 and 3.5km west of Shyrokyne. In the Luhansk region the SMM observed several ceasefire violations, including 23 explosions consistent with incoming and outgoing heavy artillery fire in Toshkivka (government-controlled, 60km north-west of Luhansk) and 31 explosions consistent with incoming and outgoing artillery in Komyshevakha (government-controlled, 66km west of Luhansk). In "LPR"-controlled areas, the SMM heard several explosions in Donetsk and Kirovsk (50km north-west of Luhansk) and in Pervomaik and Molodizhne (57 and 62km west of Luhansk).

<http://www.osce.org/ukraine-smm/166171>

One Ukrainian soldier killed, twelve wounded in conflict zone in last day, 23.06.2015

One Ukrainian soldier was killed and another twelve injured in the Donbas conflict zone over the last 24 hours, spokesman for ATO issues Colonel Andriy Lysenko said at a briefing in Kyiv.

<http://www.unian.info/war/1092760-one-ukrainian-soldier-killed-twelve-wounded-in-conflict-zone-in-last-day.html>

Report: Sloviansk and Sievierodonetsk possible militant targets, 23.06.2015

The fighters of the LPR and DPR militant organizations may try to occupy the Ukrainian-controlled towns of Sloviansk and Sievierodonetsk in Donetsk and Luhansk regions, according to a report by

Stratfor, a U.S. geopolitical intelligence firm that provides strategic analysis and forecasting to individuals and organizations around the world, Ukrainian online news source Apostrophe has reported. "The greatest escalation of the situation is taking place around Donetsk, as well as in the area between Donetsk and Luhansk. If the separatists are planning to go on the offensive, they may try not only to expand the boundaries of the DPR in the area of Donetsk, but also to take control of the towns of Sloviansk and Sievierodonetsk," the document says. Stratfor also said there was the possibility of an aggravation of the situation near Mariupol.

<http://newgatheringstorm.blogspot.com/>

Militants shells Ukrainian army positions 64 times on Tuesday, 24.06.2015

"120mm caliber Mortars outlawed by the Minsk agreements remain most popular. They were fired at least 25 times along the entire contact line. Besides, numerous cases of the enemy's use of artillery systems with 122mm and 152mm calibers have been observed," says a report published by the press center on Facebook on Wednesday morning. According to it, the situation was most difficult in Donetsk area, including the vicinity of the towns of Maryinka, Pisky and Opytne. The shelling on Stanytsia Luhanska, Sokilnyky and Schastia continued in Luhansk region. In the Artemivsk area, Leninske, Lozove, Kirove and some other populated localities were attacked. Gunfire intensity subsided after midnight. According to the press center, militant tanks once again shelled Maryinka at night. Small arms and grenade launchers were used against Opytne, Krasnohorivka and Shyrokyne.

<http://en.interfax.com.ua/news/general/273928.html>

Information Resistance: Russian-backed militants 'know about OSCE mission movements', 24.06.2015

The militants have been firing small arms and mortars from the "neutral zone" near the town of Prymorsk in an attempt to provoke the Ukrainian army to use heavy weapons as OSCE monitors arrive in the area, the group said in a statement released on Wednesday.

"Attacks are reported to have been launched on the positions of Ukrainian troops just before the arrival of the OSCE monitors to the front line, suggesting that the militants possess information about the movement of OSCE Special Monitoring Mission patrols," the group said in its statement. There have been numerous other reports of militants apparently timing their attacks to take place at times when there are no OSCE monitors present, particularly around the front-line town of Shyrokyne near Mariupol. The OSCE Special Monitoring Mission in Ukraine as of June 3 still included 24 Russian citizens, even though it is now almost beyond doubt that Russia is a party to the conflict in Ukraine: Several media have reported Russian regular troops and military equipment being present in Ukraine over the past few months.

<http://www.unian.info/war/1093188-information-resistance-russian-backed-militants-know-about-osce-mission-movements.html>

Russian former leader of Ukraine rebels warns of "big war", 24.06.2015

A ceasefire is likely to collapse in east Ukraine and Russia could be drawn into a "big war" to cleanse the "sore on its borders", the former leader of the region's pro-Russian separatists said. Violence has eased but not halted in east Ukraine under what are known as the Minsk 2 agreements, reached in the Belarussian capital on Feb. 12 after an earlier ceasefire collapsed. Alexander Borodai, a Russian citizen and former journalist for nationalist newspapers who emerged last year as prime minister of the self-proclaimed Donetsk People's Republic (DNR), said he expects the Ukrainian army to launch a new offensive.

"To be honest, I expect that the Minsk 2 agreements will not be observed, in the same manner as the Minsk 1 agreements were not," Borodai said in an interview this week in a Moscow restaurant surrounded by former rebel commanders. "And at the end of the day the Ukrainian army will launch an offensive. This is a very probable development ... I am not sure that it will end without a big war, as Russia cannot tolerate this sore on its borders forever."

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/wires/reuters/article-3137577/Russian-former-leader-Ukraine-rebels-warns-big-war.html>

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2015/06/24/us-ukraine-crisis-borodai-idUSKBN0P41SQ20150624?feedType=RSS&feedName=worldNews>

Pro-Russian militants in Ukraine train child soldiers, 24.06.2015

He is only 14 but already knows how to assemble a Kalashnikov rifle. Denis is a child soldier in the making - eager to join the pro-Russian militants fighting Ukrainian troops. "If I were an adult, I would fight," the skinny boy with a dishevelled crew-cut said in a war-scarred town deep in the heart of the rebel-run east of the ex-Soviet state. "I want to see war, to learn how to shoot, to see the tanks," he said with an air of excitement as two adult rebels stood nodding at his side. The UN children's agency said in January it had no proof of minors being used in one of Europe's bloodiest and most diplomatically-charged conflicts since the end of the Cold War. UNICEF believes that about 250,000 children are being exploited in wars fought across nearly two dozen countries - many of them in Africa. But the Western-backed leaders in Kiev accuse the rebels of training a small army of child soldiers in schools under their control. About 20 kids between the ages of 14 and 19 are still taking training lessons in the town of Khartsyzk - home to 60,000 people prior to the breakout of hostilities and a flood of migrants for safer regions that followed -- in the first weeks of their summer break. Some like Denis are learning basic drills. But his parents are understandably wary after being trapped in fighting that has killed 6,500 and shows few signs of abating 15 months on.

"They do not talk about the war with me. They hate it," Denis said. "They do not even watch the news." Others like 17-year-old Alina are taking first aid lessons provided by the rebel command.

"We are still children and not ready to go to the front," she conceded.

"But if something were to happen, I would be able to help out."

<http://www.trtworld.com/news.php?q=europe-pro-russian-militants-in-ukraine-train-child-soldiers-3615>

<http://www.kyivpost.com/content/ukraine-abroad/agence-france-presse-ukraine-rebels-train-child-soldiers-in-the-making-391852.html>

Almost 1,200 people are missing in Donbas, 24.06.2015

"We have almost 1,200 Ukrainians on this horrible 'missing persons' list," Heraschenko said on Tuesday. Heraschenko said International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) officials have offered expert assistance in the search for and identification of the missing people. She also said the Ukrainian authorities had also suggested in the negotiations in Minsk on Tuesday that the ICRC should monitor the situation with the detainees and their living conditions, including in Russia. "We again emphasized that our colleague Nadia Savchenko has been illegally held in a Russian prison for a year now," the Ukrainian official said.

Additionally, the Ukrainian officials raised in the meeting of the subgroup the issue of the Russian humanitarian convoys to Donbas, which Kyiv finds to be illegal.

<http://en.interfax.com.ua/news/general/273954.html>

Border guards repel five militant attacks in Donetsk region in 24 hours, 24.06.2015

Within the last 24 hours, separatist militants attacked the Maryinka roadblock in Donetsk region 4 times, one Ukrainian soldier was wounded, the State Border Guard Service of Ukraine reported.

<http://www.kyivpost.com/content/ukraine/border-guards-repel-five-militant-attacks-in-donetsk-region-in-24-hours-391877.html>

Four Ukrainian servicemen wounded in Donbas over past day – Kyiv, 24.06.2015

Four servicemen have suffered injuries in the ATO zone in Ukraine over the past day, Ukrainian Presidential Administration spokesman for military issues Andriy Lysenko has said.

<http://en.interfax.com.ua/news/general/273981.html>

Stanytsia Luhanska comes under mortar fire - governor Moskal, 25.06.2015

Small arms and 80mm mortars were fired on Stanytsia Luhanska from 10:00 p.m. on Wednesday until midnight, Hennadiy Moskal, who chairs the Kyiv-appointed military-civilian administration of the Luhansk region, has said. "A low-pressure gas main was damaged as a result of shelling targeting Lenin Street. Part of the village was left without gas supplies. Emergency teams managed to fix it and restore gas supplies by this morning," Moskal's press service said. A privately owned house was fully destroyed by a mine on Barbashov Street.

"No one was killed or injured," the press service said.

<http://en.interfax.com.ua/news/general/274145.html>

OSCE SMM says tensions remain in Donetsk airport, while Mariupol and Shyrokyne are calm, 25.06.2015

Tensions remained in the Donetsk airport area, while the situation was relatively calm in Mariupol and Shyrokyne in the past few days, the OSCE Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine (OSCE SMM) has said in a report.

<http://www.kyivpost.com/content/ukraine/osce-smm-says-tensions-remain-in-donetsk-airport-while-mariupol-and-shyrokyne-are-calm-391961.html>

Militants shell Ukrainian troops greater than 90 times in last day, 27.06.2015

Particularly, the ATO pressures near the city of Donetsk came under attack 55 times.

The town of Pisky near the ruined Donetsk flight terminal, the communities of Krasnohorivka, Avdiyivka and also Maryinka, and also the towns of Pervomayske and also Opytne were under thick fire from 120mm-caliber mortars once again. Militants likewise utilized 122mm-caliber weapons systems to shell Pisky, Krasnohorivka and also the town of Nevelske. The town of Vodiane was assaulted by opponent storage tanks. A number of times militants shelled the town of Stanytsia Luhanska in Luhansk area from grenade launchers and also 82mm-caliber mortars|82mm-caliber mortars and also grenade launchers. Militants discharged on the towns of Mayorsk and also Lozove near the community of Artemivsk from little arms and also grenade launchers. The circumstance near the Ukrainian-controlled city of Mariupol is likewise stressful. Militants utilized 122mm- and also 152mm-caliber cannons to shell the town of Shyrokyne and also Starohnativka, the ATO press facility stated. Militants proceeded shooting on the Ukrainian troops and also inhabited areas in Luhansk area, near Donetsk and also Mariupol, utilizing the tools prohibited by the Minsk contracts. A minimum of 15 situations when Russian-backed militants broke the Minsk truce were tape-recorded because duration. Militants utilized 122mm- and also 152mm-caliber cannons to shell the town of Shyrokyne and also Starohnativka, the ATO press facility stated.

<http://journalfocus.com/2015/06/militants-shell-ukrainian-troops-more-than-90-times-in-last-day/>

MILITANTS FIRE ON TOWN OF SHASTYA OVERNIGHT, 28.06.2015

The military said that the militants' shells hit an area close to the local bus stop, where round the clock trading is carried out. Reports of casualties are being verified.

<http://x-news.com.ua/militants-fire-on-town-of-shastya-overnight-41460/>

Militants shell Ukrainian troops, civilians more than 500 times last week, 28.06.2015

A total of 540 cases of the violation of the ceasefire by illegal armed groups in Donbas were registered in the past week. More than half of them were recorded near the occupied city of Donetsk. "The invaders continue to explicitly violate the Minsk agreement and use the banned weapons. At the same time, leaders of the self-proclaimed republics groundlessly and cynically accuse the Ukrainian side of committing this crime," the ATO press center said.

<http://www.unian.info/war/1094776-militants-shell-ukrainian-troops-civilians-more-than-500-times-last-week.html>

International Business Times: Pro-Russian rebels attack Ukrainian forces over 100 Times in 24 hours as east Ukraine war threatens to ignite, 29.06.2015

Pro-Russian rebels have attacked Ukrainian forces more than 100 times over the last 24 hours, according to Kyiv's anti-terrorist group. The attacks, most of which took place over a 6-hour period leading up to midnight on Sunday, have dramatically increased over the last month and are now reaching levels not seen since the Minsk II agreement ceasefire signed in February.

<http://uazmi.com/news/post/bRBmnENj8JD3yZDGgJmAEq>

No servicemen killed over the past day. Five soldiers were wounded - ATO speaker, 29.06.2015

"The Ukrainian servicemen have not suffered battle losses for the last 24 hours, five soldiers have been wounded," Lysenko said. Militants are trying to move closer towards the line of contact. In addition, the terrorists continue conducting aerial reconnaissance. The intensity of attacks on the part of the illegal armed groups with weapons prohibited is growing..

<http://uazmi.com/news/post/cwlp236njHOa1rveeZJhs6>

Eleven Ukrainian servicemen wounded in Donbas through June 27-28, 29.06.2015

Eleven Ukrainian servicemen were wounded in a day in the zone of the armed operation in Eastern Ukraine, spokesman for the Ukrainian presidential administration Andriy Lysenko said.

<http://uazmi.com/news/post/dpGqWDTcP1EkBViG1IR8vW>

Situation in Donbas remains tense; enemy is building up military force and redeploys equipment to demarcation line, - ATO press center, 29.06.2015

The message reads as follows: "The enemy continues to build up its forces, rotates its personnel within separate detachments, and secretly redeploys military equipment closer to the demarcation line. The anti-terrorist operation command, in its turn, takes necessary steps to enhance its defense and create reserves that will allow giving adequate response to the enemy in case it attempts to seize Ukraine-controlled areas." The number of shelling cases is stable and high on part of the pro-Russian mercenaries, the report states. Over the past day, the enemy shelled the Ukrainian forces' positions for 101 times. Today, terrorists fired at Ukrainian positions for 38 times, using Minsk-banned weapons, the press center informed.

<http://uazmi.com/news/post/g3z12LyU3IHcJE6pwN3ZNq>

Latest from OSCE Special Monitoring Mission (SMM) to Ukraine, 29.06.2015

The SMM monitored the implementation of the "Package of measures for the implementation of the Minsk agreements". Its monitoring was restricted by third parties and security considerations*. The situation as observed at and around the Donetsk airport saw increased fighting; the situation around Shyrokyne was relatively calm, and the SMM verified press reports that there are no civilians remaining in the village. The SMM observed delays for civilians attempting to cross the checkpoint at Zaitseve.

<http://www.osce.org/ukraine-smm/167496>

Terrorist shelled Vrubivka village in the Luhansk region with Grads in the night, Governor Moskal says, 30.06.2015

"The fire had been adjusted to hit the Ukrainian military positions nearby, but the missiles exploded at a private farm. As a result of the shelling, hangars and three harvesters were destroyed. The premises caught fire, which was extinguished by firefighters. The village was left without electricity, repair is being conducted at the moment. According to preliminary data, no one of civilians or military were injured or killed, but the damages to the agricultural enterprise are significant," the message reads.

http://en.censor.net.ua/news/341999/terrorist_shelled_vrubivka_village_in_the_luhansk_region_with_grads_in_the_night_governor_moskal_says

Pro-Russian Militants Plan Terrorist Acts In Areas Controlled By Ukraine – ATO Staff, 30.06.2015

Representatives of illegal armed groups fired with 82-mm and 120-mm mortars prohibited by the Minsk agreements. In particular, pro-Russian criminals shelled Mariinka, Krasnohorivtsi, Pisky towns and "Butovka" mine from the occupied Donetsk.

In Luhansk region suffered Kryakivka, Novotoshivske, Zolote and Stanitsa Luhanska towns. In Artemovsk direction mines and grenades exploded near Kirov, Leninske and Mayorsk towns. In the south of Donetsk region enemy mortars fired on Novotroitske and Granitne towns. Over the current day 10 violations of silence regime by terrorists were recorded. Half of them were conducted using prohibited artillery. In particular, Druzhba and Vrubivka towns in Artemivsk direction, were shelled by 122-mm howitzers. In addition, there is information on revitalization of the pro-Russian subversion and terrorist gangs in the Luhansk region. According to ATO Staff, militants are preparing another scale provocations, particularly in Stanytsia Luhanska town. It is possible that preparation and implementation of malicious terrorist acts will be conducted in places of public events.

<http://ukraineunderattack.org/en/20537-pro-russian-militants-plan-terrorist-acts-in-areas-controlled-by-ukraine-ato-staff.html>

War in Ukraine killed 6,500 people, wounded 16,000, UN says, 30.06.2015

6,500 people were killed in the war in the east of Ukraine, 16,000 received injuries.

"Violence in Ukraine has killed 6,500 people in the past year, wounded 16,000, and left 5 million people in need of humanitarian aid," the report by the OCHA reads.

Experts noted increase in the number of internally displaced persons in Ukraine. "With more than 1.3 million registered IDPs, Ukraine has now the ninth largest number of internally displaced in the world," the message reads.

http://en.censor.net.ua/news/341972/war_in_ukraine_killed_6500_people_wounded_16000_un_says

<http://www.unocha.org/top-stories/all-stories/five-things-you-need-know-about-crisis-ukraine>

OSCE: All civilians have left Shyrokyne, over 80% of houses destroyed by militants, 30.06.2015

"The SMM visited Shyrokyne and confirmed media reports that all civilians have left the village. The SMM conducted a foot patrol on 27 June, focused on areas where a few remaining inhabitants had been known to live when the SMM last visited the village on 9 June. The SMM on this occasion found their homes abandoned and damaged or destroyed. Following this patrol, the SMM spoke to a "DPR" [the self-proclaimed Donetsk People's Republic] commander who said he knew by name those whom the SMM was seeking. According to him, the last civilian inhabitants left on 15 June. The SMM observed that the scale of damage in the village had increased since the last visit. It assessed that over 80% of the houses and buildings in the village are destroyed," the OSCE SMM said in its daily update on Monday after a visit to the village on Sunday. "At and around Donetsk airport, the SMM noted an increase in ceasefire violations as compared to recent days. During a one-hour period in the afternoon of 28 June, the SMM observed 139 explosions to the north, north-east and north-west. SMM could furthermore hear bursts of small arms and light weapons in combination with heavy machine-gun fire," the report reads.

<http://www.unian.info/war/1095120-osce-all-civilians-have-left-shyrokyne-over-80-of-houses-destroyed-by-militants.html>

Pilot Savchenko

Savchenko's lawyer says investigation dramatically accelerates, 05.06.2015

"It must be noted that investigators have recently started to whip themselves up. For example, when we told an investigator that we couldn't come, we were busy and had other things to do, the investigator could come to us on his own to bring papers for signing because he had to report on this on the same day," Novikov told Novaya Gazeta.

According to him, the investigation had accelerated dramatically even before two Russian special forces officers – Sergeant Alexander Alexandrov and Captain Yevgeny Yerofeyev – were detained by the Ukrainian military in Luhansk region. The lawyer explains this by "the command." "Apparently, the decision has already been made to hold a court as soon as possible and then conduct negotiations at the level of diplomacy after the court," Novikov said.

<http://www.unian.info/politics/1085722-savchenkos-lawyer-says-investigation-dramatically-accelerates.html>

Moscow court extends Savchenko's arrest until September 30, 10.06.2015

According to the investigator, the term of Savchenko's arrest expires on June 30, but it's not possible to complete the preliminary investigation during this period.

The investigator said that Savchenko and her three lawyers would have to have time to study the materials of the criminal case, which consist of 38 volumes. He said that Savchenko started to study the case materials from June 2.

The investigator also said that the grounds for arrest had not changed or disappear, so he appealed to the court with a demand to extend the period of detention up to 15 months - until September 30, 2015. The demand, as before, was supported by the prosecutor.

http://www.fm-tv.kiev.ua/main_news/61346/view/

Poroshenko expects EU to make "firm steps" to free Savchenko, 18.06.2015

President of Ukraine Petro Poroshenko has again urged the European Union to take all possible measures to release Ukrainian pilot Nadiya Savchenko, who is being held in Russian prison. The President said this in a joint statement with the European Commissioner for the European Neighborhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiations Johannes Hahn, an Ukrinform correspondent reports. "MP of Ukraine, member of PACE and the captain of the Air Forces of Ukraine has been held hostage in Russian prison for already a year. We expect firm and clear steps, the use of all available methods of persuasion to free Nadiya," the President said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/poroshenko_expects_eu_to_make_firm_steps_to_free_savchenko_332394

Savchenko may face 13 years in prison - lawyer Novikov, 22.06.2015

Ukrainian pilot, MP of Ukraine Nadiya Savchenko, who is being illegally held in Moscow, faces a thirteen-year sentence in Russia. This was announced by one of Savchenko's lawyers, Ilya Novikov in the Podrobnosti Nedely weekly program on Inter TV Channel.

"This will be a guilty verdict with about 13 years [in prison], or even more. This doesn't bother us and this is not interesting. We are well aware that it's not the number [of years] her return home depends on," Novikov said. According to the lawyer, the defense of the Ukrainian pilot does not expect a fair verdict as justice in Russia has changed over the last 20 years.

"There will be no fair trial. Russian justice has become ridiculous in the past two decades. They won't free Savchenko just for a thank you. This would be a blow to [the reputation of] the country's leaders," Novikov said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/savchenko_may_face_13_years_in_prison_lawyer_novikov_332465

<http://novorossia.today/savchenko-may-face-13-years-in-prison-lawyer-novikov/>

Ukraine Worldwide

Pentagon Seeks Easing of Ban on Russian Rockets for U.S. Space Missions, 04.06.2015

After Russia annexed Crimea last year, Congress passed legislation that forced the Pentagon to stop buying Russian rocket engines that have been used since 2000 to help launch American military and intelligence satellites into space.

Now, that simple act of punishment is proving difficult to keep in place.

Only five months after the ban became law, the Pentagon is pressing Congress to ease it.

The Pentagon says that additional Russian engines will be needed for at least a few more years to ensure access to space for the country's most delicate defense and intelligence technology.

After Russia annexed Crimea last year, Congress passed legislation that forced the Pentagon to stop buying Russian rocket engines that have been used since 2000 to help launch American military and intelligence satellites into space.

http://www.nytimes.com/2015/06/04/world/europe/pentagon-seeks-easing-of-ban-on-russian-rockets-for-us-space-missions.html?_r=1

North Crimean Canal is destroyed. North of peninsula may turn into desert, 08.06.2015

Crimea is still economically dependent on Ukraine. After the annexation of the peninsula by Russia and stop of water supplies via the North Crimean canal, northern part of the peninsula is experiencing serious water shortages.

One of the canal constructors Georgii Kapshuk said in an interview to Krymskyi Telegraph newspaper. He pointed out that if the problem with water supply via North Crimean canal is not resolved in the coming year, the unique water artery will be destroyed and lost forever. Moreover, the population of the area will have to leave.

http://en.censor.net.ua/photo_news/339230/north_crimean_canal_is_destroyed_north_of_peninsula_may_turn_into_desert_photo_video

Defying Obama, Many in Congress Press to Arm Ukraine, 11.06.2015

With the peace process stalled and violence escalating in Ukraine, a bipartisan coalition in Congress is defying President Obama and European allies by pressing the administration to provide weapons to the embattled nation.

The Senate has included provisions in its military policy bill to arm Ukraine with antiarmor systems, mortars, grenade launchers and ammunition to aid in its fight against Russian-backed separatists. It would also prevent the administration from spending more than one half of \$300 million in aid for Ukraine unless 20 percent is earmarked for offensive weapons. The House has passed a similar measure. So far, the Obama administration has refused to provide lethal aid, fearing that it would only escalate the bloodshed and give President Vladimir V. Putin of Russia a pretext for further incursions.

http://www.nytimes.com/2015/06/12/world/europe/defying-obama-many-in-congress-press-to-arm-ukraine.html?_r=4

U.S. House Admits Nazi Role in Ukraine, 12.06.2015

The U.S. House of Representatives has admitted an ugly truth that the U.S. mainstream media has tried to hide from the American people – that the post-coup regime in Ukraine has relied heavily on Nazi storm troopers to carry out its bloody war against ethnic Russians, reports Robert Parry. Last February, when ethnic Russian rebels were closing in on the Ukrainian port of Mariupol, the New York Times rhapsodically described the heroes defending the city and indeed Western civilization – the courageous Azov battalion facing down barbarians at the gate. What the Times didn't tell its readers was that these "heroes" were Nazis, some of them even wearing Swastikas and SS symbols.

The long Times article by Rick Lyman fit with the sorry performance of America's "paper of record" as it has descended into outright propaganda – hiding the dark side of the post-coup regime in Kiev. But what makes Lyman's sadly typical story noteworthy today is that the Republican-controlled U.S. House of Representatives has just voted unanimously to bar U.S. assistance going to the Azov battalion because of its Nazi ties.

<https://consortiumnews.com/2015/06/12/u-s-house-admits-nazi-role-in-ukraine/>
<http://sputniknews.com/us/20150612/1023266493.html>

EU Foreign Ministers May Extend Russia Sanctions Without Debate, 12.06.2015

European Union officials are looking to take a decision to extend economic sanctions on Russia at a foreign ministers' meeting in Luxembourg on June 22 — and they may not even discuss the matter. The economic sanctions on Russia, imposed last summer because of Moscow's actions in eastern Ukraine, have been one of the most controversial policy steps taken by the EU in foreign policy over the last couple of years.

<http://blogs.wsj.com/brussels/2015/06/12/eu-foreign-ministers-may-extend-russia-sanctions-without-debate/>

U.S. Is Poised to Put Heavy Weaponry in Eastern Europe, 14.06.2015

In a significant move to deter possible Russian aggression in Europe, the Pentagon is poised to store battle tanks, infantry fighting vehicles and other heavy weapons for as many as 5,000 American troops in several Baltic and Eastern European countries, American and allied officials say. The proposal, if approved, would represent the first time since the end of the Cold War that the United States has stationed heavy military equipment in the newer NATO member nations in Eastern Europe that had once been part of the Soviet sphere of influence. Russia's annexation of Crimea and the war in eastern Ukraine have caused alarm and prompted new military planning in NATO capitals. It would be the most prominent of a series of moves the United States and NATO have taken to bolster forces in the region and send a clear message of resolve to allies and to Russia's president, Vladimir V. Putin, that the United States would defend the alliance's members closest to the Russian frontier.

http://www.nytimes.com/2015/06/14/world/europe/us-poised-to-put-heavy-weaponry-in-east-europe.html?_r=0

Germany and Poland send humanitarian aid worth EUR 500,000 to people of Donbas, 16.06.2015

The federal governments of Germany and Poland have actually sent out humanitarian help worth EUR 500,000 for inside displaced individuals from the Donbas, the Division of Emergency situation Circumstances of the Philanthropic Fund "Caritas Ukraine" stated on Monday. Inning accordance with the record, the humanitarian aid of greater than 285 tonnes is offered covering the fundamental requirements of displaced people that have actually taken sanctuary in Zaporizhia, Kharkiv, Dnipropetrovsk areas and in the vacant locations of Donetsk area. The receivers of humanitarian aid will certainly be big and low-income/low-income and big households, solitary mothers/parents, expecting ladies and nursing moms, the senior and people with impairments, households with a solitary income producer.

It is stated that on June 16, the company will certainly take support to Zaporizhia. This is a collection of meals and health items for 6,800 displaced people from the German federal government and for 4,300 people from the Polish federal government.

<http://journalfocus.com/2015/06/germany-and-poland-send-humanitarian-aid-worth-eur-500000-to-people-of-donbas/>

EU extends sanctions against Russian occupied Crimea for another year, 19.06.2015

On June 19, 2015, the Council extended the EU restrictive measures in response to the illegal annexation of Crimea and Sevastopol until June 23, 2016. The sanctions include prohibitions on:

- imports of products originating in Crimea or Sevastopol into the EU;
- investment in Crimea or Sevastopol, meaning that no Europeans nor EU-based companies can buy real estate or entities in Crimea, finance Crimean companies or supply related services;
- tourism services in Crimea or Sevastopol, in particular, European cruise ships cannot call at ports in the Crimean peninsula, except in case of emergency;
- exports of certain goods and technologies to Crimean companies or for use in Crimea in the transport, telecommunications and energy sectors and related to the prospection, exploration and production of oil, gas and mineral resources. Technical assistance, brokering, construction or engineering services related to infrastructure in these sectors must not be provided either.

As stated by the European Council on March 19, 2015, the EU continues to condemn the illegal annexation of Crimea and Sevastopol by the Russian Federation and remain committed to fully implement its non-recognition policy.

http://en.censor.net.ua/news/340727/eu_extends_sanctions_against_russian_occupied_crimea_for_another_year

The Fantasy Mr. Putin Is Selling, 22.06.2015

President Vladimir Putin of Russia is not veering from the mythology he created to explain away the crisis over Ukraine. It is one that wholly blames the West for provoking a new Cold War and insists that international sanctions have not grievously wounded his country's flagging economy. He told the story again on Friday at a business forum whose purpose was to give weight to that fantasy. It drew at least 24 chief executives of Western companies, some of whom attended even though their governments had urged them not to. Despite Mr. Putin's skill at using foreign executives as props, he is looking more desperate than confident that he will win the confrontation with the West. It will be a big setback for Mr. Putin if, as expected, European Union foreign ministers formally extend sanctions on Russia by six months when they meet this week in Luxembourg. Ever since Russia's 2014 annexation of Crimea forced NATO and the European Union to react, he has worked to split the trans-Atlantic alliance, and some believe its collapse is his real goal.

http://www.nytimes.com/2015/06/22/opinion/the-fantasy-mr-putin-is-selling.html?_r=1

Europe pressuring Ukraine to meet Kremlin's demands, 24.06.2015

Despite the European Union's apparent support of Ukraine, Brussels sometimes comes up with ideas that evoke amazement among Ukrainians who wonder how it is possible to have such a wrong perception of reality. The only consolation (for Ukrainians) lies in the hope that a public airing of the inappropriateness of the proposals of the EU representatives will convince them to abandon what they have started. Therefore, we hope that our publication will help stop the new initiative of the European Commission, which, to put it mildly, is rather hostile to Ukraine.

European Pravda has learned that Johannes Hahn, the commissioner for European Neighborhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiations, during his visit to Kyiv last week, tried to convince Ukrainian authorities that Kyiv needs to carry out the "last" points of the Minsk agreement and not wait for Russia and the Russian-controlled militants to carry out their portion of the agreement.

<http://euromaidanpress.com/2015/06/24/europe-pressuring-ukraine-to-meet-kremlins-demands/>

US analysts don't see Russia creating land corridor to Crimea, 24.06.2015

According to the U.S. experts, there is a threat of escalation of the situation in the east of Ukraine. "The escalation of the conflict in the Donbas has already taken place before, but the current escalation is characterized by its running along the whole demarcation line," the report says. "Previous active hostilities were localized and were rarely accompanied by a significant increase in the intensity of the fire. However, the militants are now sending heavy weapons, including howitzers and rocket launchers, to the front line. In addition, the number of attacks on the positions of the Ukrainian armed forces has increased significantly, the report reads.

"OSCE observers have recorded the disappearance of equipment from the storage sites where they were placed after the withdrawal from the demarcation line. This is a clear violation of the Minsk agreements," the document says. At the same time, according to Stratfor analysts, the concentration of forces and heavy weapons near the demarcation line does not indicate the preparation of a large-scale offensive with regular Russian troops to occupy Ukraine along the Dnipro River or creating a land "corridor" to Crimea.

<http://www.unian.info/war/1093102-us-analysts-dont-see-russia-creating-land-corridor-to-crimea.html>

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