



Monitoring of Xenophobia and Extremism in Ukraine

June 2016

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Introduction

Donbass observed creeping escalation of the conflict. Compared to other periods of war - it is a relatively average level of daily attacks in the measurement. Negotiations on the settlement of the conflict in eastern Ukraine is clearly intensified. Once again, with his "shuttle" mediation mission US Assistant Secretary of State Victoria Nuland. In June, held a foreign debut of Vladimir Groisman at the head of government.

Some European elites want reconciliation with Russia, even at the expense of concessions on the Ukrainian question. And all this against the background of Brexit.

The main decision of the Verkhovna Rada in June, was the adoption of the judicial reform bills, including the relevant constitutional amendments.

In June began the revaluation of the political image of Nadiya Savchenko. Her scandalous resonance statements (in particular, the need to direct talks with the leaders of the separatist republics and others) caused many at first puzzled, then a flurry of accusations against her. Starts affect lack of political experience and necessary knowledge, as well as its excessive straightforwardness.

Prognosis

Poll: Russians See US, Ukraine, Turkey as Top 3 Enemies, 02.06.2016

According to polling data going back a number of years, the US has long been seen by a considerable part of the Russian population as a potential threat and a “source of global evil.” The Levada Center’s poll found that the level of anti-American and anti-European sentiment in Russia is now higher than it was before Russia annexed Crimea from Ukraine in early 2014, but lower than it was at the start of 2015. Negative attitudes toward Ukraine have increased, with 48% naming it as one of the five nations most hostile to Russia, up from 37% in 2015. The number of respondents who named Turkey as one of the five most hostile countries jumped to 29% in the latest poll, up from just 1% in 2015.

<http://www.voanews.com/content/russia-levada-poll-us-ukraine-turkey/3360581.html>

<https://themoscotimes.com/articles/us-ukraine-and-turkey-named-as-russias-main-enemies-poll-53137>

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 fulfillment 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. As for main failures during the first year, experts agreed on poor human resources policy and a very weak progress in implementing reforms expected by society.

<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/>

Poll: Three-quarters of Russians believe Russia should continue its policy despite sanctions, 08.06.2016

Answering the question, how Russia should act in response to the sanctions of the Western powers, 75% answered "to continue its policy, despite sanctions," 17% – "to seek a compromise, to make concessions in order to escape the sanctions," while 8% could not answer the question definitely. According to the survey, this is the highest level of support for the Russian state policy in the past two years. At the same time, 47% have a positive attitude toward the idea to lift the ban on the supply of food products from EU countries, 40% oppose this idea, while 13% could not answer the question. 71% believe that the European Union will extend sanctions against Russia in the summer, 15% have an opposite opinion, and 14% did not answer. The poll was conducted May 27-30, 2016. The margin of error is within 4.1%.

<http://www.unian.info/world/1369260-poll-three-quarters-of-russians-believe-russia-should-continue-its-policy-despite-sanctions.html>

Poll: Almost 44% of Ukrainians support idea of NATO membership, 09.06.2016

43.9% of Ukrainian citizens say they support the idea of Ukraine's NATO membership, while 38% are against it, according to a public opinion poll conducted by the Kyiv International Institute of Sociology between May 20 and June 2. 18.1% of those polled found it difficult to answer. The poll also shows that 46.2% believe that Ukraine should integrate into the EU, while 11.6% would like to see Ukraine as a member of the Customs Union along with Russia, Belarus, and Kazakhstan. 32.1% did not support Ukraine's membership of the E.U. or the Customs Union.

<http://uatoday.tv/politics/poll-almost-44-of-ukrainians-support-idea-of-nato-membership-670121.html>

Statements of officials

Poland says lifting Russia sanctions now would weaken EU authority, 01.06.2016

The European Union must not ease sanctions on Russia until the so-called Minsk peace agreement is fully implemented, as this would weaken the bloc's position in its relations with Moscow, Poland's Deputy Foreign Minister Konrad Szymanski told.

Szymanski's comments come amid suggestions that the EU may begin to ease its sanctions on Russia later this year. While diplomats in Brussels expect the 28-nation bloc to extend the sanctions, which were introduced over Moscow's role in the conflict in Ukraine and expire in July, they also say that intensifying high-level contacts with Russia two years after it annexed Crimea from Ukraine may signal a thaw. European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker's plans to meet President Vladimir Putin in June in Russia. Juncker wrote to Putin in November suggesting closer trade ties between the EU and the Russian-led Eurasian Economic Union. Moscow may have also given EU states advocating sanctions relief more arguments by last week returning to Kiev jailed Ukrainian military pilot Nadezhda Savchenko in a prisoner exchange welcomed by Western politicians.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/us-ukraine-crisis-poland-idUSKCN0YM1OS>

Merkel sees no reason to roll back Russia sanctions: spokeswoman, 01.06.2016

German Chancellor Angela Merkel sees no reason at all now to roll back sanctions against Russia in the Ukraine crisis, a government spokeswoman said on Wednesday.

German Foreign Minister Frank-Walter Steinmeier said on Tuesday some EU states were skeptical about extending sanctions against Russia over the Ukraine crisis and it was unclear if the 28-nation bloc would decide to renew them. "I can only tell you that the Chancellor is in talks with the Foreign Minister and that both agree that the Minsk peace process needs to be continued and the chancellor currently sees no reason at all for rolling back the sanctions," government spokeswoman Christiane Wirtz told a regular news conference. A Foreign Ministry spokesman added Steinmeier's comments were not inconsistent with the government's stance in the Ukraine crisis and the final declaration of G7 leaders in Japan.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/us-ukraine-crisis-germany-russia-idUSKCN0YN4GP>

Savchenko: West could not but tighten anti-Russia sanctions, 02.06.2016

Ukrainian Member of Parliament Nadia Savchenko says that the West should tighten anti-Russian sanctions instead of mulling the possibility of softening them, according to Deutsche Welle's Russian-language service. It is necessary to exert "massive economic and political pressure" on RF President Vladimir Putin, Savchenko said. "I am so angry that Ukrainian soldiers die while discussions how to ease the sanctions have already started in Germany," she said. "I think the world should realize in the end that Putin's craving will never be satisfied. He wants to capture new regions and countries, again and again," she said.

<http://uaprofile.com/latest-news/savchenko-west-could-not-but-tighten-anti-russia-sanctions/>

<http://www.unian.info/politics/1363833-savchenko-comments-on-her-possible-participation-in-minsk-talks.html>

Turchynov unveils losses of National Guard in Donbas war, 02.06.2016

"It is the guardsmen who first met the enemy and stopped its advancement to the west. We have paid a very high price for this – 177 guardsmen were killed and 737 wounded," Turchynov said during an official ceremony of the transfer of the battle flag to the fourth operational rapid response brigade of the National Guard of Ukraine. As reported earlier, 42 Ukrainian troops have been killed and another 350 were wounded in eastern Ukraine since the beginning of 2016. The total death toll during the war in Donbas is estimated at 9,300 people. "The total number of conflict-related casualties continues to climb, now standing at more than 30,700, including more than 9,300 killed and close to 21,400 injured since the beginning of the conflict in the middle of 2014," UN Assistant Secretary-General for Political Affairs Tayd-Brook Zerihoun said at a UN Security Council open meeting late in April 2016.

<http://www.unian.info/politics/1363486-turchynov-unveils-losses-of-national-guard-in-donbas-war.html>

No cold war between West, Russia; NATO seeks no confrontation: Stoltenberg, 02.06.2016

Answering the reporter's question on how he would characterize the relationship that the Alliance has with Russia, the NATO chief said: "We are not in a new cold war but we are neither in the strategic partnership we tried to develop with Russia after the end of the Cold War." "What we see is a more assertive Russia, we don't see any imminent threat against any NATO ally but we see a Russia which over a long period of time has invested heavily in defense capabilities, in modernizing their armed forces and we have seen a Russia which has been willing to use military force to change borders in Europe for the first time since the end of the Second World War with the illegal annexation of Crimea," said Stoltenberg. "And therefore NATO has to respond and that's exactly what we are doing and we are responding partly by implementing the biggest reinforcement to our collective defense since the end of the Cold War both with increased readiness and preparedness of our forces."

<https://www.rt.com/op-edge/346825-nato-russia-cold-war-stoltenberg/>

<http://sputniknews.com/military/20160512/1039493683/nato-russia-stoltenberg.html>

Poroshenko announced conditions for elections in Donbas, 03.06.2016

The Head of State claimed the key points on the way to the election are the withdrawal of the occupying Russian troops, the restoration of full control over the Ukrainian border and the deployment of the OSCE Police Mission: - Minsk Agreements clearly provide for the withdrawal of occupation forces from across the Ukrainian territory, the restoration of Ukraine's control over the state border, the deployment of an international armed OSCE Police Mission that in order to monitor the situation is to deploy on a contact line, watch over RF weapons depots until withdrawal and bring in permanent patrols on all points in order to prevent the supply of new units of Russian troops, ammunition, weapons and return of militants, Poroshenko said during a speech in the mobile border detachment of the State Border Service. According to the President, no other scenario is possible for holding elections in Donbas.

<http://qha.com.ua/en/politics/poroshenko-announced-conditions-for-elections-in-donbas/137326/>

<http://uatoday.tv/politics/ukraine-hopes-osce-will-send-armed-police-mission-to-donbas-combat-623148.html>

Georgia Defense Minister: Russia molding new world order, serious response needed, 03.06.2016

"I think that Europe is in danger today as well as the global security. After Crimea there was serious security challenge to the entire world not to just Europe. There is a country out there that is setting up new international law, that is creating new international order, that is in the process of revising everything that civilized world had agreed about after the II World War. There is a need for a very serious response to it. What we are seeing today is the world that basically follows the actions of Kremlin. We are all in a kind of reactive mode. We react as they act and it is troubling. I think the Warsaw Summit in July constitutes a great opportunity for everybody to prove that NATO is united and that's extremely important to show to everybody and to make sure that nobody has an idea that there is a separate game Russia has with different countries. So, the unity of NATO will be number one issue as we see it for the Warsaw Summit. Number two is to show that there is a positive agenda, that there is a plan, there is road map that clearly shows even bigger deterrence power on the side of countries neighboring Russia. That clearly shows that NATO does everything possible for peace and for preventing any further confrontation. Number three I think this is a time for courageous decision-making. I would see Warsaw Summit as an opportunity for NATO to prove to Russia that it is in charge of its own decision-making and Russia does not have a veto power on any decisions coming out of Brussels or Warsaw in this case, being the host of the Summit, and to show that Europe being free and safe is not limited to Article 5 boundaries. That world today is not involved with putting up a new Berlin Wall or putting up a new Iron Curtain at this time on Article 5 boundaries and everybody else is left for Russia as its backyard to deal with the issues and to sort out the problems themselves. This is how I would see things developing from now to July", outlined Tinatin Khidasheli.

<http://newsday.ge/new/index.php/en/component/k2/item/20088-defence-minister-participated-in-wroc%C5%82aw-global-forum>

Poroshenko insists that agreement was reached in 'Normandy format' on sending OSCE police mission to Donbas, 03.06.2016

"Today we have a serious diplomatic success because we have reached an agreement on sending this mission not only in the "Normandy format," on the top level, but our German partners began a discussion on the issue of sending a police mission [to eastern Ukraine] already in Vienna under German chairmanship [in the OSCE]," Poroshenko said. He emphasized that these events give him reason to be cautiously optimistic, "and that became a basis for me to say that we may complete this process in 2016." "Unfortunately, we lost three months after that statement, but the process is going on very actively,' he said.

In the meantime, the Kremlin has denied Ukraine's allegations that Russian President Vladimir Putin gave his consent to the deployment in Donbas of some armed police mission of the OSCE in "Normandy Four" contacts.

<http://en.interfax.com.ua/news/general/348010.html>

"Handguns for self-defense": Kremlin agrees on armed OSCE monitors in Donbas, 04.06.2016

The Kremlin admits granting the OSCE mission "certain police functions," but only for the monitoring of the areas of withdrawal and storage of heavy weapons in Donbas, said RF Minister Sergey Lavrov. However, he argues that this idea is opposed by too many OSCE members."

<http://www.worldnewscorner.com/headlines/3297298/handguns-for-selfdefense-kremlin-agrees-on-armed-osce-monitors-in-donbas.html>

<http://www.unian.info/politics/1365857-handguns-for-self-defense-kremlin-agrees-on-armed-osce-monitors-in-donbas.html>

McCain Concerned Obama Administration 'Selectively' Enforcing Sanctions on Russia, 05.06.2016

McCain suggested that the Obama administration is giving special treatment to a Russian rocket manufacturer Roscosmos as the US currently purchases Russian RD-180 rocket engines from the manufacturer, known as NPO Energomash, to use during national security space launches. "I write to express my concern with the appearance of selective enforcement of sanctions imposed in response to the invasion of Crimea by the Russian Federation," McCain wrote. "I am particularly troubled that, today, the Administration is allowing for the procurement of rocket engines for military space launches that result in the payment of money to a Russian state-owned corporation controlled by officers and directors who have been individually sanctioned in connection with the invasion."

<http://freebeacon.com/national-security/mccain-worries-obama-administration-selectively-enforcing-sanctions-russia/>

U.S. Sends Envoy to Urge Europe To Maintain Russian Sanctions, 06.06.2016

The US is dispatching an envoy to Paris and Berlin on June 7 and 8 to try to convince European allies "of the importance of maintaining sanctions pressure on Russia," the US Treasury's Acting Under Secretary for Terrorism and Financial Intelligence Adam J. Szubin said. He will meet with senior government officials from European foreign, financial, and economic ministries, as well as private European banks and financial institutions. Besides urging allies to keep sanctions on Moscow until its "fulfills the provisions of the Minsk Agreements" outlining a path to peace in Ukraine, Szubin will discuss implementation of the Iran nuclear deal and "continued U.S. efforts to combat Iran's support for terrorism and other destabilizing activity," the Treasury said.

<http://www.rferl.mobi/a/us-treasury-sends-szubin-europe-urge-maintain-russian-sanctions-iran-nuclear-deal-implementation/27778918.html>

Minister Klimkin hopes Ukraine, Israel will sign free trade deal this year, 07.06.2016

"Our relations with Israel are developing fruitfully. And I hope that this year an agreement on a free trade zone between the countries will start operating," Ukrainian Foreign Minister Pavlo Klimkin said at today's ceremony of signing of the Agreement between Ukraine's Cabinet of Minister and Israel's Government on temporary employment of Ukrainian workers in certain sectors of Israel's job market and the Implementation protocol to this Agreement.

Israeli Ambassador to Ukraine Eliav Belotserkovsky noted that this year is special for both countries, as 25 years ago the Agreement on cooperation between the two countries was signed.

<http://www.ukrinform.net/rubric-economics/2030403-minister-klimkin-hopes-ukraine-israel-will-sign-free-trade-deal-this-year.html>

Savchenko insists on direct contact with "DPR", "LPR": "We need to talk beyond Minsk process", 07.06.2016

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

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

<http://www.unian.info/politics/1368762-self-proclaimed-donetsk-republic-ready-for-dialogue-with-savchenko.html>

<http://www.unian.info/politics/1369821-savchenko-ready-to-talk-with-enemy-and-friend-for-release-of-hostages.html>

Nuland: Russia Feeling 'Pain' Of U.S. Sanctions, 08.06.2016

Victoria Nuland, assistant secretary of state for European and Eurasian Affairs, also told lawmakers on June 7 that Moscow remained in violation or "out of compliance with" some major arms-control treaties, including the 1987 Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty, known as the INF. Coming just weeks before an important NATO summit in Warsaw, Nuland's comments before a Senate committee gave some indication of what that summit's agenda will include, with Russian military maneuvers in Eastern Europe and the Middle East likely to take center stage. That summit will be preceded by a meeting of European Union leaders in Brussels, where officials are expected to renew sanctions against Russia that were imposed alongside analogous U.S. measures following Moscow's forcible annexation of Ukraine's Crimea Peninsula in 2014.

<http://www.rferl.org/content/article/27785575.html>

France's Senate calls for rollback of anti-Russian sanctions, 09.06.2016

The French Senate, the upper house of France's Parliament, called on that country's government on Wednesday for the gradual rollback of economic sanctions introduced by the European Union against Russia. This decision was passed at an evening meeting after four-hour debates. The final, amended wording of the resolution has not been published yet. The French parliament's position was alleviated, in particular, regarding the gradual lifting of the sanctions. There are 348 MPs in the Senate, 302 deputies voted for the resolution with 16 against. At the same time, the document is of advisory nature, as it shows France's political positions, or recommendations.

The Council of the European Union is expected to decide on the extension of the anti-Russian sanctions in coming weeks.

<http://uaprofile.com/latest-news/frances-senate-calls-for-rollback-of-anti-russian-sanctions/>

<http://uatoday.tv/politics/ukraine-calls-on-france-to-maintain-firm-position-on-issue-of-anti-russian-sanctions-669519.html>

'Russia's afraid of radicalism in Ukraine' - Russian ambassador to Belarus, 09.06.2016

During a press conference in Minsk, Surikov declared: "As I understand we have a problem with the Minsk agreements, and radicalism in Ukraine begins going up again. There, behind the Pravy Sector [rightwing military and political organization], new forces are being formed, more radical." Surikov explained, "a point of war begins to prevail in Ukraine." "We do not want it to prevail. If it takes over, we will be able to stop it on the border with Russia. That's it. Preventive measures," the diplomat said. He added that the Russian side is worried about the conflict with Ukraine escalating further.

<http://uatoday.tv/politics/new-russian-military-base-near-belarus-needed-for-protection-from-ukraine-russian-ambassador-669855.html>

Pyatt: World community has not enough info on Russia ' s role in Donbas war, 09.06.2016

USA Ambassador to Ukraine Geoffrey Pyatt has emphasized that the global community is not completely knowledgeable about the role of Russia in the war in Donbas. " I assume a huge component of the Kremlin's method from the beginning of this aggressiveness has been to see just how much they could escape without prompting a global response. That's why they sent out the "little eco-friendly males" right into Crimea. It had not been to conceal it from the USA' federal government, from our knowledge. We had an extremely clear image of just what Russia was doing. It was to develop complication. The purpose of this Russian educational war is not to win the disagreement— it's to win the war As we state they have actually weaponized details,"Pyatt claimed. I do not assume Americans referred to as high as they must around just what this nation has undergone over the previous 2 years as well as 3 months." " Everyone recognizes the tale of the Buk rocket as well as MH17, a great deal of individuals recognize the tale of the Donetsk flight terminal. I do not assume there is enough expertise in the United States or in Europe of just what Russia proceeds to do. Russia remains to supply command as well as control as well as knowledge for the militaries of the supposed 'DNR' as well as 'LNR.' The Russia remains to revolve soldiers as well as to provide brand-new ammo as well as devices,"he claimed.

<http://journalfocus.com/2016/06/pyatt-world-community-has-not-enough-info-on-russias-role-in-donbas-war/>

Putin and Juncker to Discuss Ukraine at St. Petersburg Forum, 09.06.2016

Russian President Vladimir Putin and President of the European Commission Jean-Claude Juncker are to discuss foreign policy and Russia-EU ties at the upcoming St. Petersburg Economic Forum, news outlet RIA-Novosti reported Thursday. "It [the discussion] will be about the relationship between Russia and the European Union. It will be an exchange of views in regard to current regional problems and about Syria and Ukraine," said Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov. The negotiations will be an opportunity to "develop dialogue amid existing disagreements," Peskov said.

<https://themoscowtimes.com/articles/putin-and-juncker-to-discuss-ukraine-at-st-petersburg-forum-53248>

Russian political scientist says when Kremlin to face serious internal problems, 10.06.2016

Asked whether the elections in Russia will affect the Kremlin's policy, the analyst said: "Whether they influence it or not, there is no money. So, as Dmitry Medvedev said: 'Hold on there!' The economic situation before the parliamentary elections is still bearable. To my mind, the presidential elections in 2018 will be more problematic. If the economy does not start to grow in a year, and I can't see why it should, then 2018 will be a problem year." According to Oreshkin, as of today, the very election process is more dangerous for the Kremlin than its outcome. "The Duma elections-2016 will not be a problem. In fact, the parliamentary elections cannot be a problem, because it's not of particular importance, what the Duma composition will be. It is clear that the United Russia Party will lose 10-15%, but it will compensate for the loss will single-mandate constituencies: those, who stripped of a shirt of the United Russia Party and sported another one with an "Independent candidate" spelled on it," Oreshkin said.

<http://www.unian.info/world/1371511-russian-political-scientist-says-when-russia-to-face-serious-internal-problems.html>

EU Ambassador Tombinski: No progress in settlement of Donbas conflict, 10.06.2016

"Yes, we see no progress in the Minsk talks, and we see an increase in violence and ceasefire violations. We see more problems than solutions. However, [the Minsk agreement] is the only structure we've got for the discussion of future solutions to what has unfortunately happened in the east of Ukraine to millions of Ukrainians who have become hostages of that conflict," Tombinski said at an open meeting with the public entitled "Laying the Foundation of Ukraine's Future" in Kyiv on Friday. The ambassador also stressed that grounds for maintaining sanctions against Russia still exist.

<http://uatoday.tv/politics/eu-ambassador-tombinski-no-progress-in-settlement-of-donbas-conflict-670819.html>

AP Interview: Savchenko calls for early elections in Ukraine, 10.06.2016

Savchenko, 35, who has become a national icon in Ukraine after spending two years in a Russian prison, told The Associated Press that the "Ukrainian people deserve a better government than they now have." She said that the Ukrainian government has failed public expectations raised by the ouster of the country's former Moscow-friendly president, Viktor Yanukovych, who was driven from power in February 2014 after months of massive street protests on Kiev's main square, the Maidan. "The longer this dishonorable government leads us, the further back toward a precipice it will drive us," Savchenko said, speaking with emphasis. "People believed in it after the Maidan; they gave a big credit of trust to the government, which it has failed."

<http://bigstory.ap.org/article/4caa09ef4c2a4508af7dff51776a297/ap-interview-savchenko-calls-early-elections-ukraine>

Russia may intensify military operations in the Donbass at any time – Paruby, 14.06.2016

The speaker stressed that the Ukrainian army must be prepared to repel the aggression, despite the fact that the ratio of Russian and Ukrainian army "is not in favor of Ukraine, but this causes the defense reform for us". "Ukraine executes Minsk agreement, despite the fact that the other party continues daily to violate its obligations. I stress, every day and every night come the Russian military attacks on our positions, and almost every day of our Sister killed on the front lines, " - said Paruby.

<http://newsme.com.ua/en/ukraine/3433823/>

Poroshenko says general mobilization plan must be "polished" to be ready for Russia's full-scale invasion, 14.06.2016

"In case of aggression, the issue of territorial defense must be thoroughly examined with consideration of the experience of the last two years," the Head of State said, emphasizing the need to guard important state objects deep in the rear of the Ukrainian territory. "Similarly, in case of a full-scale invasion, a plan of general mobilization and country's operation under martial law must be polished," said Poroshenko. The fact that we do not announce general mobilization proves that the campaign of building a contract army is efficient," the Ukrainian president said. He instructed to draft decisions following the meeting and submit them for consideration by the NSDC and Government. "State defense is a task of not only the President and General Staff, but also every citizen of Ukraine," the president said.

<http://www.unian.info/politics/1375509-poroshenko-says-general-mobilization-plan-must-be-polished-to-be-ready-for-russias-full-scale-invasion.html>

<http://www.unian.info/society/1377732-poroshenko-to-sign-decree-on-demobilization-of-fifth-waves-military.html>

McCain's Defence Act: Ukraine may get USD 500 mln in U.S. security, lethal aid, 15.06.2016

"[The act] authorizes up to USD 500 million to provide security assistance to Ukraine, including lethal assistance," reads a statement released by U.S. Senator John McCain (R-AZ), Chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee. Yet, the assistance will be provided with some strings attached. "The bill restricts half of these funds until the Secretary of Defense certifies that Ukraine has taken substantial action to make defense institutional reforms to fight corruption, increase accountability, and sustain capabilities developed by security assistance efforts," the statement said.

<http://uatoday.tv/politics/mccain-s-defense-act-ukraine-may-get-usd-500-mln-in-u-s-security-lethal-aid-672994.html>

Chubarov: Russia turns Crimea into strong military base, 15.06.2016

"Russia has been pursuing the policy that is already obvious to all of us: it has been turning the Crimean peninsula into a powerful military base on the southern flank of NATO. Russia has started systematically ousting disloyal people from Crimea," he said at a meeting of the Ukraine-NATO Interparliamentary Council in Kyiv on Wednesday. According to Chubarov, Russia creates conditions that force people to leave their own land. "The displacement of the Crimean Tatars is an obvious goal and tasks of the occupying authorities," he said. In this context, the Crimean Tatars and Ukrainian politicians cannot but disagree that the return of Crimea is premature, Chubarov said.

<http://uatoday.tv/politics/chubarov-russia-turns-crimea-into-strong-military-base-673218.html>

NATO Chief Demands Russia Withdraw From Ukraine, 15.06.2016

NATO chief Jens Stoltenberg has called on Russia to withdraw its forces and military equipment from Ukraine and to stop supporting separatists in eastern Ukraine. Stoltenberg made his comments on June 15 after a meeting of NATO defense ministers in Brussels that was also attended by Ukrainian Defense Minister Stepan Poltorak.

Russian officials have repeatedly denied sending troops or military hardware to Ukraine, despite evidence to the contrary. Stoltenberg said the alliance will continue to stand by the Ukrainian government and will never recognize Russia's 2014 "illegal and illegitimate annexation of [the Ukrainian peninsula of] Crimea." He added that in response to Russian military actions in Ukraine, NATO has "stepped up its support for Ukraine."

<http://www.rferl.org/content/nato-chief-russia-withdraw-ukraine/27799006.html>

U.S. Official Confident EU Will Continue To Back Russia Sanctions, 16.06.2016

The U.S. State Department's chief sanctions-policy coordinator is confident the European Union will maintain its travel and economic restrictions against Russia until Moscow fulfills the terms of a peace agreement to end the conflict in eastern Ukraine.

Daniel Fried on June 16 called costs to the West of sanctions "the price" of combating "Russian aggression." The United States and European Union imposed sanctions on Russia for its seizure of Crimea in March 2014 and its backing of armed separatism in eastern Ukraine, leaving President Vladimir Putin internationally isolated.

<http://www.rferl.org/content/russia-sanctions-us-coordinator-daniel-fried/27803461.html>

E.U. to extend anti-Russia sanctions for 6 more months at least - German MEP, 18.06.2017

Elmar Brok, Chairman the Committee on Foreign Affairs in the European Parliament, rules out the possibility of anti-Russian sanctions being eased in the near-term outlook, Deutsche Welle Ukrainian news service reported referring to Brok's interview with Neue Osnabrücker Zeitung. German MEP stressed that the extension of sanctions for another six months was "out of the question." The gradual easing of sanctions is possible only "when there will be some progress in the peace process," according to Brok.

<http://uatoday.tv/politics/e-u-to-extend-anti-russia-sanctions-for-6-more-months-at-least-german-mep-675284.html>

<http://www.voanews.com/content/european-union-releases-details-extended-sanctions-russia/3382180.html>

NATO's Stoltenberg: EU sanctions on Russia should remain, 20.06.2016

"My assessment is that one should not remove the economic sanctions before Russia has changed its behavior. I believe there is a broad agreement about this in the EU," Stoltenberg said in an interview. German Foreign Minister Frank-Walter Steinmeier was quoted on Sunday as saying the EU should gradually phase out the sanctions if there is substantial progress in the peace process and if Russia showed it was doing its part in implementing the Minsk peace plan for Ukraine. Steinmeier was quoted in a separate article as saying that NATO exercises in eastern Europe could worsen tensions with Russia, warning against what he called "sabre-rattling and shrill war cries." Stoltenberg told the Sueddeutsche Zeitung newspaper in Germany that NATO was actively seeking to avoid an escalation with Russia, while standing firm against its aggressive behavior.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/us-nato-russia-ukraine-idUSKCN0Z61M3>

Merkel insists Russia sanctions tied to Minsk accord, 20.06.2016

"The sanctions can be removed as soon as Russia fulfills these obligations," spokesman Steffen Seibert told a regular government news conference, reiterating the stance agreed at a meeting of the Group of Seven economic powers last month.

"However, we are ready to take further restrictive measures to increase the costs for Russia, should its actions make this necessary," he added. German Foreign Minister Frank-Walter Steinmeier was quoted on Sunday as saying the European Union should gradually phase out sanctions imposed against Russia over the Ukraine crisis if there is substantial progress in the peace process.

http://www.reuters.com/article/us-ukraine-crisis-russia-germany-idUSKCN0Z6113?feedType=RSS&feedName=worldNews&utm_source=Twitter&utm_medium=Social&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+Reuters%2FworldNews+%28Reuters+World+News%29

Biden: Beating corruption in Ukraine to take away Russia's political weapon, 21.06.2016

"Our approach [to Russia], if appropriately managed, we mark by a complex mix of enhanced deterrence, strategic stability and, yes, necessary cooperation," said Biden, comparing such approach to the way Washington builds relations with China, according to the report. "With our partners and allies, particularly in Europe, we've imposed real cost on Russia for its absolutely outward aggression towards Ukraine. Russia must uphold its commitments under the Minsk agreement. And there can be no backing away from that. And sanctions should remain until they [Russians] do," said the U.S. vice president. Biden also noted the assistance Ukraine has been receiving to implement vital economic reforms and rooting out corruption.

<http://www.unian.info/politics/1381137-biden-beating-corruption-in-ukraine-to-take-away-russias-political-weapon.html>

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/post-live/wp/2016/06/20/live-vice-president-biden-ashton-carter-to-speak-at-cnas-national-security-conference/>

Ex-NATO chief: Frozen conflict in Donbas to have devastating effect, 21.06.2016

A frozen conflict in Donbas would become for Russia a means to hinder European aspirations of Ukraine and other neighboring countries. If this happens, it will seriously affect Ukraine, former NATO Secretary-General Anders Fogh Rasmussen said. All smoldering or frozen conflicts are part of Russia's general strategy said Rasmussen, adding that the Kremlin wants to keep its neighbors weak and dependent on Moscow, as much as possible. Therefore, he believes that the transformation of the situation in the Donbas into a smoldering or frozen conflict will have serious and devastating effects. Rasmussen has noted that it is much more than just about Ukraine. Similar things can be witnessed in Transnistria, Abkhazia, South Ossetia, and Nagorno-Karabakh, according to him.

<http://uaprofile.com/latest-news/ex-nato-chief-frozen-conflict-in-donbas-to-have-devastating-effect/>

Dekanoidze explains impossibility of complete eradication of police corruption, 21.06.2016

'Unfortunately, I should admit that we still cannot eradicate all the corruption components. First of all this is because of motivation that our cops simply do not possess. Secondly, it's because of technical equipment: no police officer feels himself worthy; there are no uniforms, no cars and so on. Thirdly, there is no integrity in the judicial system that is necessary to understand that everyone started with an ordinary employee and experienced great mental transformation. Yes, we are working in a new way. And working in a new way means that not only the police but the entire law enforcement system should work in a new way,' Dekanoidze said.

https://www.1492news.com/news/36198_1466674581

Savchenko tells PACE when Russia to get weary of waging war with Ukraine, 21.06.2016

"One of the advantages of the 'one in power' system is a pyramid. Russia's biggest reserve is not gold, diamonds, oil or gas, but its people, unfortunately. Authorities have no fear of killing people and sending them to their deaths. And therefore, they [authorities] will have this reserve at their disposal as long as people's consciousness remains low," Savchenko said in Strasbourg during the roundtable discussions organized by the PACE. Savchenko expressed hope that "there is a potential for enlightenment and understanding on the part of the people." "There is not much reserve that is left. If people stand up and stop feeling intimidated it means that Russia has exhausted its reserve," Savchenko said.

<http://uaprofile.com/latest-news/savchenko-tells-pace-when-russia-to-get-weary-of-waging-war-with-ukraine/>

<http://www.unian.info/politics/1383238-nadia-savchenko-we-need-to-feed-our-army-otherwise-well-have-to-feed-someone-elses-and-god-forbid-we-feed-the-russian-army.html>

U.S. President issues statement on UK decision to leave EU, 24.06.2016

"The special relationship between the United States and the United Kingdom is enduring, and the United Kingdom's membership in NATO remains a vital cornerstone of U.S. foreign, security, and economic policy. So too is our relationship with the European Union, which has done so much to promote stability, stimulate economic growth, and foster the spread of democratic values and ideals across the continent and beyond," the statement reads.

<http://www.unian.info/world/1386551-us-president-issues-statement-on-uk-decision-to-leave-eu.html>

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/blog/2016/06/24/president-obama-uk-decision-leave-european-union>

Rada speaks about negative prospects for Ukraine after UK referendum, 24.06.2016

"The EU is hardly passing a test on migration crisis. Europe is covered by a tsunami of euroscepticism, there is growing support for radical and populist parties. Could this delay the visa-free regime for Ukraine? Yes, unfortunately," Gerashchenko wrote. Serious internal problems "kill the ratings of all current EU leaders, force them to focus on the situation within the EU, turning a blind eye to everything that is happening beyond." Gerashchenko stresses that a weakened and divided Europe, split between skeptics and optimists, a Europe that is afraid of its tomorrow, is the Kremlin's sweetest dream. She is convinced, whatever the consequences of the British referendum for the EU – it is not a reason for Ukraine to give up.

<http://ukrainianwall.com/english-news/rada-speaks-about-negative-prospects-for-ukraine-after-uk-referendum/>

Bishop seeks briefing on Brexit, 26.06.2016

Australia is negotiating with the EU on the possible terms of a free-trade agreement, but could open talks with Britain on a bilateral deal. Ms Bishop said Australia was concerned that a weakened EU would not have any impact on how the Middle East and Ukraine situations are being handled. "There are strategic concerns and we will continue to work very closely with both the European Union and with Great Britain to secure our national security," she said. Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull told the coalition launch the Brexit had caused "shock waves" and was a reminder of volatility in the global economy. "We will need to renegotiate vital trade deals with Europe and with Britain," he said. Labor foreign affairs spokesman Tanya Plibersek said the British vote pointed to "middle-class and working class voters feeling left behind". "What we've seen in Britain, what we've seen in the US, and sadly what we've seen in Australia too, is a growing wealth gap," she said.

<http://www.news.com.au/national/breaking-news/bishop-seeks-briefing-on-brexit/news-story/c67f37ff12d91208ea20cd269d36f9f4>

<http://www.unian.info/politics/1389226-brexit-to-have-no-effect-on-eu-readiness-towards-visa-free-regime-with-ukraine-schultz.html>

Minsk talks: Parties agree to separate forces in two Donbas towns – Sajdik, 29.06.2016

The security subgroup continued considering the issues that were discussed at the video conference June 24, according to Sajdik. He added he was pleased to note that an agreement had been reached on the separation of forces and means in two locations: Zolote and Petrovske. "The work will continue," said Sajdik. Also, according to the official, the working group on economic issues mostly discussed the issue of restoring the railway infrastructure. In addition, the meeting touched upon social payments and property issues. He said the discussion showed the need for urgent solutions to social problems in the conflict zone, in particular, the arrears of wages to employees in certain areas of the Donetsk and Luhansk regions.

<http://www.unian.info/war/1392017-minsk-talks-parties-agree-to-separate-forces-in-two-donbas-towns-sajdik.html>

Russian diplomat: "Sooner or later, Russia will have to apologize to Ukraine and compensate for damages inflicted", 29.06.2016

Ex-Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Russia (1991-1993), Ambassador Georgiy Kunadze in an interview has told about similarities in the Kremlin's decisions to deploy troops in Afghanistan in 1979 and in Ukraine in 2014, and why the Russian special operations in Crimea and Donbas were in fact failures. Not everybody in Russia supports the invasion of Ukraine and annexation of the Ukrainian territory. However, only few dare to speak up voicing their opposition to the Kremlin's aggressive policy. Former Deputy Foreign Minister of Russia (1991-1993), Ambassador Georgiy Kunadze believes that the issue of the return of the occupied territories depends on the political will of the Russian leadership. If a task is set to hand back to the rightful owner the seized land, the diplomats will be able immediately to explain why this should be done. However, much will depend on how quickly the Russian public can recover from this "Great Empire" psychosis that has engulfed millions.

<http://www.unian.info/politics/1392256-russian-diplomat-sooner-or-later-russia-will-have-to-apologize-to-ukraine-and-compensate-for-damages-inflicted.html>

Actions of Ukrainian Authorities

Rada launches judicial reform, passing new wording of law on judicial system, status of judges, 02.06.2016

The law establishes a procedure of selecting and appointing judges. The Higher Qualification Commission of Judges holds a qualification examination, verification of candidates within the law to combat corruption, as well as a tender for vacant positions of judge. The commission puts applicants forward to the Higher Council of Justice, which decides on nominating the candidate to the president of Ukraine for appointment. According to the law, a judge of the Court of Appeals can be a person who confirmed professional ability on the results of qualification evaluation, with experience of judicial work of 5 years, research experience in the field of law of not less than 7 years, professional experience of lawyer or conducting defense in criminal prosecution for at least 7 years.

<http://en.interfax.com.ua/news/general/347563.html>

<http://www.unian.info/politics/1363877-rada-introduces-justice-related-amendments-to-constitution.html>

Ukraine gets prepared for litigation with Russia within WTO, 03.06.2016

Ukraine's Cabinet of Ministers approved a bill aimed to streamline procedures in the field of protection of Ukraine's commercial interests in line with World Trade Organization (WTO) standards. Once the bill is passed by parliament, it will allow Ukraine to initiate three legal cases against Russia within the WTO, according to a Ukrainian government official. "The adoption of this document will allow [Ukraine] to initiate the consideration of three legal cases against the Russian Federation within the World Trade Organization. We have already prepared drafts of relevant requests to hold consultations and set up expert groups," Ukrainian Minister of Economic Development and Trade Stepan Kubiv said. According to the minister, the bill also regulates interaction between the government and businesses in the issues relating to preparations for the protection of commercial interests within the WTO and guarantees the confidentiality of participants of the process.

<http://uaprofile.com/latest-news/ukraine-gets-prepared-for-litigation-with-russia-within-wto/>

Putin wanted Savchenko to serve rest of sentence in Ukraine – Poroshenko, 03.06.2016

Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko elaborated on the steps taken in order to release the Ukrainian pilot and MP, Nadia Savchenko, in particular, regarding her exchange for two Russian special forces troops Alexandrov and Yerofeyev.

<http://en.uazmi.com/news/post/e7OEh7hLUIY7xHRhLuK242>

<http://www.unian.info/politics/1365300-putin-wanted-savchenko-to-serve-rest-of-sentence-in-ukraine-poroshenko.html>

SBU refutes UN allegations of torture of detainees from "LPR-DPR", 03.06.2016

The Security Service of Ukraine (SBU) has refuted an earlier report about keeping in custody hundreds of detainees from the so-called "LPR-DPR" terrorist organizations, as announced by head of the SBU staff Oleksandr Tkachuk in his comments to reporters following a bilateral meeting with Assistant UN Secretary General for Human Rights Ivan Simonovic. "This is not true. As far as I know, as of today, a measure of restraint in the form of arrest was introduced against nearly 40 people within criminal investigations conducted by the Main Investigative Department of the SBU. We are probing a total of around 980 individuals, and 330 persons have already been convicted. As for the other cases, the files have either been forwarded to courts, or pre-trial investigation is continuing," said Tkachuk.

<http://www.unian.info/politics/1365472-sbu-refutes-un-allegations-of-torture-of-detainees-from-lpr-dpr.html>

Large cache with weapons, explosives found in Kyiv, 04.06.2016

A local resident alerted police late Friday, June 3, of some suspicious objects he noticed in a private garage, the press service of Kyiv National Police Department. A bomb squad and police detectives were called up on the scene. The garage owner said he had been oblivious of what was stored there, as the garage had earlier been used by his brother, who died recently.

<http://uatoday.tv/crime/large-cache-with-weapons-explosives-found-in-kyiv-photos-video-667121.html>

Ukraine prevents Russia from stealing Kharkiv tractor plant's equipment, blueprints, 05.06.2016

SBU has uncovered a plot between the top managers of Ukraine's largest tractor plant in Kharkiv and the plant's Russian owners, who ordered a foundry shop's equipment and unique blueprints be taken to Russia, according to the SBU's press service. "The plant's director general who was appointed in March 2016 has already conducted preparations for dismantling, as was ordered by Kharkiv tractor plant's Russian owners, for further withdrawal of the equipment of the foundry shop to Russia. Technical documents and blueprints of the plant's produce have also been prepared for shipment abroad," the SBU said.

<http://uatoday.tv/business/ukraine-prevents-russia-from-stealing-kharkiv-tractor-plant-s-equipment-blueprints-667190.html>

ATO press service: Savchenko meets with Ukrainian troops in eastern Ukraine, 06.06.2016

Ukrainian parliamentarian Nadia Savchenko visited Ukrainian soldiers in the ATO zone, the ATO HQ said. Nadia Savchenko's night visit "was a surprise to everyone," the report says. However, the Ukrainian parliamentarian was able to have fruitful communication with many military personnel, meet with her former fellow servicemen and sit at the controls of a combat helicopter," a report says. The report does not state which area she visited, or any other details.

<http://en.interfax.com.ua/news/general/348238.html>

Poroshenko allocates over UAH 3 bln from budget to rebuild Donbas, 09.06.2016

"We've done our best to allocate over UAH 3 billion that will now be funneled into the local budgets of Donetsk and Luhansk regions for the prompt financing of war-stricken Donbas," Poroshenko said during a teleconference with the local authorities of Donetsk and Luhansk regions.

The draft law on amendments to Subparagraph 24 of Chapter VI "Transitional Provisions" of the Budget Code of Ukraine was passed by the Verkhovna Rada early in June. Poroshenko says the financing will be enough to repair 21 hub schools, rebuild 23 out-patient health centers, and 29 kindergartens. Considerable attention will be paid to the water supply and drainage facilities, repairs to bridges and roads. About 60 kilometers of roads should be repaired in Luhansk region alone. What is more, Luhansk region's music and drama theatre will be rebuilt.

<http://uaprofile.com/latest-news/poroshenko-allocates-over-ua-3-bln-from-budget-to-rebuild-donbas/>

Every Rada meeting may start with announcing dead ATO soldiers' names, 13.06.2016

Healthcare Parliamentary Committee Chairperson, BBP MP Olha Bohomolets has said that a draft resolution to start each parliament meeting with a moment of silence in commemoration of soldiers who have died in the ATO was registered in the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine.

<http://www.businessnewsworld.com/news/every-rada-meeting-may-start-with-announcing-dead-ato-soldiers-names.html>

Poroshenko pardons Odesa separatist handed over to Russia, 14.06.2016

"Having reviewed the petition for clemency of V.I. Didenko, the proposals of Pardons Commission, and other circumstances, in accordance with paragraph 27 of Article 106 of the Constitution of Ukraine, I decree to pardon: Didenko Vitaliy Ihorovich, born 1988, who was convicted by a verdict of the Suvorovskyy district court in Odesa on 7 September 2015; to release [him] from further serving of principal sentence," the document says. It is noted that the decree comes into force from the date of its signing. According to media reports, Didenko was the editor in chief of the Info Center website, belonging to separatist Anton Davydchenko.

http://en.lb.ua/news/2016/06/14/1123_poroshenko_pardons_odesa_separatist.html

Freed Ukrainian pilot Savchenko starts work at PACE, 20.06.2016

On June 20, Ukrainian pilot-turned-MP Nadiya Savchenko participates in the European People's Party (EPP/CD) working meeting as part of the PACE plenary session. "My presence here is possible due to your effort also. I am very grateful to all those present and all those who fought for me, everyone who has supported Ukraine. You and I share the same views. Ukraine looks towards the good, towards progress, towards Europe. I will work to ensure we develop a fruitful cooperation. I want to thank you sincerely on my own behalf and on behalf of Ukraine ", said Savchenko at the PACE HQ in Strasbourg.

<http://uatoday.tv/politics/freed-ukrainian-pilot-savchenko-starts-work-at-pace-675795.html>

Poroshenko, Merkel discuss anti-Russian sanctions, Minsk peace process, 22.06.2016

Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko has held a telephone conversation with German Chancellor Angela Merkel during which they discussed the extension of economic sanctions against RF and the progress of the Minsk peace process, the presidential press service reported.

<http://uk.makemefeed.com/2016/06/23/poroshenko-merkel-discuss-antirussian-sanctions-minsk-peace-process-1481905.html>

Poroshenko signs demobilization decree for servicemen of fifth mobilization wave, 25.06.2016

"I signed a decree on demobilization of servicemen of the fifth wave of mobilization. I invited those who wish to continue to defend Ukraine to continue their service under the contract," Poroshenko wrote on his Facebook page on Friday. The president said he signed the decree in the presence of Ukrainian servicemen stationed in the special operation area in Vodiane, Donetsk region. "Vodiane. Two kilometers from the Donetsk airport's new terminal and 800 meters from its runway. I have inspected the strongholds on the frontline and thanked our guys for their service," he said.

<http://en.interfax.com.ua/news/general/352690.html>

Poroshenko sacks Mykolayiv Governor amid corruption in region, 29.06.2016

"To dismiss Merikov, Vadym Ivanovich from the post of a chairman of the Mykolaiv Regional State Administration according to a letter of resignation filed," the document reads. As reported earlier, June 15, President Poroshenko during his Mykolayiv visit turned to the prosecutor general with a proposal to dismiss the prosecutor of Mykolayiv region for inaction in the fight against corruption. Poroshenko also addressed the Minister of Internal Affairs and chief of National Police over the need to fire the local police chief. "After our conversation, Vadym Merikov wrote a letter of resignation from the post of a chairman of the regional state administration. It is political responsibility," Poroshenko said.

<http://www.unian.info/politics/1391980-poroshenko-sacks-mykolaiv-governor-amid-corruption-in-region.html>

Terrorism / Separatism

Latest from OSCE Special Monitoring Mission (SMM) to Ukraine, 01.06.2016

On both Saturday and Sunday, the SMM observed more ceasefire violations in Donetsk and Luhansk regions compared with 27 May. The Mission followed up on allegations of shelling on both sides of the contact line. It continued to monitor the withdrawal of weapons, and noted armoured combat vehicles and newly laid mines in the security zone. The SMM monitored the situation of civilians at checkpoints and observed border areas not controlled by the Government. In Chernivtsi, the SMM monitored a peaceful march to celebrate a Jewish holiday. The Mission's freedom of movement was restricted on three occasions in areas not controlled by the Government.* East of Shyrokyne, near a "DPR" checkpoint, an armed man fired warning shots and pointed his weapon at the SMM, forcing the patrol to leave the area.

<http://www.osce.org/ukraine-smm/243706>

Ukrainian military reports 51 enemy attacks on Ukraine in last day, 02.06.2016

The combined Russian-separatist forces attacked Ukrainian army positions in eastern Ukraine 51 times in the past 24 hours, according to the ATO HQ press center. The enemy intensified attacks in the Mariupol sector, which saw 35 barrages. Militants attacked the Ukrainian fortified positions near the villages of Vodiane, Hnurovye, and Shyrokyne. They also fired a ZU-23 AD anti-aircraft system on the Ukrainian positions near the village of Novotroyitske. Russian-backed proxies repeatedly used small arms, heavy machine guns, rocket-propelled grenades and 82mm mortars to shell Ukrainian positions near the town of Avdiyivka.

<http://uatoday.tv/politics/ukrainian-military-reports-51-enemy-attacks-on-ukraine-in-last-day-665551.html>

<http://www.unian.info/society/1364282-osce-rep-hopes-those-responsible-for-doxing-journos-in-ukraine-to-be-punished.html>

Russian proxies attack Ukraine 49 times in last day, 03.06.2016

The combined Russian-separatist forces attacked Ukrainian army positions in eastern Ukraine 49 times in the past 24 hours, according to the ATO HQ press center.

<http://www.kyivpost.com/article/content/ukraine-politics/unian-russian-proxies-attack-ukraine-49-times-in-last-day-415359.html>

OSCE considers armed police mission to Donbas amid violence escalation, 03.06.2016

The violence in eastern Ukraine is rising every day. OSCE monitors, stationed in the conflict areas, register dozens of explosions and shooting incidents on some days, hundreds on the other. On May 24 Kyiv reported seven Ukrainian soldiers were killed in the conflict zone.

Another five died several days later. The warring sides are getting closer and closer to each other, in a blow to the Minsk agreements, and it seems the trigger-happy parties do not get disciplined enough. As a result, more hotspots are appearing in Donbas, in addition to heavy fighting near Avdiivka and Yasynuvata.

"We expect when we report violations that the sides will follow up on our reports, and the absence of these followups will trigger more violence. A new flashpoint is emerging in the area of Dokuchaevsk (Donetsk region), where four civilians tragically died a few weeks ago," Deputy Chief of the OSCE SMM to Ukraine Alexander Hug says in an interview.

<http://uatoday.tv/opinion/osce-considers-armed-police-mission-to-donbas-amid-violence-escalation-666357.html>

In the plant has increased the intensity of enemy attacks. The APU fire was not opened, 04.06.2016

«Russian mercenaries fired with mortars on the plant. Increasing the intensity of shelling of Ukrainian positions, the enemy used large calibre machine guns, grenade launchers and small arms», — stated in the message. In General, in the industrial area of the regime of silence militants was broken 7 times. In the direction of the Birch next to the mortar to strengthen the Ukrainian military were fired upon by enemy snipers. In addition, attacks on ATO forces was recorded in Granite areas, the Village Lugansk, Popasnaya, Novotroitsk, Luhansk and Marinka. For this period, the fire fighters of Armed Forces of Ukraine did not open. Despite the reduction in the number of attacks compared to the beginning of the week, the ATO forces remains on alert and ready for sudden changes in the situation. We will note, earlier today it was reported that over the past day in the area ATO injured two Ukrainian soldiers.

<http://en.reporter-ua.ru/in-the-plant-has-increased-the-intensity-of-enemy-attacks-the-apu-fire-was-not-opened.html>

Donbas terrorist leaders do not let OSCE see areas with militant bases, 05.06.2016

"The command of the so-called '7th separate motorized rifle brigade' (Debaltseve) has banned the OSCE international monitors' access to the areas where [militant] fortified bases are located," spokesman for the Ukrainian PA Andriy Lysenko said. The militants continue hampering international monitors' work, which is a gross violation of the Minsk peace agreements, he said.

<http://www.unian.info/war/1366355-donbas-terrorist-leaders-do-not-let-osce-to-see-areas-with-militant-bases.html>

UN Sees Threat of Protracted War in East Ukraine Conflict, 05.06.2016

High Commissioner for Human Rights in Geneva said the situation in eastern Ukraine remains volatile two years into the war between Russian-backed armed separatists and the government. The latest U.N. figures show nearly 9,400 people have been killed and more than 21,500 others wounded since the conflict began in mid-April 2014. U.N. monitors said active fighting has decreased; but, they warn, the Minsk peace agreement is fragile and the situation could develop into a protracted conflict or escalate again. They said both scenarios would have dire consequences for the civilian population and be harmful to human rights for many years.

<http://www.voanews.com/content/un-sees-threat-protracted-war-east-ukraine-conflict/3360739.html>

Ukrainian military clash with militant sabotage group near Horlivka, 06.06.2016

The combined Russian-separatist forces attacked Ukrainian army positions in eastern Ukraine 35 times in the past 24 hours, including 19 times in the Mariupol sector, 13 times in the Donetsk sector, and thrice in the Luhansk sector, according to the ATO HQ press center.

<http://www.kyivpost.com/article/content/ukraine-politics/unian-ukrainian-military-clash-with-militant-sabotage-group-near-horlivka-415558.html>

Ukraine to form military personnel reserve trained for offensive action, 07.06.2016

The Strategic Defense Bulletin, approved by President of Ukraine Petro Poroshenko on June 6, provides for establishing a military reserve personnel, trained to carry out offensive missions. The document stipulates professionalization of Ukraine's defense forces and the creation of the necessary military reserve.

<http://www.kyivpost.com/article/content/ukraine-politics/unian-ukraine-to-form-military-personnel-reserve-trained-for-offensive-action-415659.html>
<http://www.unian.info/war/1367780-sabotage-groups-active-across-contact-line-in-donbas-ukrainian-troops-hold-ground.html>

Kyiv says Russian proxies attack Ukraine 36 times in past day, 08.06.2016

"The Russian-backed gangs have become much more active near the militant-held city of Donetsk. They intensively fired small arms, rocket-propelled grenades, 82mm and 120mm mortars on our positions near the towns of Avdiyivka and Krasnohorivka. In addition, they fired grenade launchers of various systems and small arms on our fortified positions near the town of Maryinka," the report says.

<http://www.unian.info/war/1346145-russian-proxies-attack-ato-forces-36-times-in-last-day.html>
<http://www.unian.info/war/1370242-russian-proxies-attack-ukraine-43-times-in-last-day-amid-escalation.html>

OSCE employee reportedly illegally held in eastern Ukraine, 08.06.2016

"The OSCE SMM can confirm that one of our local staff in Luhansk region did not return from leave as planned, on June 7. The police was informed," reads a statement of OSCE SMM mission: "We understand that he is reportedly held in Donetsk. We are in contact with the relevant actors to resolve this matter. We have demanded his immediate and unconditional release," the SMM says. It should be recalled that the OSCE patrol came under fire while monitoring the area between the towns of Avdiyivka and Yasynuvata in Donetsk region.

http://jinfo.com/world/1017025_osce-employee-reportedly-illegally-held-in-eastern-ukraine.html
<http://www.unian.info/war/1369984-donetsk-militants-release-osce-smm-driver.html>

Russian proxies attack Ukraine troops 46 times in last day, 10.06.2016

The combined Russian-separatist forces attacked Ukrainian army positions in eastern Ukraine 46 times in the past 24 hours, according to the military press center. "In the Donetsk sector, the illegal armed groups fired 120mm and 82mm mortars near the towns of Avdiyivka and Krasnohorivka, and the villages of Novhorodske and Nevelske," the press center said. Eight Ukrainian soldiers were wounded in Donbas in last day.

<http://uatoday.tv/politics/russian-proxies-attack-ukraine-troops-46-times-in-last-day-633881.html>

Remains of Russian army servicemen found in Ukraine's east, 11.06.2016

The Evacuation 200 body recovery mission under the Armed Forces of Ukraine has found the remains of two soldiers with Russian army chevrons near the village of Krymske in Luhansk region, according to Hromadske TV. The grave site was found due to a sign with the name, the birth and death dates of a fighter, who was buried there. The sign reads: "Sergey Shirolapov, 09.02.1971 – 19.02.2015. Novorossiya's Militia." "One more grave site has been spotted. We're retrieving the remains for further examination," Evacuation 200 coordinator Mykhailo Kotylevsky said.

<http://uatoday.tv/society/remains-of-russian-army-servicemen-found-in-ukraine-s-east-670822.html>

Russia deploys tanks, infantry fighting vehicles, self-propelled artillery units in Khartsyzk, 11.06.2016

"According to intelligence reports, Russia continues to transfer military equipment and ammunition to the temporarily occupied territory. In particular, five trucks carrying ammunition for tanks and 122mm Grad multiple rocket launchers arrived in the town of Sverdlovsk. In addition, railway platforms, which transported six tanks, four infantry fighting vehicles, three 152mm Akatsia self-propelled guns, as well as four tankers with 200 tonnes of fuel and lubricants and rail cars with 160 tonnes of ammunition, arrived in the town of Khartsyzk. Another 300 tonnes of fuel and lubricants were sent to the town of Rovenky in Luhansk region," Lysenko said.

<http://www.unian.info/war/1372680-russia-deploys-tanks-infantry-fighting-vehicles-self-propelled-artillery-units-in-khartsyzk.html>

The War That isn't Reported Continues: 9 Ukrainian Soldiers Killed, 19 Wounded on Friday, 12.06.2016

In total nine AFU servicemen killed, 19 wounded as a result of unsuccessful attacks on the DPR positions in the areas of the localities of Gorlovka and Avdeyevka, reported the Vice-Commander of the DPR Defense Ministry operative command Donetsk Eduard Basurin. Tonight the AFU units of the 53d brigade made an attempt to advance deep into our defense to 700 meters near Gorlovka, and for this purpose applied large-caliber artillery and mortars on residential districts. Our units managed to repel the attack of the enemy near Gorlovka. The AFU suffered losses: six Ukrainian servicemen were killed and 12 were wounded. According to Basurin, as a result of the firings of Gorlovka 16 houses were damaged. Meanwhile the same night the units of the AFU 16th battalion of the 58th brigade made an attempt to attack near the occupied locality of Avdeyevka to the North from Donetsk.

<http://johngaltfla.com/wordpress/2016/06/12/the-war-that-isnt-reported-continues-9-ukrainian-soldiers-killed-19-wounded-on-friday/>
<http://www.kyivpost.com/article/content/ukraine-politics/ukraine-today-russian-proxies-attack-ukraine-49-times-in-last-day-2-416075.html>

Ukraine reports record number of Donbas casualties in last four weeks, 13.06.2016

"We have now an absolutely tragic period for this year – a significant increase in attacks after the May holidays and in the number of violations of the ceasefire in the east," Gerashchenko said during a roundtable meeting in Kyiv. "We have an absolutely record number of the dead and wounded at the front over the past four weeks, including among civilians. And, obviously, security in Donbas, its significant deterioration is the key point, which does not allow speaking about the possibility of solving issues in the humanitarian and economic spheres... The security situation in the east is a priority," Gerashchenko said.

<http://uatoday.tv/politics/ukraine-reports-record-number-of-donbas-casualties-in-last-four-weeks-671784.html>

Ukraine survives 40 attacks in last day, heavy artillery hits Butivka mine, 14.06.2016

The combined Russian-separatist forces attacked Ukrainian army positions in eastern Ukraine 40 times in the past 24 hours, according to the ATO HQ press center.

<http://www.kyivpost.com/article/content/ukraine-politics/unian-ukraine-survives-40-attacks-in-last-day-heavy-artillery-hits-butivka-mine-416189.html>

Donbas militants 'sentence' UN official for 'war crimes', 15.06.2016

The pro-Russian militants said that UN representative Yuriy Suprun was 'convicted of war crimes,' while a historian Ihor Kozlovskiy was a 'spy,' refusing to release both men, as reported by Ukraine's representative in the humanitarian subgroup of the Trilateral Contact Group, Ukrainian President's envoy on a peaceful settlement of the situation in Donetsk and Luhansk regions, Iryna Herashchenko, first deputy chairwoman of the Ukrainian parliament. On the eve of the meeting of the Trilateral Contact Group, Ukraine once again offered the militants to release 25 critically ill Ukrainian citizens, who are being held in captivity in the temporarily occupied territories of Donbas, Herashchenko wrote.

<http://uatoday.tv/politics/donbas-militants-sentence-un-official-for-war-crimes-673748.html>

Russia proxies attack Ukraine 46 times in last day, 17.06.2016

The combined Russian-separatist forces attacked Ukrainian army positions in eastern Ukraine 46 times in the past 24 hours, including 24 times in the Mariupol sector, 18 times in the Donetsk sector and four times in the Luhansk sector, according to Gerashchenko. After a relative lull and a reduction in the number of attacks during the previous night and the first half of Thursday, the Russian occupiers were active from 18:00 Kyiv time, particularly near the town of Maryinka, where the positions of the Armed Forces of Ukraine came under fire from small arms and grenade launchers of various systems more than 10 times, the ATO HQ said in an update as of 06:00 Kyiv time on June 17.

http://www.fm-tv.kiev.ua/main_news/76482/view/

Spot Report by OSCE Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine, 22.06.2016

The SMM travelled to government-controlled Vodiane (94km south of Donetsk) in a visit that had been co-ordinated with representatives of the Joint Centre for Control and Co-ordination (JCCC). At 11:18 the SMM was conducting a foot patrol and speaking with a couple at their house when the village was hit by seven mortar rounds assessed as 82mm calibre. The SMM and Ukrainian Armed Forces, including a Ukrainian representative from the JCCC, took cover in a house. The SMM immediately contacted members of an SMM mirror patrol in "DPR"-controlled Kominternove (23km north-east of Mariupol), which was escorted by a Russian Federation Armed Forces representative to the JCCC, to try to facilitate a ceasefire. After 15 minutes, when the situation was assessed as safe, the patrol members left the house and proceeded to the two SMM armoured vehicles, parked approximately 70 metres west of the house. At this time, the patrol heard two more explosions assessed as mortar rounds impacting in the village, which caused the patrol members to lie on the ground before reaching the vehicles safely.

<http://www.osce.org/node/248141>

Russian proxies attack Ukraine 31 times in last day, 20.06.2016

The combined Russian-separatist forces attacked Ukrainian army positions in eastern Ukraine 31 times in the past 24 hours, including 14 times in the Donetsk sector, 11 times in the Mariupol sector and six times in the Luhansk sector, according to the ATO HQ press center.

<http://www.morningnewsedition.com/newsflash/russian-proxies-attack-ukraine-31-times-in-last-day/1474735.html>

Enemy saboteurs attack Ukraine military near Avdiyivka, 21.06.2016

In the Donetsk sector, the Ukrainian military recorded 21 cases of militant shelling. In addition to small arms, the enemy used 120mm mortars near the town of Avdiyivka, and the villages of Nevelske and Novoselivka Druha, as well as 82mm mortars near Butivka coal mine and the village of Verkhniotoretske. The militants also fired heavy machine guns and grenade launchers of various systems on the Ukrainian fortified positions near the villages of Zaitseve and Maiorsk. In addition, at about 19:00 Kyiv time, an enemy sabotage and reconnaissance group of up to eight people, supported by fire from 82mm mortars, made an attempt to approach our fortified positions near Avdiyivka from the town of Yasynuvata. The Ukrainian soldiers returned fire, forcing the enemy group to retreat.

<http://www.unian.info/war/1381157-enemy-saboteurs-attack-ukraine-military-near-avdiyivka.html>

Militants shell Ukrainian troops 61 times in last day, 25.06.2016

"Twenty-nine ceasefire violations were recorded in Mariupol direction. In particular, the enemy used 152mm artillery systems and 120mm and 82mm mortars near Shyrokyne [20km east of Mariupol]. In addition, the Russian invaders used 120mm mortars to fire at our positions near Hnutove [19km north-west of Mariupol]. Ukrainian servicemen came under small arm fire outside Marinka [35 km south-west of Donetsk] and Krasnohorivka [29 km west of Donetsk]," the report reads. In Donetsk direction, the enemy fired at Ukrainian defenders near Mayorske (45km north of Donetsk), using 120 mm mortars. Militants used 120mm and 82 mm mortars, grenade launchers and small arms in Zaitseve (67km north-north-east of Donetsk). In Avdiyivka (18km north of Donetsk) and Luhanske (59km north-east of Donetsk), terrorists fired from grenade launchers, heavy machine guns and small arms.

<http://www.ukrinform.net/rubric-defense/2045577-militants-shell-ukrainian-troops-61-times-in-last-day.html>

Poroshenko comes under fire while inspecting army footholds in Donbas, 25.06.2016

"There were several mortar attacks in Zaitseve, Maiorsk, Avdiyivka, Opytne, and Vodiane; and in Pisky, the enemy opened fire from cannon artillery. More than 130 mortars and 26 shells were fired on our positions," Lysenko reported at a daily briefing in Kyiv. "Yesterday, the Ukrainian president visited these positions and, despite the enemy fire, he inspected several defended posts and found the opportunity to talk with the Ukrainian defenders," Lysenko said.

<http://uatoday.tv/politics/poroshenko-comes-under-fire-while-inspecting-army-footholds-in-donbas-679315.html>

<http://uatoday.tv/politics/russian-proxies-attack-ukraine-55-times-in-last-day-679810.html>

Eight militants captured in Donbas warzone, 28.06.2016

Eight Russian-backed separatists were captured by Ukrainian servicemen near Mariupol in the Donetsk region on June 27, 2016. Another three refused to surrender and opened fire, forcing Ukraine's soldiers to shoot and kill them. Kyiv said, its men weren't harmed in the fighting. The captured admitted to being members of the so-called Donetsk People's Republic.

<http://uatoday.tv/news/eight-militants-captured-in-donbas-warzone-photo-681100.html>

Situation in the ATO zone escalates near Popasna and at Svitlodarsk bulge, 30.06.2016

Militants intensified shelling in the Luhansk sector in the ATO zone yesterday. Russia-backed militant groups shelled Ukrainian positions near Staryi Aidar twice. Moreover, they were active after 3:00 p.m. near Novozvanivka and Novoleksandrivka in the Popasna district. "The adversaries started massive attack at the ATO troops' positions using mortar launchers and artillery – Gvozdika self-propelled artillery mount. The occupants stopped shooting only in eight hours. In total, 17 hostile attacks took place in the Luhansk sector yesterday, 11 of them involved use of mortar launchers and artillery," informed the spokesman of the Presidential Administration on ATO related issues Colonel Andriy Lysenko at a press briefing at Ukraine Crisis Media Center.

<http://uacrisis.org/44660-andrij-lisenko-232>

<http://www.unian.info/war/1392656-russian-proxies-step-up-significantly-shelling-of-ato-forces-in-last-day.html>

<http://uk.makemefeed.com/2016/07/01/situation-in-ato-zone-escalates-3-soldiers-reported-killed-1593934.html>

National Minorities

In Crimea detained another Crimean Tatar, 05.06.2016

In the temporarily occupied Crimea again detained Crimean Tatar, said the first Deputy Chairman of the Majlis of Crimean Tatars Nariman Celal in Facebook.

«Today, in the village Krasny Mak in Bakhchisaraysky district detained a Crimean Tatar, the father of three children Mustafayev Smail 1962, He was taken to Northern police station of Sevastopol on suspicion of illegal logging in 2012,» wrote Celal.

At the same time, the ART journalist Shevket Nematulloev reported that Mustafayev was arrested on suspicion of Hizb ut-Tahrir, but seized chainsaws.

According to human rights activist Abdureshit Dzhepparov, security forces behaved very rudely. It lasted more than two hours.

«The detention was very tough — was forbidden to speak in Crimean Tatar. Were unable to understand the command to sit, then to lie down. The cuffs wore, but it was very rough,» the message reads.

Ismail Mustafaev is still at the police station.

<http://en.reporter-ua.ru/in-crimea-detained-another-crimean-tatar-and-foreign-words-will-equate-to-the-mat.html>

Memorial of the Lviv Ghetto Defaced by anti-Semitic Vandals, 27.06.2016

The monument was erected in 1992 to honor the tens of thousands of Jews who, after the German invasion of Ukraine, were confined to the Lviv Ghetto and subsequently transferred to concentration camps.

A monument to the victims of the Holocaust-era ghetto of Lviv in western Ukraine was vandalized in what police suspect is an anti-Semitic incident.

Unidentified vandals on Friday through several gallons of green paint on the memorial, which was erected in 1992 in memory of tens of thousands of Jews who were kept in the ghetto after the German invasion into Ukraine in 1941.

"We called law enforcement officers and later maintenance services in the Shevchenko district to wash away the paint," Lviv City Council spokesperson Roman Dach told the news website Fakty.

<http://www.haaretz.com/jewish/1.727392>

Mass Media

Rada chairman: 14 journalists killed during ATO in Donbas, 07.06.2016

"According to the statistics, nine journalists were killed while performing their official duties. Many journalists joined the army as volunteers: five journalists, who served in the army, were killed on the front line. A lot of journalists went through horror and hell of captivity," Parubiy said.

The Ukrainian parliament speaker awarded 11 Ukrainian journalists who cover the military conflict in the ATO zone, an Interfax-Ukraine correspondent reported.

More journalists were nominated, but some of them are currently in the antiterrorist operation zone in the east of Ukraine and they will also receive their awards in the nearest future, Ukrainian speaker's press secretary Andriy Kovalev said.

<http://en.interfax.com.ua/news/general/348568.html>

Ukraine Worldwide

Vladimir Putin received a letter from President of Turkey Recep Tayyip Erdogan, 27.06.2016

Mr Erdogan said in his letter that Russia is Turkey's friend and strategic partner, and the Turkish authorities do not want to ruin relations between the two countries. "We never had the desire or deliberate intention of shooting down the Russian Federation's plane," Mr Erdogan said. The letter went on to say that the Turkish side "undertook much effort at great risk to retrieve the Russian pilot's body from the Syrian opposition and bring it back to Turkey, where pre-burial procedures were carried out in accordance with religious and military procedures. We performed this work at a level worthy of our two countries' relations. I once again express my sympathy and profound condolences to the family of the Russian pilot who was killed and I am saying: "Excuse us." I share their grief with all my heart. We look on this Russian pilot's family as we would a Turkish family and we are ready to undertake any initiative that could lessen the pain and severity of the damage caused."

<http://en.kremlin.ru/events/president/news/52282>

<http://www.unian.info/world/1391255-erdogan-putin-agree-during-phone-call-to-meet-in-person-media.html>

Russia deploys troops westward as standoff with NATO deepens, 08.06.2016

Russia is building an army base near its border with Ukraine, the latest in a chain of new military sites along what the Kremlin sees as its frontline in a growing confrontation with NATO. While there have been no clashes between the former Cold War rivals, Russia is building up forces on its western frontiers at a time when the NATO alliance is staging major military exercises and increasing deployments on its eastern flank. A Reuters reporter who visited the Russian town of Klintsy, about 50 km (30 miles) from Ukraine, saw a makeshift army camp, large numbers of newly-arrived servicemen and military vehicles. Two soldiers in camouflage gear who were manning a checkpoint in a forest turned the reporter away, saying they were guarding a "special military site".

<http://www.reuters.com/article/us-russia-base-bryansk-idUSKCN0YT1PN>

Russia preparing for future confrontation with Western powers – Ukraine Intel, 22.06.2016

The war Russia has been waging in Ukraine is only the first phase of a possible future confrontation with the West and NATO countries in Europe, Chief of the Main Intelligence Department of Ukraine's Defense Ministry Vadym Skibytskiy said: "This year, the intelligence agencies of many countries have made the same evaluation as the Canadian experts. Our Canadian colleagues have once again proved that many of the measures which Russia has been taking in Ukraine, the Baltic States and the post-Soviet countries is a demonstration of strength and Russia's will to defend its interests by all means, including military force," said the military intelligence chief.

<http://uatoday.tv/politics/russia-preparing-for-future-confrontation-with-western-powers-ukraine-intel-676919.html>

<http://www.unian.info/war/1382640-russian-proxies-continue-shelling-use-heavy-artillery.html>

PROSECUTOR: MH17 INVESTIGATION GOING WELL, 30.06.2015

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

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

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

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

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