



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

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### **Introduction**

Releasing of Nadiya Savchenko, which became one of the most high-profile events of May 2016, to some extent it can be considered a landmark event. This action led to a noticeable "revival" of political life in Ukraine, as it has changed the balance of power in the country. Intensified Ukrainian radicals of the so-called "street opposition", Ukrainian politicians, occupying important positions in the government and the Verkhovna Rada, began to act with the "loud" statements.

The OSCE mission has recorded a threefold increase in the number of ceasefire violations at the Donbass.

Barack Obama and the Nordic leaders not only called for continued sanctions against Russia but also advocated the intensification of reforms in Ukraine. The main mediator between the White House and Ukraine remains U.S. Vice President Joe Biden, who not only reaffirmed commitment to grant Ukraine a \$1 billion worth of loan guarantees but also invited Verkhovna Rada Speaker Volodymyr Groysman to visit the United States in June and supported the appointment of Yuriy Lutsenko to the post of a prosecutor general.

Russian occupation authorities continue to put pressure on the Crimean Tatars: both on ordinary citizens, and the representatives of the Mejlis. In addition to the mass detentions in Bakhchisarai (the occupation forces raided the mosques, knowing that they could make as much as possible of the arrests there) and searches, criminal charges were imposed on the deputy head of the Mejlis, Ilmi Umerov.

The European Parliament spoke up for the protection of Crimean Tatars, with a special resolution, the MEPs condemned the ban on the activities of the Mejlis in Russia.

## Prognosis

### **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/>

### **Russia is recognized as politically unstable country - International Monetary Fund, 06.05.2016**

International Monetary Fund included Russia in the list of politically unstable countries in Central and Eastern Europe. This is according to the IMF report on economics of the region. Russia’s instability is estimated to be somewhere between 60 and 70 points, whereas a country is considered to be unstable getting at least 50 points. Ukraine stand in the same range along with Belarus, Moldova, Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Turkey.

<http://uatoday.tv/politics/russia-is-a-recognized-as-politically-unstable-country-international-monetary-fund-644376.html>

### **Crimea becomes less attractive to Russian tourists – Kommersant, 17.05.2016**

They have estimated that the number of air tickets to Simferopol bought by individual travelers from Russia has decreased by 25% this year. Having once spent holidays in the annexed Crimea, Russian tourists choose Russia’s resort city of Sochi with its more developed infrastructure. Russian tour operators also expect that the development of the pre-arranged group travels sector will also stagnate in 2017. According to Svyaznoy.Travel company, demand for flights to Simferopol has declined by more than 25% (15 percentage points). In 2015, that destination accounted for 50% of air ticket bookings, currently its share is 35%.

<http://www.unian.info/society/1347422-crimea-becomes-less-attractive-to-russian-tourists-kommersant.html>

## Statements of officials

### **NATO weighs four battalions in Eastern states to deter Russia: U.S, 02.05.2016**

The NATO alliance is weighing rotating four battalions of troops through Eastern member states, U.S. Defense Secretary Ash Carter said on Monday, in the latest proposal by allies to guard against aggressive behavior by Russia. The Baltic states - Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania - which joined NATO in 2004, have requested greater presence of the alliance, fearing a threat from Russia after it annexed the Crimea peninsula from Ukraine in 2014. Carter acknowledged NATO deliberations included the deployment of the four battalions to the Baltic states and Poland. The Wall Street Journal said this would likely total about 4,000 troops split between the United States and its allies. "That's one of the options that's being discussed," Carter told reporters traveling with him at the start of a three-day trip to Germany, declining to enter into details about the deliberations by the North Atlantic Treaty Organization. "We're obviously involved in those discussions. I just don't want to get out in front of where that goes." U.S. officials say the goal in Europe is to move increasingly from efforts to reassure allies to broader activity to deter any aggressive moves by Russia.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/us-usa-nato-russia-idUSKCN0XT1ZR>

### **OSCE chief comments on possible deployment of police mission in Ukraine's east, 04.05.2016**

OSCE Secretary General Lamberto Zannier says that the possibility of deploying an OSCE armed police mission in Donbas, Ukraine's east, is subject to discussion. In his words, Ukraine and Russia have different views as for the possible extension of the OSCE monitoring mission's mandate. Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko supports the idea of deploying international armed policemen, who could ensure law and order during local elections in Donbas. At the same time, Russian President Vladimir Putin is not against the deployment of armed international observers along the contact line.

The Berlin-based Federal Foreign Office of Germany as Chair of the OSCE on April 27, 2016, issued a statement in response to reports on alleged plans for an armed OSCE mission to eastern Ukraine, stressing that the OSCE monitoring mission currently in place in eastern Ukraine is a civilian, unarmed mission.

<http://www.unian.info/war/1337161-osce-chief-comments-on-possible-deployment-of-police-mission-in-ukraines-east.html>  
<http://sputniknews.com/europe/20160428/1038770123/osce-mission-tensions.html>

### **NATO does not aim to provoke Russia – White House, 04.05.2016**

NATO-Russian ties are tense amid Ukraine crisis and recent military encounters in the Baltic Sea. NATO doesn't have a goal to provoke Russia. The White House spokesman Josh Earnest claims the alliance wants to cooperate with the Kremlin. But Moscow's involvement in Ukrainian conflict creates a rift in their relations. Ukraine is not a part of NATO, but it shares common borders with its members. Earnest says the alliance is worried about the situation in its neighbouring state.

<http://uatoday.tv/politics/nato-does-not-aim-to-provoke-russia-white-house-642735.html>  
<http://tass.ru/en/defense/873755>

### **New EUCOM commander says no changes in Russia's behavior in Donbas expected, 04.05.2016**

"From everything that I have seen, Russia has been very active in eastern Ukraine. I don't see any indication that that's going to change in a short term and I don't expect it will," the new chief of U.S. European Command and Supreme Allied Commander Europe, U.S. Army Gen. Curtis Scaparrotti said. Scaparrotti also noted that the Russians are "active through many means – not just military, but information work to undermine the political fabric, etc, and I think that is very representative of the kinds of activity that they demonstrate in other areas as well."

<http://uaposition.com/latest-news/new-eucom-commander-says-no-changes-in-russias-behavior-in-donbas-expected/>

### **KREMLIN INTENDS TO RUIN MINSK-2: GERASHCHENKO, 06.05.2016**

Gerashchenko recalled that in December last year, Europe has extended sanctions against Russia. "That is why Moscow is so dissatisfied with the Minsk format and seeks to ruin someone with someone else's hands, getting rid of the [contact] group members, discrediting our work," said Gerashchenko. The main task is to force Russia to fulfill its obligations. The aggressive and destructive stance of Moscow today, in fact, has blocked the normal work of the UN Security Council, the OSCE, and other international organizations, making any international platform futile: either in Minsk, New New York, or Vienna," she said. "So the question is not so much about the search for new formats or expanding the Normandy format and the Minsk groups, it's about something else: how to force Russia to respect international law and comply with its obligations," said Gerashchenko.

<http://x-news.com.ua/kremlin-intends-to-ruin-minsk-2-gerashchenko-136649/>

### **Control of Donbas: Mission impossible, 06.05.2016**

After the agreement on the so-called "Easter truce," OSCE monitors celebrated the reduction of violence in Donbas in general, but tension increased in areas where the adversaries' positions are located close to each other. However, for several weeks, Ukraine's Western partners have been increasingly pushing for the idea of holding elections in the areas of Donetsk and Luhansk regions beyond Kyiv's control. However, Ukraine stands firm, saying that holding the elections is possible but first, it is necessary to restore control in Donbas, as people can actually get shot... According to Assistant U.S. Secretary of State for European and Eurasian Affairs Victoria Nuland, the restoration of a secure environment in Donbas, which the region lacks, is a prerequisite for the holding of elections. And to ensure security of the elections in Donbas, the deployment in the east of Ukraine of an OSCE international police mission is being discussed, so that the voters could vote freely. Ms Nuland noted that the OSCE SMM did not always succeed in fulfilling its role. Therefore, the question of additional measures is still open, according to the U.S. official.

<http://www.unian.info/society/1338923-control-of-donbas-mission-impossible.html>

### **Chernysh: "Ukraine officially buys coal from the occupied territories", 07.05.2016**

"The coal from the uncontrolled territories is officially delivered to the controlled territory and provides us with electricity. I emphasize that a lot of people are working there, the hundreds of thousands who are somehow related, and pay taxes, and businesses that pay military taxes for Ukraine," - said Chernysh. He also said that the Ministry of the temporarily occupied territories and displaced persons has not yet started its work. In order for this to happen, it is necessary to amend the state budget.

<http://112.international/politics/chernysh-ukraine-officially-buys-coal-from-the-occupied-territories-4655.html>

<http://uaosition.com/latest-news/ukraine-officially-buys-coal-from-occupied-donbas-minister/>

### **US Mission To OSCE: Russia Is Responsible For Minsk Ceasefire, 09.05.2016**

The US mission to the OSCE is not mincing words, however -- they are firmly accusing Russia of breaking the ceasefire and perpetuating the violence: There is a clear correlation between ceasefire violations, the presence of proscribed weapons, and efforts to limit the SMM's access to parts of the conflict zone, as Chief Monitor Apakan said last week. Separatist forces are responsible for more than five times as many weapons-withdrawal violations as the Ukrainian government, and combined Russian-separatist forces are responsible for more than 90 percent of instances of denied or delayed access for SMM monitors. Ensuring SMM access throughout the conflict zone is essential to maintain a genuine, lasting ceasefire and restore the confidence needed to facilitate Minsk implementation. In the Permanent Council, the Russian Federation has failed to endorse the SMM's unrestricted access to all parts of the conflict zone, and continues to claim falsely that the SMM has adequate access to areas under separatist control, including along the international border. If we are to have confidence that Russia and the separatists it backs are committed to Minsk implementation, not military aggression, the SMM must have full, unconditional access to the border.

<http://www.interpretemag.com/us-and-ukraine-hold-russia-responsible-for-war-in-the-donbass/>

### **Poroshenko: Ukraine proves to all that enemy can be stopped not only with force of arms, 09.05.2016**

"Over the two years of the Patriotic War for our independence, we have proved to the world that the enemy can be stopped not only with the force of arms of the Ukrainian fighters, but also with the spiritual power and unity of the Ukrainian people," the Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko said. "In the severe tests of strength of our Homeland, a very powerful national movement of volunteers was born. I am sure that there is another movement which we have now –military chaplains," Petro Poroshenko said.

<http://uaposition.com/latest-news/poroshenko-ukraine-proves-to-all-that-enemy-can-be-stopped-not-only-with-force-of-arms/>

### **OSCE: Heavy arms in Luhansk and Donetsk for 9 May Day parades violate Minsk accords, 10.05.2016**

"The SMM did not attend the military parades but monitored the general security situation on the ground. The OSCE fully respects the right of people to celebrate events of cultural, religious or historical importance," the OSCE SMM wrote. "The SMM is mandated to monitor the ceasefire and other provisions of the Minsk agreements including the withdrawal of weapons, and the presence of heavy weapons in Luhansk and Donetsk cities for 9 May Day parades are in violation of the Minsk agreements and a threat to people," the report says.

<http://www.unian.info/war/1340493-osce-heavy-arms-in-luhansk-and-donetsk-for-9-may-day-parades-violate-minsk-accords.html>

<http://uatoday.tv/politics/osce-comments-on-accusations-of-helping-parties-to-donbas-conflict-646120.html>

### **Kremlin says implementation of Minsk-2 remains deplorable, 10.05.2016**

Russian Presidential spokesman Dmitry Peskov said "the Normandy process for now remains the main basis for efforts to search for a settlement of the crisis in Ukraine, so maintaining it is extremely important." "The more so, since the situation is far from being promising and productive. For the time being the situation involving the implementation of the Minsk Accords, to which the Normandy Four countries are signatories, is deplorable," Peskov said.

<http://tass.ru/en/politics/874700>

### **Normandy Four FMs agree "int'l component" should be present in Donbas, 11.05.2016**

"We've agreed that an international component is important to us. We've agreed that an OSCE mission could be this component," Klimkin said after talks with his German, French and Russian counterparts in Berlin, Germany. The sides also discussed what the mandate of this mission and rules for it could be. They also touched on the issue of "a militarized component," he said. "I am happy we've got general understanding that this issue should be discussed further," he added. In turn, German Foreign Minister Frank-Walter Steinmeier, who hosted the talks, said the atmosphere was better than at their last meeting in Paris but acknowledged there had been no breakthrough. "In the area of security, we made significant progress," he said, citing a plan to separate military units along the front line and to create demilitarized zones. "There were proposals from both sides with concrete coordinates and deadlines."

<http://www.unian.info/politics/1342498-normandy-four-fms-agree-international-component-should-be-present-in-donbas.html>

### **The easing of sanctions will provoke Russia – Parubiy, 13.05.2016**

"I emphasized how critically important for us is this support (PACE – ed.), how important it is for us all to continued consolidation of international efforts on sanctions against the aggressor, against Russia", – said Parubiy. "Any easing of sanctions will only provoke the aggressor to new actions," – said the speaker of the Parliament. Also, according to Parubiy during the meeting with PACE President discussed the plan of reforming of the Ukrainian Parliament and reforms in Ukraine in General. In turn Agramunt assured the leadership of the Ukrainian Parliament's full support for the sovereignty and independence of Ukraine, and the continuation of reforms in the country. "We believe that both the government and the Parliament should take advantage of the momentum that is associated with the appointment of the government, to continue the process of reforms," he said.

<http://ukropnews24.com/the-easing-of-sanctions-will-provoke-russia-parubiy/>

### **Russian Aggression On Agenda As Obama Hosts Nordic Leaders, 13.05.2016**

The leaders of Sweden, Denmark, Finland, Norway, and Iceland are making a visit to the White House, where Obama will welcome the leaders for talks on pressing global security issues, including the crises in Syria and Iraq that have sent thousands of migrants flooding into Europe. Moscow's annexation of Crimea in 2014 alarmed Russia's Nordic and Baltic neighbors. With NATO considering ways to try to deter further Russian aggression, the White House wants to show support for its northern European allies. "It is a way of sending a signal that the United States is deeply engaged when it comes to the security of the region, and we will be actively discussing what steps we can collectively take to improve the situation," said Charles Kupchan, Obama's senior director for European affairs.

<http://www.rferl.org/content/us-obama-nordic-leaders-russian-aggression/27732176.html>

<http://www.ibtimes.com/amid-russian-aggression-nordic-states-determined-maintain-sanctions-after-obama-white-2368720>

### **OSCE chief monitor: Decision on Donbas should have backing of all 57 OSCE members, 13.05.2016**

Principal Deputy Chief Monitor Alexander Hug says that a decision on the possible deployment of an armed OSCE mission in Donbas, Ukraine's east, should have the backing of all 57 OSCE participating states during the OSCE Permanent Council.

"The SMM is an unarmed monitoring mission. We are not a party to this conflict. We do not take sides. We do in fact have the political backing of all 57 OSCE participating states, representing every conceivable position and view in relation to this conflict. Our only objective is to bring this conflict to an end," Hug said at a press briefing on Friday.

<http://uatoday.tv/politics/osce-chief-monitor-decision-on-donbas-should-have-backing-of-all-57-osce-members-648025.html>

### **Biden tells Poroshenko USD 1 bln in loan guarantees will be given to Ukraine soon, 13.05.2016**

U.S. Vice President Joe Biden and Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko have agreed to sign a deal on USD 1 billion worth of loan guarantees for Ukraine soon. "The parties have agreed to sign the bilateral agreement on the provision of the third tranche of loan guarantees in the amount of USD 1 billion to Ukraine soon," the press service gave details of a telephone conversation between Poroshenko and Biden. Poroshenko also informed on measures aimed at improving the public finance system and the business climate in Ukraine. He he was hopeful that the results of reforms in Ukraine would intensify support for the country by the United States, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and other international partners of Ukraine.

<http://uatoday.tv/business/biden-tells-poroshenko-usd-1-bln-in-loan-guarantees-will-be-given-to-ukraine-soon-648229.html>

<http://uaposition.com/latest-news/u-s-welcomes-appointment-of-new-prosecutor-general-in-ukraine/>

### **Kiev Says to Resume Talks With LPR, DPR After OSCE Police Mission Deployed, 14.05.2016**

"We are preparing to renew the political process, but it can start only when OSCE international military observers are deployed at the contact line to ensure 100-percent ceasefire, and heavy weapons and artillery will be withdrawn according to the Minsk agreements... When control of the Ukrainian-Russian border will be transferred to the armed OSCE mission and to the Ukrainian border guards after that," Poroshenko said during his visit to Kramatorsk.

<http://sputniknews.com/europe/20160514/1039618450/ukraine-osce-mission-talks.html>

### **Poroshenko urges PACE to use all instruments for release of Ukrainian political prisoners in Russia, 14.05.2016**

Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko has urged PACE to use all instruments for the release of Ukrainian political prisoners in Russia, according to the president's official website. During the meeting with the PACE President Pedro Agramunt, who is on an official visit to Ukraine, Poroshenko drew his attention to the continuation of Russian aggression against Ukraine, which stipulates the necessity of further political pressure and enhancement of respective sanctions against Russia, inter alia, in the framework of the Council of Europe, the report says.

<http://uatoday.tv/politics/poroshenko-urges-pace-to-use-all-instruments-for-release-of-ukrainian-political-prisoners-in-russia-648379.html>

<http://en.interfax.com.ua/news/general/343375.html>

### **Impossible to have meaningful reforms in Ukraine when borders unstable: U.S. State Department, 16.05.2016**

"Our position on Minsk Agreements is very clear: they have to be fully implemented before any sanction relief on Russia can be contemplated," said Ziff. "It is impossible to have meaningful reforms inside Ukraine when the borders are unstable," the U.S. official said answering the reporter's question on what should be done first – state border control restored or should local election be held. "We have seen increasing violence since the Easter ceasefire mostly from the separatist areas. These are areas that Russia controls and can certainly make the violence cease if it so chooses and that would be a precondition for any further movement," he said. Mr Ziff also expressed confidence that the EU will roll over sanctions against Russia in June.

<http://www.unian.info/politics/1346894-impossible-to-have-meaningful-reforms-in-ukraine-when-borders-unstable-us-state-department.html>

### **President urged G7 to prolong sanctions against Russia, 16.05.2016**

In the course of the meeting with the G7 Ambassadors accredited in Ukraine, President Petro Poroshenko put a special emphasis on the necessity of prolongation of sanctions against Russia for the non-fulfillment of the Minsk agreements by the country-aggressor. According to the President, pro-Russian militants tend to aggravate the situation in Donbas in the recent days and Russia is fully responsible for that. The G7 Ambassadors have been provided with comprehensive facts of Russia's violations, presence of Russian troops in the occupied Donbas and ongoing sending of Russian troops and weapons to the occupied territories. The Head of State noted that sanctions were an "efficient instrument" and "motivating factor" that would encourage Russia to fulfill the Minsk agreements.

<http://www.president.gov.ua/en/news/prezident-ukrayini-zaklikav-veliku-simku-prodovzhiti-sankciy-37109>

### **UN Calls On Russia To Respect Crimean Tatar Rights On Key Anniversary, 18.05.2016**

"Since April 2014, Crimean Tatars have been subjected to arbitrary searches, seizure of books, and arrest," spokesman for the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, Rupert Colville said in a statement on May 17. "Last year, the authorities shut down a number of Crimean Tatar media outlets, and last week were reported to have also blocked Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty's Crimea news website." Colville said Russia has "a duty to ensure the rights of minorities and indigenous peoples" and should immediately lift the ban on the Mejlis, the Tatars' legislative body. During Stalin's reign, starting on May 18, 1944, some 200,000 Crimean Tatars were put on trains -- most of them in the space of just two days -- and sent to Uzbekistan. Thousands are believed to have died during the journey.

<http://www.rferl.org/content/un-calls-on-russia-respect-crimean-tatar-rights-anniversary-stalin-deportations/27742101.html>

<http://en.interfax.com.ua/news/general/344045.html>

### **Trump: Putin's good things about me won't help him in negotiation, 18.05.2016**

"Putin made very nice statements about me. Very strong, very nice statements. I think that's not a bad thing, that's a good thing," he said about Russian President Vladimir Putin. "I think I'll have a good relationship with Russia, and I may not. And the fact that he's said good things about me doesn't mean that, you know, it's going to help him in a negotiation. It won't help him at all. And I'll know pretty soon in whether or not I'll have a good relationship with Russia. But wouldn't it be wonderful if we actually did have a good relationship with foreign countries as opposed to the way they're treating us now?" Trump said.

<http://www.unian.info/world/1348459-trump-putins-good-things-about-me-wont-help-him-in-negotiation.html>

<http://www.reuters.com/article/us-usa-election-trump-excerpts-idUSKCN0Y82OJ>

### **Poroshenko: Deportation - our common pain, 18.05.2016**

President of Ukraine Petro Poroshenko expressed his condolences to the Crimean Tatars on behalf of the Ukrainian people. May 18, 1944 the Soviet authorities conducted mass deportation of the Crimean Tatars from Crimea, accusing them of collaborating with the Nazis. About 238 thousand Crimean Tatars were evicted and 46%, mostly the elderly, women and children were killed in special settlements in the first years of deportation.

<http://gha.com.ua/en/politics/poroshenko-deportation-our-common-pain/137201/>

### **NATO risks nuclear war with Russia 'within year', warns senior general, 18.05.2016**

General Sir Richard Shirreff, who served as Nato's Deputy Supreme Allied Commander in Europe between 2011 and 2014, said that an attack on Estonia, Lithuania or Latvia – all Nato members – was a serious possibility and that the West should act now to avert "potential catastrophe". He has written a fictional book *2017 War with Russia*, but told BBC Radio 4's Today programme the events it describes were "entirely plausible".

General Shirreff said: "The chilling fact is that because Russia hardwires nuclear thinking and capability to every aspect of their defence capability, this would be nuclear war. "We need to judge President Putin by his deeds not his words," he added. "He has invaded Georgia, he has invaded the Crimea, he has invaded Ukraine. He has used force and got away with it. General Shirreff said that Mr Putin could be persuaded into an intervention in the Baltic by a "perception" of weakness in Nato, and predicted that, as in Crimea, the Russian president would present his actions as an act of defence to protect the large Russian-speaking minorities in those countries.

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/europe/nato-risks-nuclear-war-with-russia-within-a-year-senior-general-warns-a7035141.html>

### **Russia denies Ukraine's appeal for Yanukovych extradition — PGO, 18.05.2016**

"Today we received a reply [from the Russian side] on the refusal to extradite Yanukovych, and so we will raise the question of how to interrogate him in the territory of the Russian Federation. But I stress this is only possible in a legitimate way given the participation of law enforcement agencies of the state," Head of a Special Investigations Department of the Prosecutor General's Office Of Ukraine, Serhiy Horbatiyuk said. According to Horbatiyuk, the ex-president has been issued a suspicion in seven criminal proceedings.

<http://ukrainianwall.com/english-news/russia-denies-ukraines-appeal-for-yanukovych-extradition-pgo/>

### **NATO official says Donbas conflict already "frozen", 19.05.2016**

Head of the NATO Military Committee Petr Pavel gave a forecast of further developments in Donbas, branding the current situation in eastern Ukraine a "frozen conflict" in an exclusive interview with the Ukrainian media outlet Apostrophe.

The NATO official said that the situation in eastern Ukraine was close to the establishment of a frozen conflict, expressing hope that in the end, Russia will be forced to recognize that the only way for a peaceful, diplomatic and political solution to the conflict is strict compliance by both sides to the conflict with the Minsk agreements. Asked whether the situation in Donbas will be similar to the frozen conflict in Transnistria, Pavel said: "This is already a frozen conflict." He elaborated that a frozen conflict means a situation, which can be used for promotion of various political offers. He went on to say he believed that a peaceful resolution of the conflict in eastern Ukraine is precisely the main political objective.

<http://uaposition.com/latest-news/nato-official-says-donbas-conflict-already-frozen/>

<http://www.unian.info/politics/1355953-nato-assistant-secretary-general-nato-and-ukraine-share-a-common-interest-in-discussing-lessons-learned-from-hybrid-warfare.html>

### **U.S. State Secretary: no business between NATO and Russia until peace in Donbas, 20.05.2016**

"NATO has been and has to be ready to and engaged in a willingness to be open to a political dialogue with Russia, but we refrain from a business as usual until Minsk commitments are fully implemented. That is critical. And make no mistake, we will not recognize the annexation and the occupation of Crimea," Kerry said in Brussels. "Tonight we will review our ongoing work to strengthen NATO's eastern flank and to deter aggression. And a key aspect of our response to the actions – Russia's actions in Ukraine is to meet the Wales commitments on defense investments and to continue to strengthen our deterrence capabilities through a more robust forward presence and with associated steps that I think have been described to you. That is why we are contributing .4 billion to the European Reassurance Initiative," he said.

<http://uatoday.tv/politics/u-s-state-secretary-no-business-between-nato-and-russia-until-peace-in-donbas-651842.html>

<http://www.defense.gov/News-Article-View/Article/777051/work-hails-us-norway-ties-expresses-concern-about-revanchist-russia>

<http://uatoday.tv/politics/u-s-will-not-lift-crimea-sanctions-unless-peninsula-is-deoccupied-652495.html>



### **Germany stands against welcoming Russia back to G8, 20.05.2016**

"The West took Russia in as a member of the G8 grouping of the most important democratic industrial nations even though it fulfilled neither the economic nor the political requirements," Eckart von Klaeden, foreign policy spokesman for Chancellor Angela Merkel's Christian Democrats in parliament, said. "These nations should meet in the old G7 format as long as Russia is not prepared to find a solution under the framework of the United Nations," he added.  
[http://nc4.info/in\\_world/113859-Germany\\_stands\\_against\\_welcoming\\_Russia\\_back\\_to\\_G8](http://nc4.info/in_world/113859-Germany_stands_against_welcoming_Russia_back_to_G8)

### **Zhirinovsky offers to annihilate 200,000 people in nuclear strike, 23.05.2016**

"There is an island in the North Sea, a small country with a population of 200,000 people. We need to tell Brussels: see, there is an island... and now, there is no island, no country. Do you want us to be slapped in the face, or Donbas to be shelled?" Zhirinovsky said. "We have to show what our nuclear forces are worth," he said. He is convinced that the West would agree to just about anything if the Russian army comes close to Kyiv. "We should attack, we should be fighting near Brussels, near Warsaw, near Prague... But you're waiting when everything will go down again," he said. Zhirinovsky said that tough statements had to be made, and as an example, he cited the statement of Russian Czar Alexander III: "All the coffers to the war."  
<http://www.unian.info/politics/1352999-zhirinovsky-offers-to-annihilate-200000-people-in-nuclear-strike.html>

### **MP calls on SBU, MFA to declare Gorbachev persona non grata for backing the annexation of Crimea, 23.05.2016**

"No one is allowed to publicly recognize the annexation of Crimea by Russia. It was an act of aggression and violation of the territorial integrity of Ukraine," Gerashchenko said. "I think such statements are violations of both the Criminal Code of Ukraine and human values. Therefore, today I have filed a motion, asking the SBU chief, the Minister of Foreign Affairs to ban Gorbachev's entry into the territory of Ukraine," Gerashchenko said.  
<http://uaposition.com/latest-news/mp-calls-on-sbu-mfa-to-declare-gorbachev-persona-non-grata/>  
<http://www.unian.info/politics/1353910-gorbachev-comments-on-possible-entry-ban-to-ukraine-for-backing-crimea-occupation.html>  
<http://www.unian.info/politics/1357111-reuters-ukraine-bans-gorbachev-over-support-for-crimea-annexation.html>

### **President: We will do everything possible for Nadiya Savchenko to return home this month, 23.05.2016**

"We will do everything possible for Nadiya to return home as soon as possible. I'll do everything to bring her back this month," Petro Poroshenko said. The President reminded that in the course of his previous visit to Turkey he had declared willingness to use any constitutional powers to bring Nadiya back to Ukraine. "Thus, in case I receive such an address, I will use it immediately," he noted. According to him, significant part of his today's negotiations was dedicated to Nadiya Savchenko. "At the same time, I would like to avoid politicization of that process when certain politicians, government officials or civil servants want to make a good hand on that. No politician except our foreign partners will be involved in that," he said.  
<http://www.president.gov.ua/en/news/prezident-mi-zrobimo-vse-mozhlive-shob-nadiya-savchenko-vzhe-37179>

### **OSCE mission should be deployed on demarcation line, not on Russia-Ukraine border – Kremlin, 24.05.2016**

"It concerns the demarcation line. It is important to have militant consent... the consent of representatives of Donbas, and before formalizing any common understanding, it is necessary to achieve this understanding," Peskov said commenting on a recent telephone conversation between Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko, French President Francois Hollande, German Chancellor Angela Merkel and Russian President Vladimir Putin. Peskov said: "This is about the demarcation line, which is the line that separates militant forces and the Armed Forces of Ukraine." "The Minsk agreements include exhaustive description regarding border control and specifies the priorities, so there is nothing to discuss. Ukraine and the 'Normandy Four' have put their signatures there," Peskov said.  
<http://www.unian.info/politics/1354278-osce-mission-should-be-deployed-on-demarcation-line-not-on-russia-ukraine-border-kremlin.html>

## **Lavrov on NATO expansion: Russia to refute "all risks and threats to national security", 25.05.2016**

The Russian side will take all necessary steps "to parry the risks and threats to the national security," Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov said.

<http://www.breakingnewspoint.com/story/3085815/lavrov-on-nato-expansion-russia-to-refute-all-risks-and-threats-to-national-security.html>

## **Putin says Russia, EU 'can settle differences', 26.05.2016**

Putin wrote, "We believe that our relations with the EU do not face any problems that we cannot solve. To get back to a multifaceted partnership, the deficient approach of one-sided relationships should be abandoned."

"There should be true respect for each other's opinions and interests," the Russian president said, adding that the two sides have come to a "crossroads." "I am convinced that we should draw appropriate conclusions from the events in Ukraine and proceed to establishing, in the vast space stretching between the Atlantic and the Pacific Oceans, a zone of economic and humanitarian cooperation based on the architecture of equal and indivisible security," he wrote.

<http://www.presstv.ir/Detail/2016/05/26/467477/Russia-EU-Putin-differences-Ukrainian-conflict-Kathimerini>

<http://uaposition.com/latest-news/putin-russia-eu-should-draw-conclusions-from-events-in-ukraine/>

<http://www.unian.info/politics/1356711-kremlin-says-supports-poroshenkos-wish-to-return-donbas.html>

## **Savchenko says she may become president if Ukrainians wish so, 27.05.2016**

"Let's put it this way: Ukrainians, if you need me to be president, well, I will be president. I just do not really believe that our people have learned to vote [consciously], not for buckwheat," Savchenko said during her first big press conference when asked about her readiness to become president. She cannot say that she would wish to become president because she would rather prefer piloting planes. "But if it is necessary, I'll do my best. I'll go this way. And I will work with dedication," Savchenko said.

[http://joinfo.com/world/1016848\\_savchenko-says-she-may-become-president-if-ukrainians-wish-so.html](http://joinfo.com/world/1016848_savchenko-says-she-may-become-president-if-ukrainians-wish-so.html)

<http://www.unian.info/politics/1357759-savchenko-ill-do-everything-ukraine-needs.html>

<http://uaposition.com/latest-news/savchenko-names-two-ways-to-return-crimea/>

<http://www.unian.info/politics/1358069-we-have-stuff-to-discuss-savchenko-ready-to-meet-russian-gru-officer-yerofeyev.html>

## **Statement by OSCE Chairperson-in-Office Steinmeier on latest incidents targeting the OSCE Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine, 28.05.2016**

"It is with great concern I have learnt that shots were fired in the direction of an SMM patrol near the contact line today, and that an SMM long-range monitoring Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) was shot down near Horlivka. Such assaults against the civilian, unarmed OSCE monitoring mission in Ukraine are completely unacceptable. They add to a number of serious impediments to the work of the Mission, including the disabling of SMM monitoring cameras in the Donetsk airport area. Such actions undermine our joint efforts to sustainably consolidate the ceasefire. I, therefore, call on all sides to respect what was agreed. All sides have to fully guarantee the security and safety of SMM monitors and ensure their unfettered access to the whole conflict area. Those responsible for the attacks on the Mission have to be held accountable. A sustainable ceasefire is a matter of urgency, and essential to ensure progress in the implementation of the Minsk agreements."

<http://www.osce.org/cio/243331>

<http://www.osce.org/ukraine-smm/243336>

## **Putin says Russia will indulge in no discussion on ceding Crimea back to Ukraine, 28.05.2016**

"As for Crimea, we think this issue closed once and for all. It was a historic decision of people living in Crimea," he said at a news conference after his talks with the Greek leaders. "Russia will indulge in no discussions with anyone on that matter," Putin stressed. "So, let us stop raising this matter over and over again." The Republic of Crimea and Sevastopol, a city with a special status on the Crimean Peninsula, where most residents are Russians, refused to recognize the legitimacy of authorities brought to power amid riots during a coup in Ukraine in February 2014.

<http://tass.ru/en/politics/878707>

<http://tass.ru/en/politics/878708>

<http://tass.ru/en/politics/879042>

### **Poroshenko names key conditions for elections in occupied Donbas, 28.05.2016**

"The Minsk agreements clearly provide for the withdrawal of occupation forces from the Ukrainian territory, the restoration of Ukrainian control over the state border and the OSCE armed police mission deployment, which will monitor the implementation on the contact line, will take custody of warehouses with the withdrawn weapons until they are transported to Russia, and will put its patrols at all checkpoints in order to exclude the possibility of the delivery of new units of the Russian troops, ammunition, weapons, or the return of mercenaries," Poroshenko said during a speech in the mobile border detachment of the State Border Service on the occasion of the Border Guards Day in Kyiv on Saturday. "Only according to the Ukrainian legislation, with the presence of international observers, with the participation of Ukrainian parties, candidates, under stringent security measures, under which we will protect everyone who is involved in the campaign, and who goes to vote. With a tolerance of Ukrainian means of agitation and mass media, we will hold elections that meet the OSCE international standards. I emphasize that there will be no other scenario," Poroshenko said.

<http://www.unian.info/politics/1358907-poroshenko-names-key-conditions-for-elections-in-occupied-donbas.html>

### **Ukraine's Chief of Gen. Staff: Russian invasion "very bad scenario but we must consider it", 29.05.2016**

Yes, we have submitted proposals for measures aimed at stabilizing the situation on the contact line, and a number of our proposals were taken into account. This includes the move to disengage the parties in certain areas, it also refers to a ceasefire, and there are proposals regarding OSCE control over the withdrawn weaponry in designated areas, the free movement of SMM monitors in government-controlled territories and areas beyond such control. The proposals also relate to putting up additional monitoring posts along the contact line, especially in hot spots, and 24/7 control on the [contact] line. There are proposals on demining. Today we have completed mine clearance operations at five sites while in another four areas the process is almost complete, and three more areas remain problematic. Unfortunately, it is impossible now to fully restore the infrastructure there due constant shelling. For example, there is a gas pipeline in Maryinka and there is a problem there. Although we took the initiative calling for a ceasefire and attracted the OSCE, we still don't have an opportunity to fully restore the infrastructure.

<http://www.unian.info/war/1359214-ukraines-chief-of-gen-staff-russian-invasion-very-bad-scenario-but-we-must-consider-it.html>

### **Moscow has no plans of recognizing Ukraine's self-proclaimed republics — Lavrov, 31.05.2016**

"I'm convinced that this will be counterproductive," Lavrov said, stressing that it is very important that the documents signed in Minsk are implemented.

"If we say now that 'our patience has run out, we will go another way,' they will say 'fine, then the West will have no influence on the current Ukrainian authorities now,'" Lavrov said. Nevertheless, Russia is not abandoning or forgetting about Ukraine's southeast, the diplomat went on to say. "We are not giving up Ukraine's southeast or forgetting about it and are very actively supporting it not only politically," Lavrov said. "This is both humanitarian assistance and solving current economic problems, the problems of this region's life." Lavrov said this concerns the issues that France and Germany pledged to solve, namely the problem of the banking system's operation. "They [France and Germany] could not do that and admitted that," he said. "We solved these and other problems of life in Donbass and will do this," Lavrov stressed.

<http://tass.ru/en/politics/879223>

<http://sputniknews.com/politics/20150318/1019671498.html>

<http://www.unian.info/politics/1361856-donbas-to-never-see-ceasefire-until-political-settlement-reached.html>

## **Actions of Ukrainian Authorities**

### **Ukraine's president signs law on indefinite moratorium on debt payment to Russia, 04.05.2016**

The Verkhovna Rada passed a law on April 12 to impose an indefinite moratorium on the payment of Ukraine's external debt, including the \$3 billion loan raised from Russia. The existing ban on the payment of Ukraine's external government debt would have expired on July 1, if the national parliament had not adopted the law on the indefinite moratorium. According to the authors of the document, the cancellation of the moratorium's final date "will extend the term of legal grounds for searching for further ways of restructuring external debt obligations." In the opinion of Opposition Bloc representatives, the bill means Ukraine's default. According to deputy Mikhail Papiyev, the Ukrainian legislation should necessarily stipulate a final date of the moratorium on the government debt payment.

<http://tass.ru/en/world/873825>

### **SBU cuts sophisticated comm channel between "DPR-LPR" terrorists, their Russian curators, 04.05.2016**

The perpetrator used IP telephony to receive international phone traffic coming from Russia, bypassing the international commutation centers. Then the specialized software and hardware telecom station was used to disguise communications as local calls and forward them to the networks of the Ukrainian mobile operators. "Telephone numbers that carried traffic routing were used by terrorists from "DPR-LPR" in the temporarily occupied territories [of Donbas] to communicate with their Russian curators," reads the statement.

<http://uaposition.com/latest-news/sbu-cuts-sophisticated-comm-channel-between-dpr-lpr-terrorists-their-russian-curators/>

### **Ukraine calls on international community to condemn Russia's aggressive policy against Crimean Tatars, 11.05.2016**

The Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine calls on international organizations to condemn the Russian Federation for its violations of human rights and freedoms of the Crimean Tatar people. The appeal was submitted to honor victims of genocide of the Crimean Tatar people and condemn violations by Russia of human rights and freedoms of Crimean Tatars. The relevant resolution No. 4476 was supported by 240 votes. It is stated that a systematic pressure on the Crimean Tatar people, the repression of Ukrainian citizens on a national basis, the organization of ethnically and politically motivated prosecutions of Crimean Tatars and their bodies, the Mejlis of the Crimean Tatar people and the Kurultay of the Crimean Tatar people, in the temporarily occupied territories of Ukraine by Russian state authorities starting from the date of the temporary occupation, are a deliberate policy of ethnocide in respect to the Crimean Tatar people.

<http://uaposition.com/latest-news/ukraine-calls-on-international-community-to-condemn-russias-aggressive-policy-against-crimean-tatars/>

### **PM Groysman orders to create new unit to supervise customs officers, 10.05.2016**

"An interdepartmental unit will be created in the near future to supervise customs officers. It will consist of a hundred people who will be equipped with all necessary devices to demonstrate how to work efficiently," he said on Saturday, May 7, 2016, addressing customs officials at the Lviv customs house's Krakovets border crossing point, which he visited to hold a working meeting. The meeting was also attended by Chairman of the State Border Service of Ukraine Viktor Nazarenko, Chairman of the State Fiscal Service of Ukraine Roman Nasirov, as well as senior officials of the Lviv customs house, law enforcement officers of Lviv region, and Lviv Regional State Administration's senior officials. "You've got three months to put things right at the Ukrainian customs houses. You've got my support if there is the political will, if not – you may submit your resignation letters as soon as today, as you'll be sacked," he said. Groysman emphasized that his visit to the Lviv customs house aimed to trigger changes in the customs service's work.

<http://ukrainianwall.com/english-news/pm-groysman-orders-to-create-new-unit-to-supervise-customs-officers/>

<http://www.unian.info/politics/1341424-groysman-announces-changes-at-customs-operations-hints-at-reshuffles.html>

### **IMF experts arrive in Kyiv, will work until May 18, 10.05.2016**

IMF experts are expected to meet with Ukrainian officials, they will focus on discussions and finalizations of the second review of the Fund's Extended Fund Facility (EFF) adopted for Ukraine in March 2015. The four-year EFF program worth about \$17.5 billion originally foresaw quarterly reviews of the program, the disbursement of four tranches to Kyiv in 2015, another four in 2016. However, at present, the country has received only the first tranche worth \$5 billion on March 13, 2015, and the second one worth \$1.7 billion arrived on August 4, 2015. The second review is under way, as Ukraine and the IMF are in talks on a wide range of issues, which includes various aspects of monetary, banking and anti-corruption policies, the pension reform and the privatization process. Based on results of the review, a memorandum should be signed between the Ukrainian government and the IMF's Executive Board. Ukraine's Finance Minister Oleksandr Danylyuk said the restoration of cooperation with the Fund was vital for Ukraine as it would help unlock further financial assistance from Ukraine's international partners.

<http://ukrainianwall.com/english-news/imf-experts-arrive-in-kyiv-will-work-until-may-18/>

### **May 9 terrorist attack thwarted, 10.05.2016**

According to Ukrainian Security Service, authorities liquidated a terrorist organization in the Kherson Region. The group is allegedly responsible for the deadly car-bombing in the village of Novooleksiyivka which happened in April of this year. Ukraine's Security Service says the suspected terrorists received major funds from sources in Russia.

<http://uatoday.tv/crime/may-9-terrorist-attack-thwarted-645750.html>

### **Eka Zguladze resigns as first deputy interior minister, - Avakov, 11.05.2016**

First Deputy Interior Minister Eka Zguladze has decided to leave her post.

"Eka resigns as first deputy minister. The Cabinet has passed the decision at her request. Eka will make a statement, no need to spread rumors. I'd like to sincerely express my big gratitude for the work done," he noted. Later, Avakov wrote that Zguladze accepted his proposal and will continue to be part of Interior Ministry reform team, leading a special group of advisers.

[http://en.censor.net.ua/news/387963/eka\\_zguladze\\_resigns\\_as\\_first\\_deputy\\_interior\\_minister\\_avakov](http://en.censor.net.ua/news/387963/eka_zguladze_resigns_as_first_deputy_interior_minister_avakov)

[http://en.censor.net.ua/news/385702/police\\_officer\\_kiva\\_to\\_be\\_dismissed\\_national\\_police\\_head\\_dekanoidze](http://en.censor.net.ua/news/385702/police_officer_kiva_to_be_dismissed_national_police_head_dekanoidze)

### **Rada adopts bill allowing Lutsenko to be nominated Prosecutor General, 11.05.2016**

The adopted amendments to the Law "On Prosecutor's Office" stipulate that any citizen of Ukraine may be appointed for the post of Prosecutor General, who is a law graduate with work experience in the field of law, or work experience in legislative and/or law enforcement bodies of at least five years. Earlier, the relevant article said that the nominee must have a law degree and work experience in the field of law of at least 10 years. It is also established that several departments and offices will be formed in the structure of the PGO, as well as the General Inspectorate. Thus, the Prosecutor General will be authorized to submit materials to the State Bureau of Investigation presented by the General Inspectorate.

<http://www.unian.info/politics/1343251-rada-adopts-bill-allowing-lutsenko-to-be-nominated-prosecutor-general.html>

[http://en.gp.gov.ua/ua/news.html?\\_m=publications&\\_t=rec&id=183649](http://en.gp.gov.ua/ua/news.html?_m=publications&_t=rec&id=183649)

### **US law firm to defend Ukraine in dispute with Russia over assets in Crimea, 11.05.2016**

The Ukrainian Ministry of Foreign Affairs hired the U.S. law firm Covington & Burling for \$3.676 million to the protect Ukraine's interests in the international arbitration dispute with Russia over the annexation of the Crimea. The company has a reputation for successfully protecting clients' interests at various levels against the Russian Federation. The contract with Covington & Burling was signed on May 5th. The term of the provision of legal services lasts until December 31, 2016. In January this year, Naftogaz Ukraine hired lawyers from Covington & Burling for \$1.25 million to get compensation for the property lost by the company in the Crimea. Naftogaz said that this law firm is experienced in protecting clients' interests at various levels against the Russian Federation, Russian government enterprises and Russian officials.

<http://uawire.org/news/us-law-firm-to-defend-ukraine-in-dispute-with-russia-over-assets-in-crimea>

### **Poroshenko meets UN project office head to discuss Donbas, 15.05.2016**

The parties discussed prospects for enhancing assistance by UN organizations in fast restoring vitally important infrastructure in Donbas and ensuring the development of the areas in eastern Ukraine that have suffered from Russian aggression, the press service said. Particular attention was paid to internally displaced persons' urgent humanitarian needs. Poroshenko also stressed the importance of Ukraine's access to innovative sources of funding through interaction with institutional donors, charity organizations, international business associations for the implementation of social, economic, environmental and humanitarian projects in Donetsk and Luhansk regions. Among the projects mentioned during the meeting were activities to clear minefields, create new jobs for residents in Donbas, develop educational infrastructure, including restoration and modernization of local schools.

<http://www.unian.info/politics/1345826-poroshenko-meets-un-project-office-head-to-discuss-donbas.html>

### **BPP faction elects new chairman, 16.05.2016**

The Bloc of Petro Poroshenko faction unanimously elected chairman of the faction Ihor Hryniv. The Bloc of Petro Poroshenko (BPP) faction has earlier voted for the reinstatement of MP Ihor Kononenko as first deputy chairman of the faction. Earlier, former chairman of the Bloc of Petro Poroshenko faction.

<http://uaposition.com/latest-news/bpp-faction-elects-new-chairman/>

### **Ukraine and Turkey sign a military cooperation plan until 2020, 17.05.2016**

The Implementation plan on the military cooperation between the Armed Forces of Ukraine and the Turkish Republic was signed. The Plan includes the practical steps with the aim to increase the operational capabilities of the Ukrainian army." – reads Ukraine's MoD statement. The Implementation plan clearly defines the main spheres of military cooperation between the armies of two neighboring states until 2020, in particular, the reform and defense planning, military training, etc. "Taking into account the importance of the geopolitical situation in the Black sea region, the development of military cooperation with Turkey as a strategic partner of Ukraine, continues. Lately, the cooperation between Ankara and Kyiv gained an additional significance." – reads the statement.

<http://info-news.eu/ukraine-and-turkey-sign-a-military-cooperation-plan-until-2020/>

### **BP rejected a bill on establishing criminal liability for «thieves in law», 17.05.2016**

The Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine has supported at first reading a draft Law «On amendments to some legislative acts of Ukraine (regarding the establishment of criminal responsibility for «thieves in law» and strengthening of responsibility for crimes committed by criminal groups)» (No. 1188). For a decision voted only 183 (at necessary 226 – ed.) of the 316 people's deputies registered in a sessional hall. «The opposition bloc» refused to vote for the bill on «thieves in law» due to «criminal slang». Not vote in full faction «Opposition bloc», the Radical party that blocked the rostrum, the group «will of the people», from «Renaissance» «for» vote of only one member. The Parliament also did not support the proposal to return the bill for a repeat first reading, therefore, the bill is considered rejected.

<http://en.reporter-ua.ru/bp-rejected-a-bill-on-establishing-criminal-liability-for-thieves-in-law.html>

### **Klitschko to be removed from post of chairman of BPP party, 17.05.2016**

Vitaliy Klitschko will be removed from the post of chairman of the Bloc of Petro Poroshenko (BPP) party by the decision of the party congress: "This issue will be discussed at the party congress. It's too early to speak about his successor," Oleksiy Honcharenko said. Vitaliy Klitschko has to leave the post due to the new law on civil service, which prohibits public officials of such rank to be members of political parties. According to the publication, Ihor Hryniv, who was appointed the chairman of the BPP faction on Monday, may become the new chairman of the party. Hryniv told the newspaper he knew nothing about such a possibility.

<http://uaposition.com/latest-news/klitschko-to-be-removed-from-post-of-chairman-of-bpp-party/>

<http://uaposition.com/latest-news/klitschko-resigns-as-bpp-solidarnist-chairman/>

### **Ukraine, U.S. to sign agreement on customs interaction, 18.05.2016**

Ukrainian Finance Minister Oleksandr Danylyuk announces that Ukraine and the United States plan to sign an agreement on mutual assistance in the customs sphere on May 23 during Commissioner of the U.S. Customs and Border Protection Gil Kerlikowske's visit to Ukraine. Danylyuk also says the Ukrainian government intends to further deepen cooperation with international partners in the customs sphere, and recalled that relevant intergovernmental agreements have already been signed with Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina. "What is more, an agreement with the United Arab Emirates is in the pipeline," the minister added. The upcoming signing of the Ukraine-U.S. agreement on customs interaction was earlier announced by the Embassy of Ukraine in the United States of America after a meeting of Ambassador of Ukraine to the United States Valeriy Chaly and U.S. Secretary of the Homeland Security Jeh Johnson, Commissioner of the U.S. Customs and Border Protection Gil Kerlikowske and Deputy Assistant Secretary for International Affairs Mark Koumans.

<http://nc4.info/business/56330-Ukraine, U.S. to sign agreement on customs interaction>

### **Ukraine liquidates its State Penitentiary Service amid reform, 18.05.2016**

The concept of the reform was presented by First Deputy Minister of Justice Natalia Sevostianova at a government meeting. In particular, two Cabinet resolutions were passed in line with the reform: a resolution on optimization of central executive agencies of the justice system and a resolution on the liquidation of territorial authorities of the State Penitentiary Service and the formation of territorial agencies of the Ministry of Justice. Late last year, Ukrainian Justice Minister Pavlo Petrenko announced that his ministry's major tasks for 2016 included the reformation of the penitentiary system.

"The year 2016 will be the launch of the reform of the penitentiary service," he said.

In his words, some prisons whose maintenance was inexpedient from the economic point of view should be either mothballed or closed.

<http://uatoday.tv/politics/ukraine-liquidates-its-state-penitentiary-service-amid-reform-651290.html>

### **SBU busts Kyiv city officials on bribe, 19.05.2016**

The SBU with the assistance of top leaders of the Kyiv City State Administration exposed criminal activity of officials of the administration's urban development department and the State Service for Emergency Situations, according to the SBU press service. The officials demanded money from the directors of gas-filling stations for non-interference with their business operations and the return of the earlier seized equipment of the filling stations. The security services detained the bribe takers from the Kyiv CSA and a mediator, who is a lawyer, in one of the capital's office centers. The perpetrators were caught taking a UAH 60,000 bribe for two filling stations from the head of a network. Law enforcers have evidence of the receipt by extortionists of another UAH 120,000 in bribes over the last two months.

<http://uaposition.com/latest-news/sbu-busts-kyiv-city-officials-on-bribe/>

### **NATO-Ukraine Commission meeting in Warsaw to become platform for support – Stoltenberg, 19.05.2016**

The upcoming meeting of the NATO-Ukraine Commission in the framework of a NATO summit in Warsaw will be an "important platform" to express political support and discuss practical cooperation, according to NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg.

"We have decided to convene a meeting of the NATO-Ukraine Commission in Warsaw as part of the summit. An that will be the second summit where we have the NATO-Ukraine Commission meeting. And I think that will be a very strong expression of our political support for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine. It will also provide a basis for us discussing how we can provide practical support for Ukraine," said Stoltenberg at a press conference in the first day of the meeting of NATO foreign ministers.

<http://uatoday.tv/politics/nato-ukraine-commission-meeting-in-warsaw-to-become-platform-for-support-stoltenberg-651758.html>

### **President had a phone conversation with leaders of France and Germany, 21.05.2016**

President of Ukraine Petro Poroshenko had a phone conversation with President of France Francois Hollande and Federal Chancellor of Germany Angela Merkel. The parties stated that the security situation in Donbas remained complicated despite ceasefire arrangements achieved on the eve of Easter. In this context, the President emphasized the need for compliance with the ceasefire regime by militants and admission of the OSCE to all border areas, so that the supply of Russian weaponry to the occupied territories of Donbas is terminated. The parties agreed that security was the main condition for continuation of political settlement of the situation.

<http://www.president.gov.ua/en/news/prezident-proviv-telefonnu-rozmovu-z-kerivnikami-franciyi-ta-37143>

### **Leaders of Normandy Four support OSCE police mission in Donbas, 24.05.2016**

President Poroshenko drew attention to the deteriorating situation in eastern Ukraine, especially to the massive shelling near the town of Avdiyivka. The leaders of Normandy Four agreed that a de-escalation and a decisive and complete ceasefire are necessary for the further political dialogue. President of Ukraine stressed that Russia must withdraw its troops from the occupied territory of Ukraine and stop supplying weapons and mercenaries. Petro Poroshenko has also emphasized the need to restore control over the Ukrainian-Russian border. The leaders of Ukraine, France, Germany and Russia expressed support for the deployment of OSCE police mission in Donbas and the beginning of consultation on this issue.

[http://joinfo.com/world/1016742\\_leaders-of-normandy-four-support-osce-police-mission-in-donbas.html](http://joinfo.com/world/1016742_leaders-of-normandy-four-support-osce-police-mission-in-donbas.html)

### **Poroshenko pardoned GRU officers Aleksandrov and Yerofeyev, 25.05.2016**

President of Ukraine Petro Poroshenko has pardoned convicted Russian soldiers Alexander Aleksandrov and Yevgeny Yerofeyev. The two Russians are now flying to the Russian city of Rostov-on-Don with Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko, Interfax news agency cited a source as saying.

[http://en.censor.net.ua/news/390140/poroshenko\\_pardoned\\_gru\\_officers\\_aleksandrov\\_and\\_yerofeyev\\_reuters](http://en.censor.net.ua/news/390140/poroshenko_pardoned_gru_officers_aleksandrov_and_yerofeyev_reuters)

<http://tass.ru/en/world/878069>

<http://www.unian.info/politics/1355517-plane-with-gru-officers-on-board-lands-at-vnukovo.html>

<http://en.uazmi.com/news/post/bDerTejzsE8ivUvJo8pTkq>

### **Ukraine slaps sanctions against Russian media executives for propaganda, 27.05.2016**

These special personal economic and other restrictive measures (sanctions) against individuals who pose real and potential threats to the national interests, national security, sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine, contributing to terrorist activity and violating rights and freedoms of citizens, being conducive to the occupation of territory and creating obstacles to full-fledged implementation of Ukrainian citizens' rights and freedoms will be in effect until December 31, 2017, the Ukrainian president's press office told. "The individuals who ended up on the sanctions list include General Director of the Channel One television company Konstantin Ernst; Editor-in-Chief of the Novorus.info website Andrei Surkov; owner of the Pravda.Ru holding company Vadim Gorshenin; Director General of the TASS news agency Sergei Mikhailov; former general director of the LifeNews television channel Ashot Gabrelyanov; and Editor-in-Chief of the Russia Today television channel Margarita Simonyan," it said.

<http://www.unian.info/politics/1358429-ukraine-slaps-sanctions-against-russian-media-executives-for-propaganda.html>

<http://uatoday.tv/politics/poroshenko-lifts-sanctions-from-29-foreign-journalists-662813.html>



## Terrorism / Separatism

### **Ukraine intel: Russian supervisors unhappy with DPR leader Zakharchenko, 01.05.2016**

Russian supervisors criticize leader of the self-proclaimed Donetsk People's Republic (DPR) Alexander Zakharchenko's performance, and Vladimir Putin's aide Vladislav Surkov visited Donbas to discuss the current situation with Russian DPR-based commanders, DPR senior officials and businessmen, according to the Ukrainian military intelligence service. Russian supervisors criticize leader of the self-proclaimed Donetsk People's Republic (DPR) Alexander Zakharchenko's performance, and Vladimir Putin's aide Vladislav Surkov visited Donbas to discuss the current situation with Russian DPR-based commanders, DPR senior officials and businessmen, according to the Ukrainian military intelligence service.

<http://www.businessnewsworld.com/news/ukraine-intel-russian-supervisors-unhappy-with-dpr-leader-zakharchenko.html>

### **ATO HQ update: Russian proxies attack Ukraine only six times in last day, 02.05.2016**

"In the past 24 hours, the combined Russian-separatist forces in Donbas were observing the truce almost along the entire contact line. A total of six cases of the use of weapons by militants were registered, most of them were indiscriminate shelling," the ATO HQ said on Monday morning. In particular, yesterday, several random shots were recorded from the side of temporarily occupied territory in the militant-controlled city of Donetsk and in the areas near the village of Shyrokyne close to the Ukrainian-controlled strategic port city of Mariupol. "But late last night the militants twice aimed at the Ukrainian positions near the village of Hranitne, using under-barrel grenade launchers and anti-aircraft weapons. The Ukrainian side did not fire back," it said.

<http://www.unian.info/war/1335908-ato-hq-update-russian-proxies-attack-ukraine-only-six-times-in-last-day.html>

### **Ukraine Intel: Russia stacking hi-end weaponry in occupied Crimea, 03.05.2016**

"New types of modern weaponry are now being actively deployed, military equipment and weapons, which could not be delivered before the annexation of Crimea," said Skibitskiy. "For example, the first thing they deployed there were the latest submarines armed with the newest cruise missiles, with the range covering the entire territory of Ukraine. Coastal missile systems were deployed – the ones that had never been in the area... The air and navy groups are also being beefed up in Crimea," he said.

<http://www.unian.info/war/1336660-ukraine-intel-russia-stacking-hi-end-weaponry-in-occupied-crimea.html>

<http://uatoday.tv/news/ukraine-intel-russia-stacking-hi-end-weaponry-in-occupied-crimea-642504.html>

### **OSCE spots large concentration of militant weaponry in eastern Ukraine, 05.05.2016**

Principal Deputy Chief Monitor of the OSCE Special Monitoring Mission (SMM) to Ukraine Alexander Hug says that OSCE drones have spotted a large concentration of weapons near government-controlled Svitlodarsk in the area of the Anti Terrorist Operation in eastern Ukraine. "South-east of government-controlled Svitlodarsk, our unmanned aerial vehicles have been recording a large concentration of weaponry in violation of the Minsk agreements," he said at a briefing in Kyiv on Thursday. Hug also commented on Donbas militants' plans to stage a V-Day parade in Luhansk on May 9. "When I see the so-called "LPR" [Luhansk People's Republic] bringing in heavy weapons into Luhansk city, I am, however, not entirely convinced that everyone understands the urgency involved. Everyone has a right to express their cultural and historical heritage, particularly when it comes to marking the 9 May Victory Day. Heavy weapons in the middle of a major city are not an honour; they are simply a violation of the Minsk accords and a threat to the people living in that area," he said. As was announced by LPR representatives, more than 1,000 men and 74 combat vehicles will take part in the V-Day parade in Luhansk on May 9. According to them, the mechanized column will incorporate artillery systems (35 pieces), armor – T-72 tanks, BMP-2 and BTR-80 – 21 vehicles in all, trucks, a tow truck and cars.

[http://joinfo.com/world/1016338\\_osce-spots-large-concentration-of-militant-weaponry-in-eastern-ukraine.html](http://joinfo.com/world/1016338_osce-spots-large-concentration-of-militant-weaponry-in-eastern-ukraine.html)

[http://joinfo.com/none-category/1016233\\_osce-warns-of-worrying-levels-of-cease-fire-violations-in-eastern-ukraine.html](http://joinfo.com/none-category/1016233_osce-warns-of-worrying-levels-of-cease-fire-violations-in-eastern-ukraine.html)

### **Russia proxies attack Ukraine 13 times in last day, full ceasefire on Thursday, 05.05.2016**

"Criminals from the pro-Russian gangs have again shelled our strongholds near Avdiyivka and the village of Luhanske in the Donetsk sector, using small arms and grenade launchers," the ATO HQ said in an update as of 06:00 local time on Thursday, May 5, 2016. "In the Mariupol sector, the militants attacked ATO forces near the villages of Hranitne and Novotroyitske, using small arms and large-caliber machine-guns," it said. More than half of the attacks happened when it was dark, it added.

<http://www.unian.info/war/1337639-russia-proxies-attack-ukraine-13-times-in-last-day-full-ceasefire-on-thursday.html>

### **Russian-backed separatists plot provocations in Donbas, 05.05.2016**

Information Resistance group reports that the self-proclaimed "Donetsk People's Republic" ordered the garment factory in the temporarily occupied Donetsk ("Tekstylnyk" district) to tailor a large number of military uniform of Ukrainian type with specific insignia. According to the group, a part of the order with "Aidar" battalion badges is ready and has already been provided to the militants, the other part bears emblems of brigades of the Armed Forces of Ukraine. In particular, the insignia have the writings "Mykolaiv" and "79" – 79th Airborne Brigade (Separate), Mykolaiv.

<http://uatoday.tv/politics/russian-backed-separatists-plot-provocations-in-donbas-643449.html>

### **Ukraine reports 11 attacks on its forces in Donbas in last day, 06.05.2016**

"As soon as it got dark, militants repeatedly opened fire on our strongholds near the village of Novotroyitske in the Mariupol sector, using 120mm mortars, which are banned by the Minsk agreements. They also used small arms and grenade launchers. Ukrainian troops near the town of Maryinka in the Donetsk sector were under enemy sniper fire. The ATO positions near the town of Avdiyivka were shelled with grenade launchers of various systems and small arms," the ATO HQ said. Illegal armed formations also violated the full ceasefire in the Luhansk sector. They used grenade launchers and large-caliber machine-guns to shell Ukrainian troops near the village of Novo-Oleksandrivka.

[http://www.fm-tv.kiev.ua/main\\_news/74721/view/](http://www.fm-tv.kiev.ua/main_news/74721/view/)

### **Deadly military exercise, 06.05.2016**

One Ukrainian soldier died and two were wounded during the military drills in western Ukraine on May 5. The country's Ministry of Defence reported the casualty was caused by an accidental blast of a projectile. After the servicemen finished their artillery training, the shell unexpectedly exploded.

<http://uatoday.tv/society/deadly-military-exercise-644277.html>

### **Casualties reported as tripwire mine goes off in Luhansk region, 09.05.2016**

A patrol of the Ukrainian troops in the early hours of Monday, May 9 accidentally set off a tripwire landmine planted by the Russian proxies near the village of Krymske in Luhansk region, the press service of the Luhansk military and civil administration reported. One Ukrainian soldier was killed in a blast while another two troops were wounded.

<http://en.uazmi.com/news/post/eJd5MDa9yu2Yfc6jDpSb0q>

### **Russian proxies attack Ukraine 15 times in last day amid escalation, 10.05.2016**

"In the evening, the enemy fired rocket-propelled grenades, small arms and anti-aircraft installations on our fortified positions near the town of Avdiyivka, as well as rocket-propelled grenades and used infantry fighting vehicles near the village of Luhanske. In the Mariupol sector, the militants fired grenade launchers of various systems, as well as anti-tank missile systems and used infantry fighting vehicles to shell our positions near the villages of Shyrokyne and Starohnativka," the report says. In the Luhansk sector, the occupiers fired small arms on the Ukrainian defenders near the village of Novo-Oleksandrivka.

<http://ukrainianwall.com/english-news/russian-proxies-attack-ukraine-15-times-in-last-day-amid-escalation/>

### **Russian proxies attack ATO forces 11 times in last day, situation tense, 11.05.2016**

The combined Russian-separatist forces attacked Ukrainian army positions in eastern Ukraine 11 times in the past 24 hours, according to the ATO press center. The enemy fired from infantry fighting vehicles and heavy machine guns, and small arms. In the Mariupol sector, the enemy sniper engaged against Ukrainian soldiers near the village of Taramchuk.

<http://uaopposition.com/latest-news/russian-proxies-attack-ato-forces-11-times-in-last-day-situation-tense/>

### **Militants attack ATO forces 15 times in last day, hot spot near Mariupol, 12.05.2016**

According to the press center, the Russian-backed gangs fired rocket-propelled grenades, tripod-mounted man-portable antitank guns, automatic mounted grenade launchers, heavy machine guns, 82mm mortars, as well as banned 120mm mortars on the Ukrainian fortified positions. "Most of the violations of the ceasefire by militants were recorded in the Mariupol sector in the last day. The enemy fired 82mm mortars and grenade launchers twice on our positions near the village of Berezove. The occupiers also fired anti-tank missile systems and automatic mounted grenade launchers near the village of Chermalyk, as well as an anti-aircraft gun near the village of Pavlopil. In addition, the illegal armed groups fired small arms on the Ukrainian soldiers in the village of Shyrokyne," the report says.

[http://www.fm-tv.kiev.ua/main\\_news/74915/view/](http://www.fm-tv.kiev.ua/main_news/74915/view/)

### **Militants attack ATO forces 10 times in last day, use mortars, RPGs, 13.05.2016**

The combined Russian-separatist forces attacked Ukrainian army positions in eastern Ukraine 10 times in the past 24 hours, according to the ATO press center. The Russian-backed gangs used automatic mounted grenade launchers, grenade launchers of various systems, small arms, heavy machine guns, 82mm mortars, as well as banned 120mm mortars.

<http://uaopposition.com/latest-news/militants-attack-ato-forces-10-times-in-last-day-use-mortars-rpgs/> <http://a1.am/en/ua/2016/05/13/enemy-attack-drone-with-explosives-onboard-leaves-ukrainian-soldier-shell-shocked>

### **Donbas seeing escalation with 20 attacks on Ukraine in last day, 14.05.2016**

The hottest spot is still the demarcation line near the temporarily occupied city of Donetsk. The militants repeatedly opened fire from rocket-propelled grenades, heavy machine guns, small arms and 82mm mortars on our positions near the town of Avdiyivka. The occupiers also fired rocket-propelled grenades on our fortified positions near the town of Maryinka. In addition, the enemy sniper was working there, the report says. The situation was tense in the Mariupol sector. The Russian-backed illegal armed groups fired grenade launchers of various systems and small arms on the Ukrainian fortified positions near the villages of Shyrokyne and Hranitne. They also fired from infantry fighting vehicles twice on our positions near the village of Novohryhorivka.

<http://www.unian.info/war/1345308-donbas-seeing-escalation-with-20-attacks-on-ukraine-in-last-day.html>

### **Fighters 36 times during the day, opened fire, ATO forces repulsed the attack of the enemy dig in the area of the WCT, 16.05.2016**

Pro-Russian gangs have significantly increased in the region of Donetsk. From the surrounding area and suburbs militants intensively fired at VSU positions near Avdeevka and Krasnogorovka from small arms, rocket-propelled grenades, mortars caliber 82 mm and 120 mm. At the fortifications at Marinka bandits beat of grenade launchers of different systems and small arms. Experienced that near the Donetsk airport, under the cover of grenade launchers, anti-aircraft installations and 82-mm mortars in the rear of ATO forces attempted to break through the enemy's subversive-reconnaissance group. Saboteurs were discovered in time. A fight ensued, in which the attackers retreated. In Gorlovka-Svetlodarsk arc in the evening the enemy opened fire from the automatic easel grenade launchers and mortars caliber 82 mm at the Ukrainian defenders, who are serving in the area of Leporidae. But near Luhansk hit on the strong points of the AFU with small arms and rocket-propelled grenades.

<http://en.reporter-ua.ru/fighters-36-times-during-the-day-opened-fire-ato-forces-repulsed-the-attack-of-the-enemy-dig-in-the-area-of-the-wct.html><http://www.unian.info/war/1346373-russian-proxies-again-use-banned-arms-attack-avdiyivka-industrial-zone.html>

### **ATO troops report 18 separatist attacks, drone assault, 17.05.2016**

In the past day, the Russia-backed militants continued to violate ceasefire in the ATO area as 18 attacks were launched on the ATO troops in Donbas. "The situation on the Donetsk suburbs remains tense. Last night, the militants used grenade launchers, 120-mm mortars, and small arms to shell Ukrainian troops," a report by the ATO press centre reads.

[http://en.lb.ua/news/2016/05/17/845\\_ato\\_troops\\_report\\_18\\_separatist.html](http://en.lb.ua/news/2016/05/17/845_ato_troops_report_18_separatist.html)

### **Ukraine's intel reveals how much cash Moscow forwards to militants in May, 17.05.2016**

In early May, nearly USD 19 million in cash was delivered from the Rostov region of Russia to the DPR through the border checkpoint of Marynivka to ensure the functioning of local authorities and day-to-day operations of military units of Russia's Armed Forces", the Ukrainian intel says. 35,000 blank passports have reportedly been transferred from Russia to the Donbas region for acquiring the Russian citizenship.

Russia spends EUR 1 billion a year to finance the militant-occupied territories of Donetsk and Luhansk regions in eastern Ukraine. According to Bild, Russia has to spend around EUR 79 million a month to provide salaries and pensions to residents of the occupied regions. This is stated in official documents of the so-called "people's republics".

<http://uatoday.tv/politics/ukraine-s-intel-reveals-how-much-cash-moscow-forwards-to-militants-in-may-649987.html>

### **Militant combat drone again drops bombs on ATO forces, 19.05.2016**

"An enemy combat unmanned aerial vehicle was spotted again yesterday. The tactic has not changed. Not far from one of our units, the drone dropped some unidentified munitions. There were no casualties among military personnel and military equipment," the ATO HQ said. In the Mariupol sector, the militants fired small arms, heavy machine guns and grenade launchers on Ukrainian positions near the villages of Berezove, Novotroytske and Shyrokyne. The situation was also tense in the vicinity of the militant-held city of Donetsk. The Russian-terrorist troops fired heavy machine guns, grenade launchers and 120mm mortars on the Ukrainian fortified positions south of the town of Avdiyivka. An enemy sniper opened fire there as well.

<http://ukrainianwall.com/english-news/militant-combat-drone-again-drops-bombs-on-ato-forces/>

<http://www.unian.info/war/1350110-ukraine-intel-russian-proxies-massing-several-dozen-grad-mrls-in-donbas.html>

### **Terrifying Huffington Post report tells how pro-Russian separatists tortured 4,000 people, 19.05.2016**

Oleksandr Hryshchenko's only worry was feeding his ornamental fish at his office, but what happened to him, has changed his life in a terrible way, writes Samantha Meier in her article titled "Terrifying report shows how pro-Russian separatists tortured 4,000 people." "In June 2014, before he could enter the office building, he was arrested out on the street by armed men and thrown into a dungeon. At that moment, the 55-year-old man did not realize how bad the next four months would be for him. The man in command over the prison was "Alexander Alexandrovich," also known as "Batman."

"The scale of torture, of which the German radio reports, is frightening," reads the article. Oleksandra Matviychuk from the NGO "Center for Civil Liberty" has told the station: "We interviewed 165 people who had gone through a similar hell. We can prove that 4,000 people have been held hostage last summer. The realistic figures are probably even higher, because the hostages are still captured today."

It is not yet clear how many of these people have been tortured. But one thing is clear, according to the article. The militants in the eastern regions of Ukraine operate "under Vladimir Putin's grace." "They are supported from Russia with weapons, money and technology. If separatists torture people en masse, the Russian president puts up with it, otherwise he would not remain idle," the author says.

<http://uatoday.tv/crime/terrifying-huffington-post-report-tells-how-pro-russian-separatists-tortured-4-000-people-651707.html>

<http://www.unian.info/war/1350547-terrifying-report-by-huff-post-shows-how-pro-russian-separatists-tortured-4000-people.html>

### **"DPR" sabotage group gets into SBU trap, 20.05.2016**

"SBU operatives were tipped that the terrorists systematically penetrate a certain area between the positions of Ukrainian units, using the features of the terrain. The high activity of sabotage groups in this area was due to combat training of newcomers who had undergone special training in Russia. By accessing the rear of the Ukrainian positions, the saboteurs fired at the Ukrainian troops or tried to capture them," reads the statement. To counter these actions, the Ukrainian soldiers were secretly replaced by the troops of the SBU special forces. To defraud the militants, a model of Javelin anti-tank missile system was placed in the area.

"As a result, a subversive terrorist group of seven militants got into the ambush. According to the confirmed data, one of the saboteurs was killed in a shootout and another three were seriously wounded," the SBU press service said.

<http://www.unian.info/war/1351554-dpr-sabotage-group-gets-into-sbu-trap.html>

### **Russian proxies use heavy weapons with Avdiivka being hottest spot, 20.05.2016**

The industrial area on the southern outskirts of the town of Avdiivka remains the hottest spot on the map of Donbas hostilities. The militants repeatedly fired small arms, rocket-propelled grenades, 82mm and 120mm mortars on the Ukrainian fortified positions there, the HQ said.

<http://www.unian.info/war/1350753-russian-proxies-use-heavy-weapons-with-avdiivka-being-hottest-spot.html>

<http://uaposition.com/latest-news/ukraine-intel-spots-enemy-reconnaissance-group-near-avdiivka/>

### **Parties to Donbas conflict cannot agree on number of armed police mission, 22.05.2016**

Individuals of settlements on the negotiation of the Donbas situation have actually remained in conflict over the number of a future police set to be released in eastern Ukraine to guarantee safety throughout neighborhood political elections in busy locations in Donbas. The minimal feasible number starts with 1,500guys, though Kyiv considers it unacceptably reduced, the short article checks out. The optimum feasible dimension is up to 11,000, which is highly opposed by Moscow. The writer of the short article declares that the mission will supposedly be outfitted with armored cars as well as light tools. Storage tanks are not a factor of conversation, however the usage of armored employees service providers is well reasoned, he declares. "Kyiv is looking for that the required of the mission must be as wide as feasible, as well as really hopes that it will certainly be the biggest in record. Because instance, the OSCE could transform to the UN, asking for monetary, technological, logistic as well as advising help in setting up the mission Regardless, the Ukrainian Ministry of Foreign Matters is thinking about that opportunity," the short article states.

<http://journalfocus.com/2016/05/parties-to-donbas-conflict-cannot-agree-on-number-of-armed-police-mission/>

### **Avdiivka under heavy artillery fire at night, civilian wounded, 1 WIA, 1 KIA, 22.05.2016**

Russian proxies severely attacked the residential area of the town of Avdiivka in Donetsk region at night, having wounded one civilian, one Ukrainian soldier and killed another soldier; they then turned their weapons to shell the militant-controlled city of Donetsk as an act of provocation, according to the ATO press center.

<http://www.unian.info/war/1352344-avdiivka-under-heavy-artillery-fire-at-night-civilian-wounded-1-wia-1-kia.html>

<http://www.interpretemag.com/day-825/>

### **31 attacks recorded yesterday, militants employed anti-aircraft guns, 120-mm mortars, and 152-mm artillery systems, - Staff, 23.05.2016**

As noted, militants used heavy artillery weapons banned by the Minsk agreements.

"Terrorists continue attacks on Avdiivka and its surroundings. Last night, the enemy hit our positions in the vicinity of this settlement, employing heavy machine guns, grenade launchers, and 82-mm mortars. "The same weapons were used to strike Ukrainian army strong points near Krasnohorivka. In addition, militants fired anti-aircraft guns there," the report reads. As also noted, last night the most difficult situation was at Mariupol direction, in particular in the area of Shyrokyne.

[http://en.censor.net.ua/news/389701/31\\_attacks\\_recorded\\_yesterday\\_militants\\_employed\\_antiaircraft\\_guns\\_120mm\\_mortars\\_and\\_152mm\\_artillery](http://en.censor.net.ua/news/389701/31_attacks_recorded_yesterday_militants_employed_antiaircraft_guns_120mm_mortars_and_152mm_artillery)

### **DPR militants disable OSCE cameras in Donetsk, near airport, 23.05.2016**

"In violation of the Package of Measures for the Implementation of the Minsk Agreements, armed "DPR" members stopped the work of the SMM's remote monitoring equipment in the area of the Donetsk airport. The SMM learned that they had disconnected the power supply to related SMM equipment in Donetsk city, claiming they had an order to do so by Mr. Alexander Zakharchenko," the OSCE SMM said in an update based on information received as of 19:30 local time on May 20, 2016.

The armed "DPR" members asked the SMM to remove the equipment and threatened to forcefully remove it themselves otherwise. "The Joint Centre for Control and Co-ordination and the "DPR" points of contact were informed of the incident. The placement of the equipment had been coordinated with the sides prior to its installation. The actions of the armed "DPR" members effectively disabled the SMM's cameras in the Donetsk airport area," the OSCE said.

[http://www.fm-tv.kiev.ua/main\\_news/75325/view/](http://www.fm-tv.kiev.ua/main_news/75325/view/)

### **Militants attack ATO forces 47 times in last day amid escalation, 24.05.2016**

The combined Russian-separatist forces attacked Ukrainian army positions in eastern Ukraine 47 times in the past 24 hours, according to the ATO press center.

<http://a1.am/en/ua/2016/05/24/militants-attack-ato-forces-47-times-in-last-day-amid-escalation>

[http://joinfo.com/world/1016748\\_seven-ukrainian-soldiers-killed-nine-wounded-in-donbas-in-last-day.html](http://joinfo.com/world/1016748_seven-ukrainian-soldiers-killed-nine-wounded-in-donbas-in-last-day.html)

<http://uaposition.com/latest-news/heavy-militant-attack-on-avdiyivka-footage-from-donbas-hottest-spot/>

### **ATO forces repel enemy attack near Novotroytske, 25.05.2016**

The combined Russian-separatist forces attacked Ukrainian army positions in eastern Ukraine 33 times in the past 24 hours, mostly after dark, according to the ATO press center.

<http://www.businessnewsworld.com/news/ato-forces-repel-enemy-attack-near-novotroytske.html>

### **Terrorist from Donbas attacks Turchynov's wife in Kyiv in attempt to stab, 25.05.2016**

"There was an armed attack on Turchynov's wife a few hours ago. The offender attacked Hanna Turchynova right at the Institute where she works. He attacked with a knife in his hand, yelling: 'It's time to pay back,'" Avakov said. "[We] paid back. Neutralized and detained [him]. The national police responded quickly. An investigation is under way, the terrorist is being interrogated now," the minister added. According to Avakov, the assailant is a resident from Donetsk region who came from the occupied territory with the aim to attack the Turchynovs. Kyiv's police confirmed there were no casualties during the attack and the woman was safe.

<http://www.unian.info/society/1356076-terrorist-from-donbas-attacks-turchynovs-wife-in-kyiv-in-attempt-to-stab.html>

<http://uaposition.com/latest-news/terrorist-from-donbas-attacks-turchynovs-wife-in-kyiv-in-attempt-to-stab/>

### **Militants fire grenade launchers on ATO forces near Avdiyivka, Opytne in last day, 26.05.2016**

At dusk, the militants actively fired heavy machine guns, grenade launchers, anti-aircraft guns, mounted automatic grenade launchers, small arms, rocket-propelled grenade, infantry fighting vehicles, and 82mm and 120mm mortars on our positions near the towns of Avdiyivka and Krasnohorivka and the villages of Opytne and Zaitseve.

<http://uatoday.tv/politics/militants-fire-grenade-launchers-on-ato-forces-near-avdiyivka-opytne-in-last-day-662204.html>

<http://journalfocus.com/2016/05/militants-fire-grenade-launchers-on-ato-forces-near-avdiyivka-opytne-in-last-day/>

### **OSCE patrol comes under fire near Avdiyivka in eastern Ukraine, 27.05.2016**

During a video briefing from Donetsk region, Principal Deputy Chief Monitor of the OSCE SMM to Ukraine Alexander Hug has said that the OSCE patrol came under fire while monitoring the area between the towns of Avdiyivka and Yasynuvata in the early afternoon on Friday. None of the patrol members was injured. According to Hug, some people believe that the events that occur in Donbas are no longer worthy of attention. He stressed that it was necessary to reject this point of view. Hug drew attention to the negative situation with long queues at the checkpoints on the contact line. He also reported the death of one man, who was standing in a queue to cross the demarcation line. In addition, Hug said the mined areas pose a threat to the population.

[http://joinfo.com/world/1016859\\_osce-patrol-comes-under-fire-near-avdiyivka-in-eastern-ukraine.html](http://joinfo.com/world/1016859_osce-patrol-comes-under-fire-near-avdiyivka-in-eastern-ukraine.html)

### **ATO HQ: militants fired Grad MRLS on Ukrainian army in Donetsk region again, 28.05.2016**

The enemy fired small arms, grenade launchers and 82mm and 120mm mortars again on the stronghold of the ATO forces south of Avdiyivka last night. Invaders also fired 82 mm mortars near Zaitseve. They also repeatedly fired small arms, heavy machine guns and automatic grenade launchers on strongholds of Ukrainian troops near Marinka and Krasnohorivka. In the Luhansk sector, Russian-terrorist gangs again opened fire with heavy machine guns, grenade launchers and infantry combat vehicles (BMPs) on Ukrainian soldiers near the village of Stanutsia Luhanska. They also fired automatic grenade launchers on a stronghold of the ATO forces near Popasna. The hottest situation was in the Mariupol sector yesterday. ATO's strongholds near Shyrokyne and Vodiane were fired with small arms and grenade launchers. Occupants also fired several times on positions of the Armed Forces of Ukraine with 82mm and 120mm mortars in the area of Novotroitske.

[http://joinfo.com/world/1016855\\_ato-hq-militants-fired-grad-mrls-on-ukrainian-army-in-donetsk-region-again.html](http://joinfo.com/world/1016855_ato-hq-militants-fired-grad-mrls-on-ukrainian-army-in-donetsk-region-again.html)

### **Russian proxies attack Ukrainian forces 30 times in last day, 29.05.2016**

The combined Russian-separatist forces attacked Ukrainian army positions in eastern Ukraine 30 times in the past 24 hours, using banned weapons seven times, according to the ATO press center. "The activity of the militants in the Donbas conflict zone remains high in all areas of defense, especially in the Donetsk sector," the press center said.

<http://uatoday.tv/politics/russian-proxies-attack-ukrainian-forces-30-times-in-last-day-635883.html>

### **Militant leader Zakharchenko threatens to kill Savchenko, 29.05.2016**

Leader of the self-proclaimed Donetsk People's Republic (DPR) Alexander Zakharchenko says that Ukrainian pilot Nadiya Savchenko will be killed should she decide to go to Donbas to participate in war, according to Ukrainian website Novosti Donbasa. "If Savchenko comes to the front line, we'll shoot her. So when we're to blame for killing her, it wouldn't be so offensive," he told journalists. He also claims "Kyiv would prefer to have Savchenko dead than alive."

<http://uatoday.tv/politics/militant-leader-zakharchenko-threatens-to-kill-savchenko-663248.html>

### **Russian proxies attack Ukraine 25 times in last day, 30.05.2016**

The combined Russian-separatist forces attacked Ukrainian army positions in eastern Ukraine 25 times in the past 24 hours, according to the ATO press center.

<http://www.breakingnewspoint.com/story/3107274/russian-proxies-attack-ukraine-25-times-in-last-day.html>

<http://ukrainianwall.com/english-news/three-ukrainian-soldiers-killed-eight-wounded-in-donbas-in-last-day/>

### **Russian troops preparing to capture land corridor from Donbas to Crimea – NSDC, 30.05.2016**

The Russians are preparing to launch a massive offensive operation to capture a land corridor from Donbas to Crimea, first deputy head of Ukraine's National Defense and Security Council Mykhailo Koval said, addressing a joint session of Polish, Lithuanian and Ukrainian legislatures representatives. The international sanctions now in force against Russia are an effective tool but not sufficient enough to make Moscow stop its aggression against Ukraine, Koval said. With no road communication, water and electricity supply from mainland Ukraine to Crimea, the peninsula is in desperate situation.

[http://zik.ua/en/news/2016/05/31/russian\\_troops\\_preparing\\_to\\_capture\\_land\\_corridor\\_from\\_donbas\\_to\\_crimea\\_704078](http://zik.ua/en/news/2016/05/31/russian_troops_preparing_to_capture_land_corridor_from_donbas_to_crimea_704078)

<http://www.digitalnewsworld.com/news/russian-proxies-attack-ukraine-incl-near-osce-base-21-times-in-last-day.html>

### **Self-proclaimed republic hopes to agree Donbas election with Kyiv, 31.05.2016**

Representative of the self-proclaimed Donetsk People's Republic (DPR) in the Trilateral Contact Group on Donbas Denis Pushylin says that theoretically there is a chance to agree local elections with Kyiv.

<http://www.newsexpressplanet.com/story/4493461/selfproclaimed-republic-hopes-to-agree-donbas-election-with-kyiv.html>

## **Pilot Savchenko**

### **Savchenko to resume hunger strike without water if extradition delayed – lawyer, 04.05.2016**

Ukrainian pilot Nadia Savchenko, who was sentenced to 22 years in prison in Russia, may resume her hunger strike without water if her extradition to Ukraine has been delayed, according to Savchenko's lawyer Nikolai Polozov. "If one speaks about realistic terms, this is either one, two or three months the longest," he added.

[http://www.fm-tv.kiev.ua/main\\_news/74592/view/](http://www.fm-tv.kiev.ua/main_news/74592/view/)

### **Savchenko pays the fine imposed by Russian court, 08.05.2016**

"We are communicating with (Savchenko's) lawyers via Internet, and (in person) when they arrive - for example, Polozov was here for three days, so we met him the other day. He said that Nadiya felt a little better, she resumed eating a bit. He told me that she was given documents to return to Ukraine. The documents had a paragraph where she had to admit she crossed the border and asked for asylum. Polozov said it made her laugh. The documents also stated that a fine should be paid. Polozov explained to Nadiya that there was a rule - if she did not pay the fine then those documents would not be considered valid. Then she agreed to that. She did not have money there, the consuls gave her about USD 600 (40,000 Russian rubles), and she gave out USD 450 to pay the fine and said 'let them hang themselves', Savchenko's mother Mariya Savchenko said.

<http://uatoday.tv/politics/savchenko-pays-the-fine-imposed-by-russian-court-644985.html>

### **Russian Justice Ministry gets documents for Savchenko's return to Ukraine, 18.05.2016**

Russian Justice Minister Alexander Konovalov announces that his ministry has already received documents from the Russian Federal Penitentiary Service for the transfer of Ukrainian pilot, MP and member of the Ukrainian delegation to PACE Nadia Savchenko to Ukraine. "We have received Savchenko's documents from the Federal Penitentiary Service," Konovalov said at the St. Petersburg International Legal Forum.

<http://uatoday.tv/politics/russian-justice-ministry-gets-documents-for-savchenko-s-return-to-ukraine-650489.html>

### **Nadiya Savchenko: Russia frees Ukraine servicewoman, 25.05.2016**

"I am free," Savchenko told a crowd of reporters and politicians as she arrived in Kiev as part of a prisoner swap with two alleged Russian soldiers. She was sentenced to 22 years in jail for killing two Russian journalists in eastern Ukraine, charges she denied. The two Russians - Yevgeny Yerofeyev and Alexander Alexandrov - were earlier flown from Kiev to Moscow. Savchenko was pardoned by Russian President Vladimir Putin before her return to Ukraine.

<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-36378173>

<http://uaposition.com/latest-news/savchenko-tells-russians-to-get-off-knees/>

<http://www.unian.info/society/1356126-legend-of-savchenko-story-of-captivity.html>

### **Savchenko gets Hero's Gold Star from Poroshenko on her arrival day, 25.05.2016**

President Petro Poroshenko awarded the Gold Star of the Hero of Ukraine to Ukrainian pilot Nadiya Savchenko. People's deputy Nadiya Savchenko is awarded for an unbroken will, civic courage and sacrificial service to the Ukrainian people. The President noted that Nadiya is the first female warrior who received that award and title.

"I serve to the people of Ukraine," Nadiya Savchenko said taking the award. Petro Poroshenko expressed gratitude to Nadiya's brothers-in-arms and almost 200 journalist who came to the Presidential Administration: "I am grateful to all journalists who came here today to tell truth about Ukraine and convince that we, Ukrainians, will certainly be in Europe".

<http://www.president.gov.ua/en/news/prezident-vruchiv-nadiyi-savchenko-zolotu-zirku-geroya-ukray-37189>



### **Savchenko`s return: Poroshenko to make statement for media afternoon, 25.05.2016**

Poroshenko said Ukraine was ready to swap her two Russian officers Yevgeny Yerofeyev and Alexander Alexandrov, who were found guilty and sentenced to 14 years in prison. On April 24, Poroshenko said he had agreed with his Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin about a model and terms of freeing Savchenko. On April 27, Savchenko`s lawyer Ilya Novikov claimed his client had reportedly received documents for extradition to Ukraine and projected she might return home in the latter half of May.

<http://uaposition.com/latest-news/savchenkos-return-poroshenko-to-make-statement-for-media-afternoon/>

<http://www.unian.info/politics/1355827-poroshenko-pledges-to-retake-crimea-donbas-the-way-savchenko-returned.html>

### **Putin signs order on pardoning Savchenko, 25.05.2016**

The document published on the Kremlin`s website says: "Pardon convict Savchenko Nadezhda Victorovna, born on May 11, 1981 in Kiev, freeing her from further serving sentence in prison."

"Today a plane of Rossiya state transport company has taken to Moscow to the Vnukovo airport two Russian citizens - Yerofeyev and Aleksandrov who were in Kiev," Peskov said.

"Simultaneously, President Putin signed an order on pardoning Savchenko and she was taken to Kiev on a Ukrainian plane that arrived for her in Rostov," he added. Ukraine`s President Petro Poroshenko confirmed a plane carrying former Ukrainian pilot Nadezhda Savchenko has landed in Kiev.

<http://tass.ru/en/politics/878034>

### **Return of Nadiya Savchenko to Ukraine – Kerry, 25.05.2016**

I welcome today`s news that Nadiya Savchenko has returned to Ukraine and the Government of Ukraine's humanitarian decision to release two Russian service members captured on Ukrainian soil and convicted of terrorism-related charges. Nearly two years ago, Nadiya Savchenko was captured in combat in eastern Ukraine and forcibly taken against her will into Russia. Her release, after a long ordeal that included solitary confinement, is an important part of fulfilling Russia`s commitments under the Minsk agreements and should now provide impetus for their complete implementation. This includes a real, comprehensive, and sustained ceasefire in eastern Ukraine; full access for the OSCE to the area affected by the conflict; elections under Ukrainian law that meet OSCE standards and are monitored by the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR); the withdrawal of foreign forces and equipment; and the return to Ukraine of full control over its international border. We also call on Russia to abide by its Minsk commitments by releasing all hostages and unlawfully detained persons.

<http://www.state.gov/secretary/remarks/2016/05/257722.htm>

### **Obama`s role in freeing Savchenko "very important" – Ukraine`s Ambassador to U.S., 26.05.2016**

"The [Ukrainian] president was absolutely right when he said that this was possible due to strong international support. President Obama has been involved in this support very seriously. I can say that the role of the U.S. president was very important. Obviously, it also related to the Normandy Four leaders Merkel and Hollande," said Ambassador of Ukraine to the US Valeriy Chaly. "The signal the U.S. sent to Russia [in the context of the Savchenko case] is important – they will never violate those basic principles, the order which Russia has been trying to destroy," he said. "Nadia`s return opens up other opportunities to defend the rights of those who are serving sentence in Russia," said Chaly.

<http://uaposition.com/latest-news/obamas-role-in-freeing-savchenko-very-important-ukraines-ambassador-to-u-s/>

<http://www.unian.info/politics/1356777-too-much-violence-obama-urges-g7-to-resolve-situation-in-ukraine.html>

### **Nadezhda Savchenko will be included in Rada`s National Security and Defense Affairs Committee, 26.05.2016**

Nadezhda Savchenko, an MP from Batkivshchyna party in Ukraine, will be included into Rada`s National Security and Defense Affairs Committee.

<http://news.am/eng/news/329093.html>

<http://www.unian.info/politics/1357406-klimkin-ukraine-negotiating-swap-of-ukrainians-jailed-in-russia-for-captive-russian-soldiers.html>

## **Savchenko's first day in Rada: Banners, commemorations, and national anthem, 31.05.2016**

After her first speech in parliament, she tore down a banner with her image from the parliament's rostrum and pinned another one with small painted portraits of Ukrainian political prisoners with the caption saying "Freedom to Prisoners of the Kremlin!" Her move drew applause. In addition, Savchenko said that she would not allow MPs to forget those killed on the Maidan and in the east of Ukraine. "Nothing is forgotten, no one is forgotten and nothing is forgiven," she said. "The people of Ukraine will not let us occupy these seats if we betray them. Ukraine is above all else. And for us, who are sitting in this session hall, Ukraine is above the life of each of us." Savchenko also apologized to the mother of a Ukrainian soldier, Vadym Puhachiov, who was reported to be killed by Russian GRU officers Alexander Alexandrov and Yevgeny Yerofeyev. "I'm sorry that I'm alive and your son is dead," Savchenko said.

<http://www.unian.info/politics/1361219-savchenkos-first-day-in-rada-banners-commemorations-and-national-anthem.html>

## **National Minorities**

### **25 Crimean Tatars detained in occupied Crimea, 07.05.2016**

Police officers controlled by the occupation authorities have detained 25 Crimean Tatars in Yevpatoria – the city on the western coast of the occupied peninsula, according to Osman Pashaev's posts. According to Pashaev, mass detentions of the Crimean Tatars were explained by the de-facto authorities with the raid aimed at capturing the criminals who killed the family in Russia's Krasnodar. The detainees were told that the raid was ongoing. When asked whether the Russian nationals can be suspects, one of the police officers admitted that they could. When asked, why more than 20 people, all of Crimean Tatar nationality, he answered that the cops just had to follow the orders from higher offices, according to Pashaev.

<http://www.unian.info/politics/1339327-25-crimean-tatars-detained-in-occupied-crimea-journalist.html>

### **Crimean Tatars, detained after raids in Russia-occupied Bakhchysarai, taken to FSB, 12.05.2016**

Lawyer Emil Kurbedinov says the Muslims detained after searches in Bakhchysarai on May 12 were taken to Russia's FSB in Crimea. He is sure the four detainees will be tried similar to other Crimean Tatars accused of ties with Hizb ut-Tahrir by the Russian prosecutor's office in Crimea. "One person will be tried as the organizer of a terrorist cell. Other three - as members. It's all the same, they use the same scenario. Enver Mamutov will most likely fall under part 1, article 205.5 - the establishment of a terrorist cell. Rustem Abeltarov, Remzi Memetov, and Zevri Abseitov will follow," Kurbedinov noted. The lawyer believes that the pretrial restraint will be chosen as early as on Friday, May 13. Kurbedinov sees the incident in Bakhchysarai as a continuation of repression against the Crimean Tatar people in the peninsula.

[http://en.censor.net.ua/news/388129/crimean\\_tatars\\_detained\\_after\\_raids\\_in\\_russiaoccupied\\_bakhchysarai\\_taken\\_to\\_fsb\\_lawyer](http://en.censor.net.ua/news/388129/crimean_tatars_detained_after_raids_in_russiaoccupied_bakhchysarai_taken_to_fsb_lawyer)

<http://www.unian.info/politics/1341181-repression-against-crimean-tatars-as-a-catalyst-for-extending-sanctions.html>

[http://joinfo.com/world/1016802\\_raids-against-crimean-tatars-continue-in-occupied-crimea-video.html](http://joinfo.com/world/1016802_raids-against-crimean-tatars-continue-in-occupied-crimea-video.html)

### **Crimean Tatars banned from honoring 1944 deportation victims, 17.05.2016**

According to Chubarov, Russian occupants are doing their best to make Crimean Tatars participate only in official events organized by Kremlin-backed authorities and their supporters. The Mejlis suggested Crimean Tatars would meet near memorial stones, statues, and sites associated with the tragic event that occurred on May 18, 1944. Crimean Tatars plan to hold a minute of silence to pay tribute to the deportation victims. There are numerous reports on violations of human rights in the Russia-occupied Crimea. On March 17, Human Rights Watch, a nonprofit, nongovernmental human rights organization, published a statement about the harassment, intimidation and arbitrary legal actions against Crimean Tatars, an ethnic minority who openly opposed Russia's occupation.

<http://www.unian.info/politics/1347910-crimean-tatars-banned-from-honoring-1944-deportation-victims.html>

<http://www.unian.info/politics/1349061-chronicles-of-occupation-new-round-of-repression-in-crimea.html>

[http://joinfo.com/world/1016802\\_raids-against-crimean-tatars-continue-in-occupied-crimea-video.html](http://joinfo.com/world/1016802_raids-against-crimean-tatars-continue-in-occupied-crimea-video.html)

## Mass Media

### **Armed attack on Odesa journos: all details of accident, 03.05.2016**

All sufferers of an adventurous attack are currently in the healthcare facility. Their lives are not at risk, however the injuries are rather severe. CCTV video cameras taped the attack unraveling in wide daytime simply outside the workplace of the TELEVISION Network 7. 3 complete strangers shown up in a Honda car to the workplace of the TELEVISION network, called out among the workers as well as after a short altercation began to defeat him. 2 of his associates signed up with the battle to assist him out, however the 3rd assaulter arised with a shotgun as well as began contending a factor empty variety. The reporters taped the permit plates of the criminal's which they likewise utilized to run away the scene. The media electrical outlet avoids remarks whether the attack is connected straight to the sufferers' expert task. "The factor it is trivial. It is an attack on individuals, it's capturing in wide daytime as well as the attack on reporters," TELEVISION Network 7 Chief Executive Officer Viktor Malyshev stated.

<http://journalfocus.com/2016/05/armed-attack-on-odesa-journos-all-details-of-accident/>

<http://newsme.com.ua/en/ukraine/3388345/>

### **Myrotvorets website leaks personal data of journalists accredited in "DPR": intl scandal brewing, 11.05.2016**

Ukrainian website Myrotvorets in a controversial move has published personal data of about 5,000 journalists who were accredited by the self-proclaimed authorities in the militant-occupied areas of Donbas. The list includes Ukrainian and foreign correspondents.

<http://www.worldnewsmagazine.com/news/2034390/myrotvorets-website-leaks-personal-data-of-journalists-accredited-in-dpr-intl-scandal-brewing.html>

<http://www.unian.info/society/1342024-myrotvorets-website-leaks-personal-data-of-journalists-accredited-in-dpr-intl-scandal-brewing.html>

<http://uatoday.tv/society/osce-journalists-personal-data-leak-in-ukraine-endangers-their-safety-646935.html>

<http://uaposition.com/latest-news/ukrainian-ombudswoman-calls-for-blocking-website-that-leaked-data-on-journos/>

<http://uaposition.com/latest-news/sbu-on-dprs-media-accreditation-leak-no-sanctions-against-honest-journalists/>

<http://en.uazmi.com/news/post/pgyS4RCcbDPUDJ2tmtUu>

<http://www.unian.info/society/1354325-scandalous-ukrainian-website-publishes-new-list-of-reporters-collaborating-with-russia.html>

## Ukraine Worldwide

### **Germany steps up its flirting with Russia, 10.05.2016**

Officially, Berlin-Moscow relations remain strained. But the Bundesrepublik has in fact sent more of its politicians and businessmen to Russia than any other county. Bavarian powerhouse and Angela Merkel's number one critic these days, Horst Seehofer (CSU), met with Vladimir Putin back in February in a visit seen as an attempt to distance himself from the chancellor. In the last few weeks, Die Linke's Bodo Ramelow, Thuringia's minister-president, took a 40-strong delegation to Moscow and Kazan. His counterpart in Saxony-Anhalt, Reiner Haseloff (CDU), met with the Russian ambassador in Berlin and suggested that he would be in favour of seeing an end to the current sanctions against the Russian Federation. Then there are other trips, made unbeknownst to the German public, that are seen in Russia as Berlin's efforts to normalise relations in spite of the war in Ukraine.

<http://www.euractiv.com/section/europe-s-east/news/germany-steps-up-its-flirting-with-russia/>

### **Anger in Moscow, joy in Kiev, after Ukraine's Eurovision triumph, 15.05.2016**

Russia's political establishment reacted with howls of indignation on Sunday to Ukraine's victory at the Eurovision song contest, demanding an inquiry into how a politicised song was allowed to be included in the event and threatening to boycott next year's contest.

Victory for Jamala, the Crimean Tatar jazz singer who won with a distinctly un-Eurovision ballad about the 1944 deportation of the Crimean Tatars, caused as much joy in Kiev as it did anger in Moscow, with Ukraine's president, Petro Poroshenko, thanking the singer on behalf of the whole country. Prior to Saturday evening's final, Russian entry Sergei Lazarev had been favorite to win. He eventually finished third, behind the Australian entry, Dami Im.

<https://www.theguardian.com/tv-and-radio/2016/may/15/moscow-kiev-ukraine-eurovision-russia-boycott-jamala-1944>

### **Ukraine's Jamala Wins 2016 Eurovision Song Contest, 15.05.2016**

Ukrainian singer Jamala's melancholic tune about Soviet dictator Josef Stalin's 1944 deportation of the Crimean Tatars was crowned the winner of the 2016 Eurovision Song Contest early Sunday, an unusual choice for the kitschy pop fest. Susana Jamaladinova, a 32-year-old trained opera singer who uses the stage name Jamala, received the highest score of 534 points for her song "1944," after votes from juries and TV viewers across Europe were tallied following performances Saturday night by the 26 finalists at Stockholm's Globe Arena.

<http://www.cnn.com/2016/05/15/ukraines-jamala-wins-2016-eurovision-song-contest-with-song-about-stalin.html>

### **U.S. Congress endorses allocation of \$150 mln for Ukraine security, 20.05.2016**

The U.S. House of Representatives (the lower house of Congress) supported the allocation for a Ukraine \$ 150 million on security in 2017. The approved draft provides for the allocation of funds to support U.S. allies and partners across the world. Approving the allocation of a \$150 million security assistance for Ukraine, it also provides a \$680 million aid to train and equip Iraqi forces, and an additional \$50 million to support Kurdish forces. The measure also endorses keeping 9,800 U.S. troops in Afghanistan next year instead of the planned 5,500. At the same time, it is noted that The Senate is scheduled to vote on its version of the fiscal 2017 authorization next week.

<http://www.veteranstopday.com/2016/05/20/u-s-congress-endorses-allocation-of-150-mln-for-ukraine-security/>

<http://www.unian.info/politics/1351584-us-allocating-another-28-mln-in-humanitarian-assistance-to-ukraine.html>

### **G7 leaders support sanctions against Russia, 27.05.2016**

The Group of Seven notes the need to maintain dialogue with Russia but link the duration of sanctions to Moscow's implementation of Minsk agreements, according to G7 Leaders' Declaration signed in Japan. "The duration of sanctions is clearly linked to Russia's complete implementation of the Minsk agreements and respect for Ukraine's sovereignty. Sanctions can be rolled back when Russia meets these commitments," the declaration reads.

<http://uatoday.tv/politics/g7-leaders-support-sanctions-against-russia-662114.html>

<http://uaposition.com/latest-news/g7-leaders-urge-all-sides-to-fulfill-commitments-for-elections-in-donbas/>

<http://www.unian.info/politics/1357646-g7-leaders-urge-ukraine-to-enhance-anti-corruption-efforts.html>

### **NATO Urged To Boost Defense To Dissuade Russia, 31.05.2016**

The declaration called on NATO leaders to ensure that any aggression is met with a rapid response and to "provide reassurance to those allies who feel their security is under threat, focusing on the eastern and southern flanks of the alliance." The parliament members agreed that defense budgets need to be boosted, with only five of the 28 member states currently meeting the target spending of 2 percent of gross domestic product. The declaration noted that NATO states should also continue to "explore ways to reduce tensions with Russia and avoid miscalculations and incidents, while addressing Russia's unacceptable violations of international norms."

<http://www.rferl.org/content/russia-nato-urged-to-boost-defenses/27766200.html>