



Monitoring of Xenophobia and Extremism in Ukraine October 2015

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Introduction

Military conflict in the Donbas has entered a new phase. Withdrawal of small-caliber weapons from the boundary line before the next negotiations in the "Norman Quartet" in Paris marked the beginning of a long period in the diplomatic struggle for the restoration of the territorial integrity of Ukraine.

It is pretty clear that the Novorossiia project has failed. The attempt to grab about a third of Ukraine and shut it off from access to the sea has failed. It looks like the Ukrainian army has got its act together and the Russians together with a relatively small ragtag group of local separatists are not going to be able to push forward so that project has failed." The political analyst believes that "Putin's task is to reintegrate this separatist portion of eastern Ukraine into the rest of Ukraine as an internal poisoned pill." "Putin is pushing the idea that local elections must be held but what kind of local elections can take place under the rule of the gun of terrorists who have killed people and who are torturing people in basements. This is ridiculous." The world is changing rapidly. Humanity once again craves for another technological revolution, radically changing the way of life and the way of people's thinking. Time is accelerating. The concentration of events is growing exponentially. Global civilization, led by the West, switches to new energy sources, communication platforms, information transfer and data processing technology, ways of controlling and optimizing the use of resources. Russia decisively counters civilizational transition of mankind into the 21st century. Its path is a reverse development vector, the New Middle Ages and the new "Oprichnina" [policy implemented by Tsar Ivan the Terrible, involving secret police and mass repressions]. The Russian World and "spiritual ties." Anti-Civilization. Guised under the mask of brotherly love for the past 20 years, Russia started a war against Ukraine, bombing its cities and killing its defenseless citizens (including the Russian Orthodox ethnic Russians), only to stop the civilizational development vector of the Ukrainians, who gained it at the cost of blood, struggle and self-sacrifice. Ukraine has chosen a

civilization, and Russia just could not take it. Moreover, the Kremlin saw this as a direct threat to its own existence.

Ukraine's National Security Council decided to impose sanctions on a number of Russian airlines. The government has banned Russian airlines flying to Ukraine. Russian Federation responded accordingly. As of today there are no direct flights between Ukraine and Russian Federation since October 25, 2015.

Local elections have shown that in many areas where the lead unit of Petro Poroshenko, the result will be formed regional councils controlled by the opposition. It is this majority will in many areas of central Ukraine. Elections to local councils brought quite unexpected results.

Ukrainians have not only shown no spectacular appearance, but also proved to be tuned somewhat less radical than that expected policy. Overall turnout in the country has not held up to 50%.

Prognosis

Only 8% of Ukrainians favor closer ties with Russia – Poll, 13.10.2015

At the same time 14% of the population supports the idea Ukraine have no close relations either with Europe or with Russia. The survey shows that half of Ukrainians believe Ukraine will benefit from forging closer political and economic relations with Europe rather than with Russia. In addition, according to the study, 19% of the respondents say Ukraine should have close relations with both Europe and Russia, while another 14% of citizens would rather see Ukraine have no close relations with either Europe or Russia.

<http://www.unian.info/society/1151157-only-8-of-ukrainians-favor-closer-ties-with-russia-poll.html>

CVU exit poll returns: Incumbent mayor Klitschko leading with 40.4%, 25.10.2015

The poll was conducted by the Social Monitoring organization at the CVU's request.

Livy Bereh portal published simultaneous counts of votes by Solidarnist, in keeping with which Klitschko received 41.1%, Bondarenko got 9.7%, and Serhiy Gusovsky, a member of Kyiv City Council, leader of the Samopomich faction at Kyiv City Council and a restaurateur, was third with 8.7%. At the same time, the results of the exit poll conducted by the Savik Shuster Studio show that Klitschko ranked first with 38.40%, Gusovsky was 2nd with 9.20%. The 3rd place was occupied by Borislav Bereza, the leader of the Rishuchi Hromadiany (Resolute Citizens) Party with 8.50%, while Bondarenko ranked only fourth with 8%.

<http://www.unian.info/kyiv/1163331-cvu-exit-poll-returns-incumbent-mayor-klitschko-leading-with-404.html>

<http://www.museion.blue/2015/10/26/solidarnist-svoboda-samopomich-leading-at-lviv-regional-council-election-with-30-of-protocols-processed/>

<http://www.museion.blue/2015/10/25/socis-dnipropetrovsk-exit-poll-ukrop-leads-filatov-may-win-mayors-seat/>

<http://en.interfax.com.ua/news/general/298868.html>

<http://www.unian.info/politics/1164396-nine-parties-elected-to-lviv-regional-council-80-of-protocols-counted-solidarnist-leading.html>

<http://ukrainianwall.com/english-news/socis-dnipropetrovsk-exit-poll-ukrop-leads-filatov-may-win-mayors-seat/>

<http://www.unian.info/society/1163417-controversial-kharkiv-mayor-kernes-most-likely-to-stay-for-another-term.html>

<http://www.unian.info/politics/1167504-voters-score.html>

Poll: 54% of Russians support airstrikes in Syria, while 59% not willing to accept refugees, 27.10.2015

The survey shows that Russians closely monitor the Syrian conflict. According to the results of October, only 11% know nothing about the situation Syria (last month it was a third of citizens). The number of those who are not interested in the policy of the Russian leadership in Syria has reduced from 33% to 18%. Almost 39% of respondents believe the main harm from Russia's military campaign is deaths of Russian servicemen during the operation or in terrorist attacks against them. Among other threats, the respondents identified a threat "to be involved in this conflict for a long time" and "an increase in the terrorist threat from the Islamic State (ISIS)." A total of 11% saw no harm.

<http://www.unian.info/world/1167721-poll-54-of-russians-support-airstrikes-in-syria-while-59-not-willing-to-accept-refugees.html>

23.8 percent of Ukrainians ready to resist occupation by force of arms, - survey, 28.10.2015

28.6 percent of respondents, who were asked what actions they would prefer under foreign military intervention in their town or village, had chosen the option of resistance by participating in acts of civil resistance (demonstrations, protests, boycotts, etc.), 23.8 percent would engage in armed resistance, 11 percent would prefer to go to a safer area, 3.2 percent would go abroad, and 13.1 percent would not take any action. 34.7 percent of interviewees considered nonviolent struggle to be the most efficient way to combat the armed invasion by the enemy's overwhelming power; 34.4 percent - the armed struggle and 28.5 percent undecided. 34.8 percent supported the nonviolent struggle under armed occupation while 34.2 percent were for armed resistance.

Besides, asked about the actions they would take part in against large-scale long-term foreign armed intervention, 25.9% of respondents indicated military action as part of the guerrilla forces or the army, while more than half (58.4%) of those, who consider Crimea to be occupied and the events in Donbas to be intervention, were not ready for such actions.

http://en.censor.net.ua/news/358272/238_percent_of_ukrainians_ready_to_resist_occupation_by_force_of_arms_survey

Statements of officials

Russia air strikes 'probably' not in IS areas: US defense chief, 01.10.2015

Washington (AFP) - Russia's air strikes in Syria on Wednesday "probably" did not target Islamic State jihadists, US Defense Secretary Ashton Carter said, contradicting Russian claims. "It does appear (the strikes) were in areas where there were probably not ISIL forces," Carter said, using an alternative acronym for the IS group. The Russian defense ministry had said its strikes targeted IS militants. Russia's military involvement in Syria only risks inflaming the years-old conflict, Carter said. Moscow's "approach is tantamount... to pouring gasoline on the fire," he said at the Pentagon, hours after Russia launched air strikes in Syria.

<http://news.yahoo.com/russias-pouring-gasoline-fire-syria-us-defense-chief-182843432.html>

EU: agreement on small-caliber weapons withdrawal in Donbas "positive step", 01.10.2015

"The agreement on the withdrawal of tanks, artillery under 100mm and mortars up to 120mm in eastern Ukraine reached yesterday (29 September) within the Trilateral Contact Group's working group on security is a positive step forward," reads the statement by the Spokesperson of High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs Federica Mogherini. The EU official also noted that "the withdrawal would strengthen the ceasefire, which has been largely holding since 1 September 2015, and contribute to the complete implementation of the Minsk agreements in full respect of Ukraine's independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity." "To this end, it will be essential that the OSCE SMM is granted full, safe and unrestricted access to all areas and weapon storage points so as to carry out its mandate. Ahead of the Normandy Summit in Paris on October 2, it is now crucial to advance on the implementation of other provisions of the Minsk agreements, notably on local elections," the statement reads.

<http://www.unian.info/politics/1139218-eu-agreement-on-small-caliber-weapons-withdrawal-in-donbas-positive-step.html>

Lysenko: Agreement on withdrawal of weapons brings end to war in Donbas, 01.10.2015

"We want the war in Donbas to be ended soon, and make every effort for it to happen. We have made a lot of effort both at the state level and at the level of volunteers," he said. "The document signed in Minsk, which is a supplement to the package of measures to implement the Minsk agreements, is another important step that really brings us to the end of war. We are talking about the withdrawal of weapons of 100mm caliber and less, as well as of the armored vehicles," Lysenko said. "This means that they will be withdrawn at a distance of 15 km from the demarcation line. This should be done under the tight control of the OSCE SMM," he said.

<http://www.unian.info/politics/1139803-lysenko-agreement-on-withdrawal-of-weapons-brings-end-to-war-in-donbas.html>

RUSSIA'S ACTIONS IN SYRIA NOT TO ENTAIL LIFTING OF SANCTIONS – GERMAN OFFICIAL, 02.10.2015

"A decisive factor for the lifting of sanctions is a point-by-point fulfillment of Minsk agreements to resolve the situation in Donbas," according to Thomas Oppermann, leader of Germany's Social Democratic Party (SDP) in Bundestag, who spoke ahead of a meeting of a Normandy Four in Paris on Friday, Deutsche Welle reports.

After the beginning of Russian air raids in Syria, Russia has become "an important factor in the military conflict." But this raises a new question, according to Oppermann: "If Putin stands on the side of Assad, to keep him in power at any cost, Syria will see no peace." According to the German politician, the majority of Syrian citizens are fleeing "Assad's brutal civil war." "For the political process, it is important to break the logic of military escalation," said Opperman.

<http://x-news.com.ua/russias-actions-in-syria-not-to-entail-lifting-of-sanctions-german-official-74499/>

Turchynov: Active hostilities still possible in Donbas, 02.10.2015

"Ukraine fulfills all of its obligations under the Minsk agreements. And we can say that in fact there was no fighting or shelling within a month - there are some cases, which are still keep the situation on the front line tense, but it is a common trend. And this is stated by both international observers and those who are on the front line. But we can't be complacent, we can't say that the danger has passed, we can't say there is no threat that the hostilities resume," Turchynov said.

<http://www.unian.info/war/1140742-turchynov-active-hostilities-still-possible-in-donbas.html>

NATO's stance on Ukraine not changed by Russian operation in Syria, - Stoltenberg, 02.10.2015

"We will never accept that Ukraine is a subject to bargaining," Stoltenberg said. The Secretary General also noted that the stance of the Alliance regarding Ukraine's sovereignty and integrity has not changed. "We continue to support Ukraine, both politically and practically," he said, adding that cooperation with Kyiv might even be extended. "It is encouraging to see that the cease-fire is lasting for the first time: it has been respected since early September. Moreover, the parties have agreed within the trilateral working group of the heavy weapons withdrawal. This is another step forward. The situation is still fragile, the Russian troops remain in Ukraine, but it's encouraging," Stoltenberg commented.

http://en.censor.net.ua/news/354459/natos_stance_on_ukraine_not_changed_by_russian_operation_in_syria_stoltenberg

Poroshenko: Putin will try to create 'Novosyria' after defeat in Donbass, 05.10.2015

"Putin has failed to build a coalition with the help of Syria to negotiate Syrian issues," Poroshenko said in an interview with TV journalists. "Putin's wish is very simple: having failed in a strategy for creating a 'Novorossiia' in the east of Ukraine, he cannot give up that logic and will try to create a 'Novosyria' to strengthen his positions." "But the world before Putin's aggression in Syria and the world after Putin's aggression in Syria differ," Poroshenko said. In his words, Putin will try to regain leverage in big-league politics. And "he will try to get there through the back-door entrance – from Syria," Poroshenko said. "Putin hasn't joined the international coalition" – he is on the side of terrorists, according to Poroshenko. "Russia continues to be a sponsor of terrorism, and the world is shocked," he added.

<http://novorossia.today/poroshenko-putin-will-try-to-create-novosyria-after-defeat-in-donbass/>

<http://www.unian.info/politics/1142404-poroshenko-truce-ushers-in-ukraines-return-to-donbas-crimea.html>

No Russia-NATO Council to be held soon – Stoltenberg, 06.10.2015

"There have been some meetings, I believe, after the crisis in Ukraine started, whether there's going to be a meeting in the foreseeable future, no decision has been taken so far...but we have other ways of communicating with the Russians on the political level, but also on the military level," said Stoltenberg, adding that this communication can also be used in a situation we saw in Turkey [intrusion into Turkish airspace of a Russian fighter jet]. NATO chief also stressed that he welcomes communication between the U.S., who lead the coalition against the

Islamic State, and Russia in order to set mechanisms of preventing incidents between military aircraft of different air forces which operate in the same area. Stoltenberg noted that NATO is not a part of this dialogue, but recognized the need to establish a system, to prevent incident and emergencies in the future.

<http://www.unian.info/world/1144624-no-russia-nato-council-to-be-held-soon-stoltenberg.html>

Klimkin asks parliament to stop misusing “Donbas’ special status” term, 07.10.2015

Ukrainian Foreign Minister Pavlo Klimkin insists that Ukrainian lawmakers stop speculating about terminology related to "special status of Donbas." "There is no special status. There is a law on the peculiarities of local self-government [in Donbas], which was adopted by the Verkhovna Rada. The law which respective amendments to the Constitution refer to is the only document that stipulates special aspects of local self-government. That's why, I urge [you] to stop speculating about this terminology," Klimkin said in parliament in Kyiv on Wednesday when asked whether the "Normandy Four" leaders agreed in Paris on October 2 that Donbas' special 'self-rule' status should be sealed in the Ukrainian Constitution.

<http://www.unian.info/politics/1145526-klimkin-asks-parliament-to-stop-misusing-donbas-special-status-term.html>

Sanctions against Russia to remain until Ukraine gets Crimea back – Nuland, 07.10.2015

"The Crimean sanctions will remain until its [Crimean] occupation lasts," US Assistant Secretary of State for European and Eurasian Affairs Victoria Nuland said at a Marshall Fund meeting. At the same time, according to her, the US said that a report on Boeing crash in the east of Ukraine would confirm their position on what and who caused that tragedy. "We expect the Netherlands to publish the results of the investigation within a week or ten days. We are sure that what State Secretary Kerry said three days after the attack, will be confirmed, in terms of who is responsible for the [attack] and the weapons which were used for this," Nuland said.

http://www.fm-tv.kiev.ua/main_news/66516/view/

EU, US to lift sanctions only if Russia withdraws troops from Donbass – MFA, 07.10.2015

"Besides the main results of the Paris talks, it became quite clear that our partners in the Normandy Format, and the European Union, and all other partners in the democratic world tie the fulfillment of Minsk agreements very clearly with the possibility of lifting the sanctions. That is, until the Russian troops are removed from Donbas, no one will talk about the lifting of sanctions imposed by the European Union and the United States," said Makeyev in an interview.

<http://www.unian.info/politics/1146075-eu-us-to-lift-sanctions-only-if-russia-withdraws-troops-from-donbass-mfa.html>

Obama: "Ukraine was governed by a corrupt ruler who was a stooge of Mr. Putin", 09.10.2015

"When I came into office-- Ukraine was governed by a corrupt ruler who was a stooge of Mr. Putin," U.S. President said. Earlier, Obama compared Putin's actions in Syria with the invasion in Ukraine, which was followed by international sanctions against key sectors of the Russian economy. The U.S. president also said that the actions of President Vladimir Putin in Syria showed the weakness of Russia's position in the Middle East and the weakening of his position at home.

http://en.censor.net.ua/news/355658/obama_ukraine_was_governed_by_a_corrupt_ruler_who_was_a_stooge_of_mr_putin

Russia thinks better of Ukraine army than Ukrainian media do – Muzhenko, 09.10.2015

"An interesting feature: our enemy - Russia – thinks of our armed forces as a powerful force able to respond decisively," said Muzhenko, stating the fact of negative publicity of the Ukrainian Army in the Ukrainian media. According to Muzhenko, this can only be countered by informing military personnel timely, regularly and in full, particularly informing those deployed in ATO zone, in order to highlight the real situation in the Ukrainian Army amid negative spins in the media. Muzhenko also admitted lack of qualified personnel to fulfill the tasks of informing the troops.

<http://www.unian.info/society/1148580-russia-thinks-better-of-ukraine-army-than-ukrainian-media-do-muzhenko.html>

Russia will pay high price for its aggression – President, 09.10.2015

The President Poroshenko had an interview with BBC and shared his opinion on the aggression of Russia in Syria, the results of the Paris meeting in the Normandy format and described present situation in Donbas. Answering the question of BBC journalist about Putin's goal in Syrian conflict, the President noted: "It is absolutely clear. He wants global destabilization. Just as 18 months ago, when Russian soldiers emerged in Crimea, destabilized the situation and annexed Crimea in the style of the Anschluss of 1938. Just as 15 months ago, when Russian militaries emerged in Donbas... Now they are in Syria. The goal is the same. Losing economic competitiveness, internal support and stability, Russia is trying to destabilize global security and order," Petro Poroshenko said.

<http://www.president.gov.ua/en/news/rosiya-zaplatit-visoku-cinu-za-svoyu-agresiyu-prezident-ukra-36116>

Barack Obama: Russia is not challenging U.S. by getting involved in Syrian conflict, 11.10.2015

President Obama rejected the notion that Russia's increased involvement in the Syrian conflict is proof that Vladimir Putin is trying to challenge U.S. world power and trap the nations into some kind of proxy war in the region. "Syria was Russia's only ally in the region. And today, rather than being able to count on their support and maintain the base they had in Syria, which they've had for a long time Mr. Putin now is devoting his own troops, his own military, just to barely hold together by a thread his sole ally," Obama said.

<http://www.nydailynews.com/news/politics/obama-russia-not-challenging-u-s-syria-article-1.2393351>

Poroshenko: If we lose the chance to return Donbas, nobody in the world will talk about the return of Crimea, 11.10.2015

"If we lose the chance to return Donbas and Luhansk region, who in the world will talk about the return of Crimea with a country that is giving up on its territories? Donbas is also our Homeland. It would be the last thing to waste our homeland. I have another goal - to save the country. So I will do everything so that we take full advantage of our chance to restore the territorial integrity," said Poroshenko. According to him, both in New York and in Paris, Russia was warned of the extension and intensification of sanctions.

<http://ukrainianwall.com/english-news/poroshenko-if-we-lose-the-chance-to-return-donbas-nobody-in-the-world-will-talk-about-the-return-of-crimea/>

Putin: Russia obtains high-precision weapons, has will to use it, 11.10.2015

Russia is "forced" to upgrade its army with high-precision and high-tech weapons, since many models are outdated, as the weapons are getting more sophisticated worldwide: "It's not about a global [arms] race," said Russian President Vladimir Putin. "In principle, all of our partners are aware, at least at the expert level, that Russia has (high-precision) weapons in its disposal. One thing is to know at the expert level that Russia allegedly has such weapons, and another thing is to ascertain its existence, in the first place... and [to ascertain] its high quality. Third, that there are people who are well trained and prepared, who may use these weapons systemically. And the fourth, that Russia has the will to use it if it meets the national interests of the state and of the Russian people," said Putin.

<http://www.unian.info/world/1149430-putin-russia-obtains-high-precision-weapons-has-will-to-use-it.html>

NATO chief: Syria, Ukraine crises underline importance of NATO activity, 12.10.2015

"The crises in Syria and Ukraine underline the importance of what NATO is doing. Increasing our ability to protect our Allies, to reinforce and to deploy," he said at the NATO Parliamentary Assembly in Stavanger, Norway. "We are also concerned about Russia's current actions in Ukraine and most recently in the Middle East. About its unacceptable violation of Turkish and NATO airspace. And about Russia's substantial military build-up, its air strikes and its cruise missile attacks," he said. In his words, a political solution is needed more than ever. "We fully support and encourage all efforts by the UN and others to find a negotiated settlement to the conflict in Syria. We also need a peaceful and negotiated solution in Ukraine," he said.

<http://ukrainianwall.com/english-news/nato-chief-syria-ukraine-crises-underline-importance-of-nato-activity/>

Poroshenko: No elections in Donbas means "dead end", 12.10.2015

"We cannot deprive IDPs of the right to elect their local government in Donbas. We also must ensure participation of Ukrainian parties and restore comprehensive Ukrainian television and radio broadcasting in the occupied territories," Petro Poroshenko said in his Sunday night address to the nation. "Without elections in the occupied territories, political settlement will get to a dead end," the President said.

<http://www.unian.info/politics/1150092-poroshenko-no-elections-in-donbas-means-dead-end.html>

<http://www.kyivpost.com/content/ukraine/poroshenko-says-blackmail-by-militants-in-terms-of-pseudo-elections-in-donbas-may-turn-into-new-sanctions-against-russia-399858.html>

<http://www.kyivpost.com/content/ukraine/poroshenko-says-ukrainian-army-should-be-on-constant-alert-399848.html>

<http://en.interfax.com.ua/news/economic/295963.html>

Putin starts bombing Syria because Russia fails in Donbas, 13.10.2015

"Why has Putin re-oriented his vector on Syria in a few months? Because they have already been losing in Ukraine. It was necessary to do something and act within the framework of the Minsk agreements, and it meant - to cease hostilities. The economic pressure on Ukraine didn't help – Russia restored gas supplies, and there is progress in other issues," former Deputy Chief of Staff Ihor Romanenko said. "Russia has re-oriented its vector on Syria. Putin demonstrated his military equipment and missiles there," Romanenko said.

<http://www.unian.info/politics/1151064-putin-starts-bombing-syria-because-russia-fails-in-donbas.html>

Almaz-Antey: Second experiment confirms flight MH17 was shot down from district controlled by Ukrainian army, 13.10.2015

The results of two full-scale experiments that simulated the July 17, 2014 shooting down of the Malaysia Airlines flight MH17 in Ukraine fully refuted the Dutch commission's conclusions regarding the type of the missile and the place of its launch, the general director of Russia's missile systems manufacturer Almaz-Antey, Yan Novikov, has said.

"Today we can say straightforward, and we will show this during the presentation, that if the Malaysia Airlines Boeing-777 was shot down by a Buk surface-to-air missile system, it was hit by a 9M38 missile fired from the direction of the locality of Zaroshchinske," he told a press conference on Oct. 13. "The main conclusions (that we made) following our full-scale experiment are the following: the type of the missile used - if it was Buk - is 9M38, which is undoubtedly evidenced by absence of typical I-shaped wrecks on the Boeing's body and presence of a large number of such wrecks in our full-scale experiment," Malyshevsky told.

http://asia.rbth.com/news/2015/10/13/almaz-antey_second_experiment_confirms_flight_mh17_was_shot_down_from_di_50028.html

http://www.nato.int/cps/en/natohq/news_123824.htm

US defense chief: we will deter Russia's 'malign and destabilizing influence', 14.10.2015

The US defense chief vowed to take "all necessary steps" against a resurgent Russia which is challenging a frustrated Washington in Eastern Europe and the Middle East. Ash Carter, the US defense secretary, said the Russian president, Vladimir Putin, had wrapped his country in a "shroud of isolation" which only a drastic change in policy could reverse. "We will take all necessary steps to deter Russia's malign and destabilizing influence, coercion and aggression," Carter said, attacking Russian military intervention in Ukraine and Syria. Carter said that as long as Russia pursued a "misguided strategy" in Syria to bolster its client Bashar al-Assad, "we have not, and will not, agree to cooperate with Russia".

<http://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2015/oct/14/ash-carter-deter-russian-influence-syria-ukraine>

Malcolm Turnbull vows Australia will seek justice for MH17 victims; Qantas CEO Alan Joyce says safety information should be shared, 14.10.2015

Mr Turnbull addressed the House of Representatives hours after Dutch authorities released their final report into the tragedy, which stated that the flight crashed as a result of the detonation of a BUK missile fired from eastern Ukraine. He said that the "murder" of the 298 people on board was a cowardly crime. "Those who committed this crime must answer for it," he said. "We deplore the conduct of Russia using its Security Council veto in July to block the establishment of a special international criminal tribunal." Meanwhile, Qantas chief executive Alan Joyce told the

National Press Club more could have been done to ensure MH17 was on a safe flightpath. Mr Joyce said Qantas had robust procedures in place to assess risks but security information needed to be accessible to all carriers. "I think what has been very clear is that the situation that happened over the Ukraine, I think more could have been done sharing information and intelligence to ensure that the operation of aircraft was safe over that path," he said.

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2015-10-14/turnbull-vows-australia-will-seek-justice-for-mh17-victims/6853982>

RUSSIA'S SUPPLY OF WEAPONRY TO DONBAS USED TO SHOOT DOWN MH-17 CONSTITUTES WAR CRIME – KLIMKIN, 14.10.2015

"As you can imagine with all kinds of Russian weaponry brought to Donbas it is still imaginable to buy Kalashnikov [rifle] on the black market, it is far difficult to buy armored vehicle or tank on the black market but it is fully impossible to buy highly sophisticated and anti-air missile complex, and as you can imagine even if you get such a complex from somewhere, trying to smuggle it, operating and handling this complex is absolutely impossible; so no one at that time had any kind of awareness of such a threat," Klimkin said. Klimkin also noted that a number of countries that support the establishment of an international tribunal have "several options on the table" as to how to hold those responsible for the MH-17 catastrophe accountable.

<http://x-news.com.ua/russias-supply-of-weaponry-to-donbas-used-to-shoot-down-mh-17-constitutes-war-crime-klimkin-77942/>

Merkel sees 'glimmer of hope' in Ukraine, but Russia sanctions remain, 15.10.2015

Speaking in the Bundestag lower house of parliament, German Chancellor Angela Merkel welcomed a decision by pro-Russian separatists in eastern Ukraine to delay disputed local elections there. She also welcomed the fact that a truce has been largely holding since the start of September, allowing the adversaries to extend a pull-back of weapons and raising hopes for the fragile peace process. "I'm speaking of a glimmer of hope, nothing more and nothing less," the conservative leader said. "But this offers us the opportunity now to finally make progress on the road to a political solution." But she added that the sanctions against Russia could be removed only when the peace plan, worked out in Minsk, Belarus, in February, had been fully complied with.

<http://uk.reuters.com/article/2015/10/15/uk-ukraine-crisis-germany-russia-idUKKCN0S90RO20151015>

Ukraine Angered as Geography Textbook Shows Crimea as Part of Russia, 15.10.2015

According to Oxford University Press's textbook, Crimea is part of Russia in the same way that the Baltic exclave of Kaliningrad which has been under Moscow's control since World War II and is not internationally disputed. The textbook calls the annexed Crimea as a territory that "Russia took from Ukraine in 2014". The Ukrainian Ambassador's charge d'affaires wrote in a statement on the Embassy's Facebook page: "I deeply regret that the textbook misleads the students which used to rely on the Oxford University Press as a reputable publishing house." "Ukraine's Embassy urges the publishing house to correct mistakes immediately as such grave mistakes may bring the Oxford University Press into disrepute," the statement reads.

<http://europe.newsweek.com/ukraine-angered-geography-textbook-shows-crimea-part-russia-334865>

Britain wants Russia to explain how come Pinocchio flamethrower recorded in militant-held area of Donbas, 16.10.2015

"We are requesting the delegation of the Russian Federation to explain the presence of the TOS-1 Buratino in this training area," reads the delegation's statement. The British delegation stresses that this kind of weapon is only produced in Russia, and has never been exported to Ukraine. Pinocchio can be equipped with thermobaric missiles, spreading and igniting a flammable liquid over its target. This type of weapon able to destroy several city blocks. This system is only produced Russia, and it was not exported to Ukraine before the armed conflict broke out in Donbas, according to the IHS Jane's Group and the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute, which monitors the arms supplies around the world.

<http://www.unian.info/war/1153809-britain-wants-russia-to-explain-how-come-pinocchio-flamethrower-recorded-in-militant-held-area-of-donbas.html>

Obama calls on Russia to fight against Islamic State, not moderate opposition, 17.10.2015

U.S. President Barack Obama spoke by telephone on Friday with Abu Dhabi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan and they agreed that Russia's military operations in Syria should focus on Islamic State, not moderate Syrian opposition groups, BBC Russian news service reported referring to the White House. Obama and Al Nahyan, who holds a senior post in the armed forces of the United Arab Emirates, also reaffirmed the importance of establishing the conditions necessary for a political transition in Syria, the White House said in a statement.

<http://www.unian.info/world/1155102-obama-calls-on-russia-to-fight-against-islamic-state-not-moderate-opposition.html>

MERKEL SEES NO THREAT FOR TRANSIT OF RUSSIAN GAS VIA UKRAINE, 18.10.2015

Russia has always been a reliable gas supplier, German Chancellor Angela Merkel said in a special interview, ahead of the Ukrainian-German Business Forum to be held on October 23 in Berlin, answering the question whether she sees a threat to Germany in the transit of Russian gas via Ukraine.

<http://www.newsunited.com/unian-merkel-sees-no-threat-for-news/19215010/>

<http://www.kyivpost.com/content/ukraine-abroad/unian-merkel-sees-no-threat-for-transit-of-russian-gas-via-ukraine-400186.html>

<http://ca.reuters.com/article/topNews/idCAKCN0SB0AD20151017>

No elections under muzzles of Russian guns: Yatsenyuk names conditions for Donbas elections, 18.10.2015

"The first condition – no one will hold elections under the muzzles of Russian machine guns. They have to withdraw from the territory of Ukraine and fulfill the Minsk agreements," said Yatsenyuk. Secondly, the prime minister said that "half a million of internally displaced persons registered across Ukraine should be entitled to participate in this electoral process and choose those who will represent the local government in Donetsk and Luhansk." The third condition is that such an election be in line with the Ukrainian legislation and the highest standards of fair and transparent elections, according to Yatsenyuk. "Fourth - we must ensure political competition in Donetsk and Luhansk, both through access of the media to these areas, and through the right of all political parties in Ukraine to take part in these elections, and to send their candidates," said Yatsenyuk.

<http://www.unian.info/politics/1155691-no-elections-under-muzzles-of-russian-guns-yatsenyuk-names-conditions-for-donbas-elections.html>

Poroshenko: Kiev May Return to Issue of UN Peacekeepers in Donbass, 18.10.2015

He added that since Ukraine will become a non-permanent Security Council member state on January 1, 2016 it could defend its position on the issue more efficiently. "I do not rule out that in order to stabilize the situation, especially if the Minsk deal is not implemented in accordance with the agreed schedule, we could go back to the necessity of bringing the UN peacekeepers to Ukraine," Poroshenko said.

<http://sputniknews.com/europe/20151018/1028718884/poroshenko-un-peacekeepers-donbass.html>

Ex-SBU chief speaks of Russian trace in Maidan massacre, 19.10.2015

"I am scared and ashamed to hear that once again, all those who stood on the Maidan, are being shot in the back," said Nalyvaichenko. According to Nalyvaichenko, back on May 8, 2015, the SBU officially handed the documents over to the Prosecutor General's Office showing that on February 20-21, 2014, Vladislav Surkov, Putin's adviser, was in Ukraine using the passport issued at the name of Aslanbek Dudayev. He was accompanied by six Generals from Russia's Federal Security Service (FSB). He was met by SBU General Byk, who is now under arrest. According to Nalyvaichenko, Surkov's accommodation was paid from the state budget. "All these materials were handed over in letter reg.No.468 of May 8, 2015. On the second page of the letter [to the PGO] it is pointed what type of sniper rifles were brought in and in what kind of cases. Surkov personally met with the then head of the SBU Oleksandr Yakymenko[who fled to Russia after the Maidan events]," said Nalyvaichenko.

http://www.fm-tv.kiev.ua/main_news/66957/view/

Ousted president Yanukovich sues Ukraine in European court, 19.10.2015

A law firm representing former Ukrainian President Viktor Yanukovich says he is suing Ukraine for violating his human rights. Yanukovich fled to Russia in February 2014 following months of anti-government protests. He later insisted he was threatened and forced to leave the country. London-based Joseph Hage Aaronson said in a statement on Monday that Yanukovich has lodged a lawsuit against Ukraine's government with the European Court of Human Rights for "repeatedly" violating his human rights.

A district court in Kiev in August began trying Yanukovich in absentia for his alleged role in the massacre on Kiev's main square at the end of the protest. His lawyers said Yanukovich has suffered "discriminatory treatment due to his political status and opinions" and that he cannot return to Ukraine because of security risks.

<http://www.businessinsider.com/ap-ousted-president-yanukovich-sues-ukraine-in-european-court-2015-10>

All Ukrainian citizens in Russia obliged to define "legal status" before Nov 30, 19.10.2015

"In 2015, out of humanitarian considerations, the migration service has been repeatedly extending the period of temporary stay in Russia to all categories of Ukrainian citizens. The deadline for the extension ends on October 31, 2015. In this regard, from November 1 to November 30, the citizens of Ukraine who are staying in the territory of the Russian Federation must report to the Russian Federal Migration Service offices to determine their legal status," says the statement. At the same time the deputy head of the FMS, Vadim Yakovenko, said that all of the regional migration offices had been instructed on providing maximum support and maximum attention to Ukrainian citizens.

<http://www.unian.info/world/1156771-all-ukrainian-citizens-in-russia-obliged-to-define-legal-status-before-nov-30.html>

Russia holding out of debt restructuring not to prevent Ukraine from entering foreign debt markets: expert, 20.10.2015

"The 'Russian' debt will not really prevent Ukraine from penetrating foreign markets in the future, even if the issue remains unresolved for a long time and will be decided in the courts. The upgrade of Ukraine's ratings by S&P suggests that the issue of the 'Russian' debt is considered separately. Regarding the Russian debt, S&P has already registered default, so any payment or non-payment in December will not change anything. The international lenders, to some extent, take the unresolved issue with Russia "out of the brackets," he said. According to the expert, there are two scenarios in respect of the Russian loan -- either Ukraine pays \$3 billion in December in case the IMF recognizes this debt as interstate, or litigation will ensue. "With the 100% probability, they will sue. It is their right, and a logical action. The bonds were issued under the British legislation, so Russia will file suit with the British court, respectively. And there are no grounds to reject this lawsuit. It's just that Ukraine will have also filed counterclaims by this time, related to the annexation of Crimea, and so on," he added.

<http://www.unian.info/economics/1158264-russia-holding-out-of-debt-restructuring-not-to-prevent-ukraine-from-entering-foreign-debt-markets-expert.html>

"No Fighting" in Ukraine is Not "Peace", 20.10.2015

The main problem with the West's approach to Russian President Vladimir Putin is that it doesn't seem to know who it's dealing with. In an excellent article in Foreign Policy, Raymond Tanter states the bleatingly obvious—the Russian leader is nothing but a bully and should be treated as such. While the United States and Europe favor a "win-win" approach, Putin prefers the "I win, you lose" model. Any attempt to find common ground with someone who thinks this way is doomed to fail. They tend to view a desire to compromise as a sign of weakness. So now that we have that out of the way, the fact that heavy weapons have been silenced in the Donbas and the Russian propaganda machine is focusing its coverage on Syria (and a recent blast of lies on MH17) is unfortunately not good news for Ukraine. The recent summit in Paris in early October revealed that French President François Hollande and German Chancellor Angela Merkel simply want Ukraine to "go away."

<http://www.atlanticcouncil.org/blogs/new-atlanticist/no-fighting-in-ukraine-is-not-peace>

http://www.nytimes.com/2015/10/20/world/europe/recent-quiet-in-ukraine-offers-hope-for-a-peaceful-resolution.html?_r=1

Kyiv says Russia's decision to include Crimean monuments on federal property register is illegal, 20.10.2015

The decision of the Russian authorities to add 220 cultural sites in Crimea to Russia's register of cultural heritage sites is illegal, according to the press service of the Ukrainian Ministry of Culture. The Ministry's statement said that Russia's decision had no legal effects and violated international law. The Ministry of Culture also said that Russia's illegal actions concerned the objects of cultural heritage protected by Ukrainian law.

<http://uatoday.tv/news/kyiv-says-russia-s-decision-to-include-crimean-monuments-on-federal-property-register-are-illegal-516796.html>

Klimkin says Mogherini, Malmstrom to visit Ukraine in November, 20.10.2015

EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy Federica Mogherini will visit Ukraine in November, Ukrainian Foreign Minister Pavlo Klimkin has said.

<http://www.kyivpost.com/content/ukraine/klimkin-says-mogherini-malmstrom-to-visit-ukraine-in-november-400277.html>

<http://en.interfax.com.ua/news/general/297437.html>

No Russian response to PGO request for extradition of Yanukovych, 20.10.2015

Russia has not responded to the request of the Prosecutor General's Office of Ukraine (PGO) for the extradition of former president of Ukraine Viktor Yanukovych, chief of the PGO special investigations directorate Serhiy Horbatiuk has said. "There is no reply from Russian law enforcement agencies on the decision to arrest and extradite Yanukovych since a year despite our reminding them," he said. According to Horbatiuk, the Russian authorities have refused to confirm that Yanukovych is present in the country, despite the fact that lawyers representing Yanukovych had given the Ukrainian authorities the address of Yanukovych's residence in Russia, which was subsequently provided to Russian law enforcers. "We sent this information to Russian law enforcement agencies for them to confirm it and detain Yanukovych. However, over two months there was no information from Russia law enforcement agencies," he said.

<http://en.interfax.com.ua/news/general/297418.html>

Top U.S. Admiral Says NATO Should Rework Maritime Strategy, 22.10.2015

Russia's stepped up naval operations and other threats mean that the North Atlantic Treaty Organization should reexamine maritime strategy, the new head of the U.S. Navy said.

Addressing the top naval officers in Europe at a meeting in Venice, Italy, U.S. Navy Adm. John Richardson, who recently became Chief of Naval Operations, said Russia has demonstrated growing prowess with its ships and demonstrated a willingness to use military coercion.

Russian submarine patrols increased by more than 50% from 2013 to 2014, Adm. Richardson said, and its fleet has increased its range.

"Their operational tempo has risen to levels not seen in over a decade," he said in his speech in Venice. "Their proficiency is increasing." Russia unveiled a new naval doctrine in August, which western observers argue sets the stage for a more aggressive military posture by the Kremlin. But NATO has not updated its naval strategy since 2011. "Enough has changed with the Russia threat, with migration issues, with the rise of information systems that it may be time to take another look at the NATO maritime strategy to see if it adequately describes the problem set that we have got," Adm. Richardson said in an interview after his speech.

<http://blogs.wsj.com/brussels/2015/10/22/top-u-s-admiral-says-nato-should-rework-maritime-strategy/>

Russia's Putin says Kiev not fulfilling Ukraine peace deal, 22.10.2015

Ukraine's government is not fulfilling key points of the Minsk agreement, the international peace deal aimed at halting the fighting in eastern Ukraine, Russian President Vladimir Putin said on Thursday. Speaking at a forum in the Russian city of Sochi, Putin said the Minsk agreement was the only way to achieve a peaceful settlement of the conflict in east Ukraine, between Kiev's forces and pro-Moscow separatists.

<http://www.trust.org/item/20151022173703-apl1v/?>

Ukraine Embassy: Veto on U.S. defense bill not obstacle to arming Kyiv, 23.10.2015

"U.S. President Barack Obama vetoed the defense policy bill for 2016 due to a number of reasons, which are not related to the volume of assistance to Ukraine, which is foreseen in this document," the embassy said. In particular, it notes that the U.S. president explained his veto by budget cuts, which remain in force, by the Congress's ignoring of a number of White House-proposed reforms to modernize the army, as well as that the provisions of this document make it impossible to close the Guantanamo Bay detention center, which has been Obama's main goal since his presidential campaign. According to the embassy, Obama didn't reject the military assistance to Ukraine in the amount of \$300 million for the next year. Now the document has been sent back to the Congress, where the votes of two-thirds of the Senate and the House of Representatives are necessary to overcome the presidential veto. Under congressional rules, the House will consider the veto before the Senate. A vote has been scheduled for November 5.

<http://www.unian.info/politics/1161228-ukraine-embassy-veto-on-us-defense-bill-not-obstacle-to-arming-kyiv.html>

Merkel says wants good economic ties with Ukraine and Russia, 23.10.2015

German Chancellor Angela Merkel said a EU free trade agreement with Ukraine is not directed against Russia and that Berlin wants good economic ties with both Ukraine and Russia. The EU free-trade pact will come into force at the start of next year despite efforts by Russia to delay the deal. "This free trade agreement is not directed against Russia," Merkel told a German-Ukrainian economic conference in Berlin. "In contrast, we want Ukraine to have good economic relations with the European Union, with Germany but at the same time also with Russia." Merkel said Ukraine's low wage costs and highly qualified workers showed it could be a good place to do business and pressed Ukraine to continue with its economic reforms to tackle corruption to encourage more German firms to invest there.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2015/10/23/us-ukraine-crisis-germany-idUSKCN0SH0Z720151023>

No country in world to wage war against Russia – Klimkin, 23.10.2015

"No one would resort to military action against a nuclear power like Russia. I mean, not only Ukraine wouldn't," Klimkin said. Minister of Foreign Affairs said, the complicated situation that has developed in Crimea, will affect the mood of the local residents. "And now in Crimea, many things are changing for the worse. Delays started with payment of social benefits. And of course it affects the mood of the Crimean people. But I have always said that we need a clear strategy in relation to Crimea. Our people live there, whether they've been drugged by the Russian propaganda, or not," Ukraine's top diplomat.

<http://www.unian.info/politics/1162134-no-country-in-world-to-wage-war-against-russia-klimkin.html>

CEC chief: Only Parliament should create mechanism for elections in Mariupol, Chervonoarmiysk, 26.10.2015

The statement was voiced at Okhendovsky's Sunday meeting with U.S. Ambassador to Ukraine Geoffrey R. Pyatt, Canadian Ambassador Roman Vashchuk and Ambassador of Great Britain to Ukraine Judith Gough. The event was also attended by Director of the International Foundation for Electoral Systems (IFES) in Ukraine, Peter Erben.

As Ambassador Payatt noted at the beginning of the meeting, the CEC has once again confirmed the high level of competence, professionalism and impartiality throughout the preparatory process for the local elections on October 25, 2015. However, the U.S. Ambassador has expressed concern that the vote did not take place on October 25 in the city of Mariupol and in the town of Chervonoarmiyisk in Donetsk region. In response, Okhendovsky noted that the CEC deemed fundamentally important, from the beginning of the election process, to organize elections in Mariupol, given that it is the largest government-controlled city in Donbas in terms of the number of voters, where the rule of law, established by the Constitution of Ukraine and the Ukrainian laws, is enforced.

<http://www.unian.info/politics/1163946-cec-chief-only-parliament-should-create-mechanism-for-the-elections-in-mariupol-and-chervonoarmiyisk.html>

Ukraine PM says won't repay Russian debt if no restructuring deal, 26.10.2015

"We cannot treat Russia differently from other international creditors," Ukrainian Prime Minister Arseny Yatseniuk told the paper, adding if Russia does not agree to the terms offered by Kiev, "then we will impose a debt moratorium and not service the credit." Ukraine has agreed a debt exchange with creditors to plug a \$15 billion funding gap under an International Monetary Fund-led \$40 billion bailout programme.

<http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/international/world-news/ukraine-pm-says-wont-repay-russian-debt-if-no-restructuring-deal/articleshow/49531629.cms>

CVU predicts three "hot spots" in second round of elections, 26.10.2015

"The election campaign in Dnipropetrovsk was accompanied by a series of scandals, conflicts and numerous violations of the electoral legislation," he said. According to Koshel, an ultra-high competition between the main candidates has been observed in Dnipropetrovsk, that's why the CVU expects that the whole range of illegal election technologies can be used in the second round. The second "hot spot," according to Koshel, is Uzhgorod. "The basis for this assessment is that the potential winners have actually swapped in the city. If we take the expert estimates, and if we take the results of sociological research, and if we look at the quality of the campaign, we can say that there is a complete mismatch of forecasts with the results of elections," he said. In addition, he said that the CVU received "hotline" information, which "was almost impossible to prove," regarding bribery of voters before or on election day."

The third "hot spot," according to Koshel, will be Odesa. "During the election campaign, we recorded a number of violations of the law. As of today, there is mass evidence of copies of voting cards not provided for examination by the CVU observers," he said.

http://www.fm-tv.kiev.ua/main_news/67283/view/

Poroshenko: intl observers say no misuse of administrative resource during elections, 26.10.2015

According to preliminary conclusions of international observers and non-governmental organizations, there was no misuse of the administrative resource during the local elections, President of Ukraine Petro Poroshenko said during a joint press conference with U.S. Secretary of Commerce Penny Pritzker. "I am pleased to note that, according to preliminary conclusions of the international observers and non-governmental organizations, there was neither misuse of the administrative resource; nor administrative pressure on the will of citizens," the President said.

<http://patriot-news.info/2015/10/26/poroshenko-intl-observers-say-no-misuse-of-administrative-resource-during-elections/>

Pritzker: Third \$1 billion US loan guarantee to Ukraine will be conditioned on 'concrete progress in fighting against corruption', 27.10.2015

As part of the United States' commitment to working with international partners to ensure Ukraine has the support it needs to continue making progress on reforms, today I am pleased to announce that President Obama, working with our Congress, intends to move forward with a third, \$1 billion loan guarantee for Ukraine in the coming months.

This fulfills a U.S. commitment to consider providing a third \$1 billion loan guarantee in late 2015 if conditions warrant. Today, I have had the opportunity to discuss with President Poroshenko and Prime Minister Yatsenyuk how the United States and Ukraine can use the third \$1 billion U.S. loan guarantee to support continued progress in advancing reforms, including reforms that will be important to unlock international investment in Ukraine and lay the groundwork for return to growth. The U.S. loan guarantee will be conditioned on Ukraine's progress on implementing its economic reform program, including of course adherence to the IMF's program and concrete forward momentum in the ongoing fight against corruption.

<https://www.kyivpost.com/content/ukraine/pritzker-third-1-billion-us-loan-guarantee-to-ukraine-will-be-conditioned-on-concrete-progress-in-fighting-against-corruption-400719.html>

Ukraine local elections generally respected democratic process, but additional efforts needed to enhance public confidence, international observers say, 26.10.2015

Ukraine's local elections were competitive and well organized overall, and the campaign generally showed respect for the democratic process, international observers concluded in a statement issued today. Nevertheless, the complexity of the legal framework, the dominance of powerful economic groups, threats and physical attacks against candidates, and the fact that virtually all campaign coverage in the media was paid for all underscore the need for further reform. Additional efforts are needed to further enhance the integrity of and public confidence in the electoral process, the observers said. The observers stressed that the elections took place in a challenging political, economic, humanitarian and security environment, characterized by the illegal annexation of the Crimean peninsula by the Russian Federation and the temporary control of parts of the territory of the Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts by illegal armed groups. This made it impossible for more than 5 million voters in these areas to vote. Despite resolute efforts by the Central Election Commission (CEC) to organize elections throughout the country, they could not be held in parts of the Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts or on the Crimean peninsula.

<http://www.osce.org/odihr/elections/ukraine/194401>

<http://www.osce.org/odihr/elections/ukraine/194406?download=true>

Poroshenko: Amendments to Ukraine's electoral legislation to be presented in Minsk, 27.10.2015

"Today in Minsk, our representatives will present the concept of electoral legislation and the amendments that we have agreed to develop together at a Normandy Four meeting. At the same time, the Russian side is actually disrupting the implementation of Minsk agreements today," said Poroshenko.

<http://uatoday.tv/news/poroshenko-amendments-to-ukraine-s-electoral-legislation-to-be-presented-in-minsk-521801.html>

NATO to discuss reform of Ukrainian Army, 29.10.2015

The meeting will focus on outlining a direction of further cooperation in reforming the Armed Forces of Ukraine in accordance with NATO standards, following the agreements reached between President of Ukraine Petro Poroshenko and NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg during his recent visit to Ukraine on September 21-22, said Acting Head of the Mission of Ukraine to NATO Yehor Bozhok. "We are looking forward to this work because we do have something to say," he said.

At this, Bozhok noted that NATO, in turn, is able to support Ukraine's efforts.

<http://www.unian.info/politics/1167696-nato-to-discuss-reform-of-ukrainian-army.html>

Medvedev voices decision to impose economic sanctions against Ukraine, 30.10.2015

"From January 1, 2016, the level of customs and tariff protection against Ukraine will be increased, because of the decision of our neighbors to enact the Association Agreement with the EU. In addition, our retaliatory economic measures will affect Ukraine as a country, which has joined the anti-Russian sanctions," Medvedev said. Ukraine has repeatedly stated that the entry into force of the economic part of the Association Agreement with the EU will not be delayed. "Let no one doubt that the agreement on the free trade zone will start working from January 1, 2016," Ukrainian Prime Minister Arseniy Yatsenyuk said.

http://www.fm-tv.kiev.ua/main_news/67519/view/

US army chief plans Europe troop surge to counter Putin, 30.10.2015

Moscow had to be stopped from thinking it could get away with more aggression, General Mark Milley said during a visit to Germany, the report says. The general has ordered a full review of American fighting prowess in Europe and will present his findings to Ash Carter, the defense secretary, for final approval by the White House. His assessment will take into account Russia's seizure of Crimea, its continuing military involvement in eastern Ukraine.

<http://www.unian.info/world/1169017-us-army-chief-plans-europe-troop-surge-to-counter-putin-the-times.html>

Actions of Ukrainian Authorities

Poroshenko to demand Russia cancel sham elections in Donbas, 01.10.2015

During his visit to Paris on October 2 to participate in a meeting of the "Normandy Quartet" leaders, i.e. France, Germany, Russia and Ukraine, President of Ukraine Petro Poroshenko will insist Russia cancel pseudo-elections in Donbas, Kostyantyn Yeliseyev, deputy chief of presidential administration told at a briefing in Kyiv today.

"The most important issue is the abolition by the Russian side of the fake elections in Donbas, on October 18 and November 1, respectively; and Ukraine, Germany and France unanimously agree on this issue; and this position was confirmed in New York during the bilateral meetings with the French President and the German Chancellor that an important prerequisite for further peace process is a categorical cancellation of these elections by Russia," Yeliseyev stressed.

http://www.fm-tv.kiev.ua/main_news/66262/view/

POROSHENKO, MERKEL, HOLLANDE COORDINATE POSITIONS PRIOR TO PARIS MEETING, 01.10.2015

This was the subject of a recent conversation over the phone between the three leaders, the press service said. The parties welcomed the signing of an agreement on the withdrawal of tanks, artillery with caliber under 100mm and mortars with caliber up to 120mm from the contact line in Donbas, eastern Ukraine, the report said.

<http://x-news.com.ua/poroshenko-merkel-hollande-coordinate-positions-prior-to-paris-meeting-74330/>

Ukraine to use over EUR 50 mln from loan to rebuild Donbas, 04.10.2015

This agreement was reached on October 2 at a meeting in the Infrastructure Ministry, which was attended by Deputy Infrastructure Minister Mykola Snitko and representatives of Germany's Federal Ministry of Transport and Digital Infrastructure and the German Embassy in Ukraine. "The provision of the loan by the German government to restore infrastructure in Donbas is foreseen in an intergovernmental memorandum of understanding. The Infrastructure Ministry plans to purchase two mobile railway substations for the restoration of railway infrastructure in Ukrainian-controlled territories in the country's eastern regions. Repaired railways will allow us to pull back locomotives from the region and bring freight from there, namely coal needed for Ukrainian power plants' preparations for winter," the report reads.

<http://ukrnews.today/ukraine-to-use-over-eur-50-mln-from-loan-to-rebuild-donbas/>

Rada lets foreigners serve in Ukrainian army, 06.10.2015

Foreign citizens are to be permitted to become contract soldiers in the Ukrainian army, according to a legal amendments passed by the Ukrainian parliament on Oct. 6.

<http://www.kyivpost.com/content/ukraine/rada-lets-foreigners-serve-in-ukrainian-army-399418.html>

New-style police launch infographics released in Ukraine, 07.10.2015

According to the infographics, the brand new patrol police already work in four big cities: Kyiv, Odesa, Lviv, and Kharkiv. Lutsk, Dnipropetrovsk, Khmelnytskyi, Ivano-Frankivsk, Vinnytsia, and Chernihiv police work in test mode. In addition, recruiting to the police is under way in Kherson, Cherkasy, Kremenchuk, Poltava, Sloviansk, Kramatorsk, Zhytomyr, Chernivtsi, Rivne, Boryspil.

<http://www.unian.info/society/1145356-new-style-police-launch-infographics-released-in-ukraine.html>

Poroshenko, Lagarde coordinated position for meeting conditions for IMF next tranche, 07.10.2015

President of Ukraine Petro Poroshenko has held a telephone conversation with Managing Director of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) Christine Lagarde.

"The two officials have coordinated their positions for the fulfillment of the conditions for the next tranche of the IMF," the Ukrainian president's press service reported on Tuesday night. During the conversation, Poroshenko noted the importance of the cancelation of the pseudo-elections on the territory of Donbas for the stabilization of the economic situation.

<http://en.interfax.com.ua/news/general/294885.html>

Kyiv, Berlin agree to establish Ukrainian-German Chamber of Commerce, 08.10.2015

Ukraine and Germany have signed an agreement on the establishment of the Ukrainian-German Chamber of Commerce, President of the Berlin Chamber of Commerce Eric Schweitzer said at the opening of the Ukrainian-German business forum in Berlin.

<http://www.kyivpost.com/content/ukraine/kyiv-berlin-agree-to-establish-ukrainian-german-chamber-of-commerce-400494.html>

RADA FORMALIZES BUDGET FUNDING OF POLITICAL PARTIES, 08.10.2015

The State will finance statutory activity of political parties, which is not related to elections, and compensate for the electoral campaign in regular and snap parliament elections. Annual volume of financing is calculated by multiplying two-hundredths of minimal wage as of January 1 of the year before the allocation of funds by the total number of voters in previous elections within the state multi-mandate constituency.

Funding shall only be provided to parties which gained over 3% of votes within the state constituency in previous elections.

<http://x-news.com.ua/rada-formalizes-budget-funding-of-political-parties-76403/>

Ukrzaliznytsia's incorporation to be fully completed by year's end, 09.10.2015

The process of Ukrzaliznytsia's incorporation and formation of a new joint-stock company on its basis is to be fully completed by the end of 2015, Infrastructure Minister Andriy Pyvovarsky said during a government Q&A session in parliament. "On September 2, 2015, we took the decision [to create a PJSC on the basis of Ukrzaliznytsia]. And if there is no bureaucracy, we'll be able to proceed with the incorporation in the first week of November and create the PJSC. And all assets will be transferred [to it] by the end of 2015, so that the new entity could start working as of January 1, 2016," he told lawmakers.

<http://ukrainianwall.com/english-news/ukrzaliznytsias-incorporation-to-be-fully-completed-by-years-end/>

SBU prevented attempt on Interior Minister Avakov, 11.10.2015

SBU together with the Chief Military Prosecutor's Office prevented a possible assassination of Ukraine's Interior Minister as well as several other assassinations in Kyiv and Kharkiv. The report reads: "As a result of a special operation, law enforcers exposed a criminal group preparing assassinations of top police officials, an MP, businessmen and volunteers. Group's co-organizer, commander of Slobozhanshchina battalion was detained today in Kharkiv. Investigations within a criminal proceeding opened under Article 115 of the Criminal Code of Ukraine are underway, with searches being conducted at suspect's apartment and other locations."

http://en.censor.net.ua/news/351595/sbu_prevented_attempt_on_interior_minister_avakov

Ukrenergo continues electricity supplies to Crimea, 12.10.2015

"As of October 12, power supply to Crimea is carried out through 330 kW Kakhovka-Dzhankoy and 220 kW Kakhovka-Tytan power transmission lines," the report says.

"At the moment, power supply to Crimea is at 650 MW, which is 200 MW below the demand," the company said. According to Ukrenergo, a 330 kW Kakhovka-Dzhankoy power transmission line was urgently put into operation due to the repair of Melitopol-Dzhankoy power transmission line because of a damaged power line's tower. "The reconstruction of the line has been suspended. It has been carried out due to construction of a 330 kW Kakhovka switching station, needed to maximize capacity of Zaporizhia nuclear power plant," the report reads.

http://www.fm-tv.kiev.ua/main_news/66715/view/

Ukrenergo repairs damaged power line to Crimea, 13.10.2015

"In the evening on October 12, a 330 kW Melitopol-Dzhankoy power transmission line was repaired. At 06:08 on October 13, the line was put into operation," the report says. The repair of this line allowed to resume the reconstruction of another Kakhovka-Dzhankoy power transmission line, which will last until 19:00 on October 18. "After that, power supply to Crimea will be carried out according to a regular scheme," Ukrenergo said.

<http://ukrnews.today/ukrenergo-repairs-damaged-power-line-to-crimea/>

PGO: No proof yet of Russian trace in shooting of Maidan's Heavenly Hundred, 16.10.2015

"If you remember, former SBU Chief Valentyn Nalyvaichenko said that a Russian official arrived in Kyiv in winter 2014 and ordered the law enforcers to shoot at protesters. I asked Nalyvaichenko to provide at least some documents proving it. We don't have them until now. That's why, I have no proof that there is a Russian trace in the shooting of the Heavenly Hundred Heroes. It is impossible to make such a conclusion on the basis of the materials, which we have now. Not because we cannot or do not want to prove it, we just have no reason to talk about it now," Shokin said.

<http://www.unian.info/society/1154328-pgo-no-proof-yet-of-russian-trace-in-shooting-of-maidans-heavenly-hundred.html>

<http://www.businessnewsworld.com/news/exsbu-chief-speaks-of-russian-trace-in-maidan-massacre.html>

Creating new Ukrainian Army, 16.10.2015

Over the past one and a half years not only have Ukraine's Armed Forces changed fundamentally, but also the country's entire security and defense sectors, experts say. However, they believe that, unfortunately, not all the problems were solved, to give birth to a brand new army. Ex-deputy chief of the General Staff, Lieutenant General Ihor Romanenko, says that one of the major problems yet to be solved is military funding. "If the government's priority is to fight for the interests of the people and the state in the war, how come financing the Armed Forces is not a top priority? I welcome the creation of a brand new patrol police, but if they earn UAH 8,000, while the mobilized soldiers and contractors on the contact line [in Donbas] get somewhere between UAH 5,000-6,000 thousand, and in ATO – just UAH 2,500-3,000. In my opinion, this approach is wrong," he said.

<http://www.unian.info/society/1153872-creating-new-ukrainian-army.html>

Government approves Naftogaz corporate governance plan, 17.10.2015

Kobolev stressed that the adoption of such plan was a strategically important step in reforming the company, because, in the medium term, it would allow the state holding to attract loans from the European Bank of Reconstruction and Development in the amount of \$300 million, as well as \$500 million in loan funds from the World Bank. In addition, according to Kobolev, this plan will help establish a broader Supervisory Board of the NJSC Naftogaz Ukrainy, which may include representatives from international financial organizations. In addition, Kobolev noted the adoption of the plan was one of the steps to reform Naftogaz, the process that started back in 2014 with the reform principles set forth in the coalition agreement, when the members of parliament declared they were ready to implement new principles of corporate governance in the whole public sector.

<http://ukrnews.today/government-approves-naftogaz-corporate-governance-plan/>

Moscow requests talks on commercial flights, Ukraine agrees, 19.10.2015

Ministry of Infrastructure of Ukraine is ready to negotiate with Russia's Federal Air Transport Agency on commercial flights between the two countries, according to Infrastructure Minister Andriy Pyvovarsky. "State Aviation Service received a letter from the Federal Air Transport Agency with proposals to negotiate. The Ministry of Infrastructure and the State Aviation Service are ready for this. The Ukrainian delegation will later announce time and venue," Pyvovarsky wrote.

<http://ukrainianlaw.blogspot.com/2015/10/moscow-requests-talks-on-commercial.html>

Ukraine raises power rates for occupied Crimea by 15%, 20.10.2015

"We increased [the rates] to RUB 3.95 per kWh last month," Demchyshyn told reporters on Tuesday. In his words, Crimea consumes about 1 GW of electricity during peak hours, and a halt to power supplies from mainland Ukraine to the peninsula would be inexpedient. "Probably you've seen that campaign for termination of the power supply to Crimea. Of course, this is a political matter. It seems to me maybe it's not that right to halt electricity supplies now," the minister said.

http://www.fm-tv.kiev.ua/main_news/67027/view/

<http://www.unian.info/economics/1158132-electricity-supplies-to-crimea-interrupted-ukrenergo.html>

<http://en.interfax.com.ua/news/economic/297511.html>

Ukrainian Parliament holds roundtable entitled "Openness of authorities through access to public information", 20.10.2015

The participants of the roundtable drew attention to the fact that the legislative background in this field was ensured by the Law of Ukraine "On access to public information," which was adopted on January 13 and further enacted on May 9, 2011.

"The law has reformed the relations between the citizens and state authorities," the participants of the roundtable noted. The legislative framework of the access to information administered by the state structures has revealed both positive and negative aspects during 4.5 years of its existence. The absolute advantage of the legal framework of Ukraine as against the ones in all other countries was called the term of fulfillment of the request within five working days. At the same time, this term is much longer in other countries (for instance, in Britain it takes 20 days). The participants paid attention that in some EU countries officials even ignored the law at the local level. They took in account the statistics, according to which today Ukraine is placed the 19th in the world from the standpoint of openness and transparency of governmental structures.

<http://portal.rada.gov.ua/en/news/News/117438.html>

Ukraine to raise issue of legitimacy of Russian sanctions against Ukrainian airlines in possible consultations, 20.10.2015

The time and place of a meeting of representatives of the Federal Air Transport Agency of Russia (Rosaviatsiya) and the State Aviation Service of Ukraine for consultations on air transportation between the countries hasn't been set, Ukrainian Minister of Infrastructure Andriy Pyvovarsky has said. "We are still discussing the subject of this meeting, we have a lot of questions as to why air service was closed for Ukrainian airlines that did not violate Ukrainian laws, did not violate the bilateral agreement [with Russia], and why transit over Russia is closed for Ukrainian companies. There are many questions we would like to ask," he said. Asked whether there are plans to increase the number of trains between the two countries, Pyvovarsky said "today we do not see an increase in the demand for rail service."

<http://en.interfax.com.ua/news/economic/297517.html>

<http://www.unian.info/economics/1167907-ukraine-has-no-plans-to-resume-talks-with-russia-on-lifting-air-traffic-ban.html>

Fully reformed Ukrainian judicial system will lack 8,000 judges – presidential administration, 20.10.2015

Regardless of how the judicial system is reformed, either by the recertification or reappointment of judges, a significant number of the judiciary will consist of former staff, deputy head of the presidential administration Oleksiy Filatov has said. "I personally believe that there is no critical difference between the two proposals [on how to upgrade the judiciary]. The result will be the same," Filatov said at the forum "Respectable and Apolitical Themis through Constitutional Changes" in Kyiv. He said that if the judicial system is fully reformed there will be a shortage of almost 8,000 new judges. "If we pass certification or dismiss the existing [judges] and appoint new judges, we'll obtain the same result. The major part of the judiciary will consist of the same judges who work now," Filatov said.

<http://en.interfax.com.ua/news/general/297510.html>

Ukraine plans to pull out nuclear fuel plant project with Russia, 20.10.2015

Ukrainian Energy and Coal Industry Minister Volodymyr Demchyshyn said. "We will break off [relations], they are not honoring their commitments [for the third and fourth units of the Khmelnytsky NPP] either," he told reporters in Kyiv on Tuesday. Demchyshyn said earlier that the agreement with Russia on the construction of the nuclear fuel plant was of no real importance and could be severed. Ukraine is not satisfied with a number of conditions in the contract between the state Nuclear Fuel concern and Russia's TVEL to produce nuclear fuel, Ukrainian Deputy Energy and Coal Industry Minister Vadym Ulyda said in July 2014. "We have questions about the contract on the format of interaction, license terms. We raised these questions and are waiting for an answer," he said at the time.

<http://en.interfax.com.ua/news/economic/297453.html>

SBU tells Poroshenko about Russian trace in case on blast near SBU building in Odesa, 20.10.2015

Head of the Security Service of Ukraine Vasyl Hrytsak has reported to Ukraine's President Petro Poroshenko about "a Russian trace" in the case on the explosion near the building of the SBU branch in Odesa.

<http://www.kyivpost.com/content/ukraine/sbu-tells-poroshenko-about-russian-trace-in-case-on-blast-near-sbu-building-in-odesa-400300.html>

Poroshenko urges govt, parliament to accelerate fulfilment of action plan on EU visa free regime, 20.10.2015

He said that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine should provide the EU with all the necessary information on the fulfillment of this plan by November 9. He also urged the government and parliament to ensure the implementation of the commitments undertaken by Ukraine on visa liberalization. Poroshenko said the EU expert mission has concluded that Ukraine has successfully fulfilled all the criteria of the second phase of the visa liberalization action plan, specifically on border governance, document security, migration and asylum, and combating money laundering and the financing of terrorism. Poroshenko emphasized the importance of completing the stipulations of the action plan as the recommendations of the European Commission are still unfulfilled, specifically in combating corruption and organized crime, discrimination issues, and amendments to the Labor Code.

<http://en.interfax.com.ua/news/general/297379.html>

Ukraine's security service continues searching for Ukrainian MIAs, 20.10.2015

Yuri Tandyt, SBU chief advisor, said: "The priority for us is to find 800 troops who are missing in action, it is also very important for us. We will not end our campaign unless we find each one of them. And if we find them killed, they must be buried according to our Christian traditions, we must bring them to their families." Tandyt said that the bodies of 400 Ukrainian fighters are now on the militant-controlled territories. He also said that 148 Ukrainians are still imprisoned by the Russian-backed militants, adding that "the Kremlin uses them as political hostages."

<http://uatoday.tv/news/ukraine-s-security-service-continues-searching-for-ukrainian-mias-516511.html>

PGO prevents illegal release of Ukrainian ex-finance minister Kolobov in Spain, 20.10.2015

The PGO press service reported on Monday that it became known from a letter of the Ukrainian Interpol bureau sent to the PGO that a request to receive additional information on Kolobov was received from authorized agencies in Spain. "A copy of the letter that allegedly was signed by Deputy Prosecutor General of Ukraine Yuriy Stoliarchuk was added to the request. The letter says that Kolobov has the status of a witness, and is not suspected in the criminal case opened against him. The authorized agencies in Spain said that the letter was presented by Kolobov's defenders," the PGO said. The press service said that the letter was not drawn up by PGO and the letter is a fake. The legal defense team of Kolobov had planned to secure the release of the former minister on bail on the basis of the fake letter.

<http://en.interfax.com.ua/news/general/297352.html>

SAKVARELIDZE: INVESTIGATORS DISCOVER NEW ILLEGAL ACTIVITIES OF «DIAMOND» PROSECUTOR, 21.10.2015

"Illegal business protection scheme that we have discovered and the extortion of money from members of a company involved in extraction of sand was only a "tip of the iceberg." During the pre-trial investigation it was established that the scale and range of illegal activities of one of the defendants in the case is much wider than initially expected," Sakvarelidze wrote. After familiarization with materials of the criminal proceedings, the investigators will conduct a series of re-cross examination, taking into account new facts, in order to better understand the defense position.

<http://x-news.com.ua/sakvarelidze-investigators-discover-new-illegal-activities-of-diamond-prosecutor-81745/>

Anti-terrorist center under Security Service of Ukraine reports, 21.10.2015

The investigators of the SSU Office in Zaporizhzhia region commenced a criminal proceeding under Part 1 Article 110 of the Criminal Code of Ukraine (trespass against territorial integrity and inviolability of Ukraine). On April 15, 2014, the SSU officers in cooperation with the Berdiansk border guard detachment of the State Border Guard Service apprehended four citizens caught in a train Feodosiia-Dnipropetrovsk on a railway station Melitopol in Zaporizhzhia region. In the course of their personal search, UAH 1,880 million divided equally between them was found. According to the detainees, this money was intended to finance pro-Russian protests in Dnipropetrovsk. Presently, the investigators are establishing the recipients and origins of money as well as persons engaged in organizing of channel for illegal financing of unlawful actions. Seized money was recognized as material evidence within the mentioned criminal proceeding.

http://www.sbu.gov.ua/sbu/control/en/publish/article.jsessionid=232AB328EE56A3D287ADB09455A38819.app1?art_id=124395&cat_id=124353

Flights Between Ukraine And Russia To Be Banned Despite Negotiations, 23.10.2015

Flights between Ukraine and Russia will be banned starting this weekend despite a last-ditch effort by senior Russian officials, according to Ukraine's infrastructure minister. "From October 25 there will not be air traffic with Russian cities," Minister Andrei Pivovarsky told reporters, according to Russian state news agency TASS. Russian and Ukrainian officials met on Friday in Brussels as part of a Russian-led effort to prevent the Ukrainian-initiated plans to ban flights between the countries. Russian Transportation Minister Maxim Sokolov told reporters that his country would continue to push for the bans to be removed. Ukraine announced late last month that it would ban flights from Russia starting on October 25. Russia quickly retaliated with a tit-for-tat ban that would go into effect on the same day.

http://www.morningstar.co.uk/uk/news/AN_1445621301570235700/flights-between-ukraine-and-russia-to-be-banned-despite-negotiations.aspx

Polling day begins; Ukraine electing local legislatures this Sunday, 25.10.2015

The polling stations opened at 08:00 and will close at 20:00 local time. Simultaneously with the scheduled nationwide local elections, the Central Election Commission appointed the first election of members of village and town councils and village and town heads of 159 united territorial communities in Ukraine, recently created under the law of Ukraine on the voluntary merger of territorial communities. The Central Election Commission formed 640 territorial election commissions – regional, district, city and municipal district commissions, which are engaged in preparing and handling the local elections in Ukraine. The Central Election Commission reported that Ukrainians will cast their votes for members of 10,778 local councils, including 9,127 village councils.

The Ukrainian government has allocated UAH 1.2 billion for the local elections.

A total of 132 political parties announced their participation in these elections.

<http://www.unian.info/politics/1162764-polling-day-begins-ukraine-electing-local-legislatures-this-sunday.html>

The Donetsk regional administration said the cancellation of elections in Mariupol, 25.10.2015

Ukrainian media reported that polling stations in Mariupol is not opened, because the parcels were not brought bulletins. According to Local authorities, stations opened, but not started because of lack of ballots. "in Mariupol was opened 213 polling stations, could not begin its work only a portion? 205. Mariupol city election Commission received a ballot from the printer and, accordingly, are not transferred to the precinct election commissions ballot papers that do not have the ability to be used during local elections on 25 October 2015. So, the next Local elections in Mariupol cancelled ", - said in the report. It is also noted that the electoral Commission decided not to hold elections in Krasnoarmeysk. The head of the Central election Commission of Ukraine Mykhailo Okhendovsky believes that there is every reason for Local elections in Krasnoarmeysk, Donetsk region on Sunday took place.

<http://news.rin.ru/eng/news//135181/>

Official info on voter turnout in local elections released, 25.10.2015

The voter turnout in the local elections that took place on October 25 totaled 46.62%.

The data were published on the CEC website. Leaders in the voter participation were the Ternopil (56.50%) and Lviv regions (56.31%). More than half of voters came to the polling stations also in the Volyn, Vinnytsia, Ivano-Frankivsk, Rivne and Khmelnytsky regions. In the capital of Kyiv, 41.87% of voters cast their votes. The lowest voter participation, as it was expected, was recorded in the Donetsk (31.65%) and Luhansk (35.27%) regions.

<http://www.ukrinform.net/rubric-ukrnews/1903675-ukraine-central-election-commission-releases-official-voter-participation-rate.html>

http://en.censor.net.ua/news/358205/kyiv_territorial_election_commission_processed_12_of_bulletins_klitschko_wins_372_omelchenko_1076_husovskiy

http://en.censor.net.ua/news/358240/preliminary_results_of_lviv_mayoral_election_sadovyi_wins_4922_koshulynskiy_1229_second_round_is_expected

http://en.censor.net.ua/news/358316/kyiv_territorial_election_commission_processed_25_of_ballots_klitschko_wins_3965_bereza_104_omelchenko

Human rights defenders submit communication on war crimes in Donbas to the ICC, 26.10.2015

An IPHR delegation present in The Hague handed over the communication together with a unique compilation of over 300 first-hand testimonies from victims and witnesses to representatives of the ICC's situation analysis section on Ukraine. The IPHR communication was submitted as part of a project aimed at fighting impunity for serious violations perpetrated during the ongoing armed conflict in southeast Ukraine. At the meeting with the ICC representatives, IPHR Project Coordinator and Advocacy Officer Simon Papuashvili explained that a total of 32 missions have been carried out as part of this project and over 300 victim and witness statements compiled. He said that for each case and episode reported, contextual information, details of the alleged crime and information on the possible perpetrators have been included. He noted that while crimes committed by both sides of the conflict have been documented, the collected evidence primarily concerns crimes committed by separatists because of security issues related to accessing separatists-controlled territories of Ukraine.

http://en.censor.net.ua/news/357934/human_rights_defenders_submit_communication_on_war_crimes_in_donbas_to_the_icc

SBU reveals arms cache in Luhansk region, 28.10.2015

The law enforcement officers seized 19 missiles of 122mm caliber, two missiles for D-30 122mm howitzer, and a unified fuse for hand grenade modernized for instant response.

According to experts, the ammunition was designed to destroy a bridge, or a ferry, or to install a powerful booby-trap (landmine).

<http://ukrainianwall.com/english-news/sbu-reveals-arms-cache-in-luhansk-region/>

President had a phone conversation with Federal Chancellor of Germany, 28.10.2015

The parties noted democratic and transparent character of local elections of October 25 in Ukraine, which has been confirmed by international observers. Petro Poroshenko informed Angela Merkel on the developments in Donbas. The parties underlined the necessity of full implementation of the Minsk agreements by Russia. The interlocutors also highlighted the need for using the "window of opportunities", which has been opened due to the ceasefire in Donbas. Petro Poroshenko and Angela Merkel discussed the progress of reforms in Ukraine, particularly judicial reform, decentralization and struggle against corruption. The leaders confirmed that they would make every effort to ensure Ukraine's successful fulfillment of criteria required for the provision of visa-free regime for Ukrainian citizens.

<http://www.president.gov.ua/en/news/prezident-proviv-telefonnu-rozmovu-z-federalnim-kanclerom-ni-36222>

SBU reveals fake web portal "Register for permits to move in ATO zone", 29.10.2015

"Fake portal is located at 0s.ovzha.xxxxxxxxxx.erenta.ru. A reference to it is being actively shared in Russian social networks and positioned as a proven possibility to obtain permits to cross the demarcation line. The domain name is registered by a Russian company, the displaying of the portal in the network is also provided by Russian resources," the report says. The security officers recorded a theft of citizens' personal data, which are entered into web forms of the fake web portal. According to operational information, Russian security services and experts hired by them are involved in the creation of the resource, the SBU said.

<http://www.unian.info/society/1167769-sbu-reveals-fake-web-portal-register-for-permits-to-move-in-ato-zone.html>

Nine Ukrainian heroes released from captivity, - Poroshenko, 29.10.2015

Terrorists have released nine Ukrainian soldiers. This was announced by President of Ukraine Petro Poroshenko. "Friends, I've got good news - nine Ukrainian Heroes have been released from captivity today. Glory to Ukraine!" he wrote.

http://en.censor.net.ua/news/358361/nine_ukrainian_heroes_released_from_captivity_poroshenko

SBU, PGO on a large-scale raid in Dnipropetrovsk, over 500 officers involved, 31.10.2015

Ukraine's Security Service and the Prosecutor General's Office are conducting 'a large-scale special operation in Dnepropetrovsk,' involves more than 500 officers, according to SBU press secretary Olena Gitlyanska.

<https://www.kyivpost.com/content/ukraine/unian-sbu-pgo-on-a-large-scale-raid-in-dnipropetrovsk-over-500-officers-involved-401081.html>

Head of UKROP party detained on kidnapping suspicions; his allies outraged, 31.10.2015

Gennady Korban, Dnipropetrovsk businessman and head of the recently founded UKROP party, was detained in Dnipropetrovsk by the Security Service of Ukraine (SBU) on the morning of Oct. 31. The offices and homes of his associates were searched. SBU and Prosecutor General's Office confirmed they were conducting a large-scale joint operation against an organized crime group in Dnipropetrovsk. "There is no political component in this case," SBU prosecutor Vladyslav Kutsenko said at a briefing in Kyiv on Oct. 31. "We don't care which political party the suspects represent." UKROP has called the arrest and the searches an act of "political repression."

<http://www.kyivpost.com/content/ukraine/ukrop-party-claims-its-head-korban-detained-by-sbu-401057.html>

<http://uatoday.tv/news/ukrop-to-appeal-to-echr-regarding-korban-s-detention-524933.html>

<http://www.unian.info/politics/1170249-hrytsenko-on-korbans-arrest-this-is-no-justice-this-is-selectivity.html>

<http://en.interfax.com.ua/news/general/300770.html>

Terrorism / Separatism

Two Ukrainian soldiers wounded in Donbas conflict zone in last day, 01.10.2015

"Over the last day, we haven't lost any Ukrainian soldiers, but two were injured as a result of stepping on a landmine," Lysenko said. The combined Russian-separatist forces attacked Ukrainian army positions in eastern Ukraine twice overnight, he said.

<http://www.unian.info/war/1139749-two-ukrainian-soldiers-wounded-in-donbas-conflict-zone-in-last-day.html>

OSCE says spots deadly Russian rocket system in Ukraine for first time, 02.10.2015

Oct 2 International monitors say they have spotted a new kind of Russian weapons system in rebel-held Ukraine this week, possible evidence of Moscow's continued interest in Ukraine even as it focuses on Syria. The Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe, which is monitoring a ceasefire in eastern Ukraine, reported that its monitors had seen a mobile TOS-1 'Buratino' weapons system for the first time. The Buratino is equipped with thermobaric warheads which spread a flammable liquid around a target and then ignite it. It can destroy several city blocks in one strike and cause indiscriminate damage. Only Russia produces the system and it was not exported to Ukraine before the conflict broke out, according to IHS Jane's Group and the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute, which track arms exports.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2015/10/02/ukraine-crisis-russia-idUSL5N1213U920151002>

First calm 24 hrs in Donbas in last few weeks, 02.10.2015

For the first time in the last few weeks, the situation in the Donbas conflict was absolutely calm as the combined Russian-separatist forces didn't attack Ukrainian army positions and complied with the ceasefire, the press center of the Anti-Terrorist Operation (ATO) wrote on Friday.

<http://www.financeneWScoverage.com/news/first-calm-24-hrs-in-donbas-in-last-few-weeks.html>

Latest from OSCE Special Monitoring Mission (SMM) to Ukraine, 02.10.2015

The SMM monitored the implementation of the "Package of measures for the implementation of the Minsk agreements". Its monitoring was restricted by the parties and security considerations*. The situation in Donetsk and Luhansk remained generally calm, but the SMM heard some explosions and small-arms fire. Both Ukrainian Armed Forces and the "LPR" provided the SMM with some baseline information as required under the Addendum to the Package of measures. In accordance with the provisions of the Addendum to the "Package of measures for the implementation of the Minsk agreements", the SMM received on 1 October from the Ukrainian Armed Forces the co-ordinates of some permanent weapons storage sites. The "Lugansk People's Republic" ("LPR") provided the SMM with a weapons withdrawal schedule, the co-ordinates of some permanent storage sites, and the inventory list indicating the amount of tanks it intends to withdraw, including their types and serial numbers.

<http://www.osce.org/ukraine-smm/189266>

ATO Headquarters: Absolutely calm 24 hrs in Donbas, 03.10.2015

"The last day was absolutely calm in the Donbas conflict zone. The militants did not violate the ceasefire. From midnight to 06:00 on October 3, the Kremlin-backed mercenaries were not using weapons along the demarcation line. At the moment, the ATO forces remain at certain positions. Additional equipment of the defense line is underway," the report says. At the same time, according to the ATO headquarters, people from the temporarily occupied territories are dissatisfied by the actions of the self-proclaimed republics. In particular, the residents of Luhansk region are angered by a 6% tax, which the customers of Ukrainian banks are required to pay when withdrawing cash in the self-proclaimed Luhansk People's Republic terrorist organization, the ATO press service said.

<http://www.unian.info/war/1141732-ato-headquarters-absolutely-calm-24-hrs-in-donbas.html>

Ukraine begins withdrawal of small-caliber weapons from Donbas, 03.10.2015

Ukraine will begin the withdrawal of military equipment and small-caliber weapons from the demarcation line in the Donbas conflict zone in the afternoon on Saturday, presidential administration spokesman for the Anti-Terrorist Operation Colonel Andriy Lysenko said.

<http://www.kyivpost.com/content/ukraine/unian-ukraine-begins-withdrawal-of-small-caliber-weapons-from-donbas-399234.html>

LPR withdraws light weapons, DPR to wait until October 18, 03.10.2015

"The withdrawal will take place after October 18, if it is quiet. The time should be established by the OSCE mission, which is the guarantor. It is the OSCE mission who says, whether there is peace or not. The process will start after the OSCE's statement and 48 hours after it," Basurin said. "A column of military vehicles has just begun moving to a new home station, which is located no less than 15 km away from the demarcation line," the report says.

<http://www.unian.info/war/1141837-lpr-withdraws-light-weapons-dpr-to-wait-until-october-18.html>

<http://tass.ru/en/world/826024>

<http://tass.ru/en/world/826056>

Light weapons withdrawal starts on October 5 in Luhansk region, 05.10.2015

Ukrainian troops in Luhansk region will start withdrawing weapons less than 100 mm this morning. That's according to military spokesmen, who made the announcement on October 5. Full withdrawal of weapons to at least 15 kilometers from the line of demarcation between Ukrainian government troops and Russian-led militants should be completed within 41 days, according to an agreement reached last week in Minsk, Belarus and later confirmed in Paris by the leaders of Ukraine, France, Germany and Russia.

<http://uatoday.tv/politics/weapons-pullback-begins-506509.html>

<http://en.interfax.com.ua/news/general/294366.html>

Donbas militants observing full ceasefire on Sunday, 04.10.2015

The enemy was observing a full ceasefire and did not open fire on Ukrainian positions in the ATO zone in Ukraine's east on Sunday, October 4, according to the ATO press center.

<http://www.technewscoverage.com/news/donbas-militants-observing-full-ceasefire-on-sunday.html>

Two Ukrainian soldiers killed, five wounded in landmine blast in Donbas, 05.10.2015

Two Ukrainian soldiers were killed and another five were wounded in a landmine blast on Sunday evening while patrolling their sector in the Donbas conflict zone, representative of the Donbas Battalion Yevhen Shevchenko said.

<http://uatoday.tv/news/two-ukrainian-soldiers-killed-five-wounded-in-landmine-blast-in-donbas-506800.html>

Russian proxies attack Ukrainian troops once overnight, 05.10.2015

"The situation in the Donbas conflict zone was calm in the last day as the Russian proxies were virtually observing the ceasefire. At 10:45 Kyiv time on Sunday, the militants located two kilometers from the village of Hranitne in the Mariupol sector started firing in the direction of the demarcation line, using an automatic grenade launcher," the report says. "The fact that the militants did not shell Ukrainian positions and civilians in populated settlements allowed [the Ukrainian side] to successfully implement social and humanitarian projects," the headquarters says. For example, the reconstruction of the water supply and repair to main roads have begun in the village of Berdianske with the assistance of civil-military cooperation groups of the Armed Forces of Ukraine.

<http://www.unian.info/war/1142589-russian-proxies-attack-ukrainian-troops-once-overnight.html>

Ukraine continues tanks withdrawal in Luhansk region territories under its control, 06.10.2015

"In fulfillment of our liabilities under the peace deal, we continue to withdraw tanks from the frontline positions in the Luhansk region to dedicated areas at a distance at least 15 kilometers off the line of engagement," the press service said on its Facebook account.

Apart from that, the press service reported about continued demining works. Ukrainian forces plan to complete tanks withdrawal in the Luhansk region on Tuesday. "It is known that most of T-64 and T-72 tanks have left the frontline. This stage is expected to be completed today. Then the next stage will begin, namely the withdrawal of D-48 and D-44 antitank guns with 85mm caliber and 82mm mortars," Ruslan Tkachuk, a spokesman for the operation, said.

<http://tass.ru/en/world/826688>

http://www.fm-tv.kiev.ua/main_news/66514/view/

LPR militants simulate tanks withdrawal, masking them in forests, 06.10.2015

"The combined Russian-separatist troops deployed to the north of the city of Luhansk are deliberately trying to demonstrate they have been pulling back their military hardware. The withdrawal of three to five tanks in groups in every sector near the town of Schastia, the villages of Stanytsia Luhanska, Vesela Hora, Slovianoserbsk, and Zholobok has been observed, while about 10-15 tanks still remain on the same sites, and the hardware has been masked, being hidden mostly in forest belts," the report says.

<http://www.unian.info/war/1143943-lpr-militants-simulate-tank-withdrawal-masking-them-in-forests.html>

<http://www.unian.info/war/1147711-osce-to-continue-verification-of-ukrainian-tanks-pullback-in-donbas.html>

"DPR" AND "LPR" MILITANTS RESCHEDULE PSEUDO-ELECTIONS IN DONBAS, PUT FORWARD DEMANDS, 06.10.2015

The self-proclaimed leaders of the militants from the so-called Donetsk and Luhansk People's Republics announced the postponement of the local pseudo-elections in Donbas, according to a pro-separatist website citing a statement by Denis Pushylin and Vladislav Dainiy.

<http://www.museion.blue/2015/10/06/dpr-and-lpr-militants-reschedule-pseudo-elections-in-donbas-put-forward-demands/>

<http://www.unian.info/politics/1148983-dpr-pseudo-elections-to-be-held-in-march-2016.html>

Non-combat death toll in Ukrainian army hits 597 men since early 2014, 07.10.2015

The number includes 171 soldiers who committed suicide and 137 accident victims, while 64 were killed by other soldiers, 26 were killed by civilians, 112 died in road accidents. A total of 87 people died because of the violation of safety rules, 66 of them lost their life while improperly handling weapons and ammunition.

http://www.fm-tv.kiev.ua/main_news/66515/view/

SBU source: 153 Ukrainians still held captive by Russian proxies, 07.10.2015

As of today, 153 Ukrainians, including civilians, are being held captive by the combined Russian-separatist forces, according to Yuriy Tandyt, who is an adviser to the chief of the SBU.
<http://www.unian.info/society/1145269-sbu-source-153-ukrainians-still-held-captive-by-russian-proxies.html>

Four Ukrainian soldiers wounded in militant attack, 08.10.2015

"At 12:25 Kyiv time, militants shot anti-tank guided missile on the Ukrainian outpost near the village of Troitske. As a result, four of our servicemen were wounded," ATO press center wrote.
<http://uatoday.tv/news/four-ukrainian-soldiers-wounded-in-militant-attack-509098.html>

Ukrainian army to begin withdrawing 85mm artillery from contact line in Luhansk region, 09.10.2015

Units of the Ukrainian Armed Forces are preparing to pull 85mm-artillery weapons back from the contact line in the Luhansk region, the press center of the Ukrainian army reported.
<http://www.kyivpost.com/content/ukraine/ukrainian-army-to-begin-withdrawing-85mm-artillery-from-contact-line-in-luhansk-region-on-oct-10-399688.html>

Two Ukrainian soldiers wounded in Donbas conflict zone in last day, 09.10.2015

"Over the last day, we haven't lost any Ukrainian soldiers, but two were injured as a result of stepping on a landmine in Yasynuvata district of Donetsk region and near the village of Stanytsia Luhanska," presidential administration ATO spokesman Colonel Andriy Lysenko said.
<http://uatoday.tv/politics/two-ukrainian-soldiers-wounded-in-donbas-conflict-zone-in-last-day-510184.html>

Absolutely calm 24 hrs in Donbas, 10.10.2015

"The combined Russian-separatist forces didn't attack Ukrainian army positions and complied with the ceasefire. There were no cases of opening fire near the demarcation line," the report says. It is noted that, using the ceasefire, the ATO forces are carrying out fortification work on the defense lines and help the residents of Donbas to restore the region. "Every day, in every direction, the groups of officers of civil-military cooperation study the urgent problems of the population, involve means of volunteers, international charitable organizations, and public funding to rebuild infrastructure," the press center said.
<http://www.unian.info/war/1148922-absolutely-calm-24-hrs-in-donbas.html>

Militants change tactics in Donbas, 11.10.2015

"Criminals do not deliberately shell Ukrainian outposts, but they open fire from the temporarily occupied territories in the direction of the Ukrainian positions. After unsuccessful attempts to draw the ATO forces into hostilities militants accuse Ukrainian military in violating peace agreements," the press service of the ATO reported.
<http://www.unian.info/war/1149297-militants-change-tactics-in-donbas.html>

Latest from OSCE Special Monitoring Mission (SMM) to Ukraine, 12.10.2015

The SMM monitored the implementation of the "Package of measures for the implementation of the Minsk agreements", including the Addendum to the Package. Its monitoring was restricted by the parties and security considerations*. The SMM visited Ukrainian Armed Forces storage sites to verify weapons withdrawn as foreseen in the Addendum to the Package. The SMM revisited three Ukrainian Armed Forces and one "DPR" heavy weapons holding areas. The SMM followed up on a shelling incident in "DPR"-controlled Vesele. On 10 October, the SMM noted a number of explosions at and around the "DPR"-controlled Donetsk airport (8km north-west of Donetsk). At 14:55hrs[1] at the Joint Centre for Control and Co-ordination (JCCC) observation post at the "Donetsk People's Republic" ("DPR")-controlled Donetsk railway station (8km north-west of Donetsk city centre), the SMM heard an explosion to the north, at least 3km away. The SMM could not ascertain the type of weapon or whether the fire was incoming or outgoing (see SMM Spot Report 10 October 2015). According to a Russian Federation representative to the JCCC and a "DPR" member there had been a shelling incident involving casualties in "DPR"-controlled Vesele (9km north-west of Donetsk city centre) close to Donetsk airport.
<http://www.osce.org/ukraine-smm/191731>

Russian proxies resort to several armed provocations overnight, 12.10.2015

"At 22:55 Kyiv time, the mercenaries started firing on our positions near the village of Shyrokyne. At 00:35 and 00:37, they started firing small arms on our positions near the village of Novotroitske," the report says. Adhering to the Minsk agreements, the Ukrainian Armed Forces didn't return fire, the headquarters said.

<http://www.unian.info/war/1149739-russian-proxies-resort-to-several-armed-provocations-overnight.html>

Militants violate ceasefire, causing casualties among Ukrainian servicemen, 14.10.2015

However, shortly before the militants were not only using provocations but actually had fired at Ukrainian positions using under-barrel and automatic grenade launchers south of Avdiyivka, according to the report. "One Ukrainian soldier was killed and another two were wounded. The Ukrainian side immediately reported the incident to the OSCE Special Monitoring Mission and Joint Control and Coordination Center," the statement reads.

<http://www.unian.info/war/1152133-militants-violate-ceasefire-causing-casualties-among-ukrainian-servicemen.html>

Silence in 24 hrs in Donbas, ATO forces preparing military hardware for winter, 16.10.2015

THE SITUATION WAS CALM IN THE DONBAS CONFLICT ZONE OVERNIGHT, WHICH ENABLED THE UKRAINIAN MILITARY TO CONTINUE EQUIPPING THEIR POSITIONS AND PREPARE THE MILITARY HARDWARE FOR THE WINTER SEASON, THE PRESS CENTER OF THE ANTI-TERRORIST OPERATION (ATO) WROTE .

<http://ukrainianwall.com/english-news/silence-in-24-hrs-in-donbas-ato-forces-preparing-military-hardware-for-winter/>

Aerial reconnaissance spots Russian military equipment on border with occupied Crimea, 16.10.2015

It is noted that the aerial reconnaissance began patrolling the territory of the occupied peninsula. "Large numbers of equipment and weapons have been spotted. In particular, a system of trenches, mortar and shooting positions were discovered along Syvash Lake. At the checkpoint Dzhankoy there were spotted 23 units of military equipment and three helipads. In addition, 38 units of military equipment were discovered in Armyansk town," a statement reads.

<http://www.unian.info/war/1154943-air-intelligence-service-spots-russian-military-equipment-on-border-with-occupied-crimea.html>

Last night in ATO area was calm, 17.10.2015

It is reported that Ukrainian military have completed the first phase of weapons withdrawal as envisaged by the Minsk agreements. "Each movement of our military is closely monitored by representatives of the OSCE mission, which is tasked with verifying the withdrawal of weapons," the press center reports. "Many members of illegal armed groups, being aware of the inevitability of punishment for their actions, are trying to get rid of weapons and ammunition. They take them to forest plantations, landfills or simply dump in the sewers. Every day representatives of the "Interior Ministry" of the so-called Donetsk and Luhansk People's Republics discover boxes of ammunition, large numbers of automatic rifles, grenade launchers, thousands of cartridges, grenades and more," the press center notes in its statement.

<http://www.unian.info/war/1155121-last-night-in-ato-area-was-calm.html>

Boat capsizes in Odesa region, 14 dead, 18.10.2015

On October 17, at approximately 16:00 the Ivofga passenger boat capsized and sank in the Black Sea outside the resort of Zatoka. The rescue team consisting of the Administration of seaports, the Bilhorod-Dnistrovskiy seaport and the coast guard has found bodies of 14 victims as of early Sunday. 23 passengers were found alive. Local media reported that the sunken vessel had a private owner. According to various sources, at the time of the crash, the boat was overloaded carrying 32 to 39 passengers instead of 12 which was the boat's limit. It capsized due to a storm about a kilometer from the shore when returning to a port.

<http://www.unian.info/society/1155498-boat-capsizes-in-odesa-region-14-dead.html>

<http://www.kyivpost.com/content/ukraine-abroad/ukraine-today-odesa-capsized-boat-recovered-two-more-bodies-found-400264.html>

Russian-led militants violate ceasefire, two Ukrainian soldiers wounded, 18.10.2015

Two Ukrainian soldiers were wounded as a result of militants opening fire from small arms on Ukrainian positions near the villages of Pisky and Shyrokyne on October 17, according to Colonel Oleksandr Motuzianyk, President's envoy for ATO issues who spoke at a briefing on Sunday. Oleksandr Motuzianyk also said the Ukrainian border guards have recorded two enemy drones along the line of contact. Two border guards noticed the enemy's UAV on the administrative border between Kherson region and temporarily occupied territory of Crimea.

<http://uatoday.tv/politics/militants-violate-ceasefire-two-ukrainian-soldiers-wounded-515332.html>

Calm day in ATO, military preparing to relocate weapons, 19.10.2015

"Abiding by the Minsk agreements, the Ukrainian Armed Forces are completing preparation of weapons, which are to be withdrawn from the demarcation line at a distance of at least 15 km," the report says. The second phase will start tomorrow, and the pullback of weapons should be carried out simultaneously by both parties, the press center said. "We should wait until our enemy gets ready for the same actions," the press center added.

<http://www.unian.info/war/1155990-calm-day-in-ato-military-preparing-to-relocate-weapons.html>

Mariupol residential building attacked with grenade launcher, 19.10.2015

Law enforcement officers were reported to have found a used antitank grenade launcher on the scene and another one was found ready to fire. The building was damaged with no casualties. The ordnance was sent for further examination. "Details of the incident were included in the unified register of pre-trial investigations under Article 258 of the Criminal Code of Ukraine (act of terrorism)," the report says.

<http://www.unian.info/society/1156096-mariupol-residential-building-attacked-with-grenade-launcher.html>

Donetsk militants say Russian arms supplies become irregular, 19.10.2015

Fighters of the Donetsk People's Republic (DPR) terrorist organization have begun to irregularly receive military equipment and weapons from the Russian Federation, head of the Information Resistance Group and MP Dmytro Tymchuk wrote. He claims that partial «re-orientation» of Russian military aggression from Donbas towards Syria has caused the spread of rumors among the DPR leaders about an alleged halt to the shipments of Russian military equipment and weapons. Read also Russia deploys Ukraine-based militants to Syria — Tymchuk. «At their meetings, the DPR leaders claim that they have been facing irregular supplies of military equipment and weapons from the Russian Federation, noting that these are temporary irregularities,» Tymchuk said.

<http://hj.com.ua/donetsk-militants-say-russian-arms-supplies-become-irregular-26734/>

Russia was stalling opening of "Ilovaisk corridor" to organize ambush of Ukrainian troops – Defense Ministry, 19.10.2015

At 04:45 on August 29, the scheduled withdrawal started, but at 6:00 a Russian APC drove into a village of Mnogopillya, and an officer of the Russian Airborne forces has told chief of intelligence of the "South" Operational Command, Colonel Oleksandr Shturko, that conditions have changed, and the Russian side will allow the withdrawal of the Ukrainian troops on one route, without weapons, ammunition, combat and other equipment, according to the released report (full text available in Ukrainian only).

According to the Ministry of Defense of Ukraine, "officers of the armed forces of the Russian Federation have repeatedly delayed the time for the passage [of the Ukrainian troops] through the so-called "green corridor." Only later we became aware that this time was needed for the Russian armed forces to set up ambush, later used to destroy our convoys."

<http://www.unian.info/war/1156809-russia-was-stalling-opening-of-ilovaisk-corridor-to-organize-ambush-of-ukrainian-troops-defense-ministry.html>

Ukrainian forces begin withdrawal of tanks from contact line, Artemivsk withdrawal concluded, 20.10.2015

The Ukrainian forces have concluded the withdrawal of tanks in Artemivsk direction. The withdrawal of artillery systems and mortars will start in the nearest time. The situation was calm in the Donbas conflict zone overnight, which enabled the Ukrainian military to begin the withdrawal of tanks and mortars, the press center of the Anti-Terrorist Operation (ATO) wrote.

<http://uatoday.tv/news/ato-forces-begin-withdrawal-of-tanks-in-debaltseve-direction-516451.html>
<http://uacrisis.org/36114-shtab-ato-10>

Peat fires continue to burn around Ukrainian capital Kyiv blanketing city in smoke, 20.10.2015

Peat fires stretching for hundreds of hectares continue in Ukraine's Kyiv region. Firefighters have been battling the blazes around the clock with fresh rains bringing some respite. However, officials are currently unable to say when the fires might be completely put out, with help having been called in from neighbouring regions.

<http://uatoday.tv/society/peat-fires-continue-to-burn-around-ukrainian-capital-kyiv-blanketing-city-in-smoke-517008.html>

SBU reports about 800 Ukrainian MIA's, 20.10.2015

"Our priority includes, among other things, a search for the 800 soldiers, it is also important to us. This mission isn't accomplished until we find the last one. And if these guys are dead, they should be buried in accordance with our Christian traditions, we should return their bodies to their families," he said. Tandyt also said that the bodies of 400 Ukrainian servicemen were still in the militant-controlled territory. "About 400 bodies are in the territory where laws do not work – these are unidentified bodies," he said. "As of today, 148 Ukrainians are being held captive by the combined Russian-separatist forces. The Kremlin is using them as political hostages," Tandyt added.

<http://www.unian.info/society/1157407-sbu-reports-about-800-ukrainian-mias.html>

Two transmission towers blown up near administrative border with Crimea, 20.10.2015

Both towers belonging to a 330 kV Melitopol-Dzhankoy power transmission line were damaged, but did not fall, the service said. According to preliminary information, 82mm mortar shells were attached to the towers to destroy them. Two of the shells failed to explode. Police officers and rescue workers are now working on the scene. A group of ordnance technicians from the Interior Ministry is to arrive to defuse the unexploded shells.

<http://uatoday.tv/news/two-transmission-towers-blown-up-near-administrative-border-with-crimea-516688.html>

Panic spreads among militants in Donbas: many terrorists are planning to escape with their families in Russia - ATO HQ, 20.10.2015

Anti-terrorist operation headquarters (ATO HQ) spokesman Leonid Matiukhin said at a briefing. According to him, the mood of panic is observed among local militants against the statements made by leaders of the breakaway "DPR" and "LPR" on postponement of the "elections", withdrawal of the equipment from the line of contact, and the "imposition of tough sanctions by the Russian handlers against the chieftains of the local gangs, who disagree with the ideology of the Minsk agreements." "Many of those who participated in the armed conflict are nurturing the intention to leave for the Russian Federation together with their families," Matiukhin said. He also noted that "those whose hands are not smeared with blood are getting rid of weapons."

http://en.censor.net.ua/news/356955/panic_spreads_among_militants_in_donbas_many_terrorists_are_planning_to_escape_with_their_families_in

One Ukrainian soldier killed, another wounded in Donbas in last day, 20.10.2015

"There were no militant attacks on our positions in the last day. In addition, the Ukrainian army didn't record overflights by enemy drones in Donbas," Motuzianyk said.

"However, one soldier was killed and another one was wounded in the village of Novotroitske in Donetsk region as a result of stepping on an explosive device," Oleksandr Motuzianyk said.

http://www.fm-tv.kiev.ua/main_news/67024/view/

Bodies Of 26 Russian Soldiers Killed In Syria Brought To Sevastopol – Intelligence Service, 20.10.2015

“From Syria to Sevastopol were transported 26 bodies of dead soldiers from the 810th separate brigade of marines (Sevastopol) of the onshore forces of the Black Sea Fleet,” – was reported in the statement. It also notes that due to the inability of the Russian command to ensure normal sanitary conditions, the infectious diseases are widespread among the personnel of the Russian Armed Forces in Syria. It was noted that the command of the Russian Armed Forces continues to build up its forces in Syria. In particular, anchor handling tug supply vessel “Kiel-158” of the Black Sea fleet with a military cargo passed the Bosphorus and moves to the coast of Syria. In addition, military-transport aircraft IL-76 made two flights to Hmeymim airbase.

<http://ukraineunderattack.org/en/40513-bodies-of-26-russian-soldiers-killed-in-syria-brought-to-sevastopol-intelligence-service.html>

Ukrainian tanks removal in Artemivsk area complete - Ukrainian Defense Ministry, 20.10.2015

The Ukrainian Armed Forces have removed tanks from the contact line in the Artemivsk area and will soon start to remove artillery systems and mortar launchers there, the Ukrainian Defense Ministry said on its website.

<http://www.kyivpost.com/content/ukraine/ukrainian-tanks-removal-in-artemivsk-area-complete-ukrainian-defense-ministry-400298.html>

<http://www.kyivpost.com/content/ukraine/some-60-tanks-withdrawn-to-more-than-15-km-from-contact-line-on-oct-20-400296.html>

<http://uatoday.tv/politics/ukrainian-military-says-it-is-honouring-commitments-to-pull-back-weapons-in-the-east-517006.html>

OSCE SMM observes heavy vehicles on DPR side of weaponry removal line, 20.10.2015

"The SMM unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) continued to spot concentrations of military equipment in violation of the respective withdrawal lines. In "DPR"-controlled locations the UAVs observed the following hardware: two main battle tanks (MBT) in the area of Bezimenne (29km east of Mariupol), 26 MBTs and one mobile air defence missile system (9K35 Strela-10M, 120mm) in the area of Sontseve (57km south-east of Donetsk), three MBTs in the area of Michurine (55km north-east of Mariupol), two self-propelled howitzers (2S1Gvozdika, 122mm) in the area of Petrivske (42km south-east of Donetsk), and two self-propelled howitzers (2S1 Gvozdika, 122mm) in the area of Oktiabrsk," the SMM said. The SMM UAVs also spotted beyond the respective withdrawal lines six main battle tanks in the area of DPR-controlled Komsomolske (43km south-east of Donetsk), it reads. The SMM also observed a convoy of 21 military-type trucks heading in the direction of Luhansk in the area of LPR-controlled Novosvitlivka (16km south-east of Luhansk), the SMM said.

<http://en.interfax.com.ua/news/general/297309.html>

<http://www.unian.info/war/1158235-osce-spots-27-tanks-of-russian-proxies-outside-mariupol.html>

Security subgroup to continue working on mine clearance problem in Donbas - OSCE special representative, 20.10.2015

The security subgroup of the Contact Group on Ukraine agreed to continue working on the mine clearance of the most important infrastructure facilities in Donbas, OSCE Special Representative Martin Sajdik told reporters upon the results of the work of the Contact Group in Minsk.

<http://www.kyivpost.com/content/ukraine/security-subgroup-to-continue-working-on-mine-clearance-problem-in-donbas-osce-special-representative-400297.html>

One Ukrainian soldier killed in Donbas in 24 hours, 20.10.2015

Spokesman of the Ukrainian presidential administration for the anti-terrorist operation (ATO) Oleksandr Motuzianyk said. "No shelling of Ukrainian positions in the anti-terrorist operation zone from the militants' side was registered in the past 24 hours. However, yesterday one of our servicemen died and one more was wounded in a blast of an explosive device in the village of Novotroitske [Volnovakha district, Donetsk region]," Motuzianyk told a briefing in Kyiv on Tuesday. The Ukrainian military controls Novotroitske which is on the Mariupol - Donetsk route, he added.

<http://en.interfax.com.ua/news/general/297507.html>

<http://uatoday.tv/news/one-ukrainian-serviceman-killed-one-injured-in-donetsk-region-516724.html>

Foreign Policy: They came to fight for Ukraine. Now they're stuck in no man's land, 20.10.2015

When separatists started a war in eastern Ukraine, hundreds of Russians, Belarusians, and other foreigners came to Kiev's defense. Now they've been abandoned
In May 2014, Rudolph, then a 19-year-old student in Gomel, in eastern Belarus, saw a post on Facebook that inspired him. "This is not a war of Russia with Ukraine; this is a war between freedom and lawlessness," wrote Semen Semenchenko, a prolific Facebook blogger and the commander of the Donbass Battalion, a volunteer paramilitary unit fighting against Russia-backed separatists in eastern Ukraine. The commander called on sympathetic Russians and Belarusians to come help their neighbor in its time of need, announcing that he was recruiting foreigners "who share our views and want to help."

<http://uatoday.tv/politics/foreign-policy-they-came-to-fight-for-ukraine-now-they-re-stuck-in-no-man-s-land-516565.html>

ATO forces continue weapons withdrawal in Mariupol direction, 21.10.2015

The situation was calm in the Donbas conflict zone overnight, which enabled the Ukrainian military to continue withdrawing weapons from the demarcation line in the direction of Mariupol, the ATO press center wrote on Facebook.

"After the removal of tanks in the direction of the town of Debaltseve, today the Ukrainian troops will continue to pull back weapons in the direction of Mariupol. The same as yesterday, OSCE representatives will monitor the withdrawal process today," the press center said.

<http://www.unian.info/war/1158651-ato-forces-continue-weapons-withdrawal-in-mariupol-direction.html>

ATO forces complete weapon pullback near Mariupol, 21.10.2015

"On October 21, there were no violations of the Minsk agreements in the ATO zone. After the withdrawal of tanks from Debaltseve direction, our troops continued to carry out the second phase of the action plan on a pullback of weapons from the contact line. In Mariupol direction, the withdrawal has been completed, the procedure closely watched by representatives of the OSCE mission," said the statement.

As reported in the so-called "DPR" pledged to begin withdrawal of tanks from the area near Horlivka on October 22.

<http://www.unian.info/war/1159501-ato-forces-complete-weapon-pullback-near-mariupol.html>

Tymchuk: Militant kills local resident near Maryinka, 22.10.2015

A local resident, who has been trying to leave the temporarily occupied territory in Donbas, has been shot dead by one of Russian-backed militants at a checkpoint of the so-called DPR near the village of Oleksandrivka not far from the town of Maryinka in Donetsk region, head of the Information Resistance Group and MP Dmytro Tymchuk wrote on Facebook on Friday.

<http://www.unian.info/war/1160178-tymchuk-militant-kills-local-resident-near-maryinka.html>

One Ukrainian soldier wounded in Donbas conflict zone in last day, 22.10.2015

No Ukrainian soldiers were killed but one was wounded in the Donbas conflict zone over the last 24 hours, head of the ATO HQ press center Colonel Oleksandr Motuzianyk said

<http://www.unian.info/war/1160136-one-ukrainian-soldier-wounded-in-donbas-conflict-zone-in-last-day.html>

OSCE: One DPR militant killed in 'exchange of fire' near Donetsk airport, 22.10.2015

The OSCE Special Monitoring Mission (SMM) to Ukraine has reported on a cross shootout between the combined Russian-separatist forces and the Ukrainian military near Donetsk airport. As a result of this exchange, a "DPR" member was killed and another one was injured

<http://www.unian.info/war/1160259-osce-one-dpr-militant-killed-in-exchange-of-fire-near-donetsk-airport.html>

Ukraine completes withdrawal of tanks on all fronts, 22.10.2015

The forces of Anti-Terrorist Operations have completed removal tanks from the demarcation line in Donbas, according to the press center of the Anti-Terrorist Operation.

<http://www.unian.info/war/1160795-ukraine-completes-withdrawal-of-tanks-on-all-fronts.html>

Russian proxies resume attacks on ATO forces in Pisky and Opytne, 23.10.2015

"From 21:42 to almost 23:00 [local time on Thursday], the terrorists were firing on our positions near the village of Pisky. They also were firing a grenade launcher on the village of Opytne," the report says. The press center also said that the militants had resorted to provocative actions near the village of Shyrokyne, firing rocket-propelled grenades and small arms. In addition, at 00:26 and 00:31 Kyiv time, they started firing an 82mm mortar.

<http://www.unian.info/war/1161075-russian-proxies-resume-attacks-on-ato-forces-in-pisky-and-opytne.html>

SBU detains DPR sniper who fired on OSCE, 23.10.2015

"The militant whose nom de guerre is Kent arrived at the Ukrainian-controlled territory of Donbas to 'visit his friends.' He joined the DPR's illegal armed groups in July 2014, after he had been released from prison," the SBU said on Thursday, October 22. According to the report, the man was trained under the guidance of Russian special forces and was enrolled in a terrorist group as a sniper. "Kent" was actively involved in the fighting and shelling of the OSCE Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine and commanders of the Anti-Terrorist Operation in Donbas. Related investigative actions are under way.

<http://ukrainianwall.com/english-news/sbu-detains-dpr-sniper-who-fired-on-osce/>

409 km of state border is out of Ukraine's control in Donbas - State Border Service, 23.10.2015

This was announced by press-secretary of the State Border Service of Ukraine. "Regarding the border that we have no control over at the moment, these are 409.3 km within the Donetsk and Luhansk regions," Oleh Slobodian said. According to him, a Ukrainian commission is currently working at the border point 'Donetsk', which commission includes custom officers and border guards. Slobodian said that the commission's working conditions are quite difficult. At the same time, the press officer noted that the State Border Service of Ukraine has a clear task from the president of Ukraine to regain control over the state border by the end of the year. "Of course, not everything depends on the State Border Service, because this is a matter of international level. However, we use maximum efforts on our part," he added.

http://en.censor.net.ua/news/336181/409_km_of_state_border_is_out_of_ukraines_control_in_donbas_state_border_service

Ukraine conflict: Guns fall silent but crisis remains, 23.10.2015

The guns have largely fallen silent, more than 18 months after Russia annexed Crimea and pro-Russian rebels took control of large areas of Donetsk and Luhansk. The diplomatic language has become more positive. Russia's Vladimir Putin and President Petro Poroshenko of Ukraine met in Paris earlier this month and, shortly afterwards, local elections planned in the rebel-held east were postponed. The planned vote in rebel-held territory had threatened to derail negotiations involving the rebels. But now there are regular reports of both sides withdrawing weapons from the frontline.

For the region's civilians, it marks a dramatic change in their lives.

<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-34606598>

Calm day in ATO, military preparing hardware for winter, 24.10.2015

The situation was calm in the Donbas conflict zone overnight, which enabled the Ukrainian military to continue equipping their positions and prepare the military hardware for the winter season, the press center of the Anti-Terrorist Operation (ATO) wrote on Facebook

<http://www.unian.info/war/1162385-calm-day-in-ato-military-preparing-hardware-for-winter.html>

Attacks by militants on Ukrainian army positions become more frequent, 25.10.2015

On Saturday night, militants opened fire on the position of the Ukrainian Armed Forces in the area of Donetsk airport and the village of Pisky, Yasynuvata district, Donetsk region, of which the OSCE SMM has been notified, head of the Ukrainian part of the Joint Center for Control and Coordination of ceasefire in Donbas Borys Kremenetsky said in a statement.

<http://www.kyivpost.com/content/ukraine/attacks-by-militants-on-ukrainian-army-positions-become-more-frequent-kyiv-to-offer-to-discuss-this-within-contact-group-400613.html>

Terrorists attacked Ukrainian positions in Opytne and Pisky from Donetsk Airport, killing one serviceman, - ATO press-center, 26.10.2015

The statement reads: "According to updated information, the militants attacked our positions near Opytne and Pisky villages. The bandits committed the assault from the direction of the Donetsk airport". At the same time, as it became known from sources close to the ATO generalship, one Ukrainian military was killed as a result of the militants attack.

http://en.censor.net.ua/news/357936/terrorists_attacked_ukrainian_positions_in_opytne_and_pisky_from_donetsk_airport_killing_one_serviceman

ATO Headquarters: Vuhlehirska power station to be demined on Oct 26, 26.10.2015

"The Ukrainian military are helping to rebuild the infrastructure of Donbas. Mine clearance experts work non-stop as well. In particular, the demining of Vuhlehirska thermal power station will take place today. After military sappers' work, the repair specialists will be able to restore the power lines," the report says.

<http://www.unian.info/society/1163718-ato-headquarters-vuhlehirska-power-station-to-be-demined-on-oct-26.html>

Ukraine Separatists Say Expel Two Monitors, OSCE Denies, 27.10.2015

A separatist leader in the Luhansk region, Vasily Nikitin, said on October 26 that the two monitors had "violated the Minsk agreements" aimed at ending the conflict in eastern Ukraine. An unidentified official in Luhansk said the monitors were asked to leave last week. But the deputy chief of the OSCE's Special Monitoring Mission, Alexander Hug, said in a statement that "no monitors have been removed" from the Luhansk region.

OSCE is responsible for the cease-fire deal signed in Minsk in February implementation monitoring and for coordinating peace talks between Kyiv and both Moscow and Ukraine's separatists.

<http://www.rferl.org/content/ukraine-russia-separatists-say-expel-monitors-osce-denies/27328085.html>

Russian proxies attack Ukrainian troops with grenade launchers, small arms, 27.10.2015

"It wasn't calm in the ATO zone on Tuesday, October 27 – terrorists opened fire on our positions near the village of Zaitseve, using grenade launchers and small arms," the ATO press service wrote.

<http://www.unian.info/war/1166092-russian-proxies-attack-ukrainian-troops-with-grenade-launchers-small-arms.html>

Ukrainian army withdraws small weapons from Artemivsk sector, 28.10.2015

"In keeping with the schedule, similar weapons will be withdrawn from another sector tomorrow," the press center wrote. Accommodations for Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) repair crews, who will rebuild and repair damaged residential houses in the town of Maryinka, are now being arranged with the assistance of representatives of civil-military cooperation in that municipality. What is more, information about facilities that were damaged by shelling and need to be immediately repaired is being collected and processed for further sharing with representatives of the Caritas organization, the press center said. Mine clearance specialists completed their mission along Vuhlehirska TPP - Mykhailivka high-voltage lines where electricians will work.

<http://ukrainianwall.com/english-news/ukrainian-army-withdraws-small-weapons-from-artemivsk-sector/>

Suspended OSCE monitor confirms he's Russian GRU officer, 27.10.2015

A TSN journalist once heard OSCE SMM monitor whose name is Maksim Udovichenko promoting Russian propaganda among locals in Luhansk region while being not on OSCE monitoring duty. "Don't worry. We'll fight in Syria for a while and come back here," he told the locals. When caught on camera, he immediately changed his rhetoric, saying that he loved Ukraine, but later he tried to intimidate the journalists who were shooting him. Half an hour later, his boss dismissed him allegedly for a drinking problem. To cover up the scandal, his colleagues from other countries were even trying to hide the Russian monitor in a hotel room, and the senior officials from the OSCE's Luhansk branch called guards to keep the TSN journalists away. "It would be unfair if an incident with one person cast a shadow on 590 international observers," Spokesperson for the OSCE SMM to Ukraine Michael Bociurkiw said.

<http://ukrainianwall.com/english-news/suspended-osce-monitor-confirms-hes-russian-gru-officer/>

Russian proxies shell Ukrainian positions near Avdiyivka, 28.10.2015

The TV crew shot on camera heavy artillery firing in the direction of the mine of Butivka. It was a 120mm mortar. After that, a fire exchange started. The military said that the militants constantly shell the positions, closed to journalists by the ATO Headquarters.

<http://ukrainianwall.com/english-news/russian-proxies-shell-ukrainian-positions-near-avdiyivka/>

Weapons withdrawal by both sides according to schedule: Def. Minister, 28.10.2015

"Everything goes according to the plan and the schedule. Today the pullback of artillery systems started in three sectors," he said. According to the minister, this phase will last for three days, and the relevant report will follow. According to the minister, the deadline for the completion of removal of weapons in accordance with the Minsk Agreement is November 12.

<http://ukrainianwall.com/english-news/weapons-withdrawal-by-both-sides-according-to-schedule-def-minister/>

<http://ukrainianwall.com/english-news/ukrainian-army-withdraws-small-weapons-from-artemivsk-sector/>

Weekly Update from the OSCE Observer Mission at Russian Checkpoints Gukovo and Donetsk, 28.10.2015

Compared to last week, the average number of entries/exits decreased overall from 11,210 to 11,069 per day for both BCPs; the average net flow went from minus 258 to minus 87 (i.e. more exits from the Russian Federation). This continues to reflect the trend observed by the OM for the past few weeks of more people returning to Ukraine through the two BCPs. The Donetsk BCP continued to experience more traffic than the Gukovo BCP. The cross-border movements registered at both BCPs accounted for just over thirty-six per cent of all entries/exits in the Rostov region. The majority of the vehicles crossing the border have number plates issued in Ukraine (Luhansk region), including a number of articulated trucks and long-distance coaches commuting between Ukraine (Luhansk region) and cities in the Russian Federation.

<http://www.osce.org/om/194926>

Russian proxies violate ceasefire, attack ATO forces, 29.10.2015

After the attack, no violations of ceasefire were recorded in the Donbas conflict zone over the rest of the night.

<http://ukrainianwall.com/english-news/russian-proxies-violate-ceasefire-attack-ato-forces/>

Into the house of the mayor of Lviv Sadovyi threw the grenade - the suspect is detained, nobody suffered, 30.10.2015

In Lviv the man, the suspect that around 22:50 threw the grenade to the yard of the house of the Lvov mayor Andrey Sadovyi is detained. Reported a press about it - service of the Department of the Ministry of Internal Affairs in the Lvov area. «Police officers who carry out protection of the territory at the house of the mayor of Lviv detained the man who threw the grenade into the yard of a family of Sadovyi. Now it is established that he is the 29-summer local», - it is told in the message. In regional militia note that as a result of explosion of the grenade nobody suffered. Works at a scene it is investigative - task force and bomb experts. On a crime scene there are the chief of the Department of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Ukraine in the Lvov area Dmitry Zagariya, the chief of SBU in the Lvov area Victor Andreychuk and the chairman of the Lvov RSA Oleg Sinyutka. As reports, is detained the man who called himself Alexander Gzhivinsky who was the fighter of a battalion Aydar. At it three more RGD grenades and a trotyl checker are revealed. The detainee admitted that threw the grenade and declared that made it for the purpose of a protest against «mighty of this world». Thus I added that «has no anything personally against Sadovyi, but consider that it is such protest».

<https://news.pn/en/incidents/147116>

Russian proxies fire mortars and rocket-propelled grenades in Shyrokyne, 30.10.2015

A provocative shelling of the village of Shyrokyne took place on the day of withdrawal of artillery systems from the demarcation line, Ukrainian Presidential Adviser Yuriy Biryukov said on Friday, Mariupol's city portal 0629 reported.

There were no casualties. The Ukrainian security forces did not receive order to fire back.

<http://world.korupciya.com/2015/10/30/russian-proxies-fire-mortars-and-rocket-propelled-grenades-in-shyrokyne/>

Emergency evacuation under way amid multiple blasts at Svatove munitions depot, 30.10.2015

The emergency evacuation of local residents of the town of Svatove in Luhansk region with a population of about 18,000 people is under way amid ongoing explosions caused by a fire at a local munitions depot. "I'm now evacuating people as shells of Uragan, Grad, Smerch [multiple rocket launchers] are exploding at the depot," Svatove mayor Yevhen Rybalko said. "Nobody is able to get closer than 500 meters there," he added. Local authorities report that some people have been moved to nearby bombproof shelters. Those who have decided to leave the town are being bussed to the district centers for accommodation at holiday hotels. Hromadske.tv cites several local residents who said that some houses and garages were on fire. Fires caused by the explosions of military ammunition spread into the forests surrounding the town. Shells are now exploding in different parts of the town. One of the shells has hit a railway line 24 km from Svatove in the direction of the city of Kharkiv. The rail service has been suspended at the moment.

<http://www.unian.info/society/1168641-emergency-evacuation-under-way-amid-multiple-blasts-at-svatove-munitions-depot.html>

<http://www.digitalnewsworld.com/news/one-killed-in-svatove-ammo-depot-blasts-as-authorities-claim-possible-terrorist-attack.html>

<http://en.interfax.com.ua/news/general/300349.html>

<http://www.unian.info/society/1169302-ukraine-defense-minister-fire-at-ammo-depot-could-be-caused-by-sabotage.html#ad-image-0>

Wartorn Pisky near Donetsk airport sees new fights, 31.10.2015

One Ukrainian soldier is wounded, the other one dies of wounds. Russian proxies have resumed fighting in Donbas, having shelled the positions of Ukrainian troops near the village of Pisky, close to the ruined Donetsk airport, on Friday, according to Ukrainian journalist Oleksandr Rudomanov. «A battle in Pisky is over. Small arms, GP-25 grenade launchers, heavy rocket launchers. Two wounded from the third battalion of the 93rd brigade – one is seriously wounded, the other has got minor injuries,» Rudomanov wrote.

<http://hj.com.ua/wartorn-pisky-near-donetsk-airport-sees-new-fights-30229/>

<http://www.unian.info/war/1170135-one-soldier-killed-one-wounded-in-ato-in-last-24-hrs.html>

Pilot Savchenko

Russia to consider Savchenko extradition if asked; defense responds, 01.10.2015

The question of Savchenko's possible extradition to Ukraine can be discussed if Ukraine recognizes the Russian court's verdict and guarantees she serves sentence in Ukraine, according to the ministry's press service. On September 30, 2015 it was reported that Savchenko would be able to apply for the extradition to Ukraine after the verdict in Russia. Her lawyers will be able to ask for this as soon as the verdict comes into force. Savchenko's defense immediately reacted. Mark Feygin, Nadia Savchenko's lawyer, commented on this proposal saying that it suggests his client's innocence is proved. "In connection with the statement the Ministry of Justice about the possibility of Savchenko's extradition to Ukraine after the conviction to serve her sentence... The Ministry of Justice announced its conditions: Ukraine (as well as Savchenko) must recognize the verdict of the Russian court and ensure the service of sentence," Feygin wrote on Twitter. "For clarity. The recognition of the Russian court's verdict by Ukraine may block the opportunity to appeal the decision in the ECHR," he tweeted. According to Feygin, the guarantee of Savchenko serving sentence in Ukraine is a "burden of country's external obligations."

http://www.fm-tv.kiev.ua/main_news/66264/view/

<http://x-news.com.ua/russia-to-consider-savchenko-extradition-if-asked-defense-responds-74222/>

Savchenko's lawyer says her sister banned from entering Russia till 2020, 13.10.2015

Ukrainian pilot Nadia Savchenko's sister Vira Savchenko has been banned from entering Russia until 2020, Mark Feygin, the lawyer for the Ukrainian woman pilot, told.

<http://www.kyivpost.com/content/ukraine/savchenkos-lawyer-says-her-sister-banned-from-entering-russia-till-2020-2-399918.html>

Nadia Savchenko's sister permitted entry to Russia, 20.10.2015

Ukrainian pilot Nadia Savchenko's sister Vira Savchenko has been permitted entry to Russia. According to hronika.info, unfounded decision by Russia to ban Nadia Savchenko's sister from entering Russia until 2020 has been finally canceled.

This information has been posted on the social network by Nadia Savchenko's lawyer Ilya Novikov. When Vira tried to get into Russia, firstly she was denied entry at the Pulkovo airport. But in half an hour later it was reported that Vira was permitted entry.

<http://gha.com.ua/en/society/nadia-savchenko-s-sister-permitted-entry-to-russia/134410/>

Freedom closer than seems: Lawyer on Savchenko's prospects to return, 28.10.2015

Nadiya Savchenko, Ukrainian pilot and MP held in Russian prison, will return to Ukraine in 2016, according to her lawyer Mark Feygin. "I'm out of the prison in Novocherkassk. Nadiya sends greetings to everyone. Freedom is closer than it seems. In the new year, Savchenko will leave for home," he wrote on Twitter.

<http://uatoday.tv/news/freedom-closer-than-seems-lawyer-on-savchenko-s-prospects-to-return-522290.html>

Chechen law enforcers attempted to detain Savchenko's sister in court, 28.10.2015

"They want to detain Vira Savchenko for insulting the judge in the Karpyuk case," he tweeted. Later, he wrote that she had been released. "They have let Vira Savchenko out of the Supreme Court of Chechnya, the documents have been returned. The atmosphere has been very nervous since the first days of the litigation," he tweeted. In addition, according to Novikov, Vira Savchenko may be deprived of status of Karpyuk's public defender. According to lawyer Ilya Novikov.

<http://ukrainianwall.com/english-news/chechen-law-enforcers-attempted-to-detain-savchenkos-sister-in-court/>

http://en.censor.net.ua/news/358246/vira_savchenko_faced_arrest_in_chechnya_lawyer_novikov

Mass Media

SBU DEPORTS RUSSIA'S FIRST CHANNEL JOURNALIST FOR ANTI-UKRAINIAN ACTIVITY, 01.07.2015

Cherepnina will be denied entry to Ukraine for the next three years, according to the SBU press service. The SBU officials add that the journalist has been filming anti-Ukrainian videos and even used schoolchildren in her clips.

<http://x-news.com.ua/sbu-deports-russias-first-channel-journalist-for-anti-ukrainian-activity-42492/>

Ukraine Worldwide

PROSECUTOR: MH17 INVESTIGATION GOING WELL, 01.07.2015

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

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

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

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

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

Polish Border Blunder: Kremlin's pseudo chief in Crimea allowed at OSCE summit, 02.10.2015

Blunder at the Polish border. The so-called Vice Prime Minister of Ukraine's Crimean region has been allowed to travel to Warsaw. He arrived for a human rights conference, organized by the Europe's OSCE organization. Dmitry Polonsky managed to cross the border after changing the spelling of his surname in English. That's according to Poland's Interior Ministry. A correspondent from Ukraine news agency TSN hunted down the pseudo-leader at the venue. Polonsky told reporter Margarita Sytnik: "I came here on documents issued by the Russian Federation to me. Legal documents prepared by the Russian state. When questioned about his visa, he remained silent, instead demand to be let through to the conference."

<http://uatoday.tv/society/kremlin-puppet-official-from-crimea-allowed-to-attend-osce-conference-in-warsaw-505072.html>

Ukrainian interest. NY confrontation, assymmetric Kremlin, and Paris talks, 03.10.2015

Although the United Nations is by no means a world government, the world leaders gather in New York each fall to discuss global issues. This time, besides sustainable development, the Syrian and Donbas crises were on top agenda. Not only have Barack Obama and Vladimir Putin exchanged harsh addresses at the UN, but they have also they have held a bilateral meeting, the first in two years. Fortunately, it had no special outcome for Ukraine, so Russia decided to raise the geopolitical stakes dramatically by launching its first air strikes in Syria. The manner of Russian warfare is strongly reminiscent of the tradition of undeclared wars. Besides, it would be much more difficult for the Kremlin to call for establishing an antiterrorist coalition. Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko also gave an address in New York. The president's busy schedule of his U.S. visit should be particularly noted, as he used every opportunity not to let the issue of Donbas crisis be left by the wayside. It seems that the Ukrainian leader succeeded. At least, his speech at the Sustainable Development Summit and at the general debate have left no one in doubting as to the nature of Russia's actions. Poroshenko mainly addressed the members of the General Assembly, many of whom are representatives of the third world countries, and therefore he was speaking English. He managed to weave the Ukrainian issues into the fabric of global agenda, which suggests that the situation in Donbas remains in spotlight.

<http://www.unian.info/politics/1141684-ukrainian-interest-ny-confrontation-assimetric-kremlin-and-paris-talks.html>

Putin wants to topple Ukraine's government, not to engineer a 'frozen conflict', 07.10.2015

Is Russian President Vladimir Putin trying to engineer a frozen conflict in Eastern Ukraine? That's what some observers argue: that the main goal of sending troops there is to create permafrost, much like what Russia has going in Transdnistria, Moldova, and Abkhazia and South Ossetia in Georgia. Those conflicts have been described as "a string of nasty small wars [that] have been settled not through peace deals but simply by freezing each side's positions." Neither side can win a decisive victory. And so the nasty little war eventually freezes into long-term suspended animation: The dispute remains but fighting ceases. But that's not what Russia wants in Ukraine. A frozen conflict would harm, not help, its strategic interests there. It's far more likely that the conflict will keep burning, despite formal cease-fire agreements.

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/monkey-cage/wp/2015/10/06/heres-why-putin-wants-to-topple-ukraines-government-not-to-engineer-a-frozen-conflict/>

U.S. Senate passes bill allowing supply of weapons to Ukraine, 08.10.2015

\$300,000,000 may be available to the Secretary of Defense, in coordination with the Secretary of State, to provide appropriate security assistance and intelligence support, including training, equipment, and logistics support, supplies and services, to military and other security forces of the Government of Ukraine, according to the website of the U.S. Congress. Appropriate security assistance and intelligence support includes real time or near real time actionable intelligence, lethal assistance such as anti-armor weapon systems, mortars, crew-served weapons and ammunition, grenade launchers and ammunition, small arms and ammunition.

<http://www.unian.info/world/1146120-us-senate-passes-bill-allowing-for-supply-of-weapons-to-ukraine.html>

<https://www.congress.gov/amendment/114th-congress/senate-amendment/1754/text>

Belarus President Alexander Lukashenko Wins Re-Election, 11.10.2015

Belarusian President Alexander Lukashenko, a pro-Russia autocrat, swept to victory on Sunday in an election that raises the prospects of a thaw in the country's relations with the European Union. Mr. Lukashenko, a former collective-farm boss who has ruled this former Soviet republic of some 10 million for more than two decades, won five more years in power with 83.5% of votes, according to preliminary results from the country's election commission. The 61-year-old Mr. Lukashenko has faced little opposition in Belarus, a country wedged between Russia and the EU where the state dominates the economy. He depends on Moscow for financial and political support, but has made recent overtures to the EU in an apparent attempt to foster ties. He released political prisoners in August, including the last one of several former presidential candidates jailed after the last election in 2010, and a small protest Sunday evening passed peacefully.

<http://www.wsj.com/articles/belarus-president-wins-reelection-exit-poll-says-1444589421>

NATO Assembly fully adopted "Solidarity with Ukraine" resolution – Nayyem, 11.10.2015

"We did it. The "Solidarity with Ukraine" resolution of the Parliamentary Assembly of NATO was adopted in full, including all edits and protests of the Ukrainian delegation. The arguments of our colleagues from the Bundestag that the document should not mention the annexation of the Crimea and that the words "Russian-backed separatist forces" should be removed from the text were not heard. The German delegation was defeated by speeches of representatives of the United States, France, Poland and, in the first place, Ukraine," he said.

http://en.censor.net.ua/news/355791/nato_assembly_fully_adopted_solidarity_with_ukraine_resolution_nayyem

<http://www.nato-pa.int/default.asp?SHORTCUT=3960>

Ukraine halves electricity supply to occupied Crimea, - blockade coordinator Isliamov, 13.10.2015

At the moment, Ukraine supplies 505 MW of electricity to Crimea while the previous average supply amounted to 850-900 MW. The figures were announced by Crimea's blockade coordinator Lenur Isliamov. According to Isliamov, occupants were forced to put three power plants into operation in Crimea, which together can provide 250 MW of electricity. At the same time, a single Melitopol-Dzhankoi power line, which is now blocked by the activists, provided 330 MW.

http://en.censor.net.ua/news/356006/ukraine_halves_electricity_supply_to_occupied_crimea_blockade_coordinator_isliamov

Ukraine elected non-permanent member of UN Security Council, 15.10.2015

The results have been announced by President of the 70th session of the United Nations General Assembly, Mogens Lykketoft. A total of 192 countries took part in voting and one ballot was recognized invalid. The UN Security Council consists of 15 countries. The permanent members include the following five governments: China, France, Russia, the United Kingdom, and the United States. Each of the five permanent members of the Security Council has veto power over any matter voted upon by the Security Council. The remaining ten non-permanent members of the total membership of fifteen countries are chosen based on various regions of the world. The ten non-permanent members serve two year terms and half are replaced each year in annual elections. Each region votes for its own representatives and the United Nations General Assembly approves the selections.

<http://www.unian.info/politics/1153572-ukraine-elected-non-permanent-member-of-un-security-council.html>

<http://112.international/ukraine-top-news/key-priorities-ukraine-to-work-on-as-member-of-the-un-security-council-1157.html>

<http://www.ukrinform.net/rubric-politics/1898672-ukraines-un-security-council-membership-is-global-response-to-russias-aggression-yatsenyuk.html>

Stratfor: Grand Bargain still elusive in Ukraine, 18.10.2015

Indications of an improving relationship between Kyiv and Moscow have given rise to speculation that a grand bargain may be taking shape to bring stability after a year of slow-burning conflict in eastern Ukraine. But despite the gains made in the past month, a broader settlement likely will not be reached before the end of the year for several reasons, according to Stratfor, U.S.-based geopolitical intelligence and consulting firm.

<http://www.businessnewsworld.com/news/stratfor-grand-bargain-still-elusive-in-ukraine.html>

In crowded Mediterranean, NATO showcases military force, 18.10.2015

NATO and its allies will open their biggest military exercise in more than a decade on Monday in a show of strength in the central Mediterranean that takes place as Russia seeks to reassert itself across the water in the Levant. While the exercises were planned long before Russia's build-up in Syria and are independent of events, the escalation of conflicts across North Africa and the Middle East are challenging NATO to react to multiple threats on its borders.

Committing 36,000 troops, 230 military units, 140 aircraft and more than 60 ships over five weeks, NATO and its allies want to show they can act in what British defence minister Michael Fallon has called "a darker and more dangerous world". Some of the North Atlantic alliance's most senior officials will descend on an air base in southern Italy for an aircraft and helicopter showcase on Monday, facing questions about how to react to a Russian threat no longer just on its eastern flank.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2015/10/18/nato-strategy-idUSL8N12G2DO20151018>

Another Russian "aid" convoy crosses Ukrainian border, 22.10.2015

Another convoy of trucks that Moscow says is carrying humanitarian aid to Ukrainians in Donbas has crossed the border of Ukraine, the National Center for Crisis Management of the Russian Emergency Situations Ministry reported on Thursday.

The convoy was divided into two parts en route: some trucks went to the Donetsk border crossing point, while the other part went to the Matveev Kurgan border crossing point.

It is emphasized that the procedures at the checkpoints were carried out in the presence of the Ukrainian customs and border service officials, as well as OSCE observers.

"After the customs clearance of humanitarian cargo, over 100 vehicles with more than 1,000 tonnes of humanitarian aid were heading towards the unloading points in Donetsk and Luhansk regions," the report says.

<http://www.unian.info/politics/1159864-another-russian-aid-convoy-crosses-ukrainian-border.html>

Switzerland sends another aid convoy to conflict region, 26.10.2015

Two further Swiss Humanitarian Aid (HA) convoys have brought goods to supply suffering population on both sides of the contact line in eastern Ukraine. The aid consists mainly of chemicals and apparatus for the production of chlorine, essential for providing clean drinking water. In addition, two hospitals in Donetsk have been supplied with medicines. A total of 505 tonnes of aid worth around CHF 1 million has been delivered. One convoy of 20 trucks carrying 293 tonnes of goods reached the city of Donetsk on 26 October. Among the transported goods were aluminium sulphate and chlorine, destined for the Donbas waterworks, and reagents and cancer medicines for two hospitals. The convoy set out from Dnipropetrovsk on 24 October. On the first day it headed south to Mariupol on the Sea of Asov, and then continued north-east over the contact line at Volnovakha to Donetsk. Five further trucks joined the convoy as far as Mariupol, where 100 tonnes of chemical water treatment products were unloaded. Previously a convoy of six trucks carrying 112 tonnes of water treatment chemicals reached the city of Krasnoarmiisk on the government-controlled side of the contact line. Swiss Humanitarian Aid also delivered four WATA chlorine-production systems which will allow the local authorities to produce chlorine solution locally and sustainably to treat water for 20,000 people in four districts.

<https://www.news.admin.ch/message/index.html?lang=en&msg-id=59228>

Ukrainian diaspora in Moscow leader detained by police, 29.10.2015

Moscow police has searched an apartment of one of the Ukrainian diaspora leaders, co-chair of the regional NGO "Ukrainians in Moscow" Valerii Semenenko. He left the place with police officers and could not be reached since then. This morning at around 8 a.m. a search was conducted in my parents' place; they took away computers and some documents," he said. According to Semenenko's son, his father left with police officers and could not be reached since noon.

http://en.censor.net.ua/news/358214/ukrainian_diaspora_in_moscow_leader_detained_by_police

Russia intends to dissolve Moscow-based Library of Ukrainian Literature, 30.10.2015

Investigators stayed in the library premises until 21:00 and left the building through a back entrance. Natalya Sharina was taken with them, according to Krykunenko. He added he did not know anything about the court-imposed restraining measure, but said he was called in for questioning on Friday, along with an accountant and maintenance unit deputy director. At the same time, Echo of Moscow reported that Sharina had not yet been issued any documents about her detention. According to her lawyer Yevgeniy Smirnov, the library director has suffered two hypertensive crises after the arrest. It is reported that Moscow is set to dissolve the Library of Ukrainian Literature and transfer it into a branch of the Moscow House of Nationalities.

<http://www.unian.info/common/1169172-russia-intends-to-dissolve-moscow-based-library-of-ukrainian-literature.html>

No survivors in Russian passenger plane crash in Egypt's Sinai, 31.10.2015

None of 224 passengers and crew on board a Russian passenger plane that crashed in Egypt's Sinai peninsula on Saturday survived, medical and security sources said.

Search and rescue team members are still gathering the remains of victims, the sources said.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2015/10/31/us-egypt-crash-casualties-idUSKCN0SP09E20151031?mod=related&channelName=worldNews>

<http://www.unian.info/world/1170264-islamic-state-claims-it-downed-russian-plane-afp.html>