



Monitoring of Xenophobia and Extremism in Ukraine April 2014

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Introduction

April 2014 appeared to be full with events. Unfortunately, the majority of these events were quite sad and sometimes tragic. The annexation of the Crimea metastatic spread to other regions of Ukraine: Kharkiv, Luhansk and Donetsk regions fever for the entire month. Civil unrest and riots took place not only there, but the tension was immensely hot in these very regions on the border with Russian Federation. In many cities of eastern Ukraine by the illegal armed groups headed by the so-called pro-Russian "national" self-appointed mayors were formed. As a result, they announced the creation of the Donetsk and Lugansk People's Republics.

At the same time Russian authorities continued to deny any involvement of their country in the events taking place in Ukraine. This pretending peacefulness was constantly disproved by official statements of Russian diplomats and statesmen on the international scene. While most of the countries continue to support Ukraine, Russian Federation is, perhaps, the only country that insists on the illegitimacy of the current government of the country.

Authority of the country carried out a series of attempts to normalize the situation on the ground, but intimidated and misinformed by self-proclaimed politicians residents of the regions had no opportunity to express their opinion, which reflected in the beginning of the anti-terrorist operation in eastern Ukraine.

By the end of April the situation remained the same. There were no signs that showed at least slight improvement in May. There was no hope for constructive dialogue. All relied on the presidential elections scheduled to take place in the end of May.

Statements of Officials

Steinmeier hopes peak of escalation between Ukraine, Russia already passed, 01.04.2014

KYIV, April 1 /Ukrinform/. German Foreign Minister Frank-Walter Steinmeier welcomes the reduction of Russian troops on the border with Ukraine and hopes that the peak of escalation of the conflict has already passed.

He said this at a news conference in Berlin on Monday, Ukrinform's correspondent in Germany reported.

"It seems that this is a small signal that the situation has become less tense. I hope that the peak of escalation has passed," he said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/steinmeier_hopes_peak_of_escalation_between_ukraine_russia_already_passed_319468

Jemilev: Ukraine expects effective steps from international community on liberation from occupation, 01.04.2014

KYIV, April 1 /Ukrinform/. Ukrainian MP Mustafa Jemilev, speaking at a meeting of the UN Security Council on March 31 in New York behind closed doors, said Ukraine is waiting from the world community effective measures to liberate the country from occupation, Jemilev's assistant Lilia Muslimova said.

"The meeting was opened with Mustafa Jemilev's speech, in which he voiced hope that the world community will take effective measures to free Ukraine from the occupation and prevent such aggressive actions against sovereign states," Muslimova said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/jemilev_ukraine_expects_effective_steps_from_international_community_on_liberation_from_occupation_319490

Relations between Ukraine and Russia at lowest level in history of existence of states – MFA, 01.04.2014

The relations Ukraine and Russia are at the lowest level in history of existence of the states.

According to an UNIAN correspondent, deputy Foreign Minister of Ukraine Daniil Lubkivskiy said this at press conference today.

"Russia committed an act of aggression against Ukraine with all the consequences emanating from such an interpretation - it has a distinct rough, defiant violation of all norms of international law, the fundamental principles of coexistence of the states," - he stressed.

<http://www.unian.info/politics/902862-relations-between-ukraine-and-russia-at-lowest-level-in-history-of-existence-of-states-mfa.html>

Foreign Minister of Germany does not perspectives of accession of Ukraine to NATO, 01.04.2014

Foreign Minister of Germany Frank-Walter Steinmeier does not see perspectives of accession of Ukraine to NATO, but he states that the German government has not made official decision concerning this case.

"I can conceive of forms of more intensive cooperation with Ukraine within Council NATO-Ukraine. But I do not see possibility of membership in NATO", - said Steinmeier, having noted that it is his personal opinion.

<http://www.unian.info/politics/902841-foreign-minister-of-germany-does-not-perspectives-of-accession-of-ukraine-to-nato.html>

NATO not confirming pullback of Russian troops from border with Ukraine, 01.04.2014

KYIV, April 1 /Ukrinform/. The North Atlantic Alliance does not see positive results in the withdrawal of Russian troops from the Ukrainian border.

NATO Secretary General Anders Fogh Rasmussen said this before a meeting of the North Atlantic Council in a foreign ministers session in Brussels on Tuesday, a Ukrinform correspondent reported.

"Unfortunately, I cannot confirm that Russia is withdrawing its troops. This is not what we are seeing. This massive military build-up can in no way contribute to a de-escalation of the situation - a de-escalation that we all want to see. So I continue to urge Russia to pull back its troops, live up to its international obligations and engage in a constructive dialogue with Ukraine," Rasmussen said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/nato_not_confirming_pullback_of_russian_troops_from_border_with_ukraine_319514

Deshchytsia: Ukraine collecting evidence to sue Russia in international courts, 01.04.2014

KYIV, April 1 /Ukrinform/. Ukraine is looking for legal partners and collecting evidence for initiating proceedings against the Russian Federation in international courts in connection with military aggression, Ukraine's acting Foreign Minister Andriy Deshchytsia said in Brussels on Tuesday.

"We are looking for those law firms who could represent the interests of Ukraine. We are also collecting the necessary evidence to bring proceedings against Russia in international courts," Deshchytsia said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/deshchytsia_ukraine_collecting_evidence_to_sue_russia_in_international_courts_319535

Lavrov cancels arrangement with Deshchytsia on consultations between deputy ministers, 02.04.2014

KYIV, April 2 /Ukrinform/. Russia canceled the previous arrangement with Ukraine to hold consultations at the level of deputy foreign ministers in Minsk, Ukraine's acting Foreign Minister Andriy Deshchytsia has told reporters on Tuesday.

"We agreed with the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Russia on contacts at the level of deputy ministers. This meeting was almost agreed, but yesterday we received a signal that, unfortunately, Mr. Karasin can't come to the meeting on April 4 in Minsk," Deshchytsia said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/lavrov_cancels_arrangement_with_deshchytsia_on_consultations_between_deputy_ministers_319555

Barroso hopes Ukraine, Russia to start direct talks soon, 02.04.2014

KYIV, April 2 /Ukrinform/. European Commission President [Jose Manuel Barroso](#) hopes that Ukraine and Russia will soon sit down at the negotiating table to resolve the crisis related to the military aggression in Crimea.

"We hope that through dialogue and co-operation all the concerns are addressed, we hope that direct talks between Moscow and Kiev can start very soon," Barroso said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/barroso_hopes_ukraine_russia_to_start_direct_talks_soon_319581

Ukraine's border with Russia entrenched, 02.04.2014

KYIV, April 2 /Ukrinform/. Border guards together with militaries have dug 123 km-long ditches and trenches along the Ukrainian-Russian border, Chief of the Eastern Regional

Department at the State Border Guard Service of Ukraine (SBGS) Andriy Kucherenko briefed the press on Wednesday in Kharkiv.

"This is an obstacle that stops not only smugglers, but also military vehicles for some time. This will enable to deploy units of the Ministry of Defence of Ukraine," he said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/ukraines_border_with_russia_entrenched_319592

NATO: Russia may start incursion in Ukraine in 3-5 days, 02.04.2014

Commander of NATO forces in Europe General Philip Breedlove, said that signs of movement of small parts of Russian troops were noticed the night before.

According to him, Russia can achieve its goal in three - five days. Breedlove called the situation on the Ukrainian-Russian border "very disturbing."

<http://www.unian.info/politics/903282-nato-russia-may-start-incursion-in-ukraine-in-3-5-days.html>

Yanukovich confirms that he asked Putin to invade Ukraine, 02.04.2014

Discharged by the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine from post of President of Ukraine Victor Yanukovich confirmed that he had asked President of Russia Vladimir Putin to use troops of Russia "for protection of lives of citizens of Ukraine".

He said this in an interview to "Dozhd" television channel.

<http://www.unian.info/politics/903296-yanukovich-confirms-that-he-asked-putin-to-invade-ukraine.html>

Threat of Russian intervention in Ukraine is real - Tusk, 03.04.2014

KYIV, April 3 /Ukrinform/. The threat of Russian intervention in Ukraine's south and east is still real.

Polish Prime Minister Donald Tusk has expressed this opinion in an interview to German weekly Die Zeit.

"The threat of intervention in eastern and southern Ukraine is real," Tusk said.

According to him, if Europe got accustomed to possibility of such an aggression, this is a proof how radically the situation has changed here.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/threat_of_russian_intervention_in_ukraine_is_real_tusk_319632

<http://www.unian.info/politics/903550-poland-considers-further-aggression-of-russia-in-ukraine-is-real-tusk.html>

Komorowski: Poland should help Ukraine modernize itself, but not 'to extinguish fire', 04.04.2014

KYIV, April 4 /Ukrinform/. Poland's task is to help Ukraine modernize the country during the crisis and not to extinguish in it political, economic and military conflagration, Polish President [Bronislaw Komorowski](#) told the TVP.INFO television channel in an interview.

"We need to think how not to respond only to the crisis in Ukraine, not to extinguish the political, economic and military fire, but to start systematically support the modernization of Ukraine, to help it and itself to realize national goals," Komorowski said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/komorowski_poland_should_help_ukraine_modernize_itself_but_not_to_extinguish_fire_319686

Ukraine not in official talks with Russia, Yarema says, 04.04.2014

KYIV, April 4 /Ukrinform/. The Ukrainian government is not holding a dialogue with Russia at the official level, First Deputy Prime Minister [Vitaliy Yarema](#) told reporters on Friday in Kyiv.

"There are no negotiations. According to a NSDC decision and order by the acting president, the first word with which we begin the dialogue with the Russian Federation is

- "you are occupiers, return Crimea, then we will sit down with you at the negotiating table," Yarema said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/ukraine_not_in_official_talks_with_russia_yarema_says_319698

Germany demands Russia immediately withdraw troops from Ukrainian border, 04.04.2014

KYIV, April 4 /Ukrinform/. Germany has again called on Russia to immediately withdraw its troops from the border with Ukraine.

German government spokesman Steffen Seibert said this at a press conference in Berlin on Friday, a Ukrinform correspondent in Germany reported.

"In order to reduce tension it's necessary to immediately take these measures, which are extremely required to restore confidence," he said.

He urged the Russian leadership to fulfill the promises made earlier regarding the withdrawal of troops from the Ukrainian border and to prove it with facts.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/germany_demands_russia_immediately_withdraw_troops_from_ukrainian_border_319709

EU should think carefully about future relations with Russia - Ashton, 04.04.2014

KYIV, April 4 /Ukrinform/. The [EU](#) should think carefully about the strategy of future relations with Russia after its annexation of Crimea.

EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy Catherine Ashton said this before an informal meeting of foreign ministers of EU member countries in Athens on Friday, a Ukrinform correspondent reported.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/eu_should_think_carefully_about_future_relations_with_russia_ashton_319711

Czech Republic calls for use of NATO troops if Russia invades eastern

Ukraine, 07.04.2014

KYIV, April 7 /Ukrinform/. The Czech Republic supports the use of NATO troops in Ukraine if Russia invades the eastern part of the country.

Czech President Milos Zeman said this in an interview with Czech Radio.

"The moment Russia decides to widen its territorial expansion to the eastern part of Ukraine, that is where the fun ends. There I would plead not only for the strictest EU sanctions, but even for military readiness of the North Atlantic Alliance, like for example NATO forces entering Ukrainian territory," Reuters quoted Zeman as saying.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/czech_republic_calls_for_use_of_nato_troops_if_russia_invades_eastern_ukraine_319751

Russia only pretends to withdraw troops – Yatseniuk, 07.04.2014

KYIV, April 7 /Ukrinform/. The Russian Federation did not withdraw its troops and took them to about 30 kilometers from the eastern borders of Ukraine.

Prime Minister Yatseniuk has said about this, opening a government meeting on Monday, a Ukrinform correspondent reports.

"There is no evidence that the Russian Federation withdrew its troops from the border, there is nothing, but a manifestation of the signs that they want to show as if they have withdrawn their troops. Merely, the troops are in the 30-kilometer zone from the Ukrainian borders. Therefore, virtually no one withdrew the troops," Yatseniuk said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/russia_only_pretends_to_withdraw_troops_yatseniuk_319769

Bildt: Pro-Russian thugs try to stir up trouble in Eastern Ukraine, 07.04.2014

KYIV, April 7 /Ukrinform/. Swedish Foreign Minister Carl Bildt calls the latest unrest in eastern regions of Ukraine as attempts of pro-Russian thugs to stir up trouble with support of the Kremlin propaganda.

The Swedish Minister wrote on Twitter about this, Ukrinform reports.

"Sunday pattern that pro-Russian thugs try to stir up trouble in Eastern Ukraine. Heavily supported by Kremlin propaganda machine," Bildt is convinced.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/bildt_pro_russian_thugs_try_to_stir_up_trouble_in_eastern_ukraine_319773

EU follows situation in east of Ukraine and calls for de-escalation, 07.04.2014

The European Union is closely following development of the events in the eastern regions of Ukraine, where a wave of pro-Russian actions took place and calls for non-violent ways of saying of political demands and de-escalation of the situation.

According to an own UNIAN correspondent in Brussels, spokesperson for EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy Catherine Ashton Maya Kosyanchich stated this.

"We are watching the situation very closely and with a concern. I want to emphasize that any political demands in Ukraine should be implemented in a non-violent way. It means that the requirements should be brought in a democratic way and through the rule of law " , - told reporters Kosyanchich .

" We stand firmly in support of the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine , and in this regard we support the Ukrainian government. We continue to call for a de-escalation of the crisis and to avoid further destabilization in Ukraine , and we will continue to monitor the situation , " - she added.

<http://www.unian.info/politics/904990-eu-follows-situation-in-east-of-ukraine-and-calls-for-de-escalation.html>

Government to conduct anti-terrorist operations against separatists - Turchynov, 07.04.2014

KYIV, April 7 /Ukrinform/. The Ukrainian authorities have set up an anti-crisis headquarters that will deal with separatists in the eastern regions of the state, including by holding anti-terrorist operations.

Acting President and Verkhovna Rada Speaker Oleksandr Turchynov said this in a televised address on Monday due to the situation in eastern Ukraine.

"Ukraine's enemies are trying to play out the Crimean scenario, but we won't allow that. An anti-crisis headquarters was set up tonight. Anti-terrorist measures will be taken against those who took up arms. The protection of the eastern border of our country has been strengthened," Turchynov said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/government_to_conduct_anti_terrorist_operations_against_separatists_turchynov_319785

Turchynov says 70 separatists detained in Kharkiv, 08.04.2014

KYIV, April 8 /Ukrinform/. During an operation to free from separatists the buildings of Kharkiv Regional State Administration and Security Service of Ukraine, law enforcement officials detained 70 people, the Chairman of the Verkhovna Rada, acting President [Oleksandr Turchynov](#) said in his opening speech in the parliament on Tuesday.

"70 criminals have been detained during the liberation of the

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/turchynov_says_70_separatists_detained_in_kharkiv_319818

NATO Secretary General calls Russia to withdraw troops from borders of Ukraine, 08.04.2014

NATO Secretary General Anders Fogh Rasmussen called Russia to withdraw its troops from the eastern borders of Ukraine.

According to an own UNIAN correspondent in Brussels, Rasmussen said this at press conference in Paris.

At the same time the NATO Secretary General noted that intrusion of the Russian troops at the territory of the eastern oblasts of Ukraine will mean a serious escalation of the situation.

<http://www.unian.info/politics/905332-nato-secretary-general-calls-russia-to-withdraw-troops-from-borders-of-ukraine.html>

Foreign ministry: Ukraine's domestic, foreign policies can't be subject to talks, 08.04.2014

KYIV, April 8 /Ukrinform/. Issues that belong to the sovereign right of the Ukrainian people to carry out their own domestic and foreign policies cannot be the subject to negotiations with Russia.

[Ukraine's Foreign Ministry](#) said this in a statement on Tuesday.

"Issues that belong to the sovereign right of the Ukrainian people to carry out their own domestic and foreign policies cannot be negotiated. We warn the Russian side of the obsessive attempts to invent its own constitution for Ukraine. These intentions have nothing to do with the interests of our citizens. They display a plan of occupation and stagnation," the statement reads.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/foreign_ministry_ukraines_domestic_foreign_policies_cant_be_subject_to_talks_319861

Avakov: Crisis in eastern Ukraine to be resolved over next 48 hours, 09.04.2014

KYIV, April 9 /Ukraine/. Resolution of the crisis in the eastern regions of Ukraine will take place over next two days.

Interior Minister Arsen Avakov has said this before the meeting of the government on Wednesday.

"I think that the resolution of this crisis (in the east - Ed.) will occur over next 48 hours," the Minister said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/avakov_crisis_in_eastern_ukraine_to_be_resolved_over_next_48_hours_319884

<http://www.unian.info/politics/905771-anti-terrorist-action-continues-everything-to-be-settled-in-coming-48-hours-avakov.html>

Merkel yet sees no steps by Russia to de-escalate situation in Ukraine, 09.04.2014

KYIV, April 9 /Ukrinform/. German Chancellor Angela Merkel called the situation in Ukraine tough and yet she has not seen any moves by Russia that would help de-escalate the conflict.

She said this at the German parliament on Wednesday.

"The situation in Ukraine remains tough, and in many moments, unfortunately, it is not seen that Russia contributes to easing the tension," Merkel said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/merkel_yet_sees_no_steps_by_russia_to_de_escalate_situation_in_ukraine_319906

EU sets up support group for Ukraine, 09.04.2014

KYIV, April 9 /Ukrinform/. The European Commission has created a support group for Ukraine to conduct reforms.

European Commission President Jose Manuel Barroso announced this on Wednesday, a Ukrinform correspondent in Brussels said.

"Today the European Commission has created a support group in Ukraine. The goal of this support group is to help and assist Ukraine not only in financial terms, but also as technical assistance. It's important to support political and economic reforms that Ukraine needs to become a sustainable, independent and modern country," Barroso said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/eu_sets_up_support_group_for_ukraine_319908

<http://www.unian.info/politics/905815-european-commission-creates-group-of-support-of-ukraine-barroso.html>

Dutch FM Timmermans: Russian propaganda in Ukraine leads to uncontrolled processes, 09.04.2014

KYIV, April 9 /Ukrinform/. Dutch Foreign Minister Frans Timmermans said that Russian propaganda in Ukraine may lead to uncontrolled processes.

He said this on the Pauw&Witteveen TV program, Ukrinform's correspondent in the Netherlands has reported Wednesday.

"Sometimes it seems to me that this is an uncontrolled process and that almost automatically one step leads to another. This scares, because at some stage it is impossible to stop, and then real violence may start in the east of Ukraine,"

Timmermans said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/dutch_fm_timmermans_russian_propaganda_in_ukraine_leads_to_uncontrolled_processes_319910

Kerry accuses Russia of attempts of military intervention in eastern Ukraine, 09.04.2014

KYIV, April 9 /Ukrinform/. U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry has described Russia's actions towards Ukraine as "an illegal and illegitimate effort to destabilize a sovereign state," aimed at finding a pretext for military intervention, and threatened Moscow with sanctions if it does not stop.

He said this on Tuesday, speaking at the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations, a Ukrinform correspondent reported.

"What we see from Russia is an illegal and illegitimate effort to destabilize a sovereign state and create a contrived crisis with paid operatives across an international boundary engaged in this initiative," Kerry said.

He described demonstrations in eastern regions of Ukraine as "a contrived pretext for military intervention just as we saw in Crimea."

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/kerry_accuses_russia_of_attempts_of_military_intervention_in_eastern_ukraine_319922

NATO can help Ukraine without its membership - Fischer, 09.04.2014

KYIV, April 9 /Ukrinform/. Ukraine will be able to increase the combat capabilities of its armed forces with the help of NATO, but without joining the organization.

Austrian President Heinz Fischer said this in Strasbourg on Wednesday, a Ukrinform correspondent reported.

"Ukraine and Georgia will be able to increase the combat capabilities of their armed forces with the help and support of NATO, without acquiring the status of the alliance's member states," Fischer said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/nato_can_help_ukraine_without_its_membership_fischer_319932

Vladimir Landik: What is happening in Luhansk is a terrorist attack, and it must be suppressed, 09.04.2014

UNIAN talked with odious former PM from the Party of Regions about those behind separatist riots in Luhansk, a role of Alexander Yefremov in these events, local police inaction and outcome of the rule of the Party of Regions for the area.

<http://www.unian.info/politics/906033-vladimir-landik-what-is-happening-in-luhansk-is-a-terrorist-attack-and-it-must-be-suppressed.html>

Nuland: US concerned about actions of Russian security forces in eastern Ukraine, 10.04.2014

KYIV, April 10 /Ukrinform/. The escalation of the crisis in the eastern regions of Ukraine is supported by the Russian security services and is "a wake-up call" for the international community, which has to react accordingly.

U.S. Assistant Secretary of State [Victoria Nuland](#) said this on Wednesday at a hearing on the situation in Ukraine at the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe (U.S. Helsinki Commission), a Ukrinform correspondent reported.

"This week's violent occupation of government buildings in Kharkiv, Donetsk, Luhansk and Mariupol deepen our concern. Far from a spontaneous set of events, these incidents bear all the hallmarks of an orchestrated campaign of incitement, separatism and sabotage of the Ukrainian state, aided and abetted by the Russian security services," Nuland said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/nuland_us_concerned_about_actions_of_russian_security_forces_in_eastern_ukraine_319949

PACE overwhelmingly adopts resolution on Ukraine, 10.04.2014

KYIV, April 10 /Ukrinform/. The Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe ([PACE](#)) on Wednesday overwhelmingly adopted a resolution entitled "Recent developments in Ukraine: threats to the functioning of democratic institutions", Ukrinform's Paris correspondent has reported.

"By a majority vote PACE adopted a resolution on threats to the functioning of democratic institutions. Namely, 154 parliamentarians voted in favor, 26 against and 14 abstained," PACE President Anne Brasseur said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/pace_overwhelmingly_adopts_resolution_on_ukraine_319947

Turchynov vows not to punish separatists if they put down arms, 10.04.2014

KYIV, April 10 /Ukrinform/. Persons who captured administrative buildings in the cities of Ukraine's southeastern regions will not need an amnesty if they voluntarily put down their arms and release the premises, acting Ukrainian President, [Verkhovna Rada](#) Speaker [Oleksandr Turchynov](#) said at the plenary session on Thursday.

"If people put down their arms and free administrative offices, we do not need to pass an amnesty law, we guarantee that there will be no prosecutions of people who put down their arms and leave the premises," Turchynov said, adding that he is ready to issue the appropriate presidential decree.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/turchynov_vows_not_to_punish_separatists_if_they_put_down_arms_319965

Ombudsperson Lutkovska: Rights of Russian-speaking citizens in Ukraine's south-east not infringed, 10.04.2014

KYIV, April 10 /Ukrinform/. The Secretariat of the [Verkhovna Rada](#) Commissioner for Human Rights has not received complaints about infringement of rights of Russian-speaking Ukrainians in Luhansk, Kharkiv and Donetsk regions of Ukraine.

Ukrainian Human Rights Commissioner Valeria Lutkovska said this at a meeting with local journalists as part of an unscheduled visit to Kharkiv region.

"No complaints have been received, Russian-speaking people do not have any such problems in Kharkiv or in Donetsk and Luhansk regions," Lutkovska said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/ombudsperson_lutkovska_rights_of_russian_speaking_citizens_in_ukraines_south_east_not_infringed_319969

Freedom House: Ukraine threatened by Kremlin propaganda, not fascists, 10.04.2014

KYIV, April 10 /Ukrinform/. There are no manifestations of fascism and extremism in Ukraine, but there is the Kremlin propaganda that should be counteracted.

Freedom House President David Kramer said this at a press conference in Kyiv on Thursday, a Ukrinform correspondent reported.

"The Kremlin propaganda is trying to paint everything that is happening in Ukraine as being caused by fascists and extremists. I have not seen evidence of that. I do recognize that there are some parts of the opposition that are viewed as far-right, but I don't see them playing a dominant role in the current political situation," Kramer said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/freedom_house_ukraine_threatened_by_kremlin_propaganda_not_fascists_319989

US sees Russia's demands on Ukraine's federalization as unacceptable, 11.04.2014

KYIV, April 11 /Ukrinform/. Russia's demands on the need for Ukraine's federalization are unacceptable as the Ukrainian people should individually resolve issues related to constitutional reform.

U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for European and Eurasian Affairs Victoria Nuland said this in a video address at the 7th Kyiv Security Forum on Thursday.

She said that constitutional reform should be purely Ukrainian and led by Ukraine and that the commission dealing with this should have the widest base and should represent all regions. "It is the Ukrainians, not outside forces, who should decide on how your country is going to look like in the future. Russia's making demands on federalization, which would lead Ukraine to great risks of country breakup, is absolutely unacceptable, which would result in the collapse of large exposures Ukraine," she said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/us_sees_russias_demands_on_ukraines_federalization_as_unacceptable_320021

Assistant of NATO Secretary General states about total support of territorial integrity of Ukraine by NATO, 11.04.2014

Assistant Secretary General for Public Diplomacy at NATO, Foreign Minister of Croatia (2008-2011) Kolinda Grabar-Kitarović states about a total support of the territorial integrity of Ukraine by Alliance. She said this during the 7th Kyiv Forum on Security, the press service of the forum disclosed this to UNIAN.

"The military aggression of Russia in Crimea is the biggest crisis since the fall of the Berlin Wall. Illegal annexation of the territory of Ukraine is a gross violation of the international obligations of Russia", - noted the Assistant of NATO Secretary General.

<http://www.unian.info/politics/906672-assistant-of-nato-secretary-general-states-about-total-support-of-territorial-integrity-of-ukraine-by-nato.html>

There are no grounds for extradition of Yanukovich; he is legitimate President – prosecutor of RF, 11.04.2014

Moscow does not see any grounds for extradition of ousted President of Ukraine Victor Yanukovich to Kyiv, he is legitimate head of the state, prosecutor of the RF Yuriy Chaika said this.

“Yanukovich is full-fledged and legitimate president”, - said Chaika to journalists.

“There are no grounds for extradition of Yanukovich, he did not commit a crime”, - said the prosecutor.

<http://www.unian.info/politics/906677-there-are-no-grounds-for-extradition-of-yanukovich-he-is-legitimate-president-prosecutor-of-rf.html>

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/russia_refuses_to_extradite_yanukovich_to_ukraine_320043

Akhmetov: For me Donbas is Ukraine, 11.04.2014

KYIV, April 11 /Ukrinform/. Ukrainian businessman Rinat Akhmetov at a meeting headed by Prime Minister Arseniy Yatseniuk has said in Donetsk that Donbas is Ukraine for him.

A Ukrinform correspondent reports.

“For me Donbas is Ukraine,” Akhmetov noted.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/akhmetov_for_me_donbas_is_ukraine_320033

Yatseniuk: Parliament should adopt law on local referendum, 11.04.2014

KYIV, April 11 /Ukrinform/. The Verkhovna Rada should pass a law on local referendums.

Ukrainian Prime Minister Arseniy Yatseniuk said this at a meeting with representatives of southeastern Ukraine in Donetsk on Friday, the OstroV online newspaper reported.

"The parliament should pass a law on local referendums," he said, adding that respective amendments should be made to the law on an all-Ukrainian referendum.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/yatseniuk_parliament_should_adapt_law_on_local_referendum_320045

Such institute as regional state administration should be filed as a history - Yatseniuk, 11.04.2014

KYIV, April 11 /Ukrinform/. Such an institute as the regional state administration should become a thing of the past.

Prime Minister Arseniy Yatseniuk has said about this at a meeting with representatives of leaders and elites of south-eastern Ukraine in Donetsk, a Ukrinform correspondent reports.

“Such an institute as the regional state administration, which is appointed by the President from Kyiv, should become a thing of the past,” the Premier said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/such_institute_as_regional_state_administration_should_be_filed_as_a_history_yatseniuk_320047

Donetsk mayor proposes to hold all-Ukrainian referendum or poll on new Constitution, 11.04.2014

KYIV, April 11 /Ukrinform/. Donetsk city mayor Oleksandr Lukianchenko proposed to hold the all-Ukrainian referendum on the new Constitution, it could be held May 25, simultaneously with the presidential election.

He has said this at a meeting in Donetsk, headed by Prime Minister Arseniy Yatseniuk, a Ukrinform correspondent reports.

“It is necessary to propose a referendum to people or a poll for approval of the new Constitution. Most important issues should be reflected in it, which worry residents of

south-eastern Ukraine - this is decentralization and the Russian language. This step will allow not losing the regions within Ukraine. This should be done in order that Ukraine was united," Lukianchenko said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/donetsk_mayor_proposes_to_hold_all_ukrainian_referendum_or_poll_on_new_constitution_320055

Lavrov admits Russians take part in Ukraine's separatist rallies, 12.04.2014

KYIV, April 12 /Ukrinform/. Russian citizens are involved in rallies in Ukraine's south-eastern regions, Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov told Russia 1 television channel in an interview.

"There are no our military, our agents. There are Russian citizens, some of them were shown in a number of TV shows, one guy came from Volgograd. This is not surprising: on the Maidan there were different people, including Swedish extremists, etc. Nothing like this is happening there. We are accused that there are Russian intelligence agents - but they are not there. There are no our troops as well," he said.

<http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/320092>

Special operation underway, separatists won't escape punishment, Taruta says, 14.04.2014

KYIV, April 14 /Ukrinform/. A special operation involving army units has begun in Donetsk region to disarm and release the buildings captured by bandits. To avoid accidental and unjustified victims the residents should remain calm and leave the "hot spots", Chairman of Donetsk Regional State Administration [Serhiy Taruta](#) said in his address on Monday.

"The decision to enable a regime of the anti-terrorist operation is aimed at protecting the peace and order in our land that is now cynically and coolly disrupted by armed, aggressive, fanatic people. They are terrorists, and we will not allow them to dominate in our land," Taruta said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/special_operation_underway_separatists_wont_escape_punishment_taruta_says_320113

US recognizes Moscow's involvement in events in eastern Ukraine, 14.04.2014

KYIV, April 14 /Ukrinform/. The United States has clearly identified the events in eastern Ukraine as not happening without Moscow's involvement and warned of tougher sanctions against Russia.

U.S. Permanent Representative to the [UN](#), Ambassador Samantha Power, said this in an interview with U.S. television channel ABCNews.

"It's professional, it's coordinated. There's nothing grass roots seeming about it. That forces are doing in each of the six or seven cities that they've been active in exactly the same thing, so certainly it bears the tell-tale signs of Moscow's involvement," she said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/us_recognizes_moscows_involvement_in_events_in_eastern_ukraine_320115

Separatists want dismemberment of Ukraine, not reforms – Baluta, 14.04.2014

KYIV, April 14 /Ukrinform/. A splash of aggression in Kharkiv on the part of pro-Russian forces should be considered as an unbreakable chain of events, aimed at escalation of the conflict in eastern regions of Ukraine.

This was stated by head of the Kharkiv Regional State Administration Ihor Baluta.

"I have no doubt that the requirements of the referendum and a special status of the Russian language - it is just a screen behind which the organizers of the riots try to hide their real purpose: to destabilize and disrupt the presidential elections," Baluta said in a statement, posted on the website of the regional state administration.

According to him, the separatists, who are conducted from abroad, in fact, need not reforms - the dissenters play a role of an instrument in the hands of the Kremlin to destroy united and independent Ukraine. In particular, despite the promises of power (at a meeting with the regional elites in Donetsk, April 11) to adopt a new version of the Constitution of Ukraine, the laws on the referendum and a special status of the Russian language, to implement a reform of the local self-government, the protests escalated into an armed seizure of another office buildings. "In Kharkiv, the city council was chosen as an object to stage provocations, however, an attempt to capture was severely suppressed by police officers," Baluta added.

He urged countrymen to remain calm and not to succumb to provocations.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/separatists_want_dismemberment_of_ukraine_not_reforms_baluta_320117

Lithuanian FM Linkevicius: Russian terrorists use AK-100 submachine guns that not available in Ukraine, 14.04.2014

KYIV, April 14 /Ukrinform/. Lithuanian Foreign Minister [Linas Linkevicius](#) claims that Moscow's role in the riots in the east of Ukraine is proved by confessions of detainees and weapons that the terrorists exploit, capturing administrative buildings with pro-Russian forces. According to him, in Ukraine's east they are armed with the latest Russian AK-100 assault rifles, which are not available in Ukraine.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/lithuanian_fm_linkevicius_russian_terrorists_use_ak_100_submachine_guns_that_not_available_in_ukraine_320119

Turchynov: Problems in eastern regions emerge due to police that served to Yanukovych, 14.04.2014

KYIV, April 14 /Ukrinform/. Acting President, Verkhovna Rada Chairman Oleksandr Turchynov says that problems of separatism in eastern regions emerged due to incapability of the police, formed under Yanukovych, to offer rebuff to separatism. He has said about this at the Conciliation Council in the [Verkhovna Rada](#), a Ukrinform correspondent reports.

"The main problem is that the police, formed in the times of Yanukovych, could not offer resistance to separatism," Turchynov stressed.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/turchynov_problems_in_eastern_regions_emerge_due_to_police_serving_to_yanukovych_320123

Turchynov not ruling out referendum in Ukraine along with presidential elections, 14.04.2014

KYIV, April 14 /Ukrinform/. Ukraine's acting President Oleksandr [Turchynov](#) is not ruling out a national referendum on territorial integrity along with the presidential elections in Ukraine.

He said this at a meeting with heads of parliamentary factions and committees on Monday in Kyiv.

"At the moment it is often said about the referendum. We are not opposed to conduct the referendum. Moreover, I am sure if there is a decision of the parliament to hold such a referendum simultaneously with the presidential elections, the vast majority of Ukrainians will vote for an indivisible, independent, unitary Ukraine," Turchynov said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/turchynov_not_ruling_out_referendum_in_ukraine_along_with_presidential_elections_320125

Sobolev demands replacement of police, SBU heads in cities where separatists seized buildings, 14.04.2014

KYIV, April 14 /Ukrinform/. Batkivshchyna faction leader Serhiy Sobolev demands over 48 hours to replace the Interior Ministry, SBU leaders and chairmen of district administrations in districts, where separatists have seized buildings.

He has said about this at a meeting of the Conciliation Council of deputy groups and factions, a Ukrinform correspondent reports.

"There is demand - over 48 hours to replace all heads of the Interior Ministry, SBU, appointed new heads of district administrations, because to see on the TV screens how the police surrender to the aggressor with their hands up - this is the largest demoralization for ordinary Interior Ministry workers and population," Sobolev said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/sobolev_demands_replacement_of_police_sbu_heads_in_cities_where_separatists_seized_buildings_320127

Germany blames Russia for supporting separatists in Ukraine, 14.04.2014

KYIV, April 14 /Ukrinform/. The German government says that Russia supports separatist armed groups in the east of Ukraine, deputy spokeswoman for the German government Christiane Wirtz told a briefing on Monday, Ukrinform's Berlin correspondent reported.

"There are many indications that in the east of Ukraine active armed groups of people receive support from Russia," Wirtz said.

According to her, "if we look at the behavior, clothing and weapons of these groups, we can conclude that in this case it is hardly about self-defence forces, spontaneously formed civilians."

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/germany_blames_russia_for_supporting_separatists_in_ukraine_320135

Deshchytsia: Yanukovych's 'family' funding militants in Ukraine's east, 14.04.2014

KYIV, April 14 /Ukrinform/. Acting Minister of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine Andriy Deshchytsia claims to have information about the involvement of the "family" of Viktor Yanukovych in the financing of separatist rallies in eastern Ukraine.

The diplomat told this to Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty on Monday.

"It is better to ask about this law enforcement agencies, the SBU, but from the data that I have members of [Yanukovych's - ed.] family are involved in this - they are financing the rallies occurring in the east of Ukraine," Deshchytsia said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/deshchytsia_yanukovychs_family_funding_militants_in_ukraines_east_320147

Yarema says Party of Regions, CPU incite residents in south-eastern regions, 14.04.2014

KYIV, April 14 /Ukrinform/. First Deputy Prime Minister Vitaliy Yarema said that the leaders of the Party of Regions and the Communist Party are inciting the population to struggles in the south-eastern regions.

He told this to reporters on Monday in Kyiv.

"You have seen how chairmen of the Party of Regions and Communist Party factions behaved today at a meeting of the Conciliation Council. They do not help resolve the situation but incite people that they oppose the current government. Not to speak of Tsariv, who is touring the regions and actively supporting separatists and terrorists," Yarema said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/yarema_says_party_of_regions_cpu_incite_residents_in_south_eastern_regions_320151

Turchynov proposes UN join anti-terrorist operation in Ukraine, 14.04.2014

KYIV, April 14 /Ukrinform/. UN peacekeeping forces could have joined an anti-terrorist operation in eastern Ukraine so that the international community could witness the legality of actions by Ukrainian law enforcers and servicemen.

Ukraine's interim President and [Verkhovna Rada](#) Chairman [Oleksandr Turchynov](#) made such a proposal to UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, the press service of the Verkhovna Rada reported.

"We do not object to launching a joint anti-terrorist operation in the east with your assistance. Then, experts and observers will be able to witness the legitimacy and legality of our actions," he said in a phone conversation.

Turchynov said that a large-scale anti-terrorist operation had been launched to protect civilians.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/turchynov_proposes_un_join_anti_terrorist_operation_in_ukraine_320153

<http://www.unian.info/politics/907706-ukraine-initiates-anti-terrorist-operation-jointly-with-un-turchynov.html>

Sikorski: EU must concretely respond to aggression of Russia, 14.04.2014

KYIV, April 14 /Ukrinform/. Polish Foreign Minister Radoslaw Sikorski believes that the European Union must give a concrete signal to Russia about consequences of its armed intervention in Ukraine.

He has said about this before a meeting of the EU Foreign Affairs Council in Luxemburg, Polish mass media inform.

"The EU should make it clear to Russia about the consequences of possible further hostilities in eastern Ukraine ... I hope for a very specific signal on when it may be decided on sanctions if Russia goes on," Sikorski said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/sikorski_eu_must_concretely_respond_to_aggression_of_russia_320155

West does not want to take responsibility for confrontation with Russia - former Foreign Minister of Georgia, 14.04.2014

KYIV, April 14 /Ukrinform/. In Western countries there is a strong leverage to respond to Russia's aggression, but they do not want to take responsibility for the confrontation with Moscow.

Former Minister of Foreign Affairs of Georgia Grigol Vashadze has said this in an interview with Georgian media.

"It is not true that the West has no leverages to respond to Russia. But the West does not want to take responsibility for the confrontation with Russia, while not exhausting all possible diplomatic means to resolve the conflict," he said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/west_does_not_want_to_take_responsibility_for_confrontation_with_russia_former_foreign_minister_of_georgia_320163

Anti-terrorist operation begins in Donetsk region, 15.04.2014

KYIV, April 15 /Ukrinform/. An anti-terrorist operation has begun in the northern part of Donetsk region.

Parliament Speaker Oleksandr Turchynov said this at a Verkhovna Rada meeting on Tuesday, a Ukrinform correspondent reported.

"An anti-terrorist operation has begun today in the northern part of Donetsk region. It will be conducted step by step, responsibly, carefully," Turchynov said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/anti_terrorist_operation_begins_in_donetsk_region_320181

Right Sector claims inadmissibility of seizure of administrative buildings, 15.04.2014

KYIV, April 15 /Ukrinform/. Amid Russia's military aggression any actions aimed at capturing the Ukrainian government buildings are inadmissible, Right Sector spokesman Boryslav Bereza told Tsenzor.Net commenting on reports about the planned assault of the parliament building by the group of protestors.

"Protesting against the activities of the authorities by storming administrative buildings in the face of massive sabotage attacks by Russian security services is irresponsible, posing a threat to national security," he said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/right_sector_claims_inadmissibility_of_seizure_of_administrative_buildings_320179

Medvedev makes hasty statement about civil war in Ukraine, 15.04.2014

KYIV, April 15 /Ukrinform/. Russian Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev has said that Ukraine is on the verge of a civil war.

He wrote this on his page on Facebook.

"Blood has been spilled in Ukraine again. The country is on the verge of a civil war. That is sad," Medvedev said.

He said that the cause of "the Ukrainian tragedy is that the legitimate authorities did not even try to preserve law and order in the regions of the country where administrative buildings were seized."

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/medvedev_makes_hasty_statement_about_civil_war_in_ukraine_320198

Turchynov vows to prevent civil war, 15.04.2014

KYIV, April 15 /Ukrinform/. Acting President of Ukraine, Verkhovna Rada Speaker Oleksandr Turchynov said civilians will not be provided with weapons and there will be no civil war in Ukraine.

He said this at a meeting of the parliament on Tuesday, commenting on the initiative of the Svoboda faction to pass a law that allows civilians to have weapons, as well as some of the initiatives to give civilians weapons to protect the state, Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty reported.

"The government gives weapons only to those who come to work in the police, or who is going to serve with the National Guard or armed forces. When we open free access to weapons, it would also mean free access to the separatists, and it means that we push Ukraine into the abyss of civil war ... There will be no civil war in Ukraine. End of story," Turchynov said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/turchynov_vows_to_prevent_civil_war_320227

Kyiv authorities heard Donbas, Taruta says, 15.04.2014

KYIV, April 15 /Ukrinform/. Donetsk authorities for five days have been negotiating with those who had seized a regional state administration building, Donetsk region governor Serhiy Taruta told a briefing on Tuesday.

"Originally, 12 pro-Russian activists have been involved in negotiations. They wanted the Kyiv government to hear them. And it heard them. After Donetsk was visited by Prime Minister Yatsenyuk, a consensus was reached in the negotiations," the official said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/kyiv_authorities_heard_donbas_taruta_says_320240

Lavrov continues to impose conditions day before talks in Geneva, 16.04.2014

KYIV, April 16 /Ukrinform/. Russian Foreign Minister [Sergei Lavrov](#) has said that a quadripartite meeting on the situation in Ukraine between the United States, the EU,

Russia and Ukraine in Geneva remains on the agenda if any use of force against terrorists in eastern Ukraine is stopped.

He said this in Hanoi on Wednesday, according to Russian media.

"This meeting [in Geneva on April 17] remains on the agenda for now. We hope that the efforts that are currently being taken, including by the Russian leadership, will have much influence, and any use of force against protesters will be stopped," he said.

"We will try to calm the situation, and we will try to ensure that the Kyiv leaders show respect for the opinions and demands of the residents of southeastern regions, Ukrainian citizens who live in southeastern regions, and immediately enter into negotiations to de-escalate the situation, rather than try to escalate it through the use of law enforcement agencies and especially the army, which is directly prohibited by Ukrainian legislation," he said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/lavrov_continues_to_impose_conditions_day_before_talks_in_geneva_320279

Putin already divides Ukraine mentally, 17.04.2014

KYIV, April 17 /Ukrinform/. Russian President Vladimir Putin mentally divided Ukraine into "nationalist" West and pro-Russian East. At the same time, people living in the West, he called "second-class citizens."

He stated this during the so-called "call-in."

"Where nationalism is flourishing and even neo-Nazism is reborn - what is this? This is western part of Ukraine. You know well the historical past of this territory, this land and these people. Partially, they were in Czechoslovakia, the today's territory partly was in Austro-Hungary, partly in Poland. Nowhere and never they have been full-fledge citizens of these countries. Something always matured inside these people. A fact is forgotten that they were second-class citizens in these states. Hence, the origins of nationalism," Putin said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/putin_already_divides_ukraine_mentally_320356

Putin hopes Russian troops will not be sent to Ukraine, 17.04.2014

KYIV, April 17 /Ukrinform/. Russian President Vladimir Putin expressed hope that he would not use the right given him by the Federation Council to send the Russian troops to the territory of Ukraine.

He stated this during a traditional "call-in," held in Moscow Thursday.

"I hope that I will not have to exercise this right, that by political and diplomatic means we will be able to solve all sharp, if not the most pressing problems of the day in Ukraine," the President of Russia said.

At the same time, he critically spoke about the appeals to the population in Ukraine's south-east to surrender the arms.

"Now, we hear calls for the people in the south-east to lay down their arms. This is a correct and wonderful call. But, then withdraw the army from the civilians. Are you really crazy? Tanks, armored personnel carriers, I see the guns are brought. Against whom are the guns brought? Multiple launch rocket systems, combat aircraft fly. Have you lost your wits, or what?" the President of Russia said - of the country, conducting regular anti-terrorist operations with the regular army on the territory of its own republics in the Caucasus.

Referring to the fact that Ukraine failed to disarm the "nationalist groups," he said the decision "is not here."

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/putin_hopes_russian_troops_will_not_be_sent_to_ukraine_320362

US ready to strengthen sanctions against Russia if Geneva agreement not fulfilled - Kerry, 18.04.2014

KYIV, April 18 /Ukrinform/. The United States is determined to impose additional sanctions on Russia if Moscow does not fulfill the agreements reached by the sides in Geneva to defuse tensions in Ukraine.

U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry said this following the quadrilateral talks on Ukraine, which were held in Geneva on Thursday, a Ukrinform correspondent reported.

"I made clear to [Russian] Foreign Minister [Sergei] Lavrov today that if we're not able to see progress on the immediate efforts to be able to implement the principles of this agreement this weekend, then we will have no choice but to impose further costs on Russia," Kerry said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/us_ready_to_strengthen_sanctions_against_russia_if_geneva_agreement_not_fulfilled_kerry_320380

OSCE says Ukraine's border crossing restrictions for Russian men admissible, 18.04.2014

KYIV, April 18 /Ukrinform/. Director of the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights Janez Lenarcic called admissible a ban for Russian males aged 16-60 to enter Ukraine.

"Ukraine is currently facing a powerful challenge to security and a serious threat to the sovereignty and territorial integrity. Under such conditions, restrictions on freedom of movement are allowed by OSCE commitments and international standards if they are proportionate and desperately needed," Lenarcic said.

"In connection with reports about possible provocations on the border, with a view to preventing radicals from coming to the territory of Ukraine, the Ukrainian State Border Guard Service (SBGS) temporarily tightens border control at checkpoints on the Ukrainian-Russian border and at the turn of the administrative border with the Autonomous Republic of Crimea," the border authorities said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/osce_says_ukraines_border_crossing_restrictions_for_russian_men_admissible_320382

Tymoshenko asks US for military assistance, 18.04.2014

KYIV, April 18 /Ukrinform/. Russian aggression has not only an economic and political, but also a military component, so Ukraine needs overall assistance, including military and technical assistance.

Batkivshchyna Party leader Yulia Tymoshenko made such an appeal to the U.S. Congress.

"Ukraine needs comprehensive aid. In particular, this concerns military and technical aid that, in my view, should include air defense and anti-armor equipment and assistance with training of military personnel," the politician said.

Tymoshenko said that she fully supports the recommendations contained in a report by Gen. Wesley Clark and Dr. Philipp Karber "Immediate Improvements Needed in Rapidly Implementing U.S. Military Assistance for Defense of Ukraine."

"I welcome the final document of the Geneva meeting of Ukraine, EU, U.S., and Russian Federation representatives as the first step in the right direction. But I would like to stress the importance of its urgent implementation and a proper verification. If Russia does not begin de-escalation and does not stop aggression within the next two or three days, I call the U.S. together with the EU to strengthen comprehensive sanctions and to take measures to increase assistance to Ukraine," Tymoshenko said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/tymoshenko_asks_us_for_military_assistance_320425

Antiterrorist operation transferred into passive phase - SBU, 18.04.2014

KYIV, April 18 /Ukrinform/. The antiterrorist operation continues in Eastern Ukraine, but in a passive form because of the Geneva agreements and the Easter holidays. As reported by Ukrinform, head of the SBU press center Maryna Ostapenko has said about this at a briefing.

"The antiterrorist operation continues. How long it will last depends on how long the terrorists will remain on our land, but due to the Easter holidays and the Geneva agreements the operation is not in the active phase," Maryna Ostapenko said

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/antiterrorist_operation_transferred_into_passive_phase_sbu_320437

Deshchytsia says anti-terror operation continues amid Geneva accords, 18.04.2014

KYIV, April 18 /Ukrinform/. Acting Ukrainian Foreign Minister [Andriy Deshchytsia](#) says that the antiterrorist operation in eastern Ukraine continues amid the Geneva agreements reached during the four-party talks on April 17.

The diplomat said this at a press briefing on Friday in Kyiv.

"As for the anti-terrorist operation, it continues. Its intensity will depend on the implementation of this agreement, the real vacation of captured buildings and arms surrender. We hope that these groups will responsibly treat the agreements and use this chance, which the Ukrainian authorities give them," the Ukrainian foreign policy chief said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/deshchytsia_says_anti_terror_operation_continues_amid_geneva_accords_320439

Obama and Merkel: Russia has to withdraw its irregular troops from eastern Ukraine, 18.04.2014

Russia has to make its irregular troops in the eastern Ukraine to lay down arms and to leave seized buildings. If it does not take place in coming future – the EU and the USA are ready to take further measures towards Russia.

It was said in a telephone talk of President of the USA Barack Obama and Chancellor of Germany Angela Merkel, the office of the press secretary of the White House reports.

"President of the USA Barack Obama and Chancellor of Germany Angela Merkel discussed the situation in the eastern Ukraine with a great concern", - it is said in the report.

"The President of the USA expressed gratitude to the government of Ukraine, which made constructive offers on expansion of local self-government and ensuring protection of rights of all Ukrainians", - the White House notes.

<http://www.unian.info/politics/909316-obama-and-merkel-russia-has-to-withdraw-its-irregular-troops-from-eastern-ukraine.html>

Kerry urges Russia to take concrete steps to defuse Ukraine crisis, 22.04.2014

KYIV, April 22 /Ukrinform/. U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry has called Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov, urging the Russian side to take "concrete steps" aimed at a de-escalation of the situation in eastern Ukraine, the U.S. Department of State has reported.

The conversation took place on Monday, a Ukrinform correspondent reported.

"The Secretary urged Russia to take concrete steps to help implement the Geneva agreement, including publicly calling on separatists to vacate illegal buildings and checkpoints," State Department spokesperson Jen Psaki said.

She also said that Kerry, during a call with Lavrov, had called on Russia to assign a senior diplomat "to work with the OSCE mission in eastern Ukraine to make absolutely clear to the separatists that Russia supports the agreement and wants de-escalation." Kerry made clear that "Russia's recent public statement casting doubt on Ukraine's commitment to the Geneva agreement flies in the face of the facts."

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/kerry_urges_russia_to_take_concrete_steps_to_defuse_ukraine_crisis_320469

Jemilev: It's Russia that should rehabilitate itself before us, 22.04.2014

KYIV, April 22 /Ukrinform/. The leader of the Crimean Tatar people, [Mustafa Jemilev](#), believes that a decree by the Russian president on the rehabilitation of the Crimean Tatars and other formerly deported peoples of Crimea is a political move to strengthen Russia's policy on the peninsula.

"We somehow do not need rehabilitation from Russia. Russia should rehabilitate itself before us for the crime of 1944," Jemilev said.

He also considers the adoption of the decree late.

"Why did they decide to issue this decree after the occupation of our territory - an interesting question for us. Course, Russia should participate in solving social problems that we have, but it should be done within the framework of agreements between our countries ... Russia immediately after the declaration of the Russian Federation in 1991 should have proclaimed that the deportation was a crime, assumed obligations on the return and settlement of the Crimean Tatars on their own land," the leader of the Crimean Tatars emphasized.

According to him, earlier the "Russian propaganda was constantly angrily saying that Ukraine stimulates the return of Crimean Tatars to thereby disrupt the demographic situation at the expense of the Russians."

"And now we see such a sudden curtsy," Jemilev said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/jemilev_its_russia_that_should_rehabilitate_itself_before_us_320473

US will never recognize annexation of Crimea - Biden, 22.04.2014

KYIV, April 22 /Ukrinform/. The United States will never recognize Russia's illegal occupation of Crimea.

U.S. Vice President Joseph Biden said this after talks with Ukrainian Prime Minister Arseniy Yatseniuk at a joint press conference in Kyiv on Tuesday, according to news reports.

He said that Ukraine was facing very serious challenges, both in terms of the economy, security and the preservation of Ukraine's territorial integrity

"No nation has the right to simply grab land from another nation. We will never recognize Russia's illegal occupation of Crimea," Biden said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/us_will_never_recognize_annexation_of_crimea_biden_320520

Lukashenko says federalization may split Ukraine, supports integrity, 22.04.2014

KYIV, April 22 /Ukrinform/. President of Belarus [Alexander Lukashenko](#) called for integrity of Ukraine and said that federalization could lead to a split of the country.

He said this in his state of the nation address on Tuesday in Minsk.

"You do know perfectly well what federalization is needed for. And you know perfectly well the consequences of this federalization. If we legally fix the split in Ukraine to the east and west actually with the hands of Ukrainians, tomorrow it is possible that

someone will want to chop off a part from the federation," Lukashenko noted. "Or at least some will try to play in the east and others in the west," he continued.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/lukashenko_says_federalization_may_split_ukraine_supports_integrity_320518

Russia destabilizes Ukraine's east in order to undermine elections - Poroshenko, 23.04.2014

KYIV, April 23 /Ukrinform/. Russian special services strive to achieve destabilization in Ukraine's east in order to hamper holding the presidential elections May 25.

Candidate to presidency Petro Poroshenko has said this in the Freedom of Speech program on the ICTV channel Tuesday.

"What is the main goal of destabilization of the situation in the East? Not in the East, but in Donetsk and Luhansk... We can say today that a scenario of the Russian blitzkrieg failed, but there is a high level of tension in these two regions today. What is this done for? Someone thinks that they intend to access Donetsk and Luhansk. No, they do not know what should be done with this," he said.

At the same time, the people's deputy stressed that the aim of destabilization of the situation in eastern regions is undermining of the elections planned for May 25.

"There is the only goal - to undermine the elections. Destabilization in those two regions should create the appearance that the elections were not held in Ukraine. Undermining of the elections means that no legitimate power will be in Ukraine until the year end," he said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/russia_destabilizes_ukraines_east_in_order_to_undermine_elections_poroshenko_320540

Moscow must publicly call on separatists to disarm - Kerry, 23.04.2014

KYIV, April 23 /Ukrinform/. Russia must publicly call on separatists in eastern Ukraine to disarm and release the occupied buildings, as envisaged by the Geneva agreement.

U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry said this during a telephone conversation with Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov late on Tuesday, the press service of the U.S. State Department reported.

"With Foreign Minister Lavrov, the secretary expressed deep concern over the lack of positive Russian steps to de-escalate, cited mounting evidence that separatists continue to increase the number of buildings under occupation and take journalists and other civilians captive. He urged Russia to tone down escalatory rhetoric, engage diplomatically in the east with the OSCE and Ukrainian government, and issue public statements calling for those occupying buildings to disarm and stand down in exchange for amnesty," reads the statement.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/moscow_must_publicly_call_on_separatists_to_disarm_kerry_320556

OSCE: Concentration of Ukrainian troops in country's east justified, 23.04.2014

KYIV, April 23 /Ukrinform/. The concentration of the Ukrainian Armed Forces in eastern Ukraine is justified, and Ukraine as a sovereign state has the right to deploy own troops in its territory, member of the OSCE Special Monitoring Mission, German Colonel Axel Schneider told reporters on Tuesday, according to Deutsche Welle.

"The deployment did not happen under some international treaty. The deployment of troops is the right of a sovereign state to have troops inside the country," Schneider said.

Speaking about the implementation of the Geneva accords, the OSCE representative said: "I think that at the moment the response is adequate. Basically, this is up to all parties to the agreements to jointly find a solution to this issue and dynamically react to events."

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/osce_concentration_of_ukrainian_troops_in_country_s_east_justified_320560

Lavrov says Russian army ready for rapid response, 23.04.2014

KYIV, April 23 /Ukrinform/. Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov has said that the Russian Armed Forces are ready to respond if there is a threat to the interests of Russian citizens.

He said this in an interview with Russia Today, Russian media reported.

"If we are attacked, we would certainly respond. If our interests, our legitimate interests, the interests of Russians have been attacked directly, like they were in South Ossetia for example, I do not see any other way but to respond in full accordance with international law. Russian citizens being attacked is an attack against the Russian Federation," he said.

At the same time, he said, Russia has never denied pulling more troops to the border with Ukraine.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/lavrov_says_russian_army_ready_for_rapid_response_320584

Russia did nothing for stabilization of situation in Ukraine – Pentagon, 23.04.2014

Russia still holds its soldiers on the border with Ukraine and did nothing for stabilization of the situation in this country and Europe.

Pentagon Press Secretary, Rear Admiral John Kirby said this in the evening yesterday, the official web site of the Pentagon reports.

"We did not see anything from the side of Moscow or from the side of Russia, or their armed forces that would decrease a tension or stabilize the situation in Ukraine or the European continent", -said the spokesman for the Pentagon.

<http://www.unian.info/politics/910645-russia-did-nothing-for-stabilization-of-situation-in-ukraine-pentagon.html>

US calls on Russia to influence separatists to release hostages in Sloviansk, 24.04.2014

KYIV, April 24 /Ukrinform/. The U.S. Department of State is concerned about the kidnapping of Vice News journalist Simon Ostrovsky in Sloviansk. Pro-Russian forces must release all those who they hold, including journalists.

U.S. Department of State spokeswoman Jen Psaki said this at a briefing on Wednesday, according to media reports.

"I can express deep concern about the kidnapping of a U.S. citizen journalist in Sloviansk, Ukraine, reportedly at the hands of pro-Russian separatists. We have also raised our concerns with Ukrainian officials as they work with local authorities to try to de-escalate the security situation. We likewise condemn the taking of any hostages, including journalists in eastern Ukraine. We call for their immediate release and call on Russia to use its influence to ensure they're freed immediately," Psaki said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/us_calls_on_russia_to_influence_separatists_to_release_hostages_in_sloviansk_320614

OSCE chief monitor in Ukraine concerned about escalating violence in Donetsk region, 24.04.2014

KYIV, April 24 /Ukrinform/. Recent violent events in Donetsk region are distressing and entirely inconsistent with the spirit of the Geneva statement agreed by the European Union, Russia, Ukraine and the United States.

The head of the OSCE Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine, Ambassador Ertugral Apakan, said this on Wednesday, according to the OSCE website.

"The reported torture and killing of two individuals, including a local politician, are grave incidents. This represents a significant escalation of what is already a tense situation. Furthermore, the harassment and abduction of journalists is unacceptable. They should be released immediately," Apakan said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/osce_chief_monitor_in_ukraine_concerned_about_escalating_violence_in_donetsk_region_320622

Putin describes anti-terror operation in Ukraine a 'crime against people', 24.04.2014

KYIV, April 24 /Ukrinform/. Russian President Vladimir Putin believes that the involvement of the Ukrainian army in the anti-terrorist operation in Sloviansk is a "crime against the people."

He said this on Thursday at the Media Forum in St. Petersburg, according to RIA Novosti.

"If, indeed, the current regime in Kyiv began to use the army against the population in the country, it is, without any doubt, a very serious crime against the people," he said. Putin added that, like, everyone, he learned about recent developments in Ukraine from the media.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/putin_describes_anti_terror_operation_in_ukraine_a_crime_against_people_320644

West must be firm in increasing pressure on Putin - Hillary Clinton, 24.04.2014

KYIV, April 24 /Ukrinform/. Former U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton has called on the country's leadership to strengthen sanctions against Russia over the situation in Ukraine, Radio Liberty has reported.

She said this at the University of Connecticut on Thursday.

According to Clinton, the West should be clear and firm in its intentions, if need be, to increase pressure on Russian President Vladimir Putin, reads the report.

Clinton also said she was confident that Russia "will pay a big price" for intervention in Ukraine.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/west_must_be_firm_in_increasing_pressure_on_putin_hillary_clinton_320664

Shoigu warns Russia will react to developments in southeastern Ukraine, 24.04.2014

KYIV, April 24 /Ukrinform/. Russian Defense Minister Sergei Shoigu said on Thursday that Russia has to react to the situation in southeastern Ukraine, where a counter-terrorism operation is ongoing, Russian media have reported.

"We have to react to such developments," he said.

Shoigu said that "as of today, our battalion tactical combined-arms groups from the Southern and Western military districts have begun drills in the areas bordering with Ukraine."

"The troops will practice marches and tactical deployment for executing tasks as necessary," he said.

Shoigu also said that "our aviation units will perform flights to practice operations near our national border."

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/shoigu_warns_russia_will_react_to_developments_in_southeastern_ukraine_320666

Ashton: Separatists must immediately hand in arms in Ukraine's east, 24.04.2014

KYIV, April 24 /Ukrinform/. The EU notes the need for the immediate release of the hostages, who are being illegally held by armed groups in eastern Ukraine, reads a statement issued by EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy Catherine Ashton on Thursday.

"All persons still illegally detained by armed groups in Eastern Ukraine must be immediately released, whether journalists, local leaders or ordinary citizens," she said. Ashton urged all parties to the Joint Geneva Statement on Ukraine of 17 April to ensure that its terms are fully implemented, including by using their leverage on illegal armed groups to stop violence and provocation and to make them hand in their arms.

Expressing grave concern about the latest news from Eastern Ukraine, and in particular the reported kidnappings, torture and killings, including the cases of Volodymyr Rybak and Pavel Kovelko, the EU foreign policy chief said "an independent and transparent investigation should shed full light on these deaths and bring the perpetrators to justice. "I call for an end to violence, intimidation and provocative actions and statements, as agreed in the Joint Geneva Statement."

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/ashton_separatists_must_immediately_hand_in_arms_in_ukraines_east_320669

EU recognizes Ukraine's right to hold antiterrorist operation to defend sovereignty, 24.04.2014

KYIV, April 24 /Ukrinform/. The European Union recognizes the right of the Ukrainian authorities to take security measures to protect the sovereignty of the state.

Michal Mann, spokesperson for EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy Catherine Ashton, said this at a briefing on Thursday, a Ukrinform correspondent in Brussels reported.

"We have full confidence in the Ukrainian government... We recognize Ukraine's right to take legitimate actions to defend its sovereignty and territorial integrity," he said, while commenting on the holding of an antiterrorist operation in eastern Ukraine.

He noted that Ukraine was fulfilling its obligations under the Geneva agreement.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/eu_recognizes_ukraines_right_to_hold_antiterrorist_operation_to_defend_sovereignty_320673

<http://www.unian.info/politics/911715-eu-states-that-kyiv-has-right-for-ato-in-east-of-ukraine-and-expresses-concern-about-exercises-of-russia.html>

Churkin threatens Ukraine with Russian troops, 25.04.2014

KYIV, April 25 /Ukrinform/. In the worst-case scenario in Ukraine's southeastern regions Russia will resort to a resolution of the Russian Federation Council to use the Russian troops in the territory of Ukraine.

Russian Ambassador to the United Nations Vitaly Churkin told the Russia 1 television channel on Thursday, ITAR-TASS reported.

"This opportunity is always in our hands. But, of course, we would not like to do so," he added.

At the same time, Churkin assured, Russia does not seek to realize such a scenario.

"Now the main task is the de-escalation of the conflict," he said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/churkin_threatens_ukraine_with_russian_troops_320681

Presidential Administration: Threat of Russia's invasion higher, 25.04.2014

KYIV, April 25 /Ukrinform/. A threat Russia's invasion of Ukraine has increased, acting Deputy Head of the Presidential Administration Andriy Senchenko told Chanel 5 on Thursday.

"The degree of threat has increased, certainly. The fact that for Putin the number one task is still to disrupt the process of stabilization in Ukraine, the presidential elections - it's obvious," he said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/presidential_administration_threat_of_russias_invasion_on_higher_320677

USA: Window to change course is closing, Putin should make choice, 25.04.2014

Russia has less time for changing its policy towards Ukraine in order to avoid further sanctions of West.

US secretary of state John Kerry said this at the special sitting of the Department of State on April 24.

"Window to change course is closing. President Putin and Russia should make a choice. If Russia chooses the path of de-escalation, all of us will welcome it. But if Russia does not, the world will make sure that the costs for Russia will only grow", - said Kerry, the words of who PAP cites.

<http://www.unian.info/politics/911603-usa-window-to-change-course-is-closing-putin-should-make-choice.html>

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/washington_issues_final_warning_to_russia_320689

Russia recognizes presence of its terrorists in Ukraine - Yatseniuk, 25.04.2014

KYIV, April 25 /Ukrinform/. Today's statement of the Russian representative to the United Nations about current intentions of Russia proved that Russia recognizes the presence of terrorists and separatists it sent to Ukraine.

Prime Minister of Ukraine Arseniy Yatseniuk has said about this at the government meeting.

"Today's statement of Russia is nothing else but direct proof of the fact of availability of Russian citizens, supporting terrorism on the territory of Ukraine," he is convinced.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/russia_recognizes_presence_of_its_terrorists_in_ukraine_yatseniuk_320710

Merkel urges Putin to adhere to Geneva agreements, 25.04.2014

KYIV, April 25 /Ukrinform/. German Chancellor Angela Merkel held a telephone conversation with Russian President Vladimir Putin on Friday, during which she urged Moscow to adhere to the Geneva agreements.

Spokesperson for the German government Steffen Seibert has said this at a press conference in Berlin, Ukrinform's special correspondent reports.

"During a telephone conversation, the Federal Chancellor urged the Russian President to clearly demonstrate that he fully supports the Geneva agreements," Seibert said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/merkel_urges_putin_to_adhere_to_geneva_agreements_320716

Tymoshenko to Putin: Be sure, we will win, 25.04.2014

KYIV, April 25 /Ukrinform/. Ukrainian presidential candidate Yulia Tymoshenko announced Vladimir Putin "personally responsible" for the torture and murder of Batkivshchyna deputy from Horlivka Volodymyr Rybak by the Russian Special Forces. Tymoshenko 's personal website reads, from which she addressed Putin.

"Now I address him directly: our struggle is not the struggle against the people of Russia. We are fighting against your imperial ambitions. The war imposed on Ukraine will be the end of your regime. Be sure: we will win, and your people will answer for all the crimes," Tymoshenko said, stressing that Ukraine will be united and peaceful.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/tymoshenko_to_putin_be_sure_we_will_win_320720

Turchynov: Russian leadership must answer for its support for terrorism, 26.04.2014

KYIV, April 26 /Ukrinform/. The Russian leadership must be held accountable for supporting terrorism, in accordance with international law, Acting Ukrainian President and Verkhovna Rada Chairman Oleksandr Turchynov has said, according to the press service of the Ukrainian parliament.

According to the speaker, on April 25, criminals captured international inspectors from the OSCE who are working in Ukraine and visited Sloviansk on their own initiative.

According to Turchynov, this crime could not be committed without a permit or direct order from the Russian leadership, "which coordinates and openly supports armed terrorists who seize buildings, capture hostages, torture and kill people."

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/turchynov_russian_leadership_must_answer_for_its_support_for_terrorism_320734

Russian Federation behaves as international terrorist on Ukraine's east - Poroshenko, 28.04.2014

KYIV, April 28 /Ukrinform/. Actions of the Russian Federation on Ukraine's south-east are perceived in the world as international terrorism.

Candidate to President of Ukraine Petro Poroshenko told a press conference in Ternopil, the politician's press service informs about this.

"Today, the image of the Russian Federation is created as the country, which finances, covers and protects terrorists," Poroshenko has said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/russian_federation_behaves_as_international_terrorist_on_ukraines_east_poroshenko_320795

Poroshenko says about pogroms and intimidation at elections, 29.04.2014

KYIV, April 29 /Ukrinform/. Presidential candidate Poroshenko says about attacks and intimidation of activists and pogroms of election headquarters in several regions of Ukraine.

This was reported by Poroshenko's press service.

"Now, we get the facts of a delay in the formation of election commissions, bullying people at the local level, attacking the activists and pogroms of election headquarters," Poroshenko said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/poroshenko_says_about_pogroms_and_intimidation_at_elections_320811

EU alarmed by worsening security situation in eastern Ukraine, 29.04.2014

KYIV, April 29 /Ukrinform/. The European Union is not only concerned but also alarmed by the worsening security situation in eastern Ukraine, EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy Catherine Ashton said in a statement on Tuesday. "I am alarmed by the worsening security situation in Eastern Ukraine," Ashton said. She notably condemned the shooting of Kharkiv Mayor Hennadiy Kernes and the detention of military observers from OSCE participating states in Sloviansk by armed separatists.

"All persons still illegally detained by armed groups in eastern Ukraine need to be immediately released," the EU foreign policy chief said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/eu_alarmed_by_worsening_security_situation_in_eastern_ukraine_320825

France believes sanctions to make Putin respect Ukraine, 29.04.2014

KYIV, April 29 /Ukrinform/. French Foreign Minister Laurent Fabius believes that the purpose of multilateral sanctions imposed by the U.S. and the EU is to force Russian President Vladimir Putin respect the sovereignty of Ukraine.

He told this to TV-5 and Le Monde journalists when asked whether economic sanctions will suffice to force Putin make concessions or at least think about his actions.

"That is the purpose. The sanctions are multifaceted: cancellation of the G8 meeting, suspension of military cooperation, personal sanctions, cancellation of visas, financial penalties, eventually the amount and speed of sanctions can only increase," he said.

According to the French minister, Russia must respect the sovereignty of any country.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/france_believes_sanctions_to_make_putin_respect_ukraine_320851

Tsariov announces boycott of elections and withdraws from presidential race, 29.04.2014

KYIV, April 29 /Ukrinform/. Former Party of Regions MP Oleh Tsariov withdraws his candidacy from the presidential elections in Ukraine.

It is reported by his press office.

"We will seek for other channels and opportunities to convey our ideas and positions to residents of central and western Ukraine. I urge all other candidates - Petro Symonenko, Mykhailo Dobkin, Serhiy Tyhyhko, Rinat Kuzmin and other candidates, whose basic electorate is on the south-east, to withdraw from the elections! We must boycott the elections, which are held against a backdrop of a civil war," Tsariov has said at a meeting of the Coordinating Council of the separatist movement "South - East."

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/tsariov_announces_boycott_of_elections_and_withdraws_from_presidential_race_320858

Deshchytsia, Zannier demand immediate release of OSCE representatives, 29.04.2014

KYIV, April 29 /Ukrinform/. OSCE Secretary General Lamberto Zannier and Acting Ukrainian Foreign Minister Andriy Deshchytsia have demanded that terrorists in Sloviansk immediately release OSCE military representatives.

Zannier, who arrived in Kyiv on Tuesday, and Deshchytsia told this to reporters at a briefing on Tuesday, a Ukrinform correspondent reported.

"We condemn the taking hostage of representatives of an OSCE military verification team, which includes seven foreigners and two Ukrainians. We demand their immediate release," Deshchytsia said.

"We hope they will be released, without any threat to their lives and health," Deshchytsia said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/deshchytsia_zannier_demand_immediate_release_of_osce_representatives_320874

<http://www.unian.info/politics/913039-zannier-and-deshchytsia-condemn-seizure-of-military-observers-of-osce-in-slaviansk.html>

NATO cannot confirm withdrawal of Russian troops from Ukraine's border, 29.04.2014

KYIV, April 29 /Ukrinform/. NATO has seen no sign that tens of thousands of Russian troops are withdrawing from Ukraine's border, Reuters has reported, citing a NATO official.

"We currently have no information that indicates a withdrawal of Russian troops from the Ukrainian border. We continue to urge Russia to abide by the Geneva agreement and to pull back all its troops along the Ukrainian border in favor of diplomacy and dialogue," the official said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/nato_cannot_confirm_withdrawal_of_russian_troops_from_ukraines_border_320862

Donetsk's mayor states that "Crimean scenario" may be realized in north of region, 29.04.2014

Donetsk's mayor Oleksandr Lukjanchenko is willing to concede that "Crimean scenario" may be realized in north of region.

According to an UNIAN correspondent, he said this at news conference, answering a corresponding question of journalists.

"I do not see it directly in Donetsk. But speaking about other cities in north of the Donetsk Oblast, it is possible there", - said Lukjanchenko.

<http://www.unian.info/politics/912844-donetsks-mayor-states-that-crimean-scenario-may-be-realized-in-north-of-region.html>

Merkel calls on Russia not to interfere in Ukraine's affairs, 30.04.2014

KYIV, April 30 /Ukrinform/. Citizens of Ukraine are free to independently decide at what political order to live, and Russia has no right to interfere in this process.

German Chancellor Angela Merkel has said in her speech at the pre-election event of the Christian Democratic Union in the German city of Gustrow, a special correspondent of Ukrinform in Germany reports.

"Ukrainians are free to decide at what political system they live. Russia has no right to interfere in this decision," she said, taking into consideration the presidential elections in Ukraine, planned for May 25.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/merkel_calls_on_russia_not_to_interfere_in_ukraines_affairs_320886

Turchynov says situation in Donetsk region out of control, 30.04.2014

KYIV, April 30 /Ukrinform/. Ukraine's acting President, Verkhovna

Rada Speaker Oleksandr Turchynov has admitted that the authorities do not control the situation in Donetsk region.

He said this during a meeting with heads of regional state administrations in Kyiv on Wednesday.

"Administrative buildings have been captured in many cities of Donetsk region and in the city of Donetsk. Today the authorities do not control the situation here," Turchynov said.

He also noted that the security forces in the region cannot take the situation under control.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/turchynov_says_situation_in_donetsk_region_out_of_control_320894

<http://www.unian.info/politics/913284-authorities-do-not-control-situation-in-donetsk-turchynov.html>

Turchynov urges governors to prevent spread of terrorism to other regions, 30.04.2014

KYIV, April 30 /Ukrinform/. Ukraine's acting President, Verkhovna Rada Speaker Oleksandr Turchynov has ordered that heads of regional state administrations prevent the spread of the terrorist threat to other regions of Ukraine. First of all it is about Kharkiv and Odesa regions.

He said this during a meeting with heads of regional state administrations in Kyiv on Wednesday.

"Our task is to prevent the spread of the terrorist threat to other regions, primarily Kharkiv and Odesa regions. This is a task that will be controlled by me," Turchynov said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/turchynov_urges_governors_to_prevent_spread_of_terrorism_to_other_regions_320896

Turchynov orders to set up battalion of territorial defense in every region, 30.04.2014

KYIV, April 30 /Ukrinform/. A battalion of territorial defense should be set up in every region.

Acting President, Verkhovna Rada Chairman Oleksandr Turchynov has said about this at a meeting with chairmen of state regional administrations, a Ukrinform correspondent reports.

"I give an order about formation of a battalion of territorial defense in every region," Turchynov said.

He informed that every head of the administration should know the details of the territorial defense plan in his region.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/turchynov_orders_to_set_up_battalion_of_territorial_defense_in_every_region_320902

Taruta promises to take control of situation "in the nearest future", 30.04.2014

KYIV, April 30 /Ukrinform/. Chairman of the Donetsk Regional State Administration Serhiy Taruta promised to take control of the situation in Donetsk region, but did not say how.

Taruta has said this in Kyiv, after a meeting with Acting President Turchynov, who spoke with heads of regional state administrations, Ostro.org reports.

"Of course, we will take control (of the situation - Ed.). But this is the problem of not only the local authorities, but also the task of the military. In the nearest future," he answered the questions of journalists about when the governor begins to control the situation in the region.

"Provocations? We expect them and are ready to do everything to ensure that we have marked our holidays without a special turmoil," Taruta added.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/taruta_promises_to_take_control_of_situation_in_the_nearest_future_320918

Pashynsky assures situation in Sloviansk will be localized in coming days, 30.04.2014

KYIV, April 30 /Ukrinform/. Acting Head of the Presidential Administration of Ukraine Serhiy Pashynsky expressed the belief that the situation in Sloviansk will be localized in the coming days.

He told reporters about this at a briefing at the Presidential Administration, a Ukrinform correspondent reports.

"As part of anti-terrorist activities, work is underway, negotiations and blocking. In the coming days, I think, the situation will be localized in Sloviansk," Pashynsky said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/pashynsky_assures_situation_in_sloviansk_will_be_localized_in_coming_days_320927

Actions of Ukrainian officials

Verkhovna Rada orders disarmament of illegal armed groups in Ukraine, 01.04.2014

KYIV, April 1 /Ukrinform/. The Verkhovna Rada has voted for a resolution on the immediate disarmament of illegal armed groups in Ukraine and individuals who illegally possess weapons.

A total of 256 deputies voted for this decision on Tuesday, a Ukrinform correspondent reported.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/verkhovna_rada_orders_disarmament_of_illegal_armed_groups_in_ukraine_319488

Ukraine will limit stay of Russians on its territory by 90 days, 01.04.2014

KYIV, April 1 /Ukrinform/. Ukraine intends to introduce a norm for Russian citizens, according to which they have a right to stay on the territory of the country no more than 90 days over 180 days. Introduction of the formula 90/180 for the Russians is at the stage of practical implementation.

Director of the consular service department Andriy Sybiha told a briefing about this on Tuesday, Kyiv, a Ukrinform correspondent reports.

"The Russian side introduced such a formula for our citizens. The formula 90/180 will be introduced for Russian citizens too. This is at the stage of practical implementation," he noted.

As the diplomat explained, 90 days will be calculated since the date of the first entry to the territory of Ukraine.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/ukraine_will_limit_stay_of_russians_on_its_territory_by_90_days_319523

SBU detains Russians who wanted to take hostage candidate for Ukrainian president, 03.04.2014

KYIV, April 3 /Ukrinform/. The Security Service of Ukraine (SBU) has detained two Russian citizens who planned to take hostage famous Ukrainian politicians, SBU's press center has told Ukrinform.

"Two citizens of Russia, born in 1987 and 1986, who intended to take hostage several citizens of Ukraine, including a presidential candidate, have been detained in Lviv region," the press center said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/sbu_detains_russians_who_wanted_to_take_hostage_candidate_for_ukrainian_president_319667

23 candidates to compete for Ukraine presidency, 04.04.2014

KYIV, April 4 /Ukrinform/. The Central Election Commission (CEC) has completed the registration of candidates for president of Ukraine.

The commission has received 46 applications from those wishing to take up the country's top post, rejecting exactly half of them - 23. The most common reasons for refusal of registration were non-compliance of the documents submitted with election laws and the failure to submit a UAH 2.5 million monetary deposit, a Ukrinform correspondent reported.

Thus, 23 candidates will participate in the presidential race, including seven of them nominated by political parties and 16 independent candidates.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/23_candidates_to_compete_for_ukraine_presidency_319694

SBU detains Russian female spy, 07.04.2014

KYIV, April 9 /Ukrinform/. The Security Service of Ukraine (SBU) has detained a Russian female citizen who performed the tasks of intelligence services to destabilize the situation in the southern regions of Ukraine, the SBU press service has reported. "Maria Koleda, born in 1991, arrived in Kherson on April 4 this year. She said this was her ninth trip to Ukraine. On April 5-6, the foreigner held several meetings with the leaders and activists of pro-Russian movements in Kherson and also visited some district centers in the region to monitor the situation on the ground. On April 7, Koleda was directly involved in clashes outside the building of Mykolaiv Regional State Administration, during which she used firearms, and as a result, she said, she wounded three people. After these events, she, hiding, returned to Kherson region," reads the statement.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/sbu_detains_russian_female_spy_319900

Russian intelligence tried to steal SBU documents, 07.04.2014

KYIV, April 9 /Ukrinform/. The Security Service of Ukraine (SBU) has prevented a special operation by Russian intelligence agencies to steal documents owned by the Ukrainian state, the SBU press center has told Ukrinform.

"On April 9, [SBU officers] detained four persons - a citizen of Russia and three Ukrainians who were trying to hand over to a representative of Russian special services the hard drives from the servers of an SBU office in eastern Ukraine," the press center said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/russian_intelligence_tried_to_steal_sbu_documents_319937

Chief of Donetsk regional police resigns amid separatist rallies, 12.04.2014

KYIV, April 12 /Ukrinform/. Chief of the Main Department of the Interior Ministry in Donetsk Region Kostiantyn Pozhydaev has resigned as separatist rallies build up throughout the region.

He told this to the protesters near the police office in Donetsk on Saturday.

"I no longer head the regional police department. I have resigned. I will report to Avakov [Interior Minister Arsen Avakov – ed.]," he told the protesters who demanded his resignation.

<http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/320095>

After ratification of Rome Statute Ukraine to make RF responsible for annexation of Crimea, 14.04.2014

Ukraine reckons that after ratification of the Rome Statute all official bodies of the RF that promoted annexation of Crimea will be brought to responsibility.

According to an UNIAN correspondent, Justice Minister of Ukraine Pavlo Petrenko said this at press conference today.

Petrenko also expressed hoped that the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine will ratify the Rome Statute in the shortest terms.

<http://www.unian.info/politics/907674-after-ratification-of-rome-statute-ukraine-to-make-rf-responsible-for-annexation-of-crimea.html>

SBU charges Russian bank with financing terrorism in Ukraine, 15.04.2014

KYIV, April 15 /Ukrinform/. The Security Service of Ukraine (SBU) has launched proceedings against a Russian bank due to financing of terrorism in Ukraine, the SBU press center has reported.

"Criminal proceedings have been launched against officials of a Russian bank, which is funding terrorists, who are operating in the eastern regions of Ukraine under the slogans of pro-Russian separatism," the press center said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/sbu_charges_russian_bank_with_financing_terrorism_in_ukraine_320234

Justice Ministry intends to ban Russian Bloc and Russian Unity parties through courts, 16.04.2014

KYIV, April 16 /Ukrinform/. The Justice Ministry has filed a lawsuit for the ban of activities of Russian Bloc and Russian Unity political parties, and the Prosecutor General's Office checks appeals and formal decisions of the Communist Party for the presence of "high treason or separatism."

This was announced by Justice Minister Pavlo Petrenko on air of the Channel 5 on Tuesday night, mass media inform.

"The Justice Ministry already today filed a number of lawsuits on elimination of those parties, which have materials about their involvement in separatist activities - these are Russian Bloc and Russian Unity, the Minister said.

According to him, these claims will be heard in court next week.

"I hope that the court will make a decision about their liquidation due to cogency of evidence," he added.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/justice_ministry_intends_to_ban_russian_bloc_and_russian_unity_parties_through_courts_320257

SBU detains Russian military intelligence agent, 16.04.2014

KYIV, April 16 /Ukrinform/. Counterintelligence employees have detained another saboteur in Melitopol - a Russian military intelligence agent, the press center of the Security Service of Ukraine (SBU) has told Ukrinform.

"A Ukrainian citizen, who was en route to Luhansk to perform a sabotage task of the Russian military intelligence, was detained in Melitopol on April 14," the press center said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/sbu_detains_russian_military_intelligence_agent_320259

Parliament supports counter-terrorist operation in eastern Ukraine, 16.04.2014

KYIV, April 16 /Ukrinform/. The [Verkhovna Rada](#) has adopted a resolution supporting a counter-terrorist operation in eastern Ukraine.

Ukrainian First Deputy Prime Minister Vitaliy Yarema said this after a closed Verkhovna Rada meeting with the participation of the heads of law enforcement agencies, Ukrinform reported.

"The Verkhovna Rada has adopted a resolution to support those activities that are carried out today in eastern Ukraine by law enforcement agencies, the Defense Ministry, and all security agencies on measures to ensure the law and order and the integrity of our country," Yarema said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/parliament_supports_counter_terrorist_operation_in_eastern_ukraine_320290

PGO opens 214 criminal cases, arrests 92 people for separatism, 16.04.2014

KYIV, April 17 /Ukrinform/. The Ukrainian Prosecutor General's Office opened 214 criminal proceedings over separatism in March-April 2014, Acting Prosecutor General Oleh Makhnitsky told Channel 5 on Wednesday.

"Over this period of time, in March-April, 214 criminal proceedings were launched on charges of separatism," he said.

He said that the Prosecutor General's Office had arrested 92 people and submitted one case to court.

Makhnitsky said that prosecutors have opened 41 cases over separatism since April 11.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/pgo_opens_214_criminal_cases_arrests_92_people_for_separatism_320338

Kolomoisky proposes USD 10,000 for "head" of "little green man", 17.04.2014

KYIV, April 17 /Ukrinform/. A reward of USD 10,000 is offered by Dnipropetrovsk governor Ihor Kolomoisky for each "little green man," caught in Ukraine.

Kolomoisky's deputy Borys Filatov wrote about this on his Facebook page.

"For each caught "little green man," he is a mercenary, who came to our common land and is trying to push us to the fratricidal war - a reward of USD 10,000. For each vacated building, handed over to the local authorities and transferred under the guard of a special squadron Donbas of the Dnipro battalion - a reward of USD 200,000," Filatov wrote.

At the same time, he said, for each returned sub-machine gun a fee of USD 1,000 will be paid, for machine gun - USD 1,500 and grenade-thrower - USD 2,000.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/kolomoisky_proposes_usd_10000_for_head_of_little_green_man_320328

SBU seizes 12 tonnes of military ammunition, 22.04.2014

KYIV, April 22 /Ukrinform/. The Ukrainian Security Service (SBU) has seized from illegal turnover more than a million foreign-made cartridges with a total weight of 12 tonnes, the SBU press service has reported.

"It was established that late in January this year the ammunition was delivered to the address of a company in the [Ukrainian] capital and declared as 'ammunition for a central-fire hunting rifle.' However, according to the opinion of an expert, these cartridges are designed for shooting with military weapons," reads the statement.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/sbu_seizes_12_tonnes_of_military_ammunition_320500

Donetsk police reject cooperation with Defence Ministry amid anti-terror operation, 22.04.2014

KYIV, April 22 /Ukrinform/. Police in Donetsk region refuse to help the Ministry of Defense of Ukraine in the antiterrorist operation, Deputy Chief of the Armed Forces

Main Command Center Major General Oleksandr Rozmaznin told reporters on Tuesday in Kyiv.

"To our great regret, we do not feel cooperation of the police in Donetsk region. They do not help us when our troops are in certain areas," Rozmaznin.

As Ukrinform reported, the anti-terrorist operation (ATO) began on April 15 north of Donetsk region. The main task is to protect the civilian population.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/donetsk_police_reject_cooperation_with_defence_ministry_amid_anti_terror_operation_320510

Ukrainian border guards dig antitank ditches on border with Russia, 22.04.2014

Ukrainian border guards keep on strengthening the Ukrainian-Russian border by engineering constructions, including antitank ditches.

<http://www.unian.info/politics/910385-ukrainian-border-guards-dig-antitank-ditches-on-border-with-russia.html>

SBU: Russian intelligence officer involved in murder of Horlivka City Council deputy, 23.04.2014

KYIV, April 23 /Ukrinform/. The Security Service of Ukraine (SBU) has established the involvement of a Russian citizen, Lieutenant Colonel of the Russian Main Intelligence Department Igor Bezler, in the murder of Horlivka City Council deputy Volodymyr Rybak (Batkivshchyna Party).

SBU spokeswoman Kateryna Kosareva told this to journalists at a briefing at the Anti-Terrorist Center on Wednesday.

"SBU established the involvement in the murder of Horlivka City Council deputy Volodymyr Rybak of the so-called Strelok group, which is operating in Donetsk region, and a Russian citizen, Lieutenant Colonel of the Main Intelligence Department Igor Bezler, call sign 'Bes,'" Kosareva said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/sbu_russian_intelligence_officer_involved_in_murder_of_horlivka_city_council_deputy_320582

Donetsk governor calls on authorities to carry out all-Ukrainian referendum on May 25, 28.04.2014

Donetsk governor and mayor asked Turchynov to carry out national referendum on May 25.

Chairman of Donetsk Oblast State Administration Serhiy Taruta and Donetsk city mayor Oleksandr Lukjanchenko met with acting President of Ukraine Oleksandr Turchynov and asked him to make decision on carrying out of all-Ukrainian referendum on May 25, "OstroV" with a reference to the press service of Donetsk OSA reports.

The governor noted that it is planned that the referendum will include the following issues: giving additional powers to regions of Ukraine and creation of municipal militia.

<http://www.unian.info/politics/912343-donetsk-governor-calls-on-authorities-to-carry-out-all-ukrainian-referendum-on-may-25.html>

Turchynov signs law on occupied territory, 28.04.2014

KYIV, April 28 /Ukrinform/. Acting President, Verkhovna Rada Chairman Oleksandr Turchynov signed the Law of Ukraine No. 1207 - VII "On ensuring rights and freedoms of citizens and a legal regime on the temporary occupied territory of Ukraine."

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/russian_federation_behaves_as_international_terrorist_on_ukraines_east_poroshenko_320795

Border guards can shoot without further order in case of Russian army incursion, 28.04.2014

KYIV, April 28 /Ukrinform/. In case of incursion of the Russian forces into the territory of Ukraine, border guards have a right to shoot without any additional order.

Head of the Media Liaison Department of the State Border Guard Service Oleh Slobodian has said about this at a briefing at the SBU Antiterrorist Center, Ukrinform reports.

"According to the order of service, all checkpoints are military posts. During an attack on any military post, soldiers have the right to use weapons," he said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/border_guardes_can_shoot_without_further_order_in_case_of_russian_army_incursion_320769

Central Election Commission ready to hold referendum on June 15 - Mahera, 29.04.2014

KYIV, April 29 /Ukrinform/. The Central Election Commission (CEC) is ready to hold an all-Ukrainian referendum on the extension of the rights of the Ukrainian regions on June 15 if the Verkhovna Rada makes a respective decision.

CEC Deputy Chairman Andriy Mahera said this live on Channel 5, Ukranews reported.

"If the Rada adopts such a resolution... then this resolution will certainly be fulfilled by the CEC," he said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/central_election_commission_ready_to_hold_referendum_on_june_15_mahera_320841

Crimean Representation of President will move to Kherson, 29.04.2014

KYIV, April 29 /Ukrinform/. In the nearest future, Representation of the President of Ukraine will be organized, which was earlier located in Crimea. Since this time on, it will work in Kherson.

Social Policy Minister Liudmyla Denisova, who is on a working visit to Odessa region on Tuesday, has said about this at a meeting with the settlers and families of the military, who came from Crimea, the press service of the Social Policy Ministry informs.

"Those citizens, who will leave the Autonomous Republic of Crimea, will be able to ask for help of President of Ukraine in Kherson. Thus, from now on, the Representation, which was previously in Crimea, will be organized on the mainland of Ukraine in the near future," Denisova said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/crimean_representation_of_president_will_move_to_kherson_320866

Three saboteurs detained on border with Russia in Luhansk region, 30.04.2014

KYIV, April 30 /Ukrinform/. Three saboteurs have been detained on the state border in Luhansk region, the press office of the Security Service of Ukraine (SBU) told Ukrinform on Wednesday.

"The SBU together with the State Border Guard Service (SBGS) on April 30 detained two Russian citizens and a citizen of Belarus, who had been sent to Donetsk to participate in an armed confrontation," the report reads.

The secret service added that the foreigners were trying to cross the border at the Dolzhansky checkpoint.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/three_saboteurs_detained_on_border_with_russia_in_luhansk_region_320914

Election authorities say referendum on May 25 impossible, 30.04.2014

KYIV, April 30 /Ukrinform/. Deputy Chairman of the Central Election Commission (CEC) Andriy Mahera considers it impossible to hold a nationwide referendum on May 25 - simultaneously with the presidential elections.

He told this to reporters in Kyiv on Wednesday.

"Any nationwide vote on May 25 cannot be conducted organizationally," the official said. At the same time, he recalled that the referendum can only be called by the Verkhovna Rada, for there is no president in Ukraine, but only acting president.

Mahera also said: "If MPs decide on the all-Ukrainian referendum, the CEC will fulfill this decision. Based on the organizational capacity such a referendum can be held on June 15, 2014."

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/election_authorities_say_referendum_on_may_25_impossible_320931

Accidents / Terrorism

Right Sector activists vacate Dnipro Hotel unarmed, 01.04.2014

KYIV, April 1 /Ukrinform/. Right Sector activists have vacated their headquarters at the Dnipro Hotel unarmed and left for a camp accompanied by employees of the Security Service of Ukraine (SBU).

Ukrainian Interior Minister Arsen Avakov reported this on his Facebook page, while commenting on Monday's shooting in the center of the Ukrainian capital.

"Right Sector vacated the Dnipro Hotel unarmed. They got on their buses and headed to one of the camps outside of the city escorted by officers of the Security Service of Ukraine. Interior Ministry experts have already started to examine the vacated building," he said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/right_sector_activists_vacate_dnipro_hotel_unarmed_319470

<http://www.unian.info/politics/902674-pravyi-sector-without-weapon-leaves-dnipro-hotel-in-center-in-kyiv-avakov.html>

Russia not to extradite Yanukovich to Ukraine - Russian TV, 05.04.2014

KYIV, April 5 /Ukrinform/. Russian NTV television has said that a possible request from Kyiv for extradition of former Ukrainian President Viktor Yanukovich, who was placed on the wanted persons list, cannot be satisfied by the Russian side, according to Ukrainian media.

"If Kyiv files a request for Yanukovich's extradition, there will most likely be a negative answer, as he remains de jure president of Ukraine and, therefore, has immunity from prosecution. The ousted Ukrainian leader may ask for political asylum in Russia that could also be a reason for refusal of his extradition," the channel said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/russia_not_to_extradite_yanukovich_to_ukraine_russian_tv_319745

Luhansk militia is on high alert – Interior Ministry, 07.04.2014

A personnel of Luhansk militia is on high alert.

The press service of the Main Department of the Interior Ministry of Ukraine in the Luhansk Oblast disclosed this to UNIAN.

“A personnel of Luhansk militia is on high alert. Traffic police officers have blocked all the entrances into Luhansk”, - it is said in the report.

<http://www.unian.info/politics/904751-luhansk-militia-is-on-high-alert-interior-ministry.html>

Separatists build barricades near SBU in Luhansk, highway is overwhelmed with tires, 07.04.2014

Luhansk separatists keep on building the barricades.

Luhansk separatists, who seized the department of the SBU on April 6, are building the barricades near SBU, highway is overwhelmed with tires.

<http://www.unian.info/politics/904765-separatists-build-barricades-near-sbu-in-luhansk-highway-is-overwhelmed-with-tires.html>

http://v-variant.lg.ua/lug_obl/politics/74451-separatisty-vozvodyat-barrikady-u-zdaniya-sbu-foto.html

Talks on unblocking territory around Kharkiv OSA are still in progress – militia, 07.04.2014

Consultations among militia employees and protesters with a goal to reach an arrangement concerning unblocking the territory around Kharkiv Oblast State Administration are still in progress.

The press service of the Main Department of the Interior Ministry of Ukraine in the Kharkiv Oblast reports this.

<http://www.unian.info/politics/904772-talks-on-unblocking-territory-around-kharkiv-osa-are-still-in-progress-militia.html>

Separatists seize SBU in Donetsk: they strengthen firing points and prepare for storm, 07.04.2014

Separatists seized the SBU in Donetsk for 15 minutes.

The separatists seized the building of the SBU in Donetsk. An eyewitness said this to “OstroV”.

This information is confirmed by a record of “People’s home guard of Donetsk” in social networks.

<http://www.unian.info/politics/904778-separatists-seize-sbu-in-donetsk-they-strengthen-firing-points-and-prepare-for-storm.html>

Luhansk OSA is sealed, Interior Forces’ detachment guards it, 07.04.2014

Due to a high threat to lives of employees of the OSA, the building of the administration is closed and sealed.

The building of Luhansk Oblast State Administration is closed and sealed.

The press service of the administration disclosed this to a correspondent of “Vostochnyi variant”.

<http://www.unian.info/politics/904821-luhansk-osa-is-sealed-interior-forces-detachment-guards-it.html>

Separatists announce creation of Donetsk People's Republic, 07.04.2014

KYIV, April 7 /Ukrinform/. Separatists who gathered at Donetsk Regional Council have announced the creation of the so-called Donetsk People's Republic, a source present at an illegitimate meeting of 200 people has told a Ukrinform correspondent.

"The decision has just been made in the session hall of Donetsk Regional Council to set up a Donetsk People's Republic," the source said.

As reported, regional council deputies have not convened for a session.

The meeting was held by the self-declared delegates into the so-called people's council of Donetsk region.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/separatists_announce_creation_of_donetsk_peoples_republic_319775

Donetsk separatists say about holding referendum, 07.04.2014

KYIV, April 7 /Ukrinform/. Donetsk separatists, who declared about creation of so-called "Donetsk People's Republic" Monday, intend to hold a referendum until May 11, which allegedly is to prove "the people's will" in this issue.

Ukrinform reports with reference to a source, attending a meeting near the regional council.

"People's deputies of Donetsk regional communities took a decision until May 11 to hold a referendum, where one question will be considered: "Do you agree with creation of the sovereign state - Donetsk People's Republic?" the meeting informed.

Separatists threatened Kyiv with an appeal to Putin on introduction of the "peacekeeping" contingent of Russian troops in Donetsk region, if the authorities use the force scenario to resolve the situation in Donetsk.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/donetsk_separatists_say_about_holding_referendum_319779

Criminal case opened over seizure of Donetsk regional administration, 07.04.2014

KYIV, April 7 /Ukrinform/. The police have opened criminal proceedings over the seizure of the building of Donetsk Regional State Administration on April 6, the press service of the Donetsk regional office of the Ukrainian Interior Ministry has reported.

"The information about the offenses has been included in the unified register of pretrial investigations under Part 1, Article 294 of the Criminal Code of Ukraine (mass riots).

The investigation is underway. The action of protesters will be given a legal assessment," reads the statement.

As reported, pro-Russian forces staged a rally on Lenin Square in Donetsk on April 6.

Then some protesters blocked traffic on Artema Street and moved to the regional administration building. The activists then scuffled with police and stormed the building.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/criminal_case_opened_over_seizure_of_donetsk_regional_administration_319747

Avakov: Kharkiv regional state administration released from separatists, 07.04.2014

KYIV, April 7 /Ukrinform/. The Kharkiv regional state administration was fully released from separatists.

Interior Minister Arsen Avakov has written about this on Facebook.

"The regional state administration is fully released from separatists. A working process has started. Thanks to those who helped. I work in Kharkiv. I ask Kharkiv residents to support a process of the adequate settlement," Avakov wrote.

As reported, on Monday night, the Kharkiv regional state administration building was seized by pro-Russian separatists.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/avakov_kharkiv_regional_state_administration_released_from_separatists_319755

Prosecutors start investigation into seizure of SBU in Donetsk, 07.04.2014

KYIV, April 7 /Ukrinform/. The prosecutors have launched an investigation into the seizure of control of the Security Service (SBU) building in Donetsk under Article "Riots."

The press service of the regional Prosecutor's Office reported about this.

"April 7, at about 3.30 a.m., a group of aggressive young men burst into the regional department of the Security Service of Ukraine and occupied the building, not making clear demands. Currently, criminal proceedings have been initiated under Part 1 of Article 294 (Riots). Measures are taken by the police for the liberation of the building," a statement reads.

The Interior Ministry's Main Department has not informed yet how many people participated in the assault and whether the weapons got into their arms.

To remind, yesterday, the pro-Russian forces seized the building of the Donetsk Regional State Administration where they have barricaded themselves.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/prosecutors_start_investigation_into_seizure_of_sbu_in_donetsk_319757

People who seized Donetsk regional administration armed with machine guns and grenade launchers, 07.04.2014

KYIV, April 7 /Ukrinform/. People who seized the building of the Donetsk Regional State Administration are armed with machine guns and grenade launchers, local media have reported.

"Two cars approached the building of the Donetsk Regional State Administration, and they seemed suspicious to protesters. They were immediately surrounded by people. People in balaclavas, armed with machine guns, ran up to the cars. A man in a bulletproof vest, with a grenade launcher, got out of the car," reads the report.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/people_who_seized_donetsk_regional_administration_armed_with_machine_guns_and_grenade_launchers_319797

Separatists seize weapons at SBU office in Luhansk, 07.04.2014

KYIV, April 7 /Ukrinform/. Pro-Russian separatists have seized weapons at the SBU office in Luhansk, the public liaisons department of the Ukrainian Interior Ministry's main office in Luhansk region has reported.

The unknown persons also blocked traffic along the main city road, Radianska Street, in front of the Ukrainian Security Service's building early on Monday.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/separatists_seize_weapons_at_sbu_office_in_luhansk_319759

Ukrainian officer shot by Russians in Crimea was unarmed, 07.04.2014

KYIV, April 7 /Ukrinform/. Russian soldiers shot Ukrainian officer, who was unarmed, with a machine gun in Crimea.

Head of the Crimean regional center of the Defense Ministry of Ukraine Vladyslav Seleznev wrote about it on his Facebook page.

"Ukrainian officers were unarmed," he writes.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/ukrainian_officer_shot_by_russians_in_crimea_was_unarmed_319761

Akhmetov accused of supplying separatists, 07.04.2014

KYIV, April 7 /Ukrinform/. Ranks of pro-Russian separatists in Donetsk were formed largely by people of businessman Rinat Akhmetov.

Former governor of Kyiv region Yevhen Zhovtiak wrote about this on his Facebook page.

"A significant portion of more than 5,000 armed thugs of Akhmetov, who for 20 years "helped" the owners of attractive objects to "voluntarily" assign their property to a "more successful manager," were delegated by Akhmetov to the ranks of pro-Russian separatists today," Zhovtiak wrote.

He also expressed his belief that without Akhmetov's arrest resolving of the situation in the region will not be succeed.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/akhmetov_accused_of_supplying_separatists_319771

Kharkiv separatists announce their demands, 07.04.2014

KYIV, April 7 /Ukrinform/. Pro-Russian activists who occupied the building of the Kharkiv Regional State Administration last night have demanded that those guilty of murders on Rymarska Street be named.

Kharkiv Mayor Hennadiy Kernes said this on Monday.

"Here there are residents of Kharkiv who want to know how the investigation into killings on Rymarska Street progressed. This is the main motive they came into the administration building. I heard nothing about separatism from the people. I heard only one thing that they want to know who is to blame for the death of their comrades," he said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/kharkiv_separatists_announce_their_demands_319767

Yefremov, Yanukovych behind Luhansk separatists - Party of Regions MP, 07.04.2014

KYIV, April 7 /Ukrinform/. Separatist disturbances in Luhansk are being financed from Moscow by the family of former Ukrainian President Viktor Yanukovych and Party of Regions MP Oleksandr Yefremov.

Former Party of Regions MP Volodymyr Landik said this in a broadcast on Espresso.TV.

"The Yanukovych family is transferring the money from Moscow... Those who have always been here [are behind this] - a Party of Regions gang led by Oleksandr Yefremov. He and his team need that more than anyone else," he added.

He said the separatists had seized the Ukrainian Security Service office in Luhansk, because it was "intriguing against Yefremov."

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/yefremov_yanukovych_behind_luhansk_separatists_party_of_regions_mp_319793

Central Kharkiv, subway blocked as police launch anti-terror operation, 08.04.2014

KYIV, April 8 /Ukrinform/. Central Kharkiv and subway stations have been blocked in the city on Tuesday morning after local police started an anti-terrorist operation, Interior Minister [Arsen Avakov](#) wrote on his Facebook page.

"The city center is closed. As well as subway stations. Don't worry. Once we complete - we will reopen them," the minister wrote.

Avakov later added: "The building of Kharkiv Regional State Administration has again been cleansed from those who burnt and seized it this night. About 70 separatists have been arrested."

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/central_kharkiv_subway_blocked_as_police_launch_anti_terror_operation_319803

"Yaguar" release Kharkiv OSA without shots and victims – lawmaker, 08.04.2014

"Yaguar" special subdivision released Kharkiv Oblast State Administration from separatists.

Lawmaker from the Batkivshchyna party Mykola Knyazhytskyi with a reference to the words of Interior Minister of Ukraine Arsen Avakov wrote this on his Facebook page.

<http://www.unian.info/politics/905270-yaguar-release-kharkiv-osa-without-shots-and-victims-lawmaker.html>

Luhansk separatists release 56 hostages, 09.04.2014

KYIV, April 9 /Ukrinform/. The separatists who seized the building of the Ukrainian Security Service (SBU) office in Luhansk have released 56 of the 60 hostages as of Wednesday morning, the SBU press center has reported.

"As of 01.00 on April 9, 51 unarmed people left the seized SBU building following negotiations. Five more people left the building at 04.00. Nobody was hurt," reads the statement.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/luhansk_separatists_release_56_hostages_319870

Donetsk residents do not support separatists, 09.04.2014

KYIV, April 9 /Ukrinform/. Three-fourths of residents of Donetsk do not support the seizure of administrative buildings and the installation of Russian flags on them in the city.

Director of the Institute for Social Research and Political Analysis Volodymyr Kipen said this in Donetsk on Wednesday, a Ukrinform correspondent reported.

"At the initiative of the Coalition of Public Organizations of Donetsk the institute's scientists conducted a sociological survey. It showed that the seizure of administrative buildings during pro-Russian rallies was positively assessed by only about 16% of respondents. Some 77% of Donetsk residents believe that such methods are unacceptable and have no positive purposes. Moreover, 70% of respondents do not support the installation of Russian flags on administrative buildings in the city," Kipen said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/donetsk_residents_do_not_support_separatists_319941

Donetsk separatists have nothing against meeting with PM Yatseniuk, 11.04.2014

KYIV, April 11 /Ukrinform/. Separatists who captured the building of Donetsk Regional State Administration have nothing against a meeting with Prime Minister of Ukraine Arseniy Yatseniuk, who has left for a working trip to Donetsk on Friday.

They said this in the ongoing rally in the central square near Donetsk Regional State Administration, according to a Ukrinform correspondent.

The pro-Russian activists are also ready to free two floors of the building for the officials of the administration to return to their offices.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/donetsk_separatists_have_nothing_against_meeting_with_pm_yatseniuk_320013

Skachynsky mine blast kills 7 in Donetsk region, 11.04.2014

KYIV, April 11 /Ukrinform/. Seven people have been killed in Skachynsky mine explosion in Donetsk region on Friday. According to preliminary reports, methane outburst is the cause of the accident, a Ukrinform correspondent reported citing the local department of the State Service of Mining Supervision and Industrial Safety in Donetsk region.

"The outburst occurred at 06:05 in the third eastern wall. There have been 7 people in the emergency site, they all died. Their bodies have been lifted to the surface," reads a report.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/skachynsky_mine_blast_kills_7_in_donetsk_region_320015

Avakov vows tough response to seizure of Sloviansk police department, 12.04.2014

KYIV, April 12 /Ukrinform/. Special forces, that have been sent to the captured police department in Sloviansk, Donetsk region, received orders to act tough, Interior Minister

Arsen Avakov wrote on his Facebook page, confirming media reports about the capture by the armed men of the police department.

"In Sloviansk armed men in camouflage have captured a police department. Reaction will be tough. A special forces group has been sent to Sloviansk," the minister noted.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/avakov_vows_tough_response_to_seizure_of_sloviansk_police_department_320081

Militants use tear gas against police in Sloviansk, 12.04.2014

KYIV, April 12 /Ukrinform/. The armed militants used tear gas as they captured a police department in Sloviansk in Donetsk region, spokesman for Donetsk region police Ihor Diomin told a Ukrinform reporter on Saturday.

"At Around 09.00 up to 20 armed men seized the building of Sloviansk police department. They have automatic weapons. They have not yet nominated any claims.

During the assault they used tear gas, poisoning 2-3 policemen," Diomin said.

Police are trying to figure out who are these men.

As Ukrinform reported, on Saturday morning the unknowns captured a police department in Ukraine's eastern town of Sloviansk. A special force group has been already sent there.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/militants_use_tear_gas_against_police_in_sloviansk_320083

Militants free captured policemen from Sloviansk police department, media reports say, 12.04.2014

KYIV, April 12 /Ukrinform/. Gunmen have released policemen from the captured building of Sloviansk police department in Donetsk region, local media reported.

As for acting head of the police department Oleksandr Davydenko, his whereabouts is still unknown, reports say.

The reports also added that only deputy chiefs of the local police department remained in the building.

As Ukrinform reported, Sloviansk police department has been captured on Saturday at about 09.00 by the armed men. The militants used tear gas, fired in the air and threw smoke bombs.

A special force group has been already sent to Sloviansk.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/militants_free_captured_policemen_from_sloviansk_police_department_media_reports_say_320090

Interior Ministry says militants seize Sloviansk police department to capture weapons, 12.04.2014

KYIV, April 12 /Ukrinform/. The Interior Ministry admits that the purpose of capturing a police department in Sloviansk was taking control of the weapons available there, the ministry's press office said in a statement on Saturday.

Press office officials also said that now there are 20 armed men at the police department who named themselves an initiative group of the so-called Republic of Donetsk.

"The purpose of the capture is weapons. The police department had 20 sub-machine guns and more than 400 Makarov pistols and ammunition. The attackers are not pushing forward any specific requirements," the report reads.

The police say the militants are handing out the weapons to local protesters.

<http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/320093>

One more police department reportedly besieged by militants in Donetsk region, Krasniy Lyman, 12.04.2014

KYIV, April 12 /Ukrinform/. Krasniy Lyman police department in Donetsk region has been attacked, however, contradictory reports are coming from the scene now. Media reports say citing eyewitnesses that the building has been supposedly captured. "About 20 armed men have entered the building of the police department, surrounded by representatives of the "Afghan" and Cossack organizations," the reports say. Meanwhile, other sources report that the policemen have closed themselves in the police department and do not let anyone in.

<http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/320094>

Ukraine's armed forces, security forces start special anti-terror operation in country's east, 14.04.2014

KYIV, April 14 /Ukrinform/. The time has already passed provided to separatists in the east of Ukraine to surrender their weapons and release the captured administrative buildings.

As Ukrinform reported, the persons involved in the unrest in the eastern regions of Ukraine, in particular, those who took part in the seizure of administrative buildings, were supposed to surrender their weapons and release the buildings before 9 o'clock in the morning of Monday, April 14 according to a decree by acting President of Ukraine Oleksandr Turchynov, in this case they would be released from criminal liability.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/ukraines_armed_forced_security_forces_start_special_anti_terror_operation_in_countrys_east_320099

Military expert says venality of Donetsk police gives free hand to separatists, 14.04.2014

KYIV, April 14 /Ukrinform/. Separatists and Russian saboteurs have been able to launch their activities in Donetsk region due to "work" with a part of local police.

Head of the Center for Military Political Studies and coordinator of the Information Resistance Group Dmytro Tymchuk wrote this on his Facebook page.

"Previously, we, the Information Resistance Group, said that 30% - this is a part of policemen loyal to the authorities in Donetsk region (respectively, 70% are either saboteurs or acting on the side of the extremists). Currently, we concluded that our estimates of law enforcers loyal to the authorities have been overstated," he wrote.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/military_expert_says_venality_of_donetsk_police_gives_free_hand_to_separatists_320105

Militants kill four in Sloviansk. Schools, kindergartens closed, 14.04.2014

KYIV, April 14 /Ukrinform/. Militants killed four people in Sloviansk, Donetsk region, on Sunday, April 13, according to the tsn.ua website.

Two Security Service (SBU) officers were shot at a checkpoint at the entrance to the town, a car with civilians was also shot in central Sloviansk, reports say.

The authorities on Monday closed schools and kindergartens. The situation is tense. Sloviansk residents try not to take to the streets.

A reminder that last Saturday a group of militants seized a police department in Sloviansk.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/militants_kill_four_in_sloviansk_schools_kindergartens_closed_320109

Schools and kindergartens not to work in Slavyansk today, 14.04.2014

14.04.2014 | 09:15

Due to an unstable situation in the city schools, kindergartens and other educational institutions will not work on April 14.

According to an UNIAN correspondent, corresponding information was posted at local web site "Delovoy Slavyansk" with a reference to city department of education of Slavyansk city council.

<http://www.unian.info/politics/907453-schools-and-kindergartens-not-to-work-in-slavyansk-today.html>

Separatists are to storm militia in Horlovka, 14.04.2014

14.04.2014 | 10:56

About 150 separatists are trying to get to city militia department in Horlovka today. They are demanding from militia to submit to them.

Law-enforcement officers barricaded themselves and are preparing to repulse a possibly storm. Separatists blocked Lenin Avenue. The traffic there stand still, Novosti Donbassareports.

<http://www.unian.info/politics/907496-separatists-are-to-storm-militia-in-horlovka.html>

Separatists seize airfield in Slavyansk, 14.04.2014

In Internet a video appeared where separatists state that they seized a local airfield in Slavyansk.

Armed separatists seized a local airfield in Slavyansk.

It can be seen on the video, which appeared in Internet. Terrorists stated that they try to secure themselves against arrival of law-enforcement officers from Kyiv.

<http://www.unian.info/politics/907713-separatists-seize-airfield-in-slavyansk.html>

Part of militia in Horlovka goes over to command of lieutenant colonel of army of RF, 14.04.2014

Separatists seized the building of Horlivka City Department of Militia in the Donetsk Oblast today.

"Someone in camouflage, who introduced himself as lieutenant colonel of army of the RF from Simferopol and showed Russian passport(!!!) "introduced" new chief – a man in civvies Shulzhenko Aleksandr Fedorovich to a part of the personnel of the department in an inner yard at 12.50 pm", - lawmaker of Odessa Oblast Council Oleksiy Honcharenko report this in his blog at Ukrainska Pravda.

At the same time, current chief was taken out of the destroyed building. An officer did not lay down arms to separatists and they put him in a car.

<http://www.unian.info/politics/907698-part-of-militia-in-horlovka-goes-over-to-command-of-lieutenant-colonel-of-army-of-rf.html>

Separatists paid \$500 for assault, UAH 500 for participation in rallies, 14.04.2014

KYIV, April 14 /Ukrinform/. The organizers of separatist rallies in southeastern Ukraine pay each "fighter" \$500 for storming government buildings and UAH 500 for participation in rallies near the seized buildings.

Road Control activist Andriy Dzyndzia reported this on his page on Facebook.

"They pay 500 dollars for an assault and UAH 500 for rallying near the building," he said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/separatists_paid_500_for_assault_uah_500_for_participation_in_rallies_320131

Donetsk gathers multi-thousand meeting to support Ukraine's unity, 14.04.2014

KYIV, April 14 /Ukrinform/. A multi-thousand meeting will be gathered in Donetsk for Ukraine's unity Thursday. The meeting will be held on an initiative of the Committee of Patriotic Forces of Donbas.

Local mass media announce the event.

"This decision was taken with consideration of demands from a considerable part of Donbas residents, who feel the need in active actions aimed at protection of the integrity of their country. The action on April 17, the time and place of its holding is not announced with the aim of security, is called to demonstrate positions of Ukrainian patriots," an appeal of the Committee of Patriotic Forces of Donbas says.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/donetsk_gathers_multi_thousand_meeting_to_support_ukraines_unity_320159

Gunshots and explosions heard in Kramatorsk – mass media, 15.04.2014

17:09

Gunshots and explosions are heard in Kramatorsk.

According to "Novosti of Kramatorsk", warplane circled was circling over the airfield till this moment.

According to eyewitnesses, these are MIG-25 or SU-27. It flew very low. Having flown about half an hour, plane flew to Donetsk direction. Several ambulance cars drove to the airfield. Explosions and gunshots are heard there.

<http://www.unian.info/politics/908163-gunshots-and-explosions-heard-in-kramatorsk-mass-media.html>

Kramatorsk Airport cleared of terrorists – Turchynov, 16.04.2014 09:33

KYIV, April 16 /Ukrinform/. Ukrainian riot police have cleared Kramatorsk Airport of terrorists.

Parliament Speaker and acting Ukrainian President Oleksandr Turchynov said this in parliament on Tuesday evening, a Ukrinform correspondent reported.

"Ukrainian security forces have released Kramatorsk Airport from terrorists," Turchynov said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/kramatorsk_airport_cleared_of_terrorists_turchynov_320249

Several separatists surrender near Kramatorsk as anti-terror operation begins, 16.04.2014 09:37

KYIV, April 16 /Ukrinform/. Adviser to Ukraine's Interior Minister Stanislav Rechynsky said there are no casualties among those who were trying to capture a military airfield in Kramatorsk, Donetsk region.

He said this at a briefing in Kyiv on Tuesday.

"The Anti-Terrorist Center forces, special forces Omega and Alpha SBU released from separatists the airport in Kramatorsk. Moreover, without victims," Rechynsky said.

"The aim of the operation was to avoid casualties among our people, and it was desirable to save the lives of the separatists, because some of them are our citizens," he said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/several_separatists_surrender_near_kramatorsk_as_anti_terror_operation_begins_320251

Russian saboteurs cowardly flee from Kramatorsk airfield, eyewitness says, 16.04.2014

KYIV, April 16 /Ukrinform/. Russian saboteurs fled the airfield in Kramatorsk once they saw helicopters landing with Ukrainian special forces, a local told reporters.

He argues that one of the gunmen raced to the car in the wet pants.

"He seems to have pissed himself ..." the source said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/russian_saboteurs_cowardly_flee_from_kramatorsk_airfield_eyewitness_says_320253

Ukrainian army enters Kramatorsk as anti-terror operation heats up, 16.04.2014

09:56

KYIV, April 16 /Ukrinform/. A large column of the Ukrainian army's armored vehicles is moving toward Kramatorsk in Donetsk region to support special forces units that are already in the city, a Ukrinform correspondent has reported on Wednesday.

According to eyewitnesses, the column consists of at least two dozen armored vehicles with paratroopers.

Before them, ten armored vehicles and airborne combat vehicles of the Armed Forces of Ukraine had already entered the city.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/ukrainian_army_enters_kramatorsk_as_anti_terror_operation_heats_up_320255

Yarema: Sloviansk, Kramatorsk terrorized by saboteurs from Russia's 45th Airborne Troops Regiment, 16.04.2014

KYIV, April 16 /Ukrinform/. Masked saboteurs of the Russian 45th Airborne Troops Regiment are operating in Sloviansk and Kramatorsk, Donetsk region, First Deputy Prime Minister Vitaliy Yarema told reporters on Tuesday.

"We have identified those persons who are now in Sloviansk and Kramatorsk. They represent a unit of the 45th Guards Airborne Troops Regiment "Kupyanka -1", which is housed near Moscow. This unit is now operating in the territory of Ukraine," he told reporters in Poltava region.

A reminder that Russia denies the presence of its troops in the east of Ukraine, as it had previously denied their involvement in the occupation of Crimea .

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/yarema_sloviansk_kramatorsk_terrorized_by_saboteurs_from_russias_45th_airborne_troops_regiment_320267

Military fighter circles over Donetsk City Council, 16.04.2014

16.04.2014 | 12:36

A military fighter is circling over Donetsk City Council.

An UNIAN correspondent, who became an eyewitness of that, reports this.

As it was reported earlier, on April 16, armed people seized Donetsk City Council and demand to appoint a local referendum on May 11.

<http://www.unian.info/politics/908437-military-fighter-circles-over-donetsk-city-council.html>

Russian separatists take hostages in Donetsk region, 16.04.2014

KYIV, April 16 /Ukrinform/. A Ukrainian intelligence officer and his driver have been captured by Russian separatists last night near Sloviansk, the OstroV online resource reported citing a source with the Ukrainian Armed Forces on Tuesday.

"A few hours ago, a group of five cars has brought a badly beaten officer into one of the military units in Amvrosiyivka district of Donetsk region. The terrorists called the battalion commander and asked him to relocate the unit and swear to "the people of Donbass". Otherwise, they threatened to kill the hostages," the source said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/russian_separatists_take_hostages_in_donetsk_region_320261

<http://www.unian.info/politics/908575-russia-instructs-separatists-to-kill-100-200-people-in-order-to-have-grounds-to-bring-tanks-sbu.html>

Donbas miners decide to defend against Russian aggression - trade union, 16.04.2014

KYIV, April 16 /Ukrinform/. Donbas miners are ready to take up arms to repel the Russian invaders.

Head of the Independent Trade Union of Donbas miners Mykola Volynko has said this at the Shuster LIVE program Tuesday night, a Ukrinform correspondent reports.

"We decided to defend ourselves, to defend Donbas, to defend our families, to defend our people, to defend Ukraine, but unfortunately volunteers in military enlistment offices receive refusals, people are unarmed," Volynko said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/donbas_miners_decide_to_defend_against_russian_aggression_trade_union_320277

'Green little men' already in Mariupol, Russian flags raised, 16.04.2014

KYIV, April 16 /Ukrinform/. 'Little green men' have been seen in the seized Mariupol city council building on Wednesday, according to the local 0629 online resource.

Young guys in masks and special uniform walked along the territory of the city hall, were inside the building and on the roof. From previous invaders they differ with almost the same athletic build, real army boots and uniform, an eyewitness said.

For the first days since the takeover, it is prohibited to take pictures and shoot video.

"No video allowed," the invaders explained.

People who are on the roof of the city council are closely watching what is happening. Some of them have binoculars. Also four Russian flags have been raised on the city council building.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/green_little_men_already_in_mariupol_russian_flags_raised_320312

Terrorists seize Ukrainian APCs in Kramatorsk, 16.04.2014

KYIV, April 16 /Ukrinform/. Sabotage and terrorist groups and local extremists have seized several armored vehicles of the Ukrainian Armed Forces in Kramatorsk, Donetsk region, the press service of the Ukrainian Defense Ministry has reported.

The ministry said that six armored vehicles of the Ukrainian Armed Forces entered Kramatorsk as part of an anti-terrorist operation.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/terrorists_seize_ukrainian_apcs_in_kramatorsk_320320

SBU officers attacked in Sloviansk by group led by Russian intelligence officer Strelkov, 16.04.2014

KYIV, April 16 /Ukrinform/. An armed attack on SBU officers in Sloviansk (Donetsk region), during which one SBU employee was killed and three others were injured, was committed by a subversive group led by Russian intelligence officer Igor Strelkov.

One of the heads of the SBU counterintelligence, Vitaliy Naida, said this at a briefing on Wednesday, Ukrinform reports.

"It was established that an intelligence and sabotage group of over 30 people, which was headed by an officer of the main intelligence department of the general staff of the Russian Armed Forces, Igor Strelkov, carried out an armed attack on SBU employees [in Sloviansk on April 14]," Naida said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/sbu_officers_attacked_in_sloviansk_by_group_led_by_russian_intelligence_officer_strelkov_320304

Three killed, 13 injured, 63 detained in attack on military unit in Mariupol - Avakov, 17.04.2014

KYIV, April 17 /Ukrinform/. National Guard servicemen rebuffed an attack by a gang of 300 persons in Mariupol last night, Ukrainian Interior Minister Arsen Avakov has reported on his Facebook page.

"Last night, in response to an attack on the military unit of the National Guard unit in Mariupol the Interior Ministry units conducted an operation to contain an attacking gang of about 300 people. All of police units in Mariupol were put on high alert. Armed policemen and the National Guard managed to disperse the gang through joint efforts after a brief clash, after which the gang was largely contained and disarmed," the minister said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/three_killed_13_injured_63_detained_in_attack_on_military_unit_in_mariupol_avakov_320326

Separatists of Slavyansk seize TV tower and turn off Ukrainian television channels, 17.04.2014

Separatists of Slavyansk demand to start broadcast of Russian television.

In Slavyansk separatists seized a local TV tower and turned off the Ukrainian television. According to journalist of "Novosti Donbassa" ("News of Donbass"), this radio-television broadcast center carries out a transmission of a signal to Slavyansk, Kramatorsk, Horlivka and Makeevka.

<http://www.unian.info/politics/909089-separatists-of-slavyansk-seize-tv-tower-and-turn-off-ukrainian-television-channels.html>

Pro-Russian protesters arrive in "Donetsk" international airport, 17.04.2014

Pro-Russian protesters arrive in "Donetsk" international airport/Photo from page of airport on Facebook

Representatives of airport confirmed this information to "OstroV".

"Yes, we have "guests". They are inside the terminal. They are not taking active measures. Airport is working in a normal regime", - an agency reports.

Earlier separatists, who seized the building of Donetsk Oblast State Administration in Donetsk, said several times that it is necessary to block a work of the airport to prevent "Pravyi Sector" from coming to the city.

A group of people with flags of so-call "Donetsk Republic" is moving to airport Prokofjev in Donetsk.

<http://www.unian.info/politics/909094-pro-russian-protesters-arrive-in-donetsk-international-airport.html>

Sberbank of Russia suspected of financing separatists - PGO, 17.04.2014

KYIV, April 17 /Ukrinform/. The Prosecutor General's Office of Ukraine instituted criminal proceedings against Sberbank of Russia on suspicion of financing separatist actions in south-eastern regions of the country.

Acting Prosecutor General Oleh Makhnitsky has said about this on air of the Fifth Channel.

"14 banks are suspected of financing separatists. In particular, criminal proceedings were instituted against such a bank as Sberbank of Russia," Makhnitsky stressed.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/sberbank_of_russia_suspected_of_financing_separatists_pgo_320330

Considerable number of suspicious Russian "tourists" appears in Kyiv, 17.04.2014

KYIV, April 17 /Ukrinform/. The public organization Civil Guard reports on a significant amount of Russians, noted that in the capital of Ukraine, which come in small groups of 5-8 people.

Eizvestia.com informs.

"According to information received from local residents, they are based in the areas of Lukianivka, Syrets and Arsenal. The "tourists" arrive in Kyiv by public transport from Chernihiv region through Brovary. At the same time, they demonstrate complete ignorance of the city geography and are not in possession of the Ukrainian currency," a report says.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/considerable_number_of_suspicious_russian_tourists_appears_in_kyiv_320342

Ukrainian paratroopers destroy roadblock on way to Sloviansk, 18.04.2014

KYIV, April 18 /Ukrinform/. Ukrainian paratroopers on Thursday evening destroyed a roadblock guarded by supporters of Ukraine's federalization in the village of Serhiyivka, Sloviansk district in Donetsk region, according to the Kramatorsk.info online edition.

The Novosti Kramatorska portal writes that "in the village Serhiyivka, 17 km from Kramatorsk, there have been shots heard. Ukrainian troops fired on the roadblock. Several supporters of the "People's Republic of Donetsk" have been wounded."

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/ukrainian_paratroopers_destroy_roadblock_on_way_to_sloviansk_320386

Yanukovych, Yakymenko, Zakharchenko charged with organizing terrorist attack - PGO, 18.04.2014

KYIV, April 18 /Ukrinform/. Former Ukrainian President Viktor Yanukovych, former Interior Minister Vitaliy Zakharchenko and former Chairman of the Security Service of Ukraine (SBU) Oleksandr Yakymenko have been charged with the creation of a terrorist organization, the press service of the Prosecutor General's Office has reported.

"The Ukrainian Prosecutor General's Office is conducting an investigation in criminal proceedings against former officials under Part 3, Article 258 (a terrorist attack that led to deaths) of the Criminal Code of Ukraine," reads the statement.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/yanukovych_yakymenko_zakharchenko_charged_with_organizing_terrorist_attack_pgo_320418

SBU proves Russia's involvement in subversions in Ukraine, 18.04.2014

KYIV, April 18 /Ukrinform/. The SBU Main Investigation Department proved "the Russian track" in eight out of 12 criminal proceedings, opened on such Articles as "subversion," "separatism" and "terrorism."

Head of the SBU press center Maryna Ostapenko told a briefing, Ukrinform reports.

"12 criminal proceedings were opened, involving 25 people, and SBU investigators have proved the Russian component in eight out of 12 such proceedings. It is understood that management, organization, sabotage and seizure of administrative buildings and weapons were carried out under the guidance of Russian Special Forces or Russian citizens," Ostapenko said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/sbu_proves_russias_involvement_in_subversions_in_ukraine_320431

Separatists in Luhansk vow not to leave SBU building without referendum, 18.04.2014

KYIV, April 18 /Ukrinform/. Reports of a reduction in the number of people in a tent camp near the building of the seized SBU building in Luhansk are untrue, the OstroV online newspaper has reported.

"People are not dispersing anywhere and they won't leave until a referendum is held," one of the coordinators of the camp of "people's militia of Luhansk region," who called himself Oleksandr, said.

Earlier reports said that militiamen were removing their camp and that people were leaving the SBU building.

As reported, Luhansk Regional Council deputies decided to hold the 24th session on Friday, April 18, 100 kilometers from Luhansk, in the district center of Starobilsk, in the northern part of the region. They are afraid of pressure from the people who seized the SBU office.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/separatists_in_luhansk_vow_not_to_leave_sbu_building_without_referendum_320435

Yanukovych can break into Ukraine through Berdiansk. Warm welcome prepared for him, 19.04.2014

KYIV, April 19 /Ukrinform/. Former President Viktor Yanukovych may try to get into Ukraine through Berdiansk.

TSN.ua reports about this with reference to its own sources.

"Now security measures are strengthened in Berdiansk and the SBU and military intelligence groups are working, all entrances and approaches to the city are blocked by checkpoints. In Berdiansk, at the entrance to the city, there are self-defense groups, patrols of traffic police and interior troops. All cars undergo a thorough inspection. Maidan activists are on duty in the city center. The city hall, police and military office buildings are guarded," the newspaper writes.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/yanukovych_can_break_into_ukraine_through_berdiansk_warm_welcome_prepared_for_him_320445

Separatists declare hunt for Ukrainian-speaking citizens of Sloviansk, 19.04.2014

KYIV, April 19 /Ukrinform/. In Sloviansk, Donetsk region, separatists declared the hunt for people, who speak Ukrainian.

Ukrainian media report Sloviansk separatist leader Viacheslav Ponomariov as saying this.

"He asked local residents to report to the "people's militia" about all suspicious persons in the city, especially those, who speak the Ukrainian language," a statement reads. Ponomariov also promised that the local media will publish a phone number for information about Ukrainian-speaking citizens.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/separatists_declare_hunt_for_ukrainian_speaking_citizens_of_sloviansk_320447

OSCE mission arrives in Sloviansk, 22.04.2014

KYIV, April 22 /Ukrinform/. Representatives of the OSCE monitoring mission managed to arrive in Sloviansk on Monday, April 21, one of the observers has told Deutsche Welle.

He said that mission representatives, according to their powers, were finding out the circumstances of a shooting that occurred early on Sunday, in which at least three people were killed.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/osce_mission_arrives_in_sloviansk_320479

In Slaviansk unknown people fire from automatic gun at aircraft An-30 of Defense Ministry, 22.04.2014

Today, in Slaviansk unknown people fired from automatic gun at aircraft An-30, which carried out surveillance flight and belongs to the Defense Ministry of Ukraine.

An informed source close to the Defense Ministry disclosed this to UNIAN.

An interlocutor of the agency, after an attack the crew of the aircraft managed to make a landing in Kyiv.

At the same time an interlocutor did not specify, what damages the aircraft got during the firing.

<http://www.unian.info/politics/910451-in-slaviansk-unknown-people-fire-from-automatic-gun-at-aircraft-an-30-of-defense-ministry.html>

Seizure of Kramatorsk police chief was led by Russian colonel - Interior Ministry, 22.04.2014

KYIV, April 22 /Ukrinform/. A group of armed men, who seized Kramatorsk city police chief Vitaliy Kolupay a hostage, was led by GRU (Russian Main Intelligence Directorate) Colonel of the General Staff of the Russian Federation Igor Strelkov.

The Interior Ministry of Ukraine told Ukrinform about this.

"Yesterday, Kramatorsk city police chief in Donetsk region, police colonel Vitaliy Kolupay was taken hostage by unknown armed men under the command of Russian citizen Igor Strelkov. Invaders offered in exchange for the life and health of the police chief to give them service weapons of the Interior Ministry units," a statement reads.

"At the same time, a demonstrative disregard of agreements by the Russians is observed. Specifically, seizures of administrative buildings continue, provocations with a firearm, as well as the activities of Russian subversive groups that organize these incidents," the law enforcement agency emphasized.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/seizure_of_kramatorsk_police_chief_was_led_by_russian_colonel_interior_ministry_320512

Pro-Russian protesters dismantling barricades in Donetsk region, 23.04.2014

KYIV, April 23 /Ukrinform/. Pro-Russian activists are trying to negotiate with the authorities in Donetsk region. They vacated Yenakiyev Executive Committee building, in Makiyivka and Mariupol they dismantled barricades, Donetsk Regional State Administration reported on Wednesday.

"Attempts of pro-Russian citizens to negotiate with the authorities have been seen in Dobropillia, where a meeting was held with the mayor of the town to discuss the possibility of holding a referendum. Now in Yenakiyev pro-Russian activists have vacated the building of the executive committee, which immediately restored the work, in Makiyivka barricades have been dismantled in the building of the executive committee. In Mariupol they also dismantled the barricades inside the building of the city council, but executive committee officials are still working in other buildings," the report reads.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/pro_russian_protesters_dismantling_barricades_in_donetsk_region_320566

Donetsk separatists partially vacate regional administration building, 23.04.2014

KYIV, April 23 /Ukrinform/. Separatists have released the tenth and eleventh floors of the building of the Donetsk Regional State Administration captured by separatists.

A representative of the operational coordinating headquarters, Oleksandr Tretiak, said this at a meeting with Donetsk Regional Governor Serhiy Taruta, the Ostrov portal reported.

"Protesters have vacated the tenth and eleventh floors. The damage is being evaluated," Tretiak said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/donetsk_separatists_partially_vacate_regional_administration_building_320574

Most Ukrainians support unitary state and one state language - poll, 23.04.2014

KYIV, April 23 /Ukrinform/. Ukrainians support the current unitary form of the state system and one state language, according to a survey "Ukraine. Presidential elections 2014. April" conducted by four research centers, a Ukrinform correspondent has reported.

"The vast majority of Ukrainians supports a unitary form of the state system in Ukraine - 70.9% of respondents, while the federal system is supported by 18.7%," reads the report.

As many as 37.3% of respondents support Ukrainian as the only official and state language, whereas 31.7% want Ukrainian to be the state language and Russian the official language in some regions of the country.

Another 28.9% believe that two languages - Ukrainian and Russian - can be state languages.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/most_ukrainians_support_unitary_state_and_one_state_language_poll_320592

Extremists with grenade launchers attack military unit in Artemivsk, injuries reported, 24.04.2014

KYIV, April 24 /Ukrinform/. A group of armed extremists have attacked a military unit in Artemivsk, Donetsk region, and a contract serviceman was injured during the attack, the press service of the Ukrainian Defense Ministry has reported.

"On the night of April 23 and 24, about a hundred unidentified persons made an armed attack on a military unit in Artemivsk, Donetsk region. Attackers fired with automatic weapons, grenade launchers and actively used hand grenades," reads the statement. According to the ministry, the attack was rebuffed thanks to the skillful actions of the military. The military unit is currently under the control of the Ukrainian Armed Forces.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/extremists_with_grenade_launchers_attack_military_unit_in_artemivsk_injuries_reported_320608

Leader of Sloviansk separatists: We need lots of hostages, 24.04.2014

KYIV, April 24 /Ukrinform/. Separatists in Donetsk region are ready to resort to any measures to disrupt the presidential elections scheduled for May 25, Sloviansk self-proclaimed mayor Viacheslav Ponomariov told the Gazeta.ru online resource in an interview.

"We will take all necessary measures to ensure that elections in the southeast do not take place," he said.

At the same time, according to Ponomariov, he and his accomplices will stop at nothing: "We will take someone hostage and hang him by the balls."

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/leader_of_sloviansk_separatists_we_need_lots_of_hostages_320610

Mariupol Town Council cleared of separatists, Avakov says, 24.04.2014

KYIV, April 24 /Ukrinform/. A building of Mariupol Town Hall in Donetsk region is exempt from separatists. At the same time, civil society activists played an important role in this, Interior Minister Arsen Avakov wrote on his Facebook page on Thursday.

"Mariupol. The town hall is free for normal operation. A prominent role of civil society activists," the minister said.

According to him, there have been no casualties. Now the building is being checked by bomb technicians. The town council is taken under protection.

However, according to regional media, 5 persons have been injured by the invaders of the building. According to media reports, it is men aged 18 to 28 years. They sought medical care with bruises, abrasions, head wounds and suspected fractures. Two of them have already left the hospitals, three of them have been delivered to the emergency room.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/mariupol_town_council_cleared_of_separatists_avakov_says_320620

Three checkpoints destroyed, five terrorists killed in Sloviansk - Interior Ministry, 24.04.2014

KYIV, April 24 /Ukrinform/. Interior Ministry and Defense Ministry units have unblocked and destroyed three checkpoints in Sloviansk, Donetsk region, the Ukrainian Interior Ministry has told Ukrinform.

"In the course of an antiterrorist operation, Interior Ministry and Defense Ministry units unblocked and destroyed three checkpoints of illegal armed groups in the northeastern part of Sloviansk, Donetsk region," the ministry said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/three_checkpoints_destroyed_five_terrorists_killed_in_sloviansk_interior_ministry_320636

Only 5% in Ukraine's southeast concerned at Russian TV channels cutoff, poll finds, 24.04.2014

KYIV, April 24 /Ukrinform/. Residents of Ukraine's southeast regions, and particularly, Mykolaiv region, are most concerned about rampant banditry in the country, collapse of the economy and threat of civil war.

Director of Ilko Kucheriv Democratic Initiatives Foundation Iryna Bekeshkina told reporters on Thursday in Kherson, commenting on the findings of a survey conducted by the think tank.

"Residents of Ukraine's southeast, Mykolaiv region in particular, most worry about rampant banditry (43% and 48%), collapse of the economy (39% and 48%) and threat of civil war (32% and 29%)," Bekeshkina said.

However, the issue of imposing one language and cutting off Russian TV channels worries only 6.5 % and 5% in the south-east regions, and 4.5% and 4% of Mykolaiv residents respectively.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/only_5_in_ukraines_southeast_concerned_at_russian_tv_channels_cutoff_poll_finds_320660

No threat for Odesa residents from Transnistria, 24.04.2014

KYIV, April 24 /Ukrinform/. There is no threat on the Ukrainian-Moldovan border for Odesa residents from the unrecognized Transnistrian Republic.

As reported by Ukrinform, head of the Main Department of the Interior Ministry of Ukraine in Odesa region Petro Lutsiuk has said about this at the regional council session.

“On the Transnistrian direction, operational teams of police workers of Odesa region are constantly functioning, which thoroughly monitor information on possible invasion or provocations on the Ukrainian-Moldovan border. I can confidently say that there are no threats on the part of neighbors for Odesa and the region,” the police chief of the southern region said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/no_threat_for_odesa_residents_from_transnistria_320671

Ukrainian troops force pro-Russian militants back to downtown Sloviansk, media reports say, 24.04.2014

KYIV, April 24 /Ukrinform/. Ukrainian anti-terror troops have forced militants to downtown Sloviansk.

Reports say the Ukrainian military units and security forces threw a cordon around the city. Meanwhile, in the town Ukraine's special forces, according to some estimates, are operating in fragmented groups, not on a broad front. Sloviansk is almost completely blocked - the town can only be reached from the east, that is from Donetsk.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/ukrainian_troops_force_pro_russian_militants_back_to_downtown_sloviansk_media_reports_say_320675

Explosion at roadblock in Odessa: 7 people got injuries, 25.04.2014

Militia received information about explosion in district of 7 km of Ovidiopolska highway. As a result of the incident 7 people got injuries, including a militia employee.

The injured people were taken to hospitals, the Interior Ministry in Odessa Oblast reports.

Investigatory-operative group and bomb-disposal experts are working in the place of incident. Circumstances of the incident are being established.

<http://www.unian.info/politics/911555-explosion-at-roadblock-in-odessa-7-people-got-injuries.html>

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/explosion_at_checkpoint_near_odesa_seven_people_injured_320683

Schools, kindergartens and shops are closed in Slaviansk, 25.04.2014

Schools, kindergartens and shops are closed in Slaviansk of the Donetsk Oblast due to carrying out of antiterrorist operation. Radio Svoboda with a reference to interim web site of Donetsk Oblast State Administration reports this.

<http://www.unian.info/politics/911559-schools-kindergartens-and-shops-are-closed-in-slaviansk.html>

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/schools_kindergartens_and_shops_closed_in_slaviansk_320691

Connection with OSCE mission in Donetsk Oblast is lost, they might be seized by terrorists – MFA, 25.04.2014

A connection with members of the OSCE mission was lost in the Donetsk Oblast, according to preliminary information, they might be seized by terrorists.

<http://www.unian.info/politics/911757-connection-with-osce-mission-in-donetsk-oblast-is-lost-they-might-be-seized-by-terrorists-mfa.html>

Mi-8 helicopter explodes in Kramatorsk after grenade launcher attack, 25.04.2014

KYIV, April 25 /Ukrinform/. The Ministry of Defence of Ukraine has confirmed the explosion of Mi-8 helicopter in Kramatorsk after firing. However, they said the helicopter was hit by a grenade launcher.

"The military helicopter Mi-8 has exploded today, April 25, at the airport in Kramatorsk (Donetsk region). According to preliminary reports, the blast occurred as a result of fire from a grenade launcher," the ministry said in a statement.

They added that there are no casualties or victims as a result of the attack.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/mi_8_helicopter_explodes_in_kramatorsk_after_grenade_launcher_attack_320708

Sloviansk will be fully blocked - Presidential Administration, 25.04.2014

KYIV, April 25 /Ukrinform/. The authorities decided to fully block the city of Sloviansk within the frames of the second stage of the antiterrorist operation, held by the Ukrainian military in eastern regions of Ukraine.

Serhiy Pashynky, Acting Head of the Presidential Administration, told a briefing, the press service of the Presidential Administration informs.

"Within the frames of holding the antiterrorist operation, Ukrainian special units started its second stage, which consists in the fact that we took a decision to fully block the city of Sloviansk and not to give possibility for terrorists to get reinforcements," Pashynsky has said.

According to him, now the aim of the antiterrorist operation is only blocking of the city, since, according to the intelligence, "the terrorists placed their strongholds at kindergartens and hospitals."

"This is a proven fact and this says that there is no policy in the city of Sloviansk, this is classical terrorism," Pashynsky said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/sloviansk_will_be_fully_blocked_presidential_administration_320722

Terrorist checkpoint at entrance to Sloviansk destroyed - SBU, 26.04.2014

KYIV, April 26 /Ukrinform/. An illegal checkpoint of separatists in the village of Cherkaske near Sloviansk was unblocked and destroyed on April 25 as part of an anti-terrorist operation involving the forces and means of the special units of the National Guard, the Interior Ministry, the Armed Forces and the Security Service of Ukraine (SBU), the SBU press service has reported.

"Special Interior Ministry and SBU units are conducting surveillance and search activities and identified the firing positions of extremists near the town of Sloviansk. The forces involved in the anti-terrorist operation took measures to prevent the movement of militants and the arrival of additional forces and means of separatists to the town of Sloviansk," reads the statement.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/terrorist_checkpoint_at_entrance_to_sloviansk_destroyed_sbu_320730

Terrorists free one OSCE representative, 28.04.2014

KYIV, April 28 /Ukrinform/. Pro-Russian terrorists have released one of the eight OSCE observers who were captured in Sloviansk, Donetsk region, on Friday, Reuters has reported.

Stella Khorosheva, a spokeswoman for the separatist mayor of Sloviansk, said the observer who left is a Swedish national. "He has a mild form of diabetes and so we decided to let him go," she told reporters.

The man came out, escorted by three unarmed men, got into a white OSCE jeep and drove off. The group declined to answer reporters' questions.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/terrorists_free_one_osce_representative_320743

One more city police department seized in Donetsk region - media, 28.04.2014

KYIV, April 28 /Ukrinform/. Separatists have seized a city police department in Kostiantynivka, Donetsk region, regional media, citing local residents, have reported. According to journalists, people with machine guns are currently near the city executive committee. Officials are not allowed to enter the building.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/one_more_city_police_department_seized_in_donetsk_region_media_320745

Terrorists attack security forces at Kramatorsk airport, 28.04.2014

KYIV, April 28 /Ukrinform/. In the area of the Kramatorsk airport, the terrorists fired security officials, who are there as part of the antiterrorist operation.

This was reported by coordinator of the Information Resistance group Dmytro Tymchuk on his Facebook page.

"Night was calm in the area of holding the antiterrorist operation. An exception - a single machine gun fire was fixed towards the positions of our troops in the Kramatorsk airfield area. In the morning, the troops were fired again from automatic small arms. Terrorists also fired several shots from grenade launchers. Security forces opened fire in response," Tymchuk says.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/terrorists_attack_security_forces_at_kramatorsk_airport_320749

Fourteen people injured in mass fight in Kharkiv, 28.04.2014

KYIV, April 28 /Ukrinform/. Fourteen people were injured in a mass brawl between ultras and pro-Russian activists near the Metalist Stadium in Kharkiv on Sunday, the director of the health department of the Kharkiv Regional State Administration, Oleksandr Halatsan, has told a Ukrinform correspondent.

"According to specified reports, fourteen people were injured in the scuffle. Eight of them were taken to the city hospital. Medical assistance was provided to six people on the ground," Halatsan said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/fourteen_people_injured_in_mass_fight_in_kharkiv_320755

Kostiantynivka city police department operating normally - Interior Ministry, 28.04.2014

KYIV, April 28 /Ukrinform/. The Kostiantynivka city police department in Donetsk region is operating normally, the public liaisons department of the Ukrainian Interior Ministry's main office in Donetsk region has reported.

According to the report, on Monday, at about 06.00, a group of 30 unknown gunmen drove in minibuses to the city police department and entered the building. Weapons were not used, and there are no victims.

"Several people of this group are now in the office of the chief of the local police department, where they are holding talks, whereas others have left the building. The Kostiantynivka district department of police is operating normally," the ministry said. Earlier media reports said that the building had been seized by armed men.
http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/kostiantynivka_city_police_department_operating_normally_interior_ministry_320759

Kharkiv Mayor Kernes wounded, 28.04.2014

KYIV, April 28 /Ukrinform/. Kharkiv Mayor Hennadiy Kernes sustained a gunshot wound on Monday, the press service of the Kharkiv City Council has told Ukrinform.

"An assassination attempt on Hennadiy Kernes was made at about 12.00. He was shot in the back. He is currently in intensive care," the press service said.

According to the report, "doctors are fighting for his life."

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/kharkiv_mayor_kernes_wounded_320761

Sloviansk separatists hold 40 people in captivity - SBU, 28.04.2014

KYIV, April 28 /Ukrinform/. In Sloviansk, Donetsk region, militants are illegally holding 40 people as hostages.

Head of the press center of the Security Service of Ukraine Maryna Ostapenko has said about this at a briefing on Monday, a Ukrinform correspondent reports.

"Only in Sloviansk, separatists hold 40 people in captivity," Ostapenko said.

She said that the special service is taking all measures to liberate the hostages.

"A number of measures have been taken, aimed at liberation of all prisoners, including three SBU workers, kidnapped from Horlivka," the Spokesperson specified.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/sloviansk_separatists_hold_40_people_in_captivity_sbu_320765

Regional broadcasting center seized in Donetsk, 28.04.2014

KYIV, April 28 /Ukrinform/. The Regional Radio and Television Broadcasting Center was seized in Donetsk.

Local media inform about this with reference to the sources in law-enforcement bodies.

The Donetsk Regional Radio and Television Broadcasting Center is located in Petrovsky district of Donetsk. Telephones of the center do not answer.

According to mass media, broadcasting of Ukrainian channels still continues, although, following the seizure of the Donetsk Television and Radio Company, Russia 24 channel is broadcasted instead of channel 27.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/regional_broadcasting_center_seized_in_donetsk_320767

Donetsk separatists picketing Privatbank, 28.04.2014

KYIV, April 28 /Ukrinform/. Donetsk separatists set a picket near the Privatbank office in Donetsk.

As a Ukrinform correspondent reports from the scene, over 100 persons express in this way their indignation with a decision of businessman, Chairman of the Dnipropetrovsk Regional State Administration Ihor Kolomoisky to pay money for the seizure of Russian diversionists.

The Ukrainian flag was thrown down from the bank office.

The crowd on the steps of the office is chanting: "Kolomoisky - Enemy of People,"

"Nazis," "Get out of Donbas" and deliberately burn their bank cards.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/donetsk_separatists_picketing_privatbank_320777

Donetsk separatists capture seven participants in pro-Ukrainian rally, 29.04.2014

KYIV, April 29 /Ukrinform/. Separatists have taken hostage seven residents of Donetsk who participated in a rally for Ukraine's unity, the organizers of the "Donbas is Ukraine" rally have reported.

"After an attack on a peaceful demonstration, 25 people were injured, and five were hospitalized. Seven people were taken hostage by separatists. Five hostages are held in the former office of the Party of Regions and two in the regional administration. The OSCE mission representative on human rights spoke with the kidnappers in the office of the Party of Regions. The hostages are alive," the rally organizer, Diana Berg, told the News of Donbas online newspaper.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/donetsk_separatists_capture_seven_participants_in_pro_ukrainian_rally_320799

Kernes was transported to Israel for medical treatment, 29.04.2014

Kharkiv City Head Hennadiy Kernes, who was injured on April 28, was transported to Israel for a medical treatment.

Head of Communications and Public Relations Department of Kharkiv City Council Yuri Sidorenko said this to an UNIAN correspondent.

According to his words, Israeli specialists arrived in Kharkiv at night. They examined Kernes and made conclusions that Ukrainian physicians took right steps for stabilization of the mayor's condition.

Israeli physicians, having examined Kernes, decided to transport him to their hospital. Head of Communications and Public Relations Department of Kharkiv City Council refused to tell the name of the hospital.

<http://www.unian.info/politics/912779-keres-was-transported-to-israel-for-medical-treatment.html>

Israeli medicos say Kernes condition not giving cause for concern, 29.04.2014

KYIV, April 29 /Ukrinform/. The condition of the internal organs of Kharkiv mayor Hennadiy Kernes does not raise concerns of Israeli physicians, Kharkiv City Council spokesman Yuriy Sydorenko wrote on his Facebook page on Tuesday.

"The first positive news from Israel - according to the medicos - is that the condition of the internal organs of Kernes does not raise their concerns," he wrote.

A reminder that on April 28 Kernes was shot into his back from a rifle, as experts believe, with a telescopic sight, when he was jogging on the Belgorod Highway in Kharkiv. Kernes received a penetrating gunshot wound into his back. He underwent surgery in Kharkiv's hospital. His state has been and remains difficult. Later, the official has been delivered to Israel.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/israeli_medicos_say_kernes_condition_not_giving_cause_for_concern_320835

Five hostages released in Donetsk, 29.04.2014

KYIV, April 29 /Ukrinform/. Five hostages, activists of a pro-Ukrainian rally, have been released in Donetsk.

This was stated by former Interior Minister and presidential adviser Yuriy Lutsenko.

"Captured five pro-Ukrainian activists were released in Donetsk at night," the Ukrainska Pravda online newspaper quoted Lutsenko as saying.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/five_hostages_released_in_donetsk_320807

Donetsk separatists defend banks of Yanukovich Jr. , 29.04.2014

KYIV, April 29 /Ukrinform/. Supporters of the self-proclaimed Donetsk People's Republic gathered near the central office of Ukrbusinessbank in Donetsk, however, as employees of the financial institution explained, they did not come to seize, but "to defend" the bank from unknown persons.

As deputy chairman of Ukrbusinessbank Serhiy Okseniuk has said, an automobile was noted near the bank building with the armed people, who refused to introduce themselves. They did not bend to demand and then representatives of the so-called Donetsk People's Republic disarmed them.

Okseniuk specified that there were five unwanted guests, who intended to penetrate into the bank and withdraw the documents, and it is unknown where they came to Donetsk from.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/donetsk_separatists_defend_banks_of_yanukovich_jr_320839

Separatists seize Luhansk regional state administration, 29.04.2014

KYIV, April 29 /Ukrinform/. Pro-Russian meeting participants stormed the Luhansk Regional State Administration.

About 2,000 separatists from the captured SBU building moved to the building of the Luhansk Regional State Administration, knocked out windows in the building and rushed inside.

They planned and announced in advance their action, having put forward an ultimatum to the regional authorities. Among the demands was an amnesty to all political prisoners, holding of a referendum, cancellation of an increase in prices and tariffs, as well as giving the status of the state language to the Russian language.

Luhansk Regional State Administration officials in anticipation of the assault left the premises in advance.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/separatists_seize_luhansk_regional_state_administration_320847

<http://www.unian.info/politics/913008-luhansk-osa-taken-by-storm-photo.html>

Mass media: Extremists in Horlivka seize city court and militia district department, 30.04.2014

Armed separatists seize administrative buildings in Horlivka.

Separatists seized the city council of Horlivka and central-city department of militia.

"Horlivka city council is seized by armed people in camouflages. There are about 20 people. They are unloading weapons. The central-city district department of militia is also seized", - said a source of edition.

<http://www.unian.info/politics/913226-mass-media-extremists-in-horlivka-seize-city-court-and-militia-district-department.html>

Terrorists control 8 city executive committees in Donbass and seize 4 buildings of law-enforcement bodies, 30.04.2014

They also seized central militia department in Horlivka.

The press service of the Interior Ministry reports.

It is noted in the report that Donetsk Oblast State Administration remains seized and protesters are building barricades around it. Armed people in camouflage uniform are in Donetsk City Executive Committee. Unknown people are at check point and at all floors of the administrative building. The work of the City Executive Committee is not blocked.

It is also noted that City Executive Committees of Kramatorsk, Horlivka, Yenakievo, Konstantinovka, Khartsysk, Mariupol and Makeevka also work under control of separatists.

<http://www.unian.info/politics/913431-terrorists-control-8-city-executive-committees-in-donbass-and-seize-4-buildings-of-law-enforcement-bodies.html>

Separatists seize tax and customs services in Donetsk, 30.04.2014

The details of seizure are not known.

Separatists seized the buildings of State Tax Service of Ukraine in the Donetsk Oblast and Eastern Customs Service. The details will be later.

<http://www.unian.info/politics/913498-separatists-seize-tax-and-customs-services-in-donetsk.html>

Separatists leave building of Tax Service in Donetsk – mass media, 30.04.2014

Separatists entered the building and looked for weapons.

“Having not found weapons they left the building”, - said a source of the edition.

As of now there is nobody near the building, all entrances are closed.

<http://www.unian.info/politics/913511-separatists-leave-building-of-tax-service-in-donetsk-mass-media.html>

Kirov District Council captured in Donetsk, 30.04.2014

KYIV, April 30 /Ukrinform/. Supporters of the self-proclaimed “People's Republic of Donetsk” captured the Kirov District Council in Donetsk today.

Organizer of the Public TV in Donetsk region Oleksiy Matsuka has said about this, regional mass media report.

"In the Kirov district, about 200 masked men stormed the district council, removed the Ukrainian flag from it and hang the banner of the “People's Republic of Donetsk.” The separatists did not put forward any demands, and began to settle down in a building of the state institution, bringing stuff, mattresses and food," Matsuka said.

According to him, information about the capture of the district council was confirmed by Chairman of the Donetsk Regional State Administration Serhiy Taruta during his communication with Donetsk Mayor Oleksandr Lukianchenko.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/kirov_district_council_captured_in_donetsk_320888

Leader of Sloviansk militants says OSCE monitors won't be released soon, 30.04.2014

KYIV, April 30 /Ukrinform/. Separatist leader in Sloviansk Viacheslav Ponomariov said a quick release of military observers of the OSCE mission should not be expected.

He told this to the German tabloid Bild in an interview on Wednesday, Ukrinform's Berlin correspondent reported.

"We are in talks, but I do not think that the release will take place today or tomorrow," he said.

According to him, on Wednesday one more OSCE representative is scheduled to arrive in Sloviansk to continue negotiations.

The self-proclaimed mayor of Sloviansk said he "still has not had any contacts with Moscow," and he is "not taking orders from Putin."

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/leader_of_sloviansk_militants_says_osce_monitors_wont_be_released_soon_320924

Separatists occupy buildings of Alchevsk and Sverdlovsk city councils, 30.04.2014

KYIV, April 30 /Ukrinform/. On Wednesday, a group of separatists of about 30 people entered the building of the Alchevsk City Council, after which the Ukrainian flag was withdrawn from it.

The press service of the Luhansk Regional Branch of the Committee of Voters of Ukraine [CVU] reports.

"The activists held talks with government officials, another flag appeared on the mayor's office. However, it is not the Russian flag, but the flag of Alchevsk. The Ukrainian flag was removed. Most of the executive committee employees went home in the afternoon, the management remains at their workplaces," a statement reads.

Today, the pro-Russian extremists entered the building of the Sverdlovsk City Council in Luhansk region.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/separatists_occupy_buildings_of_alchevsk_and_sverdlovsk_city_councils_320933

Worldwide – Ukraine

Germany cancels Merkel-Putin meeting, 01.04.2014

KYIV, April 1 /Ukrinform/. Germany, in response to Russia's policy towards Ukraine, has cancelled the next round of the high-level German-Russian intergovernmental consultations scheduled for late April.

German government spokesman Steffen Seibert told this to reporters on Monday, according to Ukrinform's Berlin correspondent.

"The next round of the German-Russian intergovernmental consultations has been canceled," he said.

Seibert explained that such a move of Berlin meets the decisions taken earlier by the Great Seven and the European Council with regard to Russia.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/germany_cancels_merkel_putin_meeting_319474

Germany, France, Poland propose holding international conference on Ukraine, 01.04.2014

KYIV, April 1 /Ukrinform/. The foreign ministers of the Weimar Triangle (Germany, France, and Poland) have proposed holding an international conference after the presidential elections in Ukraine in order to consolidate support for Kyiv.

Frank-Walter Steinmeier, Laurent Fabius and Radosław Sikorski said this in a joint statement on Ukraine on March 31, a Ukrinform correspondent in Germany reported.

"In order to send a strong signal of support, consolidate international support efforts and discuss necessary reforms, we suggest to hold a conference on gathering international support, including technical assistance for Ukraine after the presidential elections," reads the document.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/germany_france_poland_propose_holding_international_conference_on_ukraine_319484

European airlines banned from flying to Crimea, 02.04.2014

KYIV, April 2 /Ukrinform/. The European Organization for the Safety of Air Navigation (Eurocontrol) has closed flight routes to airports in Simferopol and Sevastopol, Eurocontrol's press service has told a Ukrinform reporter in Brussels.

"The routes to the Simferopol (UKFF) and Sevastopol (UKFB) airports are closed," the press service said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/european_airlines_banned_from_flying_to_crimea_319565

Putin signs law on denunciation of Black Sea Fleet agreements with Ukraine, 02.04.2014

KYIV, April 2 /Ukrinform/. Russian President Vladimir Putin has signed a law on the denunciation of Russian-Ukrainian agreements on the Black Sea Fleet, the Kremlin's press service told a Ukrinform correspondent in Russia on Wednesday.

"Vladimir Putin has signed a federal law on terminating the effect of the agreements regarding the stationing of the Black Sea Fleet of the Russian Federation on the Ukrainian territory," reads the statement.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/putin_intends_to_annex_some_north_and_south_world_countries_kolomiyets_319590

NASA suspends joint projects with Russia, 03.04.2014

KYIV, April 3 /Ukrinform/. The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) has suspended joint projects with Russia, except for the work on maintaining safe and continuous operation of the International Space Station.

NASA said this in a statement released late on Wednesday, Ukrinform reported.

"Given Russia's ongoing violation of Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity, NASA is suspending the majority of its ongoing engagements with the Russian Federation," reads the document.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/nasa_suspends_joint_projects_with_russia_319652

EU Committee of Regions backs Ukraine's territorial integrity, 04.04.2014

KYIV, April 4 /Ukrinform/. The [EU](#) Committee of the Regions, which is composed of representatives of 353 local government agencies from 28 EU member states, has supported Ukraine's territorial integrity and condemned Russian aggression.

This is stated in a resolution adopted by the EU Committee of the Regions, a Ukrinform correspondent in Brussels reported.

"The Committee of the Regions condemns the unlawful violation of the Ukrainian sovereignty and territorial integrity by the Russian Federation and considers the 'referendum' held in Crimea on March 16, 2014 on joining the Russian Federation as totally illegal and illegitimate, in clear violation of the Ukrainian Constitution and international treaties," representatives of the EU's 353 regions said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/eu_committee_of_regions_backs_ukraines_territorial_integrity_319705

Moscow is ready for negotiations in format RF-USA-EU-Ukraine, 08.04.2014

At the same time Moscow believes that south and east of Ukraine should also be represented in international talks.

Moscow is ready for the negotiations in a format RF-USA-EU-Ukraine. Foreign Minister of Russia Sergey Lavrov said this, ITAR-TASS reports.

<http://www.unian.info/politics/905452-moscow-is-ready-for-negotiations-in-format-rf-usa-eu-ukraine.html>

Russian diplomat ordered to leave Canada, 09.04.2014

KYIV, April 9 /Ukrinform/. The Canadian authorities are asking Russian military attache Lieutenant-Colonel Yury Bezler to leave the country, according to [Canadian media](#).

"Ottawa has ordered the departure of a Russian diplomat to 'send a message' to Moscow as relations between the two countries increasingly fray over Vladimir Putin's efforts to destabilize Ukraine, sources say," reads the statement. Sources also said that Canada's move is in response to the Russian government's recent decision to remove a Canadian diplomat from his post in Russia
http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/russian_diplomat_ordered_to_leave_canada_319882

PACE deprives Russian delegation of voting right till end of year due to annexation of Crimea, 10.04.2014

The Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe deprived the Russian delegation of a voting right and banned Russians to take leading posts in PACE till an end of the year due to the fact the Russian lawmakers supported actions on occupation and annexation of Crimea by Moscow.

<http://www.unian.info/politics/906364-pace-deprives-russian-delegation-of-voting-right-till-end-of-year-due-to-annexation-of-crimea.html>

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/pace_strips_russia_of_voting_rights_until_end_of_this_year_319991

PACE calls on Russia to ensure rights of Ukrainians and Crimean Tatars in Crimea, 10.04.2014

KYIV, April 10 /Ukrinform/. PACE, in its resolution approved on Thursday, has called on Russia, which annexed the Crimean peninsula, to ensure the rights of Ukrainians and Crimean Tatars living there.

This is stated in Resolution No. 13488, which was adopted with amendments on Thursday, a Ukrinform correspondent in France reported.

"The present situation of minorities in Crimea, in particular of Crimean Tartars and Ukrainians, raises the utmost concern. The assembly urges Russia, which is in illegal control of this territory, to ensure that their rights are not violated," reads the document.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/pace_calls_on_russia_to_ensure_rights_of_ukrainians_and_crimean_tatars_in_crimea_319997

OSCE to hold unscheduled sitting of standing council today due to situation in Ukraine, 14.04.2014

Switzerland that chairs in the OSCE announced about calling of unscheduled sitting of the standing council of the organization today due to situation in Ukraine.

Swiss Mission of the OSCE on Twitter reports this.

<http://www.unian.info/politics/907554-osce-to-hold-unscheduled-sitting-of-standing-council-today-due-to-situation-in-ukraine.html>

US Department of State proves actions of pro-Russian separatists were planned, 14.04.2014

KYIV, April 14 /Ukrinform/. The U.S. Department of State has released facts showing that aggressive actions by pro-Russian separatists in eastern Ukraine on April 12 were coordinated and planned in advance.

The Department of State stated this in a press release "Evidence of Russian Support for Destabilization of Ukraine" early on Monday, a Ukrinform correspondent reported.

"In an indication that the April 12 operations were planned in advance, the takeovers have occurred simultaneously in multiple locations in eastern Ukraine: Donetsk, Sloviansk, Krasny Lyman, Kramatorsk, Chervonoarmiysk, and Druzhkivka. There are reports that additional attempts to seize buildings in other eastern Ukrainian towns failed," reads the document.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/us_department_of_state_proves_actions_of_pro_russian_separatists_were_planned_320097

Further steps by Russia to destabilize Ukraine to strengthen EU sanctions - conclusions, 15.04.2014

KYIV, April 15 /Ukrinform/. Any steps to destabilize the situation in Ukraine would lead to tougher sanctions against Russia on the part of the European Union.

This is stated in the conclusions of the [EU](#) Foreign Affairs Council, which met in Luxembourg on Monday.

"Any further steps by the Russian Federation to destabilize the situation in Ukraine would lead to additional and far reaching consequences for relations in a broad range of economic areas between the European Union and its Member States, on the one hand, and the Russian Federation, on the other hand," reads the document.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/further_steps_by_russia_to_destabilize_ukraine_to_strengthen_eu_sanctions_conclusions_320169

France, U.S. urge end to provocations in Ukraine's east, 15.04.2014

KYIV, April 15 /Ukrinform/. The presidents of France and the U.S., Francois Hollande and Barack Obama, are calling for restraint and preventing provocations in Ukraine, a statement from the Elysee Palace said after a phone call of the two leaders on Monday.

"Francois Hollande and Barack Obama share the same concerns about the disturbing events taking place in the last days in the eastern regions of Ukraine. They are calling for restraint and emphasize the need to prevent provocations," the report reads.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/france_us_urge_end_to_provocations_in_ukraines_east_320175

Obama urges Putin to appease pro-Russian separatists in Ukraine, 15.04.2014

KYIV, April 15 /Ukrinform/. U.S. President Barack Obama has called on Russian President Vladimir Putin to force pro-Russian separatists in Ukraine to lay down their arms and release the buildings they have seized.

According to the White House, the phone conversation between the two leaders took place on Monday at the initiative of the Russian side, a Ukrinform correspondent reported.

"The president emphasized that all irregular forces in the country [Ukraine] need to lay down their arms, and he urged President Putin to use his influence with these armed, pro-Russian groups to convince them to depart the buildings they have seized," the White House said in a statement.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/obama_urges_putin_to_appease_pro_russian_separatists_in_ukraine_320171

Deshchytsia, Kerry, Ashton, Lavrov agree on plan of de-escalation in eastern Ukraine, 18.04.2014

KYIV, April 18 /Ukrinform/. The foreign policy chiefs of Ukraine, the United States, the [EU](#) and Russia have approved a joint statement following a four-way meeting in Geneva, which contains initial steps to de-escalate tensions in eastern Ukraine, the press service of the Ukrainian Foreign Ministry has reported.

"Following a long discussion the meeting participants agreed on initial steps to de-escalate the situation in the eastern regions of Ukraine to strengthen security for all citizens," reads the report.

In particular, according to the Ukrainian Foreign Ministry, the sides spoke about the need to refrain from any violence, intimidation or provocative actions, disarm all illegal armed groups, and vacate all buildings illegally seized by militants.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/deshchytsia_kerry_ashton_lavrov_agree_on_plan_of_de_escalation_in_eastern_ukraine_320378

Over 4,000 Ukrainian servicemen evacuated from Crimea, 26.04.2014

KYIV, April 26 /Ukrinform/. Over 4,000 Ukrainian servicemen and their families were evacuated from Crimea to mainland Ukraine as of April 25, the press service of the Ukrainian Defense Ministry has reported.

"As of April 25, 4,124 persons arrived from the temporarily occupied territory of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea to mainland Ukraine. Among them there were 1,422 officers, 103 students of military schools, 1,838 sergeants and soldiers serving on contracts, 18 Ukrainian Armed Forces employees and 743 members of their families, including 274 children," reads the statement.

According to the main personnel department of the General Staff of the Ukrainian Armed Forces, those evacuated largely included representatives of the Ukrainian Navy and their families (2,862 persons) and 835 representatives of the Ukrainian Air Force and their families. The rest are from the units directly subordinated to the Defense Ministry and the General Staff of the Ukrainian Armed Forces.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/over_4000_ukrainian_servicemen_evacuated_from_crimea_320731

Russia repeatedly violated Ukrainian airspace on Friday - Pentagon, 26.04.2014

KYIV, April 26 /Ukrinform/. Russian military aircraft on Friday entered Ukrainian airspace on several occasions, the U.S. Department of Defense has told BBC.

According to the report, a Pentagon spokesperson, without specifying the details, told BBC that the incident had been recorded in parts of the country bordering with Russia. Moscow made no comments on this report.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/russia_repeatedly_violated_ukrainian_airspace_on_friday_pentagon_320732

OSCE says members of military verification mission captured by terrorists, not observers, 26.04.2014

KYIV, April 26 /Ukrinform/. Terrorists in Sloviansk, Donetsk region, have captured not OSCE observers, but members of a military verification mission who arrived in the town at the invitation of the Ukrainian authorities according to the Vienna Document of 2011, reads a statement posted on the official Twitter page of the OSCE.

"All members of the OSCE Special Monitoring Mission and OSCE/ODIHR election observers are safe and accounted for," reads the statement.

In total, the mission consists of eight people, including four German citizens and one representative each from the Czech Republic, Denmark, Poland and Sweden.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/osce_says_members_of_military_verification_mission_captured_by_terrorists_not_observers_320733

G7 countries agree to introduce new sanctions against Russia, 26.04.2014

KYIV, April 26 /Ukrinform/. The leaders of the Group of Seven (G7) states have agreed to act quickly on the issue of the introduction of new sanctions against Russia because of its policy with regard to Ukraine, according to a G7 leaders statement published on the website of the White House.

"We have now agreed that we will move swiftly to impose additional sanctions on Russia. Given the urgency of securing the opportunity for a successful and peaceful democratic vote next month in Ukraine's presidential elections, we have committed to act urgently to intensify targeted sanctions and measures to increase the costs of Russia's actions," reads the statement.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/g7_countries_agree_to_introduce_new_sanctions_against_russia_320737

V4 condemns Russia's aggression against Ukraine, 29.04.2014

KYIV, April 29 /Ukrinform/. The Visegrad Group foreign ministers (Poland, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Hungary) condemned the military and economic pressure on the Eastern Partnership, as well as Russia's aggression in Crimea and destabilization of the situation in eastern Ukraine.

The Visegrad top diplomats said this in a statement following the informal meeting of Visegrad and Eastern Partnership countries in Budapest on April 28-29, 2014.

“The V4 Ministers rejected any military or economic threat against EaP Partner Countries and in this context reiterated their full support to the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Georgia, the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine. They condemned the Russian armed aggression and the annexation of Crimea as well as the political and military actions to destabilize the Eastern part of Ukraine,” the statement reads.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/v4_condemns_russias_aggression_against_ukraine_320845

U.S. Embassy urges Russia not to support terrorists in Ukraine's east, 30.04.2014

KYIV, April 30 /Ukrinform/. The United States is disgusted by last night's savage attack on the peaceful pro-unity demonstrators in Donetsk, including many women and children. Russia should influence the separatists it controls in Ukraine to put an end to atrocities, including manifestations of terrorism.

The U.S. Embassy said this in a statement on violence in eastern Ukraine.

“This senseless violence is a reminder of the struggle for dignity that underlies the political debate in Ukraine today. We also condemn the separatists' taking of hostages, both Ukrainians and international monitors, some of whom have been brutally beaten. There is no place for these examples of inhuman behavior in a modern, democratic society. This is terrorism, pure and simple,” the statement reads.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/us_embassy_urges_russia_not_to_support_terrorists_in_ukraines_east_320880

OSCE: Situation in Donetsk region worsens, tensions grow in Kharkiv, 30.04.2014

KYIV, April 30 /Ukrinform/. The situation in Kharkiv appears to be tense after an assassination attempt on local mayor Hennadiy Kernes. The situation continued to be tense in Luhansk region and particularly tense in Donetsk region, the OSCE Special Monitoring Mission in Ukraine said in a report on Tuesday.

“The general situation in Kharkiv is tense following the assassination attempt on the Kharkiv mayor Hennadiy Kernes on 28 April and the clashes between approximately 1000 supporters and opponents of the central government on 27 April (please see the 27 April SMM daily report for details). The shooting took place two km north of the city centre; the mayor is hospitalized and remains in serious condition at the time of writing,” the OSCE monitors said.

The OSCE noted that in Luhansk the general situation remains tense in light of the ultimatum issued to the Government by the occupiers of the state security service (SBU) building calling for the recognition of the self-proclaimed “people's governor”.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/osce_situation_in_donetsk_region_worsens_tensions_grow_in_kharkiv_320890

National Minorities

Ukraine Holocaust monument vandalized with swastikas, 10.04.2014

Amid accusations of anti-Semitism between Russia, Ukraine, wall of Odessa Jewish cemetery defaced with inscription: "Death to the Jews."

Nazi symbols were drawn on a Holocaust monument in Odessa, Ukraine.

The symbols — swastikas and the SS Wolfsangel sign — were painted Tuesday on the memorial site, police sources from the southern Ukrainian city told the Unian news agency. There are no suspects.

Swastikas were also painted on a wall surrounding a Jewish cemetery reading "death to the Jews" and "Right Sector" — an ultranationalist movement that participated in the revolution that in February ended with the ousting of President Viktor Yanukovich. The uprising had erupted over Yanukovich's perceived pro-Russian policies.

<http://www.haaretz.com/jewish-world/jewish-world-news/1.584923>

Language law won't be repealed, Yatseniuk says, 11.04.2014

KYIV, April 11 /Ukrinform/. The language law by Kolesnichenko-Kivalov will not be canceled, Ukraine's Prime Minister Arseniy Yatseniuk said at a meeting in Donetsk on the decentralization of power and new wording of the Constitution.

"I honestly said, and once again want to confirm that the Kolesnichenko-Kivalov law - whatever I would treat it - today is in effect and can't be canceled," Yatseniuk said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/language_law_wont_be_repealed_yatseniuk_says_320049

Neo-Nazi from Russia organized Pro-Russian Demonstration in Odesa (Photo), 11.04.2014

Thanks to the pictures of pro-Russian demonstrations, Facebook users identified one of their participants.

Anton Raievsky near tents in Odesa, on Kulikove pole square

He turned out to be a neo-Nazi from St. Petersburg Anton Raievskiy. During the demonstration the Russian was playing a role of Russian-speaking citizen of Odesa, who urges Odesa to join the Russian Federation.

The case with Raievskiy is not an exception. The number of identified Russians who participate in mass riots in Ukraine is growing all the time.

<http://news.spilno.tv/en/archives/16849>

Odessa Jews, UNSO remove anti-semitic graffiti conjointly, 11.04.2014

April 11. Representatives of the Jewish community in Odesa and Ukrainian National Assembly – Ukrainian People's Self-Defense (UNA-UNSO) activists have removed anti-Semitic graffiti from the city streets, press secretary of the Chabad Jewish community Boleslav Kapulkin said on Friday, a Ukrinform correspondent reported.

"UNSO representatives together with representatives of the Jewish community have jointly removed anti-Semitic graffiti on Odesa streets," Kapulkin said.

Chief Rabbi of Odesa and Southern Ukraine Avraham Wolf and UNSO commander Valeriy Zahorodniy jointly painted over the anti-Semitic graffiti.

As reported, on April 7 and April 8 the unknowns left the images of swastika, wolf hook, inscriptions "Right Sector" and "Glory to Ukraine" on the Holocaust Victims Memorial, Jewish graves at the Tairovske cemetery, as well as the walls of houses in Odesa.

Zahorodniy called the anonymous inscriptions a provocation and assured Rabbi Wolf that the Right Sector and UNSO have nothing to do with this, and condemned this vile act.

<http://lifeinua.info/news-from-ukraine/odesa-jews-unso-remove-anti-semitic-graffiti-conjointly/>

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/odesa_jews_unso_remove_anti_semitic_graffiti_conjointly_320059

Russian fascism: Donetsk separatists oblige all Jews to register. Photo document, 16.04.2014

KYIV, April 16 /Ukrinform/. Three unknown persons in balaclava with the flag of the Russian Federation pasted anti-Semitic leaflets near the Donetsk synagogue on Tuesday evening.

Information was reported by members of the Jewish community of Donetsk, [media inform](#).

"Representatives of the community believe that so they tried to provoke a conflict, then to blame of an attack on separatists," a statement reads.

The leaflet reads: "Dear citizens of the Jewish nationality! Due to the fact that leaders of the Jewish community of Ukraine supported the 'Bendera' junta in Kyiv and are hostile to the Orthodox Donetsk republic and its citizens, the main headquarters of the Donetsk republic ruled as follows: all citizens of Jewish nationality over 16 years, residing on the territory of the sovereign Donetsk republic need to appear up to May 3, 2014, to the acting Commissioner for Nationalities in the building of the Donetsk Regional Administration, Office 514 for registration. The registration fee is USD 50.

You should have cash in the amount of USD 50 to pay the registration fee, passports to mark the religion, documents of family members, as well as documents of title to all real property owned by you and the vehicles.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/russian_fascism_donetsk_separatists_oblige_all_jews_to_register_photo_document_320265

Jemilev, Chubarov not allowed in Crimea, 19.04.2014

KYIV, April 19 /Ukrinform/. Mejlis leaders of the Crimean Tatar people Mustafa Jemilev and Refat Chubarov are not allowed in Crimea.

Head of the Mejlis press center Leila Muslimova has written about this on Facebook.

"Crimean Tatars are waiting for Mustafa Jemilev and Refat Chubarov on the entrance to Crimea. In the meantime, as Mejlis leader of the Crimean Tatar people Refat Chubarov said, a car in which he and Mustafa Jemilev traveled from Kyiv to Crimea is held on the administrative border (Armiansk), motivating this by the fact that allegedly Mustafa Jemilev is on a list of persons banned for entry in Crimea," she wrote.

Muslimova added that over 30 cars with Crimean Tatar and Ukrainian flags are waiting for Mejlis leaders on the border with Crimea.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/jemilev_chubarov_not_allowed_in_crimea_320449

Document handed over to Jemilev on ban to enter Crimea until 2019, 22.04.2014

KYIV, April 22 /Ukrinform/. Mustafa Jemilev is banned to enter the territory of Crimea for five years.

The press service of the Crimean Tatar Mejlis informs about this.

"Leader of Crimean Tatars Mustafa Jemilev is banned to enter Crimea until 2019," Mejlis Press Secretary Lilia Muslimova has said.

According to her, early in the morning April 22, Mustafa Jemilev jointly with Mejlis deputy head Aslan Omer Kyyrymli went to Kyiv and on crossing the administrative-territorial border of Crimea with Ukraine "An act on notification about a ban to enter the Russian Federation" was handed over to Mustafa Jemilev.

“We, undersigned, made this act that based on the resolution on a ban of the entry to foreign citizen No. 140 (ZKS) (Defense Guard Service) 13-1087 of April 19, 2014, Mustafa Jemilev, born November 13, 1944, citizen of Ukraine, is banned to enter the territory of the Russian Federation based on Item 1, Article 27 of the Federal Law “On the procedure for leaving the Russian Federation and entry to the Russian Federation” for the term of five years until April 19, 2019,” the designated act reads.

According to Mustafa Jemilev, the “document,” handed over to him, is nothing else “but an indicator of the fact how civilized the state is we are dealing with.”

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/document_handed_over_to_jemilev_on_ban_to_enter_crimea_until_2019_320492

<http://www.unian.info/politics/910236-dzhemilev-is-barred-from-entry-to-crimea-up-to-2019-mejlis.html>

<http://www.unian.info/politics/910236-dzhemilev-is-barred-from-entry-to-crimea-up-to-2019-mejlis.html>

Crimean Tatars to vote in Ukraine's presidential elections, 22.04.2014

KYIV, April 22 /Ukrinform/. Crimean Tatars living in Crimea will be able to elect Ukraine's president on the border area. To do this, Ukrainian authorities, including the Mejlis, will organize columns and people's departure to the polls, Mejlis member Eskender Bariev told the QHA news agency.

He noted that according to the law on the occupied territories and the law on presidential elections, Ukrainian citizens residing in the territory of Crimea can vote in the border area, it may be villages in Kherson region.

However, Bariev explained, there are fears that there will not be enough polling stations, it is needed to provide additional stations.

It is necessary to put the question before the Central Election Commission of Ukraine that tens of thousands of voters may come from Crimea, and if there are so many voters, several polling stations will not be enough. There should be hundreds of stations that will provide it, Bariev said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/crimean_tatars_to_vote_in_ukraines_presidential_elections_320471

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