



Monitoring of Xenophobia and Extremism in Ukraine April 2015

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Introduction

Over the past few weeks, the intensity of the Russian - Ukrainian war in Donbas began to grow again. Only since the beginning of this month, 14 days in the Donbass 20 Ukrainian military have died , hundreds more soldiers were wounded. Moscow continues to start a column of armored vehicles in the occupied areas of the Ukraine, once again used tanks and artillery . In these conditions, to talk about a cease-fire is impossible. However, Russia is looking for a way to prove the opposite and tries to jump out of the Western sanctions , while keeping the impact on Ukraine and increasing group of troops in Donbass . What's next?

Russian blitzkrieg to create a "New Russia" failed - the resources accumulated by the aggressor in the period of high prices for oil and gas, melt losses among the mercenaries and military great, and the support of the "Russian world " in Ukraine dramatically fallen and hovers around 10 % . The majority of Ukrainians favor of joining NATO and the European Union. The Administration of the President of Ukraine said that in such circumstances, Moscow is unable to continue its expansion- because now another goal: to achieve the abolition of Western sanctions to catch his breath, but to lift the sanctions so as to keep the impact on the events in Ukraine, but Ukraine is making efforts to ensure that sanctions against Moscow has never been removed.

Prognosis and Polls

Survey: Russians hate the US and EU more than Ukraine, 02.04.2015

Most of Russians have negative attitude towards the US (73%) and the EU (64%). Nearly 55% of respondents experience negative feelings towards Ukraine, according to a survey conducted by "Levada Center."

At the same time about 19% of respondents have positive feelings towards the US, 24% - towards the EU and 31% - towards Ukraine.

Belarus and China remain popular among Russian citizens (85% and 76% see them favorably). 48% of respondents have positive attitude towards Georgia, 33% - negative and 20% were undecided. The survey was conducted on March 20-23 among 1,600 people in 134 settlements of 46 Russian regions.

http://mw.ua/WORLD/survey-russians-hate-the-us-and-eu-more-than-ukraine-1622_.html

Survey: Most Ukrainians believe Russia is aggressor, 02.04.2015

56.1% of Ukrainians believe the conflict in eastern Ukraine is Russia's aggressive war against Ukraine, reports a survey by Razumkov Center.

15.6% of respondents think about the situation as a civil conflict between pro-Russian and pro-Ukrainian residents of Ukraine, 18.6% see it as a struggle between Russia and the US for the spheres of influence.

Almost three quarters of Ukrainian citizens (71.8%) believe that Russia is an aggressor state and a party to the conflict in eastern Ukraine. The opposite view is shared by 8.4% of people.

66.1% consider so-called "DPR" and "LPR" as terrorist organizations not having the right to represent the population of the occupied areas, 19.6% of respondents disagree with that.

48.6% of respondents support the idea that citizens of Ukraine, who supported the Russian aggression against Ukraine, the annexation of the Crimea, separatist movements in the east and south, should be deprived of Ukrainian citizenship. 33% of respondents do not support this opinion.

http://mw.ua/UKRAINE/survey-most-ukrainians-believe-russia-is-aggressor-1624_.html

Russia Leads Forestry Destruction Ranking, 03.04.2015

Russia is now the world leader in terms of forestry destruction, a new survey showed this week, with fires blamed for destroying hundreds of thousands of square kilometers of woodland since the millennium.

Russia lost a staggering 37.22 million hectares (370,000 square kilometers) of forest between 2001 and 2013, according to data compiled by Global Forest Watch. That represents about one-twentieth of its entire tree cover in 2000.

Russia was followed in the rankings by fellow BRICS nation Brazil, which lost 35.76 million hectares of forest over the same time period. Canada lost 28.39 million hectares, putting it in third place, according to the survey published Thursday.

Despite losing more existing tree cover than any other nation, Russia also saw the growth of more new woodland — 1.35 million hectares — than any other country between 2001-2012. The United States gained 1.15 million hectares and Canada gained 759,000 hectares, placing them second and third, respectively.

<http://www.themoscowtimes.com/news/article/russia-leads-forestry-destruction-ranking/518599.html>

Vladimir Putin at the top of Time readers' poll for most influential people, 14.04.2015

Russian President Vladimir Putin was named the winner of US magazine Time 100 readers' poll for this year's most influential people. The South Korean girl-group 2NE1 known as CL came second in the ranking with 6.9% of the votes. US President Barack Obama was ranked 11th.

According to Time magazine, more than 57% of the votes were cast in the United States, 5.54% in Canada and another 4.55% in the United Kingdom. Top 10 most influential people in the world, according to Time 100 readers' poll - in photo gallery by TASS

<http://tass.ru/en/non-political/788957>

IMF confirms forecast for Ukraine's GDP growth as 2% in 2016 after 5.5% fall in 2015, 14.04.2015

"Ukraine's economy is expected to bottom out in 2015 as activity stabilizes with the beginning of reconstruction work, but the economy is still projected to contract by 5.5%," reads the report. This forecast corresponds to EFF program data, as opposed to the views of many experts who worsened their predications for the Ukrainian economy since the implementation of the program. The IMF said that the decline reflects the economic consequences of the conflict in eastern Ukraine, but the deepening of recession is also due to pressure on the hryvnia, which increased substantially since last October last year.

According to the WEO, average annual inflation in Ukraine this year will accelerate to 33.5% from 12.1% a year earlier, and next year it will slow to 10.6%.

The IMF also expects the reduction of the current account deficit from 4% of GDP last year to 1.4% of GDP this year and 1.3% of GDP next year.

According to the outlook, the unemployment rate this year will reach a peak of 11.5% from 10.5% last year, and next year it will fall to 11%.

<http://en.interfax.com.ua/news/economic/260411.html>

Poll: Almost half of Russians consider Direct Line with Putin 'window dressing', 17.04.2015

A total of 59% of respondents said they were planning to watch the show featuring the president. More often elderly people (81%) said they planned to watch the show. A quarter of respondents said that they would not watch the direct line with Putin, while 27% of Russians didn't even know it was being shown.

More than 15% of Russians wanted to ask Putin about the welfare of the citizens. In particular, they were interested in rising prices, wage increases and opportunities to improve people's lives. Another 10% would have asked Putin about social payments and benefits, 4% of respondents would have asked about economic problems, and 3% of respondents would have asked about the fight against corruption, the fight against unemployment, housing problems, and problems with utilities and health care.

In addition, 1% wanted to express words of support and encouragement to Putin.

However, 46% of respondents did not want to ask Putin any questions, as they thought that he would not have time to answer all of them.

The poll was conducted on April 11-12. A total of 1,500 people aged from 18 were questioned in 43 regions of Russia.

<http://www.unian.info/world/1068337-poll-almost-half-of-russians-consider-direct-line-with-putin-window-dressing.html>

Poll: Ukrainians split on visa regime for Russia, joining NATO, but very negative about Russian government, 23.04.2015

A total of 46.7% of respondents support there being a visa regime with Russia. At the same time, 40.6% of respondents do not support this idea, while 12.7% didn't give an answer.

In addition, according to the results of the survey, a total of 43.3% of respondents support Ukraine's withdrawal from the Commonwealth of Independent States, 33.8% of respondents do not support this, and 22.9% didn't answer.

At the same time, the survey shows a growing number of Ukrainians who support the country's entry to NATO. In particular, while in August 2011 a total of 17.9% said they would vote for Ukraine's accession to NATO in the case of a referendum and 59.6% were against it, in April 2014 a total of 36.7% of respondents would have voted for this idea and 41.6% would have been against it. In March 2015 the numbers were 43.3% and 31.6% respectively.

<http://www.unian.info/society/1070706-poll-ukrainians-split-on-visa-regime-for-russia-joining-nato-but-very-negative-about-russian-government.html>
<http://en.interfax.com.ua/news/general/262472.html>

World Bank: Inflation in Ukraine to accelerate to 40%, 29.04.2015

The World Bank is expecting that consumer inflation in Ukraine will accelerate to 40% in 2015, economist of the World Bank in Ukraine Anastasia Holovach said on Wednesday during the presentation of a new economic survey and macroeconomic forecast for Ukraine.

<http://www.unian.info/economics/1072979-world-bank-inflation-in-ukraine-to-accelerate-to-40.html>

Statements of officials

Lukashenko: Ukraine's stability impossible without US, 01.04.2015

"The most worrying thing is that the United States hasn't been openly involved in this process," Lukashenko said.

"I believe that without the Americans, there can be no stability in Ukraine," he said.

Lukashenko's support for more U.S. involvement highlights the balancing act Minsk has to perform between Belarus's eastern neighbor and the world's largest superpower. The Belarusian leader is appealing to the United States, which has hit him with sanctions over his suppression of political freedoms, while his alliance with Russian President Vladimir Putin runs counter to growing unease across eastern Europe over the Kremlin's expansionism.

<http://www.unian.info/politics/1062274-lukashenko-ukraines-stability-impossible-without-us.html>

Preparations for Donbas elections to start after full ceasefire – Merkel, 01.04.2015

She announced this at a joint press conference with Ukrainian Prime Minister Arseniy Yatseniuk in Berlin on Wednesday, an UNIAN correspondent reported.

"These elections are among the measures that were defined in February 2015 [in the Minsk II peace agreements]. To implement this, of course, we need that weapons, mainly heavy ones, be withdrawn. It has been done partly, but we haven't received [a report] from the OSCE [Special] Monitoring Mission that the process has been completed," she said.

In that connection, she stressed, "that is why preparations for the elections will start only when this condition has been met."

"We have been talking about this, a Normandy Four meeting has taken place, they have started forming ad hoc groups, and these groups will be handling the elections. And the objective is to help Ukraine restore its territorial integrity and regain control of its borders," Merkel explained.

<http://www.unian.info/politics/1062639-preparations-for-donbas-elections-to-start-after-full-ceasefire-merkel.html>

<http://tass.ru/en/world/786554>

Lukashenko: Belarus not to be north-western region of Russia, 02.04.2015

According to Lukashenko, there are many politicians in Russia who think imperially and believe that Belarus should be a kind of north-western region of Russia.

"We give a concrete answer to this: we will never be a north-western region [of Russia]. And we will never be in conflict with Russia!" he said.

"The Russian leadership has never raised the issue of whether Belarus should be a part of Russia. There were some hints in the past, to which I responded harshly. Belarus was, and will be, a sovereign, independent state," Lukashenko said.

"Putin has never said to me: 'Listen, let's forget about independence, you will be a province of the Russian Federation.' He knows how I would react to it. That's why we've never had such a discussion," Lukashenko said.

<http://www.unian.info/world/1062807-lukashenko-belarus-not-to-be-north-western-region-of-russia.html>

Australia still in utter confusion over root causes of Ukrainian crisis — Russian diplomat, 02.04.2015

Time is ripe for Canberra to take an impartial and independent look at what has been and is happening in Ukraine, a Russian Foreign Ministry official told TASS after Australia's sanctions against Russia took effect.

"It looks like the echo of unlawful restrictions has travelled as far as Australia," the diplomat said.

"The declaration to the effect expanded sanctions against Russia have taken effect sounded rather awkward."

"One cannot but regret that although so much time has passed since the beginning of the Ukrainian events Canberra has not yet identified the real causes of the Ukrainian conflict," the source said.

<http://tass.ru/en/world/786243>

Canadian Defense Ministry: NATO will continue to increase forces in Europe, 02.04.2015

"Canada and its international allies will continue to carry out a set of measures to build their capacity in NATO member states in Central and Eastern Europe," Kenney said.

According to the communiqué of the Defense Ministry, Canadian soldiers and their Polish colleagues began the Mountain Warrior joint exercises in Poland on April 1. A total of 35 soldiers of the Royal Canadian Regiment are involved in the maneuvers. The main purpose of the exercise is to work on the interaction between NATO forces in a mountainous region.

"Canada's participation in these type of exercises is intended to demonstrate our commitment to collective defense," Kenny said.

<http://www.unian.info/world/1062744-canadian-defense-ministry-nato-will-continue-to-increase-forces-in-europe.html>

Putin threat of nuclear showdown over Baltics, 02.04.2015

President Putin is using the threat of a nuclear showdown over the Baltic states to force Nato to back away from Russia's border, according to notes of a secret meeting between intelligence figures from Moscow and Washington.

Western security chiefs are braced for the Kremlin to begin a series of "destabilising actions" in Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania that would directly challenge Nato's mutual defence pledge.

These could involve civil disturbances involving local ethnic Russians, or a cyberattack that could not be definitively traced back to Moscow.

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/news/world/europe/article4399758.ece>

Western media reports on Russian 'nuclear threat' not serious — Kremlin, 02.04.2015

Russia should not be taken seriously, Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said on Thursday.

Peskov commented on the reports claiming that Vladimir Putin is using the threat of a nuclear showdown over the Baltic states in response to the attempts to return Crimea by force.

"That's a classic example of the continuing hysteria in demonizing this country," Peskov said, adding that they are fanning tensions themselves in media "without being guided by any specific information, and then they get scared over what they have written."

"Of course, such publications should not be taken seriously," Peskov said.

<http://tass.ru/en/russia/786689>

http://mw.ua/WORLD/putin-s-spokesman-it-is-hysteria-over-russian-nuclear-threat-1627_.html

Russian interior troops exercise begins in 6 federal districts, including Crimea, 02.04.2015

Large-scale strategic exercise of Russia's Interior Troops codenamed Zaslou-2015 has been launched in 6 federal districts, including Crimea, spokesman for the troops Vasily Panchenkov told TASS on Thursday.

He said that the exercise is conducted in the period from April 2 to 10 under the command of First Deputy Interior Minister — Commander of Interior Troops Colonel General Viktor Zolotov.

"The exercise is aimed at drilling the use of troops (forces) in case of aggravation of the situation in Russian regions to cope with new threats to the state's internal security that is in line with the federal law on interior troops," he said.

<http://tass.ru/en/russia/786715>

Ukraine should prepare to the worst, to open war with Russia – Chubarov, 02.04.2015

"I am one of those who calls to get ready to the worst - to open war with Russia," Chubarov said. The war for Ukraine will only be over after the Crimea is returned within the state.

"The opinion that the enemy can keep some territories of Ukraine is dangerous for Ukraine itself. If we really take care about Ukraine, if we want it to pan out, and that we live in a country which is highly respected by its neighbors and respects itself, we need to return the Crimea. This is why for us the war will be over only when the Crimea is part of the Ukrainian state," Chubarov stressed.

http://en.censor.net.ua/news/331034/ukraine_should_prepare_to_the_worst_to_open_war_with_russia_chubarov

Rumours of Putin illness were true, 02.04.2015

President Putin had fallen ill when he disappeared from public view for 11 days last month, Russian military and intelligence figures have told their US counterparts. The Kremlin drew a veil over his illness to avoid allowing Mr Putin to appear weak or comparisons in the western media with Boris Yeltsin and his chaotic loss of control as president.

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/news/world/europe/article4399429.ece>

http://mw.ua/WORLD/media-putin-was-really-sick-in-march-1635_.html

Lavrov Urges Both Sides to Pull Back Weapons in East Ukraine, 04.04.2015

Both sides in the conflict in Ukraine could pull back weapons under 100mm caliber from the front line in a bid to boost confidence in a cease-fire, Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said. Lavrov said there was a common aim for a cease-fire in the Donetsk and Luhansk regions agreed in Minsk in February to hold indefinitely, although there have been some violations. Lavrov said parties involved in the conflict as well as the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe were discussing what could be done on the top of the Minsk agreement which, among other measures, involved the pullback of weapons with caliber over 100mm, including large artillery, heavy mortar and powerful rocket systems.

"It is necessary to monitor keeping mainly the military part of the Minsk agreements.... There is a possibility to pull back troops with caliber under 100mm," Lavrov said.

"We will try to help the sides to reach such an agreement, which would increase mutual confidence," Lavrov told a news conference during a visit to Slovakia.

<http://www.themoscowtimes.com/news/article/lavrov-urges-both-sides-to-pull-back-weapons-in-east-ukraine/518625.html>

Lavrov Says Crimean Tatars Have More Rights Under Russian Rule, 05.04.2015

Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said in comments carried by state media that the minority ethnic group enjoys more rights under Russian rule than they did when the region was part of Ukraine. Shortly after Russia's annexation of Crimea last year, President Vladimir Putin said at a press conference that plans were under way to rehabilitate Crimea's Tatars, who had been deported en masse during the height of Josef Stalin's purges.

"Crimean Tatars suffered some serious damage during the Stalinist reprisals and were deported from Crimea, which is their traditional place of residence, their home. We certainly need to do everything we can to rehabilitate and restore the legitimate rights and interests of the Crimean Tatar people at a time when Crimea is joining the Russian Federation," Putin said at the time. Addressing the matter Saturday, Lavrov said: "A law has been enacted for the rehabilitation of all peoples living in Crimea. ... Such a law was not even under consideration while Crimea was still part of Ukraine."

He added that plans were under way for a "land amnesty." According to the report, deported Crimean Tatars faced residual issues having to do with their return to their native land from the places they were deported to, including never having obtained proper authorization to occupy Crimean land. Russia — unlike Ukraine — plans to resolve these issues, Lavrov said.

<http://www.themoscowtimes.com/news/article/lavrov-says-crimean-tatars-have-more-rights-under-russian-rule/518643.html>

Russian Analyst Calls For Nuclear Attack On Yellowstone National Park, 06.04.2015

Arguing that NATO aggression against Russia required the "complete destruction of the enemy," Sivkov went on to depict a chilling scenario.

"Geologists believe that the Yellowstone supervolcano could explode at any moment. There are signs of growing activity there. Therefore it suffices to push the relatively small, for example the impact of the munition megaton class to initiate an eruption. The consequences will be catastrophic for the United States — a country just disappears," he said.

A Yellowstone supervolcano eruption would kill millions of people in the initial blast and bury much of the United States in volcanic ash. According to some experts, it could cause the end of the world. The last time a supervolcano exploded in Siberia, 85 per cent of all land species and 95 per cent of all ocean dwellers were completely wiped out.

<http://www.infowars.com/russian-analyst-calls-for-nuclear-attack-on-yellowstone-national-park/>

http://en.censor.net.ua/news/331583/russian_analyst_urges_nuclear_attack_on_the_united_states

Official Says US Fears Failure in Isolating Russia Amid May 9 Celebrations, 06.04.2015

MOSCOW (Sputnik) – As seen in the US reaction to Czech President Milos Zeman's plan to visit Moscow's WWII parade celebrations in May, Washington fears its attempts to isolate Russia from the Western world are failing, head of the foreign-affairs committee of the Russian State Duma (lower house of parliament) Alexei Pushkov says.

"Judging from the hysterical behaviour of the US Ambassador to the Czech Republic [Andrew Schapiro], Washington is nervous about the May 9 trips of the leaders of Western countries to Moscow. They are afraid that the isolation [of Russia] will not work," Pushkov wrote in his Twitter blog on Monday.

<http://sputniknews.com/politics/20150406/1020513441.html>

Kuchma hopes for deal on withdrawal of weapons less than 100 mm caliber in Donbas, 06.04.2015

Ukraine's second president Leonid Kuchma, who represents Ukraine in the Trilateral Contact Group, is optimistic about the possibility of reaching agreements on the withdrawal of weapons of caliber of less than 100 mm from the contact line in eastern Ukraine.

"We have just discussed this proposal made by the Ukrainian side, the president. We should add to those heavy weapons tanks and 82 mm caliber mortars and all weapons of caliber of less than 100 mm. They [militants] are more or less positive about that," he told.

Kuchma also said he is hoping such an agreement will be reached.

<http://en.interfax.com.ua/news/general/259040.html>

Poroshenko calls for tougher punishments for separatism, 06.04.2015

"I think we should toughen punishments for separatist statements, let alone actions, in the process of decentralization, and these criteria should be clearly stated in the law so that people are afraid to even think about it," Poroshenko said during the first meeting of the constitutional commission in Kyiv on Monday.

"Ukraine paid and now pays a very high price" to maintain its unity, sovereignty and territorial integrity, he said.

<http://en.interfax.com.ua/news/general/259018.html>

Yatseniuk: Russia has no right to dictate to Ukraine form of its constitution, 06.04.2015

Neither Moscow nor anyone else has the right to dictate to Ukraine what its constitution should be, Ukrainian Prime Minister Arseniy Yatseniuk said on Monday during the first meeting of the Constitutional Commission.

<https://inagist.com/all/585053197196271616/>

Russia is ready to discuss the issue of peacekeepers in Donbas, but with participation of militants – Lavrov, 06.04.2015

"I heard the statement of the president of Ukraine, of my colleague - Minister of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine, that there is an agreement that "Normandy Four" will consider the modality, terms, and composition of the peacekeeping operation. We, being polite people, are certainly willing to listen to the proposals of our Ukrainian colleagues when we once again get together at a particular level in the "Normandy format". But discussing any new ideas, not mentioned in Minsk, without the participation of the Luhansk and Donetsk, in my opinion, is meaningless," Lavrov said at a press-conference in Moscow.

http://en.censor.net.ua/news/331555/russia_is_ready_to_discuss_the_issue_of_peacekeepers_in_donbas_but_with_participation_of_militants_lavrov

Kwasniewski: Russia's policy is aimed at splitting EU, 06.04.2015

Former Polish President Aleksander Kwasniewski announced that the objective of Russia is splitting the EU similar to what was done to the USSR.

"Earlier Russian also did not conduct a single European policy, but 28 + 1 – bilateral relationship (with EU member states – Ed.) and one was the least important for Russia – relations with Brussels," – announced Kwasniewski.

In his view, EU leaders should do everything possible to prove this policy ineffective.

http://mw.ua/WORLD/kwasniewski-russia-s-policy-is-aimed-at-splitting-eu-1646_.html

PM Yatsenuk: exchange rate to depend on situation in Donbas, 06.04.2015

"I want to be calm more than careful on the issue of exchange rate policy. This is the competence of the National Bank; everyone should be responsible for his own sphere. But, we negotiated with the IMF together and received the first \$ 5 billion that went to stabilize the exchange rate. They are now in reserves, the rest – is also in reserves, but in governmental. The money will be directed to make the external payments. Now, we stabilized the exchange rate, and a lot depends on military situation," – commented PM Yatsenyuk.

http://mw.ua/ECONOMICS/pm-yatsenuk-exchange-rate-to-depend-on-situation-in-donbas-1643_.html

EU Ambassador to Russia: we aren't going to die for Ukraine and change Russia, 07.04.2015

EU Ambassador to Russia Vigaudas Ushchakas has announced that Europe thinks it is risky to supply weapons for Ukraine. He excluded EU participation in the fighting on the side of Ukraine.

"I must admit that we will not go to war and die for Ukraine," – announced the EU diplomat.

"We will not be changing Russia, because we will not be able to do that," – added the Ambassador. He also notes that supplying weapons to Ukraine "would be a risky step" considering "a possible Russian response."

http://mw.ua/WORLD/also-the-diplomat-questioned-the-need-to-supply-weapons-to-ukraine-1662_.html

Waving Cash, Putin Sows E.U. Divisions in an Effort to Break Sanctions, 07.04.2015

NICOSIA, Cyprus — When Cyprus seized hundreds of millions of dollars from bank depositors, many of them Russians, as part of an internationally brokered deal two years ago to rescue its collapsing financial system, the Russian leader, Vladimir V. Putin, denounced the move as "dangerous" and "unfair," warning of a sharp chill in relations.

But Mr. Putin was all smiles recently when he received Cyprus's president, Nicos Anastasiades, in Moscow. He hailed relations with the Mediterranean nation as "always being truly friendly and mutually beneficial" and agreed to extend — on greatly improved terms for Cyprus — a \$2.5 billion Russian loan.

The shift from fury to declarations of eternal friendship displayed Mr. Putin's well-known flair for tactical back flips. But it also showed his unbending determination to break out of sanctions imposed on Russia by the United States and the European Union for Moscow's annexation of Crimea and support for armed rebels in eastern Ukraine.

http://www.nytimes.com/2015/04/07/world/europe/using-cash-and-charm-putin-targets-europes-weakest-links.html?_r=0

Pentagon says US does not intend to resume dialogue on missile defense, 08.04.2015

Russia-U.S. dialogue on missile defense, which was halted last year at Washington's initiative due to the aggression of Russia in Ukraine, remains frozen. This was confirmed by Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Nuclear and Missile Defense Policy Elaine Bunn.

Bunn is the one responsible for nuclear and missile defense policies.

Responding to TASS correspondent's question about condition of the bilateral dialogue on missile defense, the Pentagon official laconically said they were not talking.

However, she made it clear that the prospects for resuming the consultations, from Washington's perspective, remain rather vague at the moment.

<http://en.censor.net.ua/news/331779/pentagon-says-us-does-not-intend-to-resume-dialogue-on-missile-defense>

Komorowski: Ukraine should have right to apply for EU membership, 08.04.2015

Ukraine should have the right to apply for EU membership, Polish President Bronislaw Komorowski said at a joint press conference with his Ukrainian counterpart Petro Poroshenko. Polish president claims that his current visit to Ukraine is an opportunity to reaffirm the strong support of an independent Ukraine, which has the right to defend its territorial integrity.

"I also see it as an opportunity to emphasize Poland's strong support of Ukraine's European aspirations. Poland has been and will be of the opinion that Ukraine should have the right to apply for membership of the European Union and of other structures of the Western world if it wants," Komorowski said.

<http://www.unian.info/politics/1065340-komorowski-ukraine-should-have-right-to-apply-for-eu-membership.html>

Russian Federation and Russia-backed terrorists violate Minsk II – Klimkin, 08.04.2015

Minister of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine Pavlo Klimkin said during a joint press conference with his French counterpart Laurent Fabius in Paris:

"We do not see due compliance [with the agreement - ed.] by the Donetsk and Luhansk [terrorists - ed.], as well as by the Russian side. There is no complete withdrawal of heavy equipment by the "DPR" and "LPR". There is also no efficient monitoring of this process by the OSCE observers in a number of areas of the Donetsk and Luhansk regions," he said.

"I am very glad that four ministers intend to meet on Monday to discuss the cease-fire situation, withdrawal of troops, as well as Ukrainian initiative to strengthen Minsk cease-fire deal and achieve real de-escalation," Klimkin said.

http://en.censor.net.ua/news/331941/russian_federation_and_russiabacked_terrorists_violate_minsk_ii_klimkin

Poland to give 100 million euro loan to Ukraine, 09.04.2015

"50 million euro will be spent on development of checkpoints on the Ukrainian-Polish border, which will greatly reduce the time to cross the border and will serve as a powerful anti-corruption measure. The rest of the loan will be used for modernization of power plants and other objects of energy generation, which will be converted for use on Ukrainian and Polish gaseous coal instead of anthracite," – commented President Poroshenko.

http://mw.ua/UKRAINE/poland-to-give-100-million-euro-loan-to-ukraine-1682_.html

Putin Says Russia Won't Use Gas To Pressure Ukraine, 09.04.2015

Russian President Vladimir Putin has met with the head of gas giant Gazprom and said Russia will not use the price of gas as an instrument to pressure Ukraine.

Putin told Gazprom CEO Aleksei Miller the price of gas for Ukraine should be consistent with the price Ukraine's neighbors pay.

Russia was criticized last year for hiking the price of gas to Ukraine to a rate that was some \$100 higher than the world market price.

Putin also told Miller that Gazprom should ensure uninterrupted supplies to "all partners, especially in the southeast of Ukraine," an apparent reference to the Luhansk and Donetsk regions currently controlled by pro-Russian separatists

<http://www.rferl.org/content/russia-putin-gas-pressure-ukraine/26945620.html>

NATO Caps Size of Russia's Mission After Internal Reports of Espionage, 10.04.2015

For a year after the North Atlantic Treaty Organization cut back its cooperation with Russia as punishment for the country's incursions into Ukraine, Russia's NATO mission has seemed curiously impervious to the deteriorating ties.

Its delegation to the military alliance's headquarters in Brussels still has more than 50 members, more than the delegations of a number of NATO countries.

Not for long. NATO, publicly citing an administrative effort to limit the size of delegations from "partner nations" like Russia, has capped them at 30 members.

But Western officials said the move also followed a confidential assessment by the alliance's Civilian Intelligence Committee that intelligence agents had been part of Russia's delegation.

http://www.nytimes.com/2015/04/10/world/europe/nato-caps-size-of-russias-mission-after-internal-reports-of-espionage.html?_r=2

Ukraine has no capacities to restore nuclear weapons - presidential adviser, 09.04.2015

"We cannot build a nuclear warhead today, and I bear responsibility for these words," Horbulin said at the presentation of a draft national security strategy in Kyiv on Thursday.

Ukraine possesses large resources of uranium, strontium, and other components necessary for producing nuclear fuel elements, but the country's leadership has so far not made a political decision to start such production, he said.

<http://en.interfax.com.ua/news/general/259810.html>

Senior Ukip politician lauds Vladimir Putin's leadership, 10.04.2015

Diane James, an MEP and the party's home affairs spokeswoman, raised eyebrows by expressing admiration for the Russian president during a debate with senior women in other political parties on LBC Radio.

Asked for her views on Putin, she said: "I admire him from the point of view that he's standing up for his country ... He's very nationalist."

The Labour deputy leader, Harriet Harman, interjected: "You could say that about [the dictator] Idi Amin."

James then replied: "I do admire him, he's a very strong leader, he's putting Russia first and he has issues with the way the EU encouraged a change of government in the Ukraine which he thought put at risk and put in danger the Russian population in that country."

<http://www.theguardian.com/politics/2015/apr/10/ukip-diane-james-praises-vladimir-putin>

U.S. Senator Portman vows to fight for military assistance to Ukraine, 10.04.2015

The U.S. Senate is united in its support of Ukraine and will make every effort to get the funds required to arm Ukraine within the next fiscal year, starting October 1, 2015, according to U.S. Senator (Republican) Robert Portman.

He said this during a press briefing at Ukraine Crisis Media Center, adding that he would personally fight for military assistance for Ukraine.

Portman said he supports extending sanctions aimed at countering Russian aggression in Ukraine which are due to be reviewed by the end of June – early July.

"Economic sanctions will stay unless Russia pulls back and respects the sovereign borders of Ukraine. Anything short of that will not be tolerated. We have to remember that sanctions have been imposed not only in response to the Russian aggression in eastern Ukraine, but after the annexation of Crimea," he said.

<http://en.interfax.com.ua/news/general/259954.html>

Poroshenko says Ukraine should rebuild its navy, 10.04.2015

"Poroshenko: we must create naval forces just as we have created our army from scratch," Tseholko tweeted.

According to Tseholko, Poroshenko also said that the construction of new ships was a priority for the Ukrainian Navy.

"Speaking in Odesa, the President said that our fleet should be modern and compatible with the ships of NATO countries. Our priority is the construction of new ships in Ukraine," he said.

Ukraine lost the bulk of its navy in March 2014, when Russia invaded and annexed the Ukrainian territory of Crimea, where Ukraine's navy was based. A total of 51 vessels were confiscated by Russia, and most of the 12,000 Ukrainian naval personnel defected to the Russian side.

Ukraine now has a naval force of 11 vessels, including one modern frigate and four corvettes.

<http://www.unian.info/society/1066082-poroshenko-says-ukraine-should-rebuild-its-navy.html>

UN to give Ukraine about \$300 mln in aid, 11.04.2015

The United Nations plans to provide about \$300 million in aid to Ukraine.

This was announced by Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Regional Development, Construction, Housing and Utilities Hennadiy Zubko when he was commenting preparations for an international donor conference in Ukraine, the ministry's press service told.

The UN has preliminarily promised to earmark about \$300 million in aid for Ukraine.

"We're also ready to offer a humanitarian response plan to address the situation in Ukraine and examine needs to rebuild Donbas, which are estimated at about \$1.5 billion. These are very serious challenges: one million internally displaced persons, five million people who require aid. These are the challenges that none of the European countries is able to cope with on its own nowadays," Zubko said.

According to Zubko, these documents have been drawn up jointly with the ministry, the EU, the UN, and the World Bank.

<http://www.unian.info/society/1066373-un-to-give-ukraine-about-300-mln-in-aid.html>

German foreign minister opposes inviting Putin to G7 summit in Germany in June, 12.04.2015

German Foreign Minister Frank-Walter Steinmeier has dismissed calls to invite Russian President Vladimir Putin to the summit of the Group of Seven (G7) industrial powers, scheduled for June 2015 in Germany. He announced this in an interview with Germany's Die Welt on April 12.

This was Steinmeier's reaction to calls from Gregor Gysi, the parliamentary leader of the Left party that includes some former East German communists, who asked German Chancellor Angela Merkel to invite Putin to the summit. Gysi claims that the "isolation of Russia brings nothing but harm."

Steinmeier in turn said: "It is not in our interests to isolate Russia in the long term. But after the illegal annexation of Crimea, we cannot just act as if nothing has happened and carry on 'business as usual'."

"The way back to the Group of Eight will come through respecting the unity of Ukraine and implementing Russian obligations in the Minsk [ceasefire] agreement," he added.

<http://www.unian.info/world/1066541-german-foreign-minister-opposes-inviting-putin-to-g7-summit-in-germany-in-june.html>

Poroshenko should neutralize persons who want to plunge Ukraine into civil war — Lavrov, 12.04.2015

"I already said during meetings with European ministers and my Ukrainian counterpart: everyone understands that Pyotr Poroshenko has quite serious opposition, moreover, toughly radical opposition that demands to praise Stepan Bandera [Ukrainian nationalist leader during World War Two]," Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov said in an interview with Vesti Weekly.

"Now Dmitry Yarosh [leader of the Right Sector ultra-nationalist organization banned in Russia as an extremist group] has become a counsellor for the supreme commander-in-chief, i.e. for Pyotr Poroshenko as I understand," the Russian foreign minister said.

"This is the person who said back on March 1, 2014 that a Russian person would never speak Ukrainian, respect the Greek-Catholic faith and glorify Bandera. He said this with regard to Crimea and so, as he put it, there must be no Russians in Crimea," Lavrov said.

"First of all, this is the message sent to Crimean residents and other Russian-speaking Ukrainian residents before the story of the so-called 'separatism' began. Secondly, he will now give advice to the president of Ukraine. And all the same, it is said that Poroshenko has opposition and he must take into account the sentiments in the Verkhovna Rada and of coalition partners," the Russian foreign minister said.

"I believe that if Pyotr Poroshenko is a 'president of the peace' and he held really sincere talks on the Minsk document, he must safeguard his rightness and thus neutralize those who want to plunge Ukraine into civil war again," Lavrov said.

<http://tass.ru/en/world/788716>

Estonian president calls on NATO to permanently station combat units in Baltic states, 12.04.2015

Estonian President Toomas Hendrik Ilves believes that the time has come for NATO to deter Russia by permanently stationing combat units in the Baltic states, according to his interview.

"Despite the crisis in Ukraine and the ceaseless belligerence of Vladimir Putin, NATO has not permanently deployed any combat units in Estonia or any other Baltic member," Ilves told.

The Telegraph writes that like the other Baltic states, Estonia does not possess any jet fighters, so it relies entirely on NATO to guard its airspace. Last year, the alliance quadrupled the strength of its Baltic Air Policing Mission – but only from four to 16 warplanes. Russia, meanwhile, possesses 230,000 troops and 1,200 combat aircraft.

Estonia remains "arguably the most exposed country in Europe."

In the event of an invasion, Ilves believes that Russia would try to seal off the Baltic states before NATO's "very high readiness" force had a chance to arrive. "It's a great idea but it probably is, in terms of the realities, just too late," the Estonian president told The Telegraph.

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/europe/estonia/11530064/Sitting-near-a-nuclear-tripwire-Estonias-president-urges-Nato-to-send-troops-to-defend-his-country.html>

<http://www.unian.info/world/1066575-estonian-president-calls-on-nato-to-permanently-station-combat-units-in-baltic-states.html>

NATO Drills Begin in Lithuania on Monday, 13.04.2015

Thunder using US Paladin M109A6 artillery systems has begun in Lithuania, the country's Defense Ministry said Monday.

Servicemen from Lithuania, the United States, Poland and Portugal comprise the 450 military employees who are participating in the drills.

The drills will wrap up on April 24.

<http://sputniknews.com/europe/20150413/1020821324.html>

Lavrov: S-300 Does Not Threaten Israel, 13.04.2015

Russia's Foreign Minister, Sergey Lavrov, on Monday defended his country's decision to lift a ban on the delivery of S-300 anti-missile rocket systems to Iran, saying the S-300 system does not pose a threat to Israel.

Commenting on the decision, Lavrov was quoted by *Russia Today* as saying that the embargo on S-300 deliveries was no longer necessary, due to the progress in Iran's nuclear talks made in Lausanne on April 2.

During the talks in Switzerland, the sides have made "substantial progress in resolving the Iranian nuclear program," Lavrov said, adding, "The political framework of the final deal agreed upon was highly praised by the international community."

Lavrov said that the S-300 is an air defense missile system, which is of a purely defensive nature. It is not designed for attacks and "will not put at risk the security of any state in the region, including Israel," he stressed.

<http://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/194017#.VSzwidysUqM>

Russian Security Council concerned over Ukraine's plans to join NATO, 13.04.2015

The Russian Security Council is concerned that Ukraine considers Russia a threat and NATO accession a priority, Security Council Secretary Nikolay Patrushev said on Monday.

"We are concerned that Russia's policy is named the main threat to the country while NATO membership and reduction of economic ties between our countries is [Ukraine's] development priority," Patrushev said.

He added that the Russian Security Council would examine the draft of Ukraine's National Security Strategy till 2020 that has been presented in Kiev.

"We will analyse the document to get a more attentive assessment of possible threats to Russia's national interests," Patrushev said.

<http://tass.ru/en/russia/788915>

Russian Security Council chief accuses US of using Ukraine conflict to undermine Russia, 14.04.2015

"It is clear that Ukraine as such is of no interest to the Americans and their allies. The situation in that country is being used in an attempt to undermine Russia and destabilize the Shanghai Cooperation Organization," Security Council chief Nikolai Patrushev said at a meeting of SCO security councils' secretaries.

Patrushev said: Ukraine "once a steady developing state, has turned into a hotbed of lasting tensions."

"As we can see, with the tacit connivance of a number of countries, including those who were members of the anti-Hitler coalition, manifestations of fascism are being revived," Patrushev said.

<http://tass.ru/en/world/789114>

Agreed Statement of the Chair, Foreign Minister Frank-Walter Steinmeier, on the Foreign Ministers Normandy Meeting in Berlin, 14.04.2015

The Foreign Ministers of France, Germany, the Russian Federation and Ukraine, met in Berlin today to discuss the way ahead on the ceasefire and the political process in order to implement the Minsk Agreements in their entirety. The Special Representative of the OSCE-CiO, Ambassador Tagliavini, and the Chief Monitor of the OSCE Special Monitoring Mission, Ambassador Apakan, were part of the larger meeting.

http://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/sid_ED9F2997D925CE3B682D2232DF6A8E66/EN/Infoservice/Presse/Meldungen/2015/150413-Ukraine_ErklaerungVorsitz.html

Swiss move on Ukraine frozen funds claim, 14.04.2015

"The Federal Office of Justice has complied with a request for mutual legal assistance from the Office of the Attorney General of Ukraine, freezing assets held by a high-ranking representative of the regime of former President Victor Yanukovych, and ordering the seizure of banking records," spokesman Folco Galli said in a statement on Tuesday, confirming information that had appeared in the Neue Zürcher Zeitung (NZZ) newspaper.

Switzerland was among the first countries to freeze at least CHF170 million (\$174 million) in assets of Ukraine's deposed president, as well around 30 other people in his entourage, shortly after Yanukovych was deposed earlier in February 2014. It also launched a money laundering investigation into him and his son. A separate probe against Yanukovych and his entourage is underway in Geneva.

Tuesday's statement continued that the Office of the Attorney General of Ukraine had submitted the request for mutual legal assistance to the justice office as part of criminal proceedings on the grounds of the embezzlement of assets, the abuse of power and office, fraud and money laundering.

http://www.swissinfo.ch/eng/yanukovych-regime_swiss-move-on-ukraine-frozen-funds-claim/41378902

Berlin meeting shows stances of Moscow, Kiev differ - German foreign minister, 14.04.2015

The talks of the Normandy Four in Berlin have confirmed that the positions of Moscow and Kiev on the crisis in eastern Ukraine differ, German Foreign Minister Frank-Walter Steinmeier said.

"We had an intense and a sort of contradictory conversation. It showed differences in the opinion of Kiev and Moscow," the German foreign minister said, adding that the meeting confirmed that nothing is easy in the Ukrainian crisis.

"This will be a long way but if we do not go this way, the situation may run out of control," he said. Steinmeier said Ukraine has agreed to appoint its representatives in the working sub-groups as part of the trilateral Contact Group.

"We agreed that finally four working groups will be set up. I assume that the names of the representatives will be announced at the next Contact Group meeting. Ukraine has also promised to do this," he said.

All this "may help improve the humanitarian situation in the country's east and restore infrastructure," the minister said.

<http://tass.ru/en/world/789081>

PM ANNOUNCES NEW CANADIAN MILITARY CONTRIBUTION IN UKRAINE, 14.04.2015

Prime Minister Stephen Harper announces that the Government of Canada will provide significant additional military resources to help train and build the capacity of Ukrainian forces personnel following a briefing on the current security situation in Ukraine with Jason Kenney, Minister of National Defence and Minister for Multiculturalism, and General Thomas Lawson, Chief of the Defence Staff.

<http://pm.gc.ca/eng/news/2015/04/14/pm-announces-new-canadian-military-contribution-ukraine>

Operational situation analysis as of April 14 by Butusov, 14.04.2015

"The enemy keeps accumulating military equipment and ammunition, conducting intensive combat training, creating both mechanized and artillery strike forces. At the same time offensive reconnaissance on important directions is conducted.

"The Russian mercenaries do not currently have forces capable to attack at the operational depth. However, a series of tactical offensives is a quite possible scenario.

"Pisky and Avdiivka villages are important locations for the enemy. Those positions are very close to Donetsk. That makes the city, which has become an important logistics base for the Russian troops, very vulnerable. Those are the strategic positions for the enemy that he will never let alone.

"The threat to Mariupol will become real only if the enemy launches offensive on Volnovakha and concentrates more troops near Shyrokyne in the vicinity of Mariupol. The threat for the distant approaches will arise first of all.

http://en.censor.net.ua/news/332537/operational_situation_analysis_as_of_april_14_by_butusov

Military buildup by Russia in Crimea 'a threat to Black Sea region', 14.04.2015

Yeliseev said that after the illegal annexation of the Crimea by Russia, there has been a continued Russian military buildup on the peninsula, namely a modernization of the Black Sea Fleet and infrastructure, including nuclear capabilities.

"Having annexed the Crimea, Russia has had an opportunity to project its military power even further. This is a real threat to the region, including Turkey and Romania. The EU and member states should work out a detailed response to this challenge," Yeliseev said.

The Ukrainian diplomat also stressed that Russia continues to supply weapons to militants in the Donbas, having illegally deployed in Ukraine more than 500 tanks, 500 artillery systems, and 300 missile systems. Moscow has concentrated a significant amount of military equipment in the Russian region near the Ukrainian border in the east and in the Crimea, he said.

"The terrorist leaders have declared their intention to seize the rest of Luhansk and Donetsk regions. It is obvious that they are not preparing for a political dialogue. This is a wake-up call for all of us" the ambassador said, expressing his concern.

<http://www.unian.info/politics/1067046-military-buildup-by-russia-in-crimea-a-threat-to-black-sea-region.html>

Russia training separatists inside Ukraine: US, 14.04.2015

"There is no question that the Russians continue to operate inside of Ukrainian territory," spokesman Colonel Steven Warren said.

The United States believed the Russians "have established training centers in Ukraine to train separatist fighters in tasks such as gunnery and artillery firing drills," Warren said.

"We also know that they continue to maintain advanced surface-to-air missile systems near the front line" in the east of the country, which violated a ceasefire accord, he added.

There are also Russian "command and control elements" helping to coordinate military operations for the separatists, according to Warren.

<http://news.yahoo.com/russia-training-separatists-inside-ukraine-us-200006630.html: ylt=AwrC1zH6Hy5VmxYAEQXQIDMD: ylu=X3oDMTBydDI5cXVvBGNVbG8DYmYxBH8vcwM2BH20aWQDBHNIYwNzcq-->

Some 400 participants could visit International Support for Ukraine Conference, 15.04.2015

Around 400 representatives of different foreign delegations will attend the International Support for Ukraine Conference scheduled to be held in Kyiv on April 28, Head of the conference organization committee and Economic Development and Trade Minister of Ukraine Aivaras Abromavicius has said.

"The goal of the conference is to show to our western partners that reforms are going on in our country, and there is a mood for reforms and we have a clear plan towards reforming the country," he said.

He said that the conference is intended to show the unity of Ukrainian authorities in their plans to conduct reforms.

<http://en.interfax.com.ua/news/general/260665.html>

Russian occupants working around the clock to restore nuclear weapons storage near Yalta – Dzhemilev, 15.04.2015

After occupation of Crimea, Russia works 24/7 to restore storage of nuclear weapons in Kyzyltash area near Yalta. This was stated by leader of the Crimean Tatar people, commissioner of the President of Ukraine on the Crimean Tatar people Mustafa Dzhemilev in Paris, "A powerful military base is currently being created in Crimea. According to the information we obtained, round-the-clock restoration work at a military base storage of nuclear weapons is being conducted on the peninsula in the area of Kyzyltash near Yalta," Dzhemilev said.

According to him, in such way a part of the territory of Ukraine "is regaining the status of a nuclear state."

The leader of the Crimean Tatar people added that the Russian occupying authorities were rapidly developing the military field on the peninsula.

<http://en.censor.net.ua/news/332757/russian-occupants-working-around-the-clock-to-restore-nuclear-weapons-storage-near-yalta-dzhemilev>

EU won't put free trade area with Ukraine on hold again, 15.04.2015

Representatives of the European Commission and the EU External Action Service announced this at a meeting with head of the Ukrainian parliament's committee on human rights Hryhoriy Nemyria, the Ukrainian MP told reporters.

"I've had meetings in the EC, the External Action Service, where one of the issues I'd like to get an answer to was whether there are signals from the side of the EU that the introduction of a free trade area [with Ukraine] may be postponed to a later date again. I heard the answer that the EU's position remained unchanged, and they reminded that [the economic provisions] of the Agreement were put off until the end of 2015 at the Ukrainian side's request," he said.

According to Nemyria, it's very important that the Ukrainian side could soon demonstrate its clear position that "it has got no plans to postpone this."

The agreement provides an opportunity to hold consultations to extend transitional periods, boost assistance in harmonizing legislation, and enables Ukraine to change its priorities to "support or not to support, or significantly support this or other sector," Nemyria said.

<http://www.unian.info/politics/1067653-eu-wont-put-free-trade-area-with-ukraine-on-hold-again.html>

Russia continuing to train Donbas militants, beefing up military presence along Ukrainian border – Foreign Ministry, 15.04.2015

"Illegal armed units have conducted military exercises, in which instructors from the Russian Armed Forces took part, including with the use of tanks, armored fighting vehicles, artillery, and Grad multiple rocket launchers," Perebyinis said at a news briefing on Wednesday.

Army aviation exercises were recorded in the Krasnodar territory areas adjacent to the Ukrainian border, and Russian forces' drones were seen surveying the border section in the Sumy region, he said.

Over Russian 150 drones have been involved in reconnaissance activities, and five of them illegally entered Ukrainian airspace in the Luhansk region, Perebyinis said.

<http://en.interfax.com.ua/news/general/260711.html>

We cannot grant amnesty to those who shelled Mariupol and shot down Malaysian Boeing – Klimkin, 15.04.2015

Foreign Minister Pavlo Klimkin excludes the possibility of granting amnesty to the militants involved in the shelling of Mariupol (the Donetsk region) on Jan. 24 and Malaysian Airliner downing.

He also noted that he excludes the possibility of the militants' appointment to senior positions after the elections in the Donetsk and Luhansk regions.

The minister said that the elections in the Donetsk and Luhansk regions must be held according to the standards and under monitoring of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE).

It should be reminded that 30 people were killed and 116 more were injured by the shelling of residential neighborhoods in Mariupol city (the Donetsk region) from Grad multiple rocket launchers Jan. 24.

http://en.censor.net.ua/news/332643/we_cannot_grant_amnesty_to_those_who_shelled_mariupol_and_shot_down_malaysian_boeing_klimkin

NATO commander urges Russia to stop fuelling Ukraine conflict, 15.04.2015

General Philip Breedlove, voiced concern on Wednesday at a new flare-up of fighting in Ukraine and urged Russia to stop fuelling the conflict.

"Concerned by renewed fighting in Ukraine. Vital all sides pull back verifiably, Russia stops fuelling conflict," NATO's Supreme Allied Commander, Europe, said on Twitter.

Six servicemen were killed and 12 wounded in eastern Ukraine in the previous 24 hours despite a ceasefire deal, Ukraine's military said on Tuesday. Russia denies NATO's assertions that it has sent troops and equipment to Ukraine.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2015/04/15/us-ukraine-crisis-nato-idUSKBN0N610G20150415>

Klimkin: Claims of cooperation between some OSCE mission members and militants are investigated, 15.04.2015

According to the minister, many among the OSCE SMM members are committed to achieving a ceasefire, but there are also those who do not contribute to de-escalation.

"Let's not talk without evidence. There are a lot of people in the OSCE mission, I say this with full confidence, who are committed to maintaining the ceasefire and the withdrawal of heavy weapons," Klimkin said during a televised interview on Tuesday evening.

"We have established a very effective and fruitful contact with the leadership of the mission. But, of course, there people who do not contribute to the process of de-escalation."

The minister mentioned cases of Ukrainian checkpoints being visited by SMM representatives, and then those positions subsequently being attacked by the Russian-backed militants.

"We analyze in great detail every fact, and if we have a suspicion that a representative of the mission is involved, we have a very serious talk with the leadership of the mission, and always with the right result - that's what I responsibly say," Klimkin said.

<http://www.unian.info/war/1067325-klimkin-claims-of-cooperation-between-some-osce-mission-members-and-militants-are-investigated.html>

Canadian Prime Minister Harper announced sending of 200 military trainers to Ukraine, 15.04.2015

Prime Minister Stephen Harper and Defence Minister Jason Kenney said that Canadians will join the military trainers from the U.S. and the UK in the in western Ukraine's town of Yavoriv in Lviv region in early summer of 2015 and will work there until March 31, 2017.

It was reported that Chief of the General Staff of Ukraine Viktor Muzhenko and Canadian Ambassador to Ukraine Roman Vashchuk have discussed issues on military training and providing of technical support by Canada to the Armed Forces of Ukraine March 27.

Vashchuk stressed that Canada has a large package of initiatives that confirms the country's support for Ukraine and demonstrate willingness to help it in the development of modern armed forces.

http://en.censor.net.ua/news/332632/canadian_prime_minister_harper_announced_sending_of_200_military_trainers_to_ukraine

Yatseniuk accused Russia of Minsk cease-fire deal violation: "We are shelled, we suffer losses again", 15.04.2015

"I am deeply concerned that Russia does not observe the Minsk agreement. We are shelled, we suffer losses again. The key requirement to the Russian Federation is the fulfillment of what it has endorsed. The first and main condition which was in the Minsk arrangement was the cease-fire. It is not observed," the prime minister said.

Yatseniuk noted that the Ukrainian side complies with the agreement and is ready to discuss local elections and other entries of the agreement, but the other party must also adhere to it.

http://en.censor.net.ua/news/332719/yatseniuk_accused_russia_of_minsk_ceasefire_deal_violation_we_are_shelled_we_suffer_losses_again

Sanctions against Russia depend on Minsk accords implementation — G7 foreign ministers, 15.04.2015

The duration of sanctions imposed on Russia by the West over the crisis in Ukraine will depend on the implementation of the Minsk agreements, the joint statement of G7 foreign ministers said. Sanctions are not an aim in itself, the document said. G7 stressed the direct link between international restricting measures and full implementation of the Minsk agreements.

The foreign ministers of UK, Germany, Canada, Italy, US, France and Japan have called on the conflicting parties in Ukraine to fully implement the Minsk agreements, noting they support the diplomatic efforts of the "Normandy Quartet."

"We call upon all sides to assume responsibility and fulfil the commitments made in the framework of the [Minsk] agreements," the G7 foreign ministers said.

<http://tass.ru/en/world/789458>

Russians urge Putin to recognize "DPR" and "LPR" - Press secretary Peskov, 15.04.2015

Among the appeals of citizens coming in through the "direct line" with the president of Russia, there are many demands for Vladimir Putin to recognize the "DPR" and "LPR", a spokesman for the president Dmitry Peskov said.

He noted that such calls come from Donbas citizens of Ukraine and from Russians. "A lot of issues are related to the accommodation of refugees, a lot of issues are related to fears that the cease-fire in Ukraine will be violated once again and armed hostilities will commence. People are very afraid of this, and they actively share doubts about the peaceful aspirations of Kyiv in relation to the southeast regions," the presidential spokesman said.

He also said that the Russians urge Putin to conduct a more assertive foreign policy. "Even more hard-line, consistent and aimed at defending the national interests course. Moreover, the demands are quite tough," Peskov said.

http://en.censor.net.ua/news/332764/russians_urge_putin_to_recognize_dpr_and_lpr_press_secretary_peskov

Polish foreign minister: Poland is example of successful reforms for Ukraine, 15.04.2015

Polish Foreign Minister Grzegorz Schetyna said in an interview with Polish newspaper Gazeta Wyborcza on Wednesday.

"In this part of Europe, we are an example that [shows that] reforms can succeed, and a country that follows this path can achieve success," Schetyna said.

"I do not know how long this will continue in the case of Ukraine. Maybe it will take 25 years, as in Poland, or maybe less, but we are a real point of reference," Schetyna said.

"The Polish government has invested a lot in a political sense in Ukraine, and the Poles are listened to in Europe in this context," he said.

Schetyna also welcomed the recent visit of Polish President Bronisław Komorowski to Kyiv.

"It was symbolic, strong support for the pro-European aspirations of Ukraine, which is now struggling with Russian aggression and at the same time implementing very difficult reforms," he said.

<http://www.unian.info/politics/1067312-polish-foreign-minister-poland-is-example-of-successful-reforms-for-ukraine.html>

EU pushing Ukraine towards trilateral free trade, with Russia, 15.04.2015

On Wednesday (15 April), a Ukrainian parliamentarian reacted angrily to messages from EU officials, who said that Ukraine should seek to accommodate its EU free trade agreement with an older arrangement his country had with Russia.

Ironically, it was Ukrainian President Viktor Yanukovich who appealed for such an approach two years ago, which was flatly rejected by Brussels.

Dr. Hryhoriy Nemyria, an MP from Ukraine, and a former Deputy Prime Minister in a government led by Yulia Tymoshenko, reacted with visible displeasure after receiving messages in favour of including Russia in his country's EU relations.

Nemyria referred to the victims of the Euromaidan protests that brought down the regime of Viktor Yanukovich, who refused to sign the EU-Ukraine Association (AA), and the DCFTA in Vilnius, in November 2013.

<http://www.euractiv.com/sections/europes-east/eu-pushes-ukraine-toward-trilateral-free-trade-including-russia-313816>

Situation in Donbas deteriorated. It is important to prevent escalation of the conflict – Steinmeier, 15.04.2015

The international community must do everything they can to prevent a possible escalation of the conflict in Eastern Ukraine.

This was stated by German Foreign Minister Frank-Walter Steinmeier on Wednesday.

"The situation remains very fragile, and therefore it is important to prevent the escalation of the conflict," he said at a press conference in Lübeck after the talks of the G7 foreign ministers.

The minister noted that over the last week the situation in the conflict zone had deteriorated with more cases of cease-fire violations.

http://en.censor.net.ua/news/332782/situation_in_donbas_deteriorated_it_is_important_to_prevent_escalation_of_the_conflict_steinmeier

UN peacekeepers' introduction in Donbas is impossible without Russia's consent – Ukrainian Foreign Minister, 15.04.2015

"The peacekeeping force or I should rather say civil military mission is necessary for the implementation of the Minsk agreements. Such a mission as well as the EU mission was very successful in Macedonia, for example. Therefore, we need a mission that will promote implementation of the Minsk agreements," Ukrainian Foreign Affairs minister Pavlo Klimkin said.

http://en.censor.net.ua/news/332689/un_peacekeepers_introduction_in_donbas_is_impossible_without_russias_consent_ukrainian_foreign_minister

Russia Engaging in 'Hybrid War' With Europe, Says Former Nato Chief, 15.04.2015

An increasingly unpredictable Russia is engaging in a "hybrid war" with Europe, seeking to destabilise states from within, and is more dangerous now than during the days of the USSR, Nato's former secretary general Anders Fogh Rasmussen has warned.

In an interview with Newsweek, Rasmussen says he fears Russia could use similar military tactics to those it is using in Ukraine.

<http://www.newsweek.com/2015/04/24/former-nato-chief-says-europe-hybrid-war-putin-322293.html>

First Kiev law enforcers trials to begin in DPR before end of April — ombudsperson, 15.04.2015

The first trials of Kiev law enforcers accused of war crimes will begin in the self-proclaimed Donetsk People's Republic (DPR) before the end of April, DPR human rights ombudsperson Daria Morozova said on Wednesday.

"Currently, there are Ukrainian law enforcers on the territory of the DPR against whom criminal proceedings have been opened. They will be put on trial in accordance with the republic's laws. The first trials will start soon, before the end of April," the Donetsk news agency quotes Morozova as saying.

Morozova added that the law enforcement officers had been detained by due process of law on suspicion of committing criminal offences, noting that "this practice was similar to the one used by the Ukrainian authorities."

<http://tass.ru/en/world/789515>

Maidan violence investigation, 15.04.2015

The Chair of the International Advisory Panel (IAP) on Ukraine, Sir Nicolas Bratza, in his address today to the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe presented the key findings of the Panel's report on its review of the investigations into the Maidan violence.

The Report, published on the 31st of March 2015, provoked a strong reaction from the Ministry of Interior. Sir Nicolas underlined that the Panel had made numerous enquiries and visits to the Ministry, to which "it received no satisfactory answers to dispel the clear impression of a lack of effective co-operation". The IAP Chair also said that the developments at the end of 2014 suggested better co-operation and were encouraging, but "these developments occurred ten months after the main Maidan events, during which time very limited progress has been made in the investigations".

In conclusion, he commended the "genuine efforts, especially on the part of the representatives of the prosecuting authorities, to address more closely the international requirements which should govern the investigations". Among the encouraging changes Bratza cited the creation of the Special Investigation Division in the Prosecutor General's Office and the more active position adopted by the current Verkhovna Rada to improve the quality of the Maidan investigations.

<http://www.coe.int/en/web/kyiv/-/maidan-violence-investigation>

The Wall Street Journal: Ukraine warns creditors as debt restructuring looms, 15.04.2015

Ukrainian Finance Minister Natalie Jaresko warns the holders of Ukrainian eurobonds that if they don't enter serious talks on the restructuring of Ukraine's debt soon, they "face the risks of an uncertain economic, political and military climate down the road,"

"They're misunderstanding, first of all, the depth of the economic-financial distress that the country is in today," Jaresko told The Wall Street Journal.

In case the situation in Ukraine worsens, creditors "face the risks of an uncertain economic, political and military climate down the road."

"That's one of those risks that creditors ought to be taking into account," she said.

"We're not moving forward with discussions as fast as I had hoped," she added.

According to Jaresko, she has had constructive talks with individual creditors but can only negotiate effectively on restructuring the debt with a clearly defined group.

<http://en.interfax.com.ua/news/economic/260501.html>

Europe formalizes EUR1.8 bln assistance to Ukraine, 15.04.2015

The European Commission's (EC) proposal for new macro-financial assistance (MFA) worth EUR 1.8 billion to Ukraine was adopted on April 15, the EC has announced.

It was formalized with the signatures of President of the European Parliament Martin Schulz and of Zanda Kalniņa-Lukasevica, Parliamentary State Secretary for the European Affairs of Latvia, on behalf of the Latvian Presidency of the Council.

This follows the European Parliament's positive vote and a Council agreement on the new proposal.

According to the EC, the EU and Ukraine will now have to agree on a Memorandum of Understanding.

The Commission says it hopes to conclude this process in the coming weeks, in order to allow for the disbursement of a first tranche of EUR 600 million before the summer break.

<http://en.interfax.com.ua/news/economic/260696.html>

Russian Military Not in Ukraine: Putin, 16.04.2015

President Vladimir Putin said on Thursday Russian military forces were not in Ukraine, denying allegations by Ukraine and Western countries that Moscow is providing troops and support for pro-Russian rebels fighting in eastern Ukraine.

<http://www.nytimes.com/reuters/2015/04/16/world/europe/16reuters-russia-putin-ukraine-military.html?ref=world>

<http://www.nytimes.com/reuters/2015/04/16/world/europe/16reuters-russia-putin-ukraine.html?ref=world>

U.S. Expansionism to Blame for Ukraine Crisis, Russian Defense Minister Says, 16.04.2015

Top Russian officials accused the US of seeking political and military dominance in the world and sought to put blame on the West for international security crises, including the conflict in east Ukraine.

"The United States and its allies have crossed all possible lines in their drive to bring Kiev into their orbit. That could not have failed to trigger our reaction," Russian Defense Minister Sergei Shoigu told an annual security conference in Moscow.

Echoing his comments, General Valery Gerasimov, chief of the General Staff of the Russian Armed Forces, told the meeting: "Considering themselves the winners of the Cold War, the United States decided to reshape the world to fit its needs.

"Aiming at complete dominance, Washington stopped taking into account the interests of other countries and respect international law."

<http://www.themoscowtimes.com/article/519208.html>

We are ready to use all our force against Russia if needed - NATO Gen. Pavel, 16.04.2015

A Czech Gen. Petr Pavel, who in June becomes the head of NATO's Military Committee, the alliance's highest military body, said on Wednesday the Russians "are using very skillfully the informational and psychological warfare at home and abroad."

"Russian leadership managed, maybe surprisingly, to significantly unite public opinion in an idea that everything bad that is happening to Russia is driven by the West, led by the United States and that Russia is again in the position that it has to defend itself," Pavel told.

NATO members should spend more on defense, conduct more military drills together and stand firm in the face of Russian moves, he said. And he said it needs to be prepared to deal with unconventional warfare, exemplified by Russia's support for separatists in eastern Ukraine.

http://en.censor.net.ua/news/332821/we_are_ready_to_use_all_our_force_against_russia_if_needed_nato_gen_pavel

Putin: war with Ukraine impossible, 16.04.2015

No war between Russian and Ukraine is possible, Russian President Vladimir Putin said during his annual question and answer session officially known as Direct Line with Vladimir Putin.

"No, I presume it's impossible," Putin said, answering a question put by a resident of Russia's town of Gukovo near the border with Ukraine. "Don't worry," he said.

The president added that "there have been certain excesses linked with the fact that shells fired from Ukraine's territory were reaching the area, but in this case I prefer to be based on the understanding that they were random accidents rather than attempts to damage our cities or infrastructure facilities from the cross-border region."

The Russian president also once again stressed that no Russian troops are involved in the armed conflict in eastern Ukraine.

<http://tass.ru/en/russia/789807>

Putin: Nazism, Stalinism can't be equalized, 16.04.2015

"It's impossible to equalize Nazism and Stalinism," Putin said. "Because Nazis directly, openly and publicly declared extermination of entire ethnoses — Jews, Gypsies and Slavs — one of the aims of their policy."

He added that "even taking into account the ugliness of the Stalinist regime, all repressions, exiles of entire nations, the regime never set the goal of exterminating entire peoples."

"The attempt to equalize these and those is absolutely ungrounded," Putin said.

At the same time, he admitted that predecessors gave a reason for such a comparison.

"After the Second World War, we tried to impose on East European countries our model of development and did it by force," Putin said. He said it was not good and is "keeps backfiring on us today."

<http://tass.ru/en/russia/789871>

Some western leaders trying to punish Russia for independent policy — Shoigu, 16.04.2015

"Despite the attempts of some western leaders to isolate Russia and 'punish' us for an independent policy and protection of compatriots, we... are open for broad cooperation with partners across the globe, in Europe, Asia, Africa and America," Shoigu said.

The minister recalled Russian President Vladimir statement that "confrontation and self-isolation were not our choice."

<http://tass.ru/en/russia/789702>

Escalation of Donbas conflict won't impact on planned Ukraine-EU events – Tombinski, 16.04.2015

We do not think that this may influence the plans to hold a summit and conference in Riga, Tombinski said. However, he acknowledged that the situation in Donbas is a geopolitical issue which doesn't just concern Ukraine and the EU.

He said that the Normandy Quartet recently met on the issue and Donbas is still on the agenda.

He said that European Council President Donald Tusk, European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker, and the European Union's foreign policy chief Federica Mogherini will attend the Ukraine-EU summit in Ukraine on April 27.

<http://en.interfax.com.ua/news/general/260842.html>

France's Fabius mentions "serious consequences" if Mariupol falls under attack, 17.04.2015

French Foreign Minister Laurent Fabius has stated that an attack on the Ukrainian city of Mariupol will have "much more serious consequences" than sanctions against Russia.

"This is another issue that will carry consequences. Obviously, much more serious consequences," he said answering the question posed by British and American journalists in Paris, whether he would consider the attack on Mariupol as a real act of war.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/frances_fabius_mentions_serious_consequences_if_mariupol_falls_under_attack_330700

Russian military forces continue to operate in eastern Ukraine - US Department of State, 17.04.2015

Russian military forces continue to operate in eastern Ukraine, Marie Harf, acting spokesperson of the U.S. Department of State announced.

"I think we know as of early April that Russian military forces continue to operate in eastern Ukraine," Harf said at a press briefing Thursday.

This was her comment regarding Russian President Vladimir Putin's another statement that there were no Russian troops in Ukraine.

According to Harf, "despite public pronouncements about the complete withdrawal of heavy weapons, pro-Russian separatists maintain heavy weapons near the front lines in violation of Minsk. Russia has command and control elements in eastern Ukraine to coordinate military operations there. Russia has established training areas in eastern Ukraine to train separatist fighters in gunnery and artillery firing."

http://en.censor.net.ua/news/332994/russian_military_forces_continue_to_operate_in_eastern_ukraine_us_department_of_state

Kremlin says US military instructors' presence in Ukraine destabilizes situation, 17.04.2015

Peskov noted that this comes as the inter-Ukrainian conflict and the situation in the country's south-east are still unresolved and there are problems with the implementation of the February 12 Minsk agreements.

"Of course, the presence of such specialists from third countries does not at all contribute to resolving the conflict and creating a favorable atmosphere and on the contrary, destabilizes the situation," he said, commenting on the reports that the US military instructors arrived in Kiev on Friday. Moscow has repeatedly paid attention to this, Peskov stressed.

<http://tass.ru/en/russia/790096>

Ukraine wants global court to investigate crimes in Crimea and east, 17.04.2015

"We are quite optimistic about more, definitely more, engagement of the ICC," Pavlo Klimkin told Reuters before meeting the court's president and prosecutor on Friday.

An ICC referral would cover "everything under the (ICC) mandate, including crimes against humanity", he said.

Despite the meeting with ICC officials, it was not immediately clear whether Ukraine had made an official referral.

If and when the referral is made, it would have to be considered by the court, which would decide whether to open a preliminary examination that could result in a full investigation - usually a lengthy process.

ICC prosecutors did not immediately respond to requests for comment.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2015/04/17/us-ukraine-crisis-icc-idUSKBN0N812J20150417>

Moscow slams Kiev's accusations of OSCE observers, 17.04.2015

"Slanderous rumours are being spread in Ukraine vilifying observers as 'foreign spies'," Andrey Rudenko, Moscow's deputy permanent representative at the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, told the OSCE permanent council in Vienna, according to comments cited by Russia's Foreign Ministry.

Media publications are not only tarnishing the image of the SMM [the OSCE special monitoring mission to Ukraine], but they are also threatening the safety of the observers," Rudenko said.

"Unfortunately, Ukrainian Foreign Minister Pavlo Klimkin has joined [the criticism], claiming in an interview with [Ukrainian TV] Channel 5 that the observers could allegedly have shared with representatives of Donetsk and Luhansk some intelligence on Ukrainian forces' positions," the envoy said, referring to the 2 self-proclaimed republics of troubled east Ukraine's Donbas region.

"Such statements are inadmissible," Rudenko went on. "We have to remind the Ukrainian side that under a memorandum of understanding with the OSCE, it [the Ukrainian government] is fully responsible for the observers' safety."

<http://tass.ru/en/world/790123>

Poland to hold westward door open for Ukraine – Komorowski, 17.04.2015

Polish President Bronislaw Komorowski said this during his visit to the international headquarters of Lithuanian-Polish-Ukrainian Brigade (LitPolUkrBrig) in Lublin, Poland, on Thursday. "The role of Poland is to oversee that the Western world does not close its door to the political security structures, to the European Union, as well as, if Ukraine wishes - to NATO," Komorowski said. According to him, Poland should "keep the door open" and at the same time it can help Ukraine in obtaining relevant knowledge and experience so that it will be able to discover "Ukrainian place" in Western structures. Komorowski said a joint cooperation in LitPolUkrBrig international military unit that is to be involved in missions under the auspices of the UN, NATO and the EU will provide Ukraine such opportunities. "Just as Partnership for Peace program and similar military units, where we had gained experience making our way to the structures of NATO easier for Poland before our membership in the Alliance, so similarly for our Ukrainian neighbor this brigade is one of the instruments of Poland's support in reforming Ukrainian defense system," he said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/poland_to_hold_westward_door_open_for_ukraine_komorowski_330706

Kremlin Criticizes Arrival Of U.S. Military Trainers In Ukraine, 17.04.2015

Russian President Vladimir Putin's spokesman, Dmitry Peskov, told reporters on April 17, "The participation of instructors or specialists from third countries on Ukrainian territory, where the domestic Ukrainian conflict is unresolved...could destabilize the situation."

It was unclear why Peskov used the term "third countries," since Moscow has consistently described the Ukraine conflict as a civil war and insisted all along that it is not a party to the Ukrainian conflict despite Kyiv and Western governments accusing it of active involvement.

<http://www.rferl.org/content/ukraine-us-troops-training/26963020.html>

Ukraine to join EU, yet NATO membership is in question – minister, 17.04.2015

"I think that throughout the long period of its existence NATO has been focused on Article 5, i.e. mutual defense commitments, hard security. And we are saying that we are fighting a hybrid war. I am not 100% sure that NATO is fully prepared to fight similar or future hybrid wars and that NATO currently has a structure optimal for dealing with such [challenges] [...] No doubt, NATO has been adapting. So, I am always frank about our critical need for participation in structures and guarantees. Yet we will have to seek other options if the alliance fails to provide guarantees for Ukraine," he said in an interview with the online publication Evropeiska Pravda.

He gave an affirmative answer to the question whether Ukraine would become an EU member. Speaking of alternative ways to provide Ukraine's security, Klimkin said, "These ways of the provision of security can create much bigger challenges to our partners than those they are currently anticipating from Ukraine's possible NATO membership."

<http://en.interfax.com.ua/news/general/261121.html>

Units of Russian army in Donbas identified, 17.04.2015

Chief of General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine Colonel-General Viktor Muzhenko has denied recent statement made by Russian president Putin on absence of regular Russian troops in Donetsk and Luhansk regions. "We have a list of all the Russian military units, which are now in Ukraine, their deployment sites, the number of personnel and weapons available to them," the chief of the General Staff of Armed Forces of Ukraine said. According to Muzhenko, in January there was still no documentary evidence of direct confrontation with Russian military units, as they were mostly located in the rear of the militants. However, already in February, the regular units of the Armed Forces of the Russian Federation took part in the battles near Debaltseve, Chornukhyne and Lohvynove. "Now I can say that in those battles Ukrainian army inflicted heavy losses on the Russian army, and disrupted Russia's aggressive plans for further advance. We know that now regular units of the Russian army are still in Ukraine. For example, such include 15th Separate Motor Rifle Brigade of the 2nd Central Military District Army, 8th Motor Rifle Brigade, 331st Airborne Regiment from Kostroma, 98th Airborne Division and other," the Ukrainian Colonel-General said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/units_of_russian_army_in_donbas_identified_330727

Switzerland complied with Ukraine's request on blocked funds of former president Yanukovych for the first time, 17.04.2015

"The Federal Office of Justice has complied with a request for mutual legal assistance from the Office of the Attorney General of Ukraine, freezing assets held by a high-ranking representative of the regime of former President Victor Yanukovych, and ordering the seizure of banking records," spokesman Folco Galli said in a statement on Tuesday. "The justice office does not have any information on the extent of the assets that have been frozen. The assets in question are some of those that had previously been frozen as of 28 February 2014 on the basis of a Federal Council ordinance."

http://en.censor.net.ua/news/333003/switzerland_complied_with_ukraines_request_on_blocked_funds_of_former_president_yanukovych_for_the_first

Russia will work with any elected US president – Putin, 18.04.2015

"We will work with any American head of state the American people elect. Our cooperation is not with a particular person but with a nation, a big and powerful international player," the Russian president said in an interview on Saturday, on Rossiya 1 TV.

Among the common interests Russia and US share, according to Putin, are non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, fighting organized crime and terrorism, tackling poverty and other pressing issues.

"We have a common agenda," he said.

<http://rt.com/news/250869-putin-us-president-interview/>

Putin in no hurry to recognize 'DPR' and 'LPR', 18.04.2015

Russian President Vladimir Putin declined to comment on the possibility of Moscow recognizing the 'DPR' and 'LPR'.

"I do not want to comment on this right now because regardless of what I say, it could be counterproductive. We will look at the realities that emerge," Putin said on "Vesti v Subbotu" (Saturday News) television program.

http://en.censor.net.ua/news/333155/putin_in_no_hurry_to_recognize_dpr_and_lpr

Putin must simply read Minsk agreements and implement them – Yatsenyuk, 19.04.2015

"Our goal is to restore the peace in Donbas. Peace should be brought to our territory there. We'll have to oust Russian mercenaries and terrorists. People should start living a normal life again," he said.

According to him, "the industry which has been destroyed by bombs and stolen by those plunderers" needs to be rebuilt."

"We need to reinstate our statehood. I'd like this reinstatement to proceed without sacrifices and the killings of Ukrainian soldiers and civilians," the premier said.

In his words, a resolution of the conflict is the unconditional fulfillment of the Minsk agreements.

"How could it [the conflict] be settled? Well, [Russian president] Vladimir Putin should simply take the document called the 'Minsk agreements,' read it and do everything it says. [He should] take his mercenaries back, withdraw the [Russian] troops. And the third thing – let's hold democratic [local] elections. Then retain control on the border, restore the economy," he said.

<http://www.unian.info/politics/1068963-putin-must-simply-read-minsk-agreements-and-implement-them-yatsenyuk.html>

Russian leader said that any Israeli deal with Ukraine would be "counterproductive.", 18.04.2015

"This is a choice, a choice of the Israeli leadership; they have the right to do what they consider appropriate. I think it is counterproductive, if it concerns lethal weapons, because it will only lead to yet another swirl of confrontation, to more human casualties, but the result will be the same," Putin said in an interview on Rossiya 1 TV on Saturday.

In Israel, the Prime Minister's Office and the Defense Ministry had no response to the report. Israel has been upset by Russia's decision last week to lift its five-year ban on the sale of the S-300 anti-missile system to Iran and to deliver those weapons by the end of 2015.

<http://www.jpost.com/Israel-News/Putin-warns-Israel-against-selling-arms-to-Ukraine-398497>

German foreign minister warns Russia against recognizing DPR, LPR independence, 19.04.2015

It would dramatically complicate the process of Ukrainian settlement," Frank-Walter Steinmeier told the ARD television channel.

He called on Russia to observe Ukraine's territorial integrity as a fundamental basis of the Minsk agreement. He said he hoped this agreement would finally be implemented. "If I had no hopes I wouldn't be dedicating so much time and effort to this," he said, adding that the current situation was not as dramatic as it used to be some three months ago. Nonetheless, in his words, the implementation of the Minsk agreement was not satisfactory.

http://www.liveleak.com/view?i=c15_1429483091&comments=1

Russian FM: Kiev vowed to hold direct dialogue with Donetsk, Luhansk, 20.04.2015

Kiev pledged to hold a direct dialogue with the self-proclaimed Donetsk and Luhansk republics, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov said on Monday.

"The direct dialogue is Kiev's commitment in line with the [Minsk] agreements," Lavrov said, in comments to a statement by his Ukrainian counterpart Pavlo Klimkin that "Kiev will not hold a direct dialogue with the representatives of Donetsk and Luhansk as Russia wants it to."

The minister also noted that the formation of working groups within the Contact Group on the Ukrainian conflict settlement is dragged out with Kiev's new requests, which were not subjected to discussions.

<http://tass.ru/en/world/790479>

Russia's recognition of self-proclaimed republics to worsen Donbas conflict – Steinmeier, 20.04.2015

Ukraine's unity must be preserved, that is why Moscow's recognition of the separatist-controlled territory of Donbas as independent states will extremely complicate the peace process in the east of Ukraine, German Foreign Minister Frank-Walter Steinmeier stated.

Steinmeier stressed that Ukraine's unity must be maintained, as it is a base on which the parties to the conflict signed the Minsk agreements.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/russias_recognition_of_self_proclaimed_republics_to_worsen_donbas_conflict_steinmeier_330749

Atmosphere of Donbas lifestyle rejection is created in Kyiv – Lavrov, 20.04.2015

Ukrainian authorities are creating an atmosphere of rejection of Donbas residents' lifestyle, Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov says.

"I will mention a statement of the now official representatives of Kyiv, like Dmytro Yarosh, who publicly stated that they will take away the East of Ukraine from separatists and terrorists. These people who want to live the way they used to in their own land, are officially declared terrorists, they are being hunted, there are bill-boards put up throughout Ukraine with an explanation of how to identify separatists, those who want to live their own way, not the Ukrainian one, with articles of the Criminal Code, which punishes separatism for a term of imprisonment of seven to twelve years," he said during a press conference on Monday.

http://en.censor.net.ua/news/333331/atmosphere_of_donbas_lifestyle_rejection_is_created_in_kyiv_lavrov

Russia's Lavrov says fighting in east Ukraine abating, 20.04.2015

Sergei Lavrov said on Monday he believed a surge in ceasefire violations in east Ukraine had passed, adding Moscow would work to prevent violence escalating again.

Moscow stands accused by the West and Kiev of driving the separatist pro-Russian rebellion in east Ukraine, providing it with troops and arms, training and intelligence. Moscow denies this. Fighting has picked up in recent weeks despite a ceasefire in place since February, with hot spots including around the airport in the rebel stronghold of Donetsk and the village of Shyrokyne, en route to the city of Mariupol on the Azov Sea.

"We are disquieted at the continued ceasefire violations, which have been very intense indeed in recent days. Now the situation is calming down. We will actively facilitate the strengthening of this tendency," Lavrov told a news conference.

<http://uk.reuters.com/article/2015/04/20/uk-ukraine-crisis-russia-lavrov-idUKKBN0NB1UX20150420?feedType=RSS&feedName=worldNews>

Readout of the Vice President's Call with Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko, 20.04.2015

Vice President Joe Biden spoke today with Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko about the situation in the east and Ukraine's reform agenda. The Vice President informed President Poroshenko that the United States will provide the Government of Ukraine with an additional \$17.7 million in humanitarian assistance for vulnerable populations, including shelter, health and sanitation support, food vouchers, and potable water. The two leaders welcomed efforts by the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe to negotiate permanent ceasefires in specific areas where fighting is still ongoing, and called on Russia to abide by the terms of the Minsk agreements and to stop the transfer of heavy weapons into Ukraine and massing of troops along the international border.

<http://ukraine.usembassy.gov/statements/biden-poroshenko-04202015.html>

EU Commission disburses €250 million assistance to Ukraine, 21.04.2015

The European Commission, on behalf of the EU, today disbursed a loan of €250 million to Ukraine. This is the last disbursement under the first Macro-Financial Assistance (MFA) operation for Ukraine, which amounts to a total of €610 million.

The objective of the MFA programme is to address Ukraine's urgent financing needs, while supporting Ukraine's economic stabilisation and reform agenda. This MFA operation in Ukraine has supported in particular reforms in the areas of public finance management and anti-corruption, trade and taxation, the energy sector and the financial sector.

http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-15-4811_en.htm

Czech President: Russian Attack on Baltics Would Be Suicidal, 21.04.2015

"I don't think Russia could start a war by attacking any of the NATO member states," Zeman said in an interview with The Associated Press. "Because for sure Vladimir Putin is not suicidal and he knows the consequences this would have.

"I'm sure that in such a case, an appropriate military, not just a political and economic, reaction would take place."

Zeman, whose office is largely ceremonial, opposed western sanctions against Moscow for its actions in Ukraine. He suggested they should be gradually taken away "if Russia does not enter Ukraine's soil, because I found them as counterproductive as the former sanctions against Cuba."

"I think (Russia) is satisfied with the annexation of Crimea," Zeman said. "I doubt it would be possible to invade eastern Ukraine, simply because it has been destroyed by the civil war and Moscow would have to feed tens of millions of hungry mouths and for that their economic capacity is insufficient," Zeman said.

<http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/czech-president-russian-attack-baltics-suicidal-30473673>

<http://www.unian.info/politics/1070090-czech-president-putin-hardly-needs-ruined-donbas-crimea-enough-for-him.html>

Russia spends hundreds of millions of dollars on war in Donbas – Ukraine's Foreign Ministry, 21.04.2015

Russia keeps supplying the illegal armed groups in the Donbas with weapons and building up forces in the conflict zone spending hundreds of millions of dollars.

Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine speaker Yevhen Perebyinis announced at a press briefing: "Russia, namely Russia, because the militants in the Donbas, who have looted everything they could, are currently fully maintained by it, spends hundreds of millions of dollars for this purposes (arms supplies to Donbas and maintaining of hostilities there) - the money that is essential today for the Russian people and the entire country, which is experiencing one of the worst economic crises in its history. Here is an example: a single MLRS Grad volley, thousands of which were launched during fighting in the Donbas, costs tens of thousands of dollars to Russian taxpayers," he stressed.

http://en.censor.net.ua/news/333535/russia_spends_hundreds_of_millions_of_dollars_on_war_in_donbas_ukraines_foreign_ministry

France still keeps from arming Ukraine – Hollande, 22.04.2015

"Lethal weapons won't be supplied, as we haven't got any request," French President Francois Hollande at a joint press conference with Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko in Paris.

"France is still keeping from handing over lethal weapons, as at the moment we're doing our best to bring the peace back [to the region] and prevent a loss of human life," he added.

"I stress once again that Ukraine hasn't turned to France with a certain request to get lethal weapons. And it doesn't have such an intention at the moment," President Poroshenko said.

<http://www.unian.info/world/1070465-france-still-keeps-from-arming-ukraine-hollande.html>

Kerry: NATO's official policy towards Russia to be discussed in May, 22.04.2015

This was announced by U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry at a meeting with Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu in Washington, Russian news agency RIA Novosti has reported.

"It is necessary to provide a basis for our assessment of NATO's priorities. And one of those priorities is Russian aggression against Ukraine," Kerry said.

Another priority he called "the danger posed by the extremists from south [of Turkey]."

Kerry said that he intends to participate in the meeting in Antalya, which is expected to take place on May 13-14.

<http://www.unian.info/world/1070027-kerry-natos-official-policy-towards-russia-to-be-discussed-in-may.html>

Members of US Congress again call on Obama to supply weapons to Ukraine, 22.04.2015

The U.S. Congress has once again called on U.S. President Barack Obama to provide the Ukrainian army with lethal weapons following news that an additional \$18 million in aid will be provided by the United States to vulnerable groups in Ukraine.

<http://www.digitalnewsworld.com/news/members-of-us-congress-again-call-on-obama-to-supply-weapons-to-ukraine.html>

<http://www.unian.info/world/1070026-members-of-us-congress-again-call-on-obama-to-supply-weapons-to-ukraine.html>

Obama may join the 'Normandy Four' negotiations on Donbas – U.S. Ambassador to Russia, 22.04.2015

John Tefft, U.S. Ambassador to Russia, says that participation of U.S. President Barack Obama in future rounds of "Normandy Four" negotiations on Donbas is possible.

The diplomat stressed that Obama speaks with Russian President Vladimir Putin and other

"Normandy Four" heads of state on the phone from time to time. However, in Tefft's opinion, the parties of the negotiation group are doing an excellent job with the task without the US president.

He praised efforts of German Chancellor Angela Merkel and French President Francois Hollande is achieving the set task.

The negotiations in the so-called "Normandy format" on peaceful settlement of the conflict in the Donbas are held with the participation of President of Ukraine Petro Poroshenko, French President Francois Hollande, German Chancellor Angela Merkel and Russian President Vladimir Putin. The same format applies to meetings of the foreign ministers of these states.

http://en.censor.net.ua/news/333580/obama_may_join_the_normandy_four_negotiations_on_donbas_us_ambassador_to_russia

EPP: EU should tell Russia we are ready to go to war, 22.04.2015

MEP Tunne Kelam, who chaired the meeting, said that Russia had become the EU's adversary and that its next target would be the Baltic states. When this happens, the West's credibility would be put to the test, he warned.

Kelam appeared to echo remarks from Estonian President Toomas Ilves, who recently said that the lack of commitment from NATO to defend his country could mean the death of the alliance.

As Romanian MEP Cristian Dan Preda remarked, a majority of Romanians believe Putin will not stop until he unites Russia with Transnistria, in Moldova, via the southern territories of Ukraine.

Dan Preda is political coordinator for the Committee on Foreign Affairs in the EPP group.

Roland Freudenstein, Deputy Director and Head of Research of the Martens Centre, the EPP think tank, went even further, saying that Putin wanted to destroy, at least morally and politically, the two decisive euro-Atlantic institutions, the EU and NATO.

<http://www.euractiv.com/sections/global-europe/epp-eu-should-tell-russia-we-are-ready-go-war-313974>

Lavrov: Ukraine should abandon unitarity position and Ukrainization, 22.04.2015

Ukraine to preserve its territorial unity must abandon "obstinacy" in the issue of the preservation of a unitary state and its "Ukrainization", Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said.

"Ukraine can only exist as a state that recognizes the diversity of its constituent regions and cultures," he said.

According to Lavrov, it is necessary to maintain the unity of Ukraine and keep it friendly in relation to Russia, and towards Europe.

"In order to do this, Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko and the Ukrainian ministers should abandon the obstinacy with regard to compulsory preservation of a unitary Ukraine. They must abandon what they call 'Ukrainization,'" Lavrov said.

The minister also said that it was important to "keep Ukraine neutral, primarily neutral in a military and political sense."

"Ukraine's split means only one thing: the West and NATO will try to make Ukraine anti-Russian, we all understand this very well," he said.

<http://ukrnews.today/lavrov-ukraine-should-abandon-unitarity-position-and-ukrainization/>

<http://en.interfax.com.ua/news/general/261910.html>

Ukraine's neutrality, unity are in Russia's interests – Lavrov, 22.04.2015

"It's in our interests not to divide Ukraine, it's in our interests to keep it neutral, primarily in a military-political sense," Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said.

"We want Ukraine to be peaceful and quiet. To achieve that, we need to keep Ukraine unified and prevent it from being dismembered. Such tendencies have already appeared in some places in Europe, in the countries that once gave some of their territories to the current Ukrainian state after WWII," he said.

<http://en.interfax.com.ua/news/general/261910.html>

Press release on Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov's telephone conversation with US Secretary of State John Kerry, 22.04.2015

The conversation focused on pressing bilateral issues, including the schedule of possible future contacts. Mr Lavrov emphasised that Moscow remains open to constructive cooperation with the United States on the basis of equality, respect for Russia's interests and the abandonment of attempts to put pressure on Russia.

Speaking about the Ukrainian crisis, Mr Lavrov underscored the need to thoroughly adhere to the Package of Measures for the Implementation of the Minsk Agreements, which was signed by the conflicting parties on February 12 through the mediation of the leaders of the Normandy format countries. The Minister noted that the arrival of US paratroopers from the 173rd Airborne Brigade at the Yavorovsky shooting range near Lvov as well as the fact that personnel of the US Academi military training firm reportedly turned up among the Ukrainian troops in Donbass attest to violations by Kiev of its commitment to withdraw all foreign military units, hardware and mercenaries from Ukraine.

http://www.mid.ru/bdomp/brp_4.nsf/english/8BB0AAFA4C5FCA7943257E30004D6750

Special plane of Russian Interior Ministry delivered weapons to kill peaceful protesters during Euromaidan – SBU Chairman Nalyvaichenko, 23.04.2015

Head of the Security Service of Ukraine Valentyn Nalyvaichenko says that in the midst of Revolution of Dignity on the Maidan Russia supplied lethal weapons to Ukrainian Interior Ministry and SBU to kill protesters. He stated this during the International scientific and practical conference "Restructuring of the global space: historical imperatives and challenges."

The head of the SBU stated that there had been gross violation of human rights, international rules and obligations on the part of Russia as aggressor state. HE noted that in the midst of public protests in Kyiv Russia delivered lethal weapons to Special Forces of the Ukrainian Interior Ministry and Security Service including grenades, special means intended for the murder of peaceful protesters which were provided and delivered by a special plane of the Russian Interior Ministry.

http://en.censor.net.ua/news/333773/special_plane_of_russian_interior_ministry_delivered_weapons_to_kill_peaceful_protesters_during_euromaidan

PACE on situation in Ukraine: Crisis provoked by Russia, 22.04.2015

The assembly members emphasized Russia's responsibility for the crisis, but also said they expected to see reforms from the Ukrainian government.

In particular, a British socialist, Lord Donald Anderson, said that all the problems in Ukraine were created by another member of the Council of Europe - Russia.

"The situation shows that this crisis has been completely provoked by Russia... Putin well planned the annexation of Crimea, and then the destabilization of the east of Ukraine with the use of special services, and a hybrid war also began without warning," he said.

Anderson also said that it was necessary to prepare for the rapid resolution of the situation.

According to a liberal representative, Christina Zelenkova from the Czech Republic, what is happening now is the result of the fall of the Soviet empire in economic and military terms.

"This is also a warning that the division of Europe after the war continues to live in people's minds. We are faced with a new stage of the struggle, because Russia sends a large quantity of weapons and other military equipment to the militants. It means that Russia is taking control over the region. A spring offensive may result in Kyiv's failure to resist the power of the Russian armed forces," Zelenkova said.

<http://www.unian.info/politics/1070297-pace-on-situation-in-ukraine-crisis-provoked-by-russia.html>

Statement by Marie Harf, Acting Spokesperson, 22.04.2015

Combined Russian-separatist forces maintain a sizable number of artillery pieces and multiple rocket launchers within areas prohibited under the Minsk accords.

The Russian military has deployed additional air defense systems into eastern Ukraine and moved several of these nearer the front lines. This is the highest amount of Russian air defense equipment in eastern Ukraine since August.

Russian and separatist forces also have a large concentration of command and control equipment in eastern Ukraine.

Combined Russian-separatist forces have been conducting increasingly complex training in eastern Ukraine. The increasingly complex nature of this training leaves no doubt that Russia is involved in the training. The training has also incorporated Russian UAVs, an unmistakable sign of Russia's presence.

<http://ukraine.usembassy.gov/statements/marieharf-statement-04222015.html>

France not confident that peacekeepers needed in Donbas – Hollande, 22.04.2015

French President Francois Hollande said he is not confident that peacekeepers need to be sent to Donbas. "France has taken part in military peacekeeping operations, but we are currently not confident that it is necessary," the French president told a press conference he gave jointly with Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko in Paris on Wednesday.

Hollande recalled that decisions to send peacekeepers are made by the UN Security Council.

"Today the OSCE observer mission is present in the east to ensure the implementation of the Minsk agreements," the French president said.

Hollande also said he will discuss Minsk agreements fulfillment with Russian President Vladimir Putin during events devoted to the 100th anniversary of the genocide of Armenians.

<http://en.interfax.com.ua/news/general/262033.html>

<http://www.unian.info/world/1070465-france-still-keeps-from-arming-ukraine-hollande.html>

Poland Says May Support Ukraine's Defenses if Crisis Escalates, 23.04.2015

Poland's foreign minister Grzegorz Schetyna said on Thursday that Poland, along with other countries, may support Ukraine's defense capacities if the conflict in eastern Ukraine escalates.

"We cannot exclude that in case of renewed escalation of military actions, we will be forced, along with other countries that assess the situation similarly to us, to take a decision on stronger support for the Ukrainian state, including its defense capacities," he said in his policy speech.

Schetyna also said that Poland has applied to become a non-permanent member of United Nations Security Council in 2018-2019.

<http://www.nytimes.com/reuters/2015/04/23/world/europe/23reuters-ukraine-crisis-poland.html?ref=world>

It is in our interests not tear Ukraine apart but to make it neutral in military and political sense – Lavrov, 23.04.2015

Russia is not interested in tearing Ukraine into pieces but in keeping it neutral, Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov says.

"It is in our interests not to tear Ukraine apart but to keep it neutral, primarily in the military and political sense," he said in an interview with radio stations Ekho Moskvyy, Govorit Moskva, Sputnik. "We want to see Ukraine in peace and quiet. To do this we need to keep Ukraine united, do not allow to pull it apart piece by piece, and such sentiments are already expressed in some places in Europe, countries that at some point, at the end of the Second World War lost parts of their territories to the current Ukrainian state," he added.

http://en.censor.net.ua/news/333611/it_is_in_our_interests_not_tear_ukraine_apart_but_to_make_it_neutral_in_military_and_political_sense

Russia sees no point in UN peacekeepers in Ukraine — diplomat, 23.04.2015

"As for us, we see no added value to the UN peacekeeping mission in Ukraine," he said. "The OSCE monitoring mission is successfully performing its functions, so we see no need for an additional peacekeeping mission."

The diplomat noted that Ukraine's appeal to UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon provided no specific details on the implementation of this initiative. "The appeal mentioned neither the modality, nor the purpose or ethnic composition of these contingents," he said. "These are very serious issues requiring careful consideration." Gatilov added that the deployment of UN peacekeepers required the consent of both parties to the conflict. He also pointed that the decision on a peacekeeping mission could only be taken by the UN Security Council.

<http://tass.ru/en/russia/791239>

US accuses Russia of supplying militants air defense systems, 23.04.2015

The US State Department accuses Russia of supplying air defense systems at Donbass and participate in military training separatists.

"This is the highest number of Russian air defense equipment in eastern Ukraine in August " - said State Department spokesman Marie Harfa. According to her, the nature of the exercise "leaves no doubt that Russia will contribute to this".

"The exercise involved Russian drones - an unmistakable sign of the presence of" – she said. In addition, she stated that Russia puts its troops along the border with Ukraine.

"After maintain a stable presence along the border, Russia sends more units there " - she said, adding that today marked the largest presence of Russian troops along the Ukraine-Russia border in October.

<http://en.molbuk.ua/world/90353-ssha-zvynuvachuyut-rosiyu-u-postachanni-boyovykam-system-ppo.html>

Russia concentrating additional air defense systems in Donbas – ambassador Pyatt, 23.04.2015

Pyatt said on Twitter that Russian and separatist militants continue to violate the conditions of the latest Minsk agreement, which was signed in mid February, and have concentrated a large number of artillery and multiple rocket launcher systems in areas outside the ceasefire zone. He said that the Russian army and the militants have significant concentrations of command and control centers in Donbas and the highest concentration of Russian air defense systems in eastern Ukraine since last August.

Pyatt said that Russia has beefed up its forces along the international border with the largest concentration of Russian troops there since October 2014, and has re-deployed military forces near Belgorod, which is close to Kharkiv. He went on to say that Russia, jointly with separatists, is carrying out complex military drills in eastern Ukraine. The complex character of the exercises leaves no doubt of Russia involvement, Pyatt said, adding that Russian drones are also involved in the drills.

<http://en.interfax.com.ua/news/general/262228.html>

<http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/nato-big-military-buildup-russia-ukraine-border-30532662>

State Dept. warns of new Russian military buildup on Ukraine border, 23.04.2015

Russia has recently sent arms and drone aircraft into eastern Ukraine and is massing its troops along the tense border, which raises concern about new escalation in the conflict, the State Department said Wednesday.

Russia has built up its air defense systems to their highest levels since August of last year, State Department spokeswoman Marie Harf said in a statement. Russia has been supporting separatists battling Ukrainian government forces.

Harf said Russia has now deployed more troops and military material on its border with Ukraine than at any time since the heaviest fighting in October.

"After maintaining a relatively steady presence along the border, Russia is sending additional units there," Harf said. "These forces will give Russia its largest presence on the border since October 2014."

Despite Moscow's denials of any involvement in the escalating tensions, Harf said Russians and separatists are conducting complex training missions that leave "no doubt" that Russian troops are present in that part of the embattled country.

The cease-fire agreement, which sought to end the months of fighting between the Ukrainian government and the separatists, is being violated, Harf said.

<http://www.foxnews.com/politics/2015/04/23/state-dept-warns-new-russian-buildup-in-ukraine/>

Deputy minister of justice: Old Soviet traditions prevent reforms in Ukraine, 23.04.2015

"The old Soviet traditions are preventing work. It's like when a lot of employees go on sick leave. Or people with whom you're talking, looking into their eyes - they work in the system, but do not believe in changes," First Deputy Minister of Justice Gia Getsadze said.

"They do not want to change the system and do not expect change. I'm very angry about this.

These people should write letters of resignation and look for another job. Those who do not believe can always come up with different arguments why they can't do anything," he said.

According to Getsadze, this is a sign of Ukraine going through the post-Soviet period.

"The Soviet Union had the following scheme: when a citizen came to the officer, he had to find a legitimate argument how to [refuse a request from] a citizen. And then the citizen had to think how to find someone to give him a bribe, and whom he could call so that 'impossible' became 'possible.' We have to get rid of these 'impossible and forbidden' people," he said.

<http://www.unian.info/politics/1070611-deputy-minister-of-justice-old-soviet-traditions-prevent-reforms-in-ukraine.html>

Russia concerned about attempts to rehabilitate Nazi criminals in Ukraine, 23.04.2015

Russian Foreign Ministry's Commissioner for Human Rights, Democracy and Supremacy of Law Konstantin Dolgov presented the report dedicated to the 70th anniversary of Victory.

"Unfortunately, the vaccine from the Nazi virus, developed at the Nuremberg tribunal, gradually weakens," Lavrov said. "This is, in particular, showing in a number of European countries. Nazi ideas and values are openly promoted, nationalist radicals are raising their heads. Special concern arises about the situation in Ukraine, where Nazi criminals are in fact rehabilitated. All this not only insults the memory of millions of victims, but also threatens fundamental principles of ensuring democracy and human rights," the foreign minister stressed.

Russia "watches with indignation cynical attempts to falsify the history of the Second World War, equate victims and executioners, raise to the rank of heroes Nazis and their supports," Lavrov said. "The aim of such unscrupulous actions - and Russian President Vladimir Putin talked about it - is to use historical speculations in geopolitical games, provoke political phobias, embroil whole countries and nations," the foreign minister said.

"We proceed from the fact that full recognition of results of the Second World War, enshrined in the UN Charter and other international documents, is an imperative for all countries," Lavrov noted. "We are convinced that systematic work on countering heroization of Nazism, any forms and manifestations of racism, xenophobia, aggressive nationalism, chauvinism should stay the focus of attention for the world community," he concluded.

<http://tass.ru/en/world/791272>

Polish Military Could Intervene in Ukrainian Conflict – Politician, 23.04.2015

On Tuesday, Polish President Bronislaw Komorowski announced that Warsaw is planning to buy US Patriot surface-to-air missiles in light of a perceived Russian threat.

"Poland is investing in offensive weapons which means that it does not build its own security, its own defense system, but it builds a kind of army units that would be ready for intervention and aggression abroad. In the context of the Ukrainian conflict, it is quite obvious that potentially Polish force could be used in Ukraine,"

"Probably, Poland will have to sign several bills about financing all these programs of Armed Forces organizations which will rise and increase the already existing debt of Poland, which of course, influence the whole political and economic situation in the country," Piskorski said.

<http://sputniknews.com/europe/20150423/1021278038.html>

Czech president: Russia will become EU member in long-term prospect, 23.04.2015

Czech President Milos Zeman said in an interview with the Czech radio on Thursday he believes that Russia will become a member of the European Union in the future.

"In the long-term prospect, Russia will become a member of the EU," Zeman stressed. "If you don't like it, you can consider that the EU will accede to Russia," he said.

The Czech leader called for restoring the trade and economic partner relations between the Czech Republic and Russia as soon as possible.

"I do not want any gifts. I seek only normal economic conditions, including the investments and exchange of goods," he said.

<http://tass.ru/en/world/791278>

Kerry told Russia in phone call to pull forces from Ukraine – official, 23.04.2015

U.S. State Secretary John Kerry told his Russian counterpart in a phone call on Wednesday that Russia must withdraw its forces from eastern Ukraine, a senior State Department official said. During the call with Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov, Kerry also urged Russia to press pro-Russian rebels to abide by a February ceasefire agreement to end fighting in eastern Ukraine, the official said.

Kerry told Lavrov that current U.S. training of Ukrainian National Guard units in the western part of Ukraine was "fully transparent, defensive" and at the invitation of the Ukrainian government, the official added.

<http://in.reuters.com/article/2015/04/23/ukraine-crisis-russia-kerry-idINKBN0NE26E20150423>

Russian Foreign Ministry suspects Ukraine's NSDC of creating a nuclear bomb in its dungeons. Turchynov recommends taking some pills, 23.04.2015

Russian Foreign Ministry Information and Press Department released its comment on the statements of the National Security and Defense Council of Ukraine Secretary Oleksandr Turchynov about the alleged creation of a nuclear bomb in Ukraine.

"Our attention was attracted by a recent statement of the NSDC Secretary Oleksandr Turchynov that the Ukrainian government is allegedly preparing to implement some classified military-technical nuclear programs aimed at creation of a so-called "dirty bomb" or nuclear weapons. As a rule, such plans are declared by various terrorist groups," the statement reads.

In this case, the Information and Press Department of the Russian Foreign Ministry stressed, creation of such devices would make Ukraine a rogue state and put the question of taking measures under Chapter VII of the UN Charter.

Oleksandr Turchynov called the statements of the Russian Foreign Ministry a morbid imagination of Russian officials.

"Ukraine will defend its territorial integrity strictly observing all its international obligations," he said. "And as for the authors of such statements, who talk nonsense in their fright distorting and falsifying position stated by us, I advise them to take sedatives and abstain from alcohol," the NSDC secretary said.

http://en.censor.net.ua/news/333812/russian_foreign_ministry_suspects_ukraines_nsdс_of_creating_a_nuclear_bomb_in_its_dungeons_turchynov

Turchynov: Ukrainian-American military exercises triggered inadequate reaction of Russian authorities, 23.04.2015

Secretary of National Security and Defense Council of Ukraine Oleksandr Turchynov praised the level of the Ukraine-U.S. military exercises, which are held at the Yavoriv range.

"The joint exercises at the Yavoriv range are taking place at a very high level which causes inadequate reaction of the Russian authorities," Oleksandr Turchynov said adding that he meant Lavrov's comments on the presence of the U.S. servicemen in Ukraine, which allegedly violates Minsk II.

"Taking in consideration the ignorance of the Russian leaders, I have to explain to them in detail that the Minsk agreements envisage the withdrawal of foreign (i.e. Russian) troops from our territory, which are illegally deployed on the territory of Ukraine (the Ukrainian side has never granted permission for their deployment) and are conducting hostilities against our country," Oleksandr Turchynov said.

http://en.censor.net.ua/news/333829/turchynov_ukrainianamerican_military_exercises_triggered_inadequate_reaction_of_russian_authorities

Poroshenko states he will keep searching peaceful solution for the war in Donbas whatever it takes, 23.04.2015

President of Ukraine announced of his decision to search for a peaceful settlement of the situation in the Donbas by any means.

Poroshenko noted that together with the Normandy format allies he is trying to do everything possible to "find an understanding, to find a peaceful solution to the conflict."

"I said from the very beginning that there is no military solution to this conflict," he said, adding that this was the reason of the 18-hour work in Minsk.

"And I will keep searching for it whatever it takes," the president promised.

http://en.censor.net.ua/news/333805/poroshenko_states_he_will_keep_searching_peaceful_solution_for_the_war_in_donbas_whatever_it_takes

NATO: Big military build-up on Russia-Ukraine border, 23.04.2015

NATO's chief on Thursday reported a sizeable Russian military buildup on the border with Ukraine that he said would enable pro-Moscow separatists to launch a new offensive with little warning.

NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg said Russia has substantially stepped up supplies to the rebels, as well as providing them with advanced training and equipment like drones, despite a cease-fire.

Making an accusation of their own, Russian officials said U.S. military instructors were training Ukrainian national guardsmen in urban fighting techniques in the same eastern regions where Ukrainian forces and separatists have been fighting for the past year.

In Washington, the U.S. State Department rejected the Russian claim of U.S. trainers in eastern Ukraine, saying all the activity was in western Ukraine near the border with Poland.

"We've been doing this for about 20 years now," State Department spokeswoman Marie Harf told reporters, calling the Russian statement "ridiculous."

http://www.bellinghamherald.com/2015/04/23/4256804_nato-big-military-buildup-on-russia.html?rh=1

Ukraine pragmatic about its membership in NATO – Poroshenko, 23.04.2015

Paying visit to France, President of Ukraine Petro Poroshenko dwelled on his pragmatic vision of the future of Ukraine's membership in NATO.

Head of Ukrainian state expressed his opinion at the meeting with journalists in Paris, France,.

"The majority of Ukrainians would like to join [the NATO]. Kyiv will not insist, as NATO does not seek to expand as much as the Ukrainian population would like," he said, when asked whether Ukraine wants to join the NATO.

According to Poroshenko, it is well known that Germany and France do not want to exacerbate tensions in Europe, bringing NATO closer to Russia's borders, and the North Atlantic Alliance may accept new members only by the unanimous vote. "Ukraine is not interested in forcing the Germans or the French to do that, as Kyiv highly depends on their support," he said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/ukraine_pragmatic_about_its_membership_in_nato_poroshenko_330854

<http://en.interfax.com.ua/news/general/262159.html>

Hollande urges progress on Minsk accord in one-on-one with Putin, 24.04.2015

Russian President Vladimir Putin acknowledged on Friday that trade ties between Russia, France - and Europe as a whole - had suffered in recent months amid sanctions and other responses to the conflict in Ukraine.

"Unfortunately, our ties are not in the best shape, trade turnover is falling including with France, which only causes regret," Putin told Hollande in the Armenian capital Yerevan. Hollande, meanwhile, called on Putin to push for the full implementation of the terms of the second Minsk ceasefire in a bid to halt fighting in the east of Ukraine.

"The best way to be able to move past what has hindered us would be to move forward with the application of the Minsk accord," Hollande said. Hollande, Putin, German Chancellor Angela Merkel, Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko and Belarusian host Alexander Lukashenko brokered the peace plan in February.

<http://www.dw.de/hollande-urges-progress-on-minsk-accord-in-one-on-one-with-putin/a-18407448>

Peak of Inflation in Russia Passed - PM Medvedev, 24.04.2015

Medvedev during an Economic Development Ministry meeting said that the pace of economic growth has slowed and "has crossed into the negative red zone."

"Our economy has, however trivial this may sound, come under extreme pressing," he said.

"We believe the peak of inflation is passed," Medvedev said.

<http://sputniknews.com/business/20150424/1021320572.html>

Ukraine will be Russia's last gamble – Dzhemilev, 24.04.2015

"This end can take the form of the country's collapse. This prospect is frightening, since we are talking about a nuclear power. The best solution would be democratic changes, but there is little hope for such a scenario. A palace coup is more likely. Putin's entourage has a reason to revolt: they stole billions over the past few years, and today they cannot spend them due to sanctions," the former head of the Majlis said.

Dzhemilev also voiced the position of the Crimean Tatars regarding the nationality of the peninsula: "We have always co-existed with Ukrainians. They are more democratic, more tolerant, more open to other cultures than Russians. Before the collapse of the Soviet Union, we identified our political line, which was to support the independent Ukraine. After 1991, we had good relations with Ukraine. Tatar was a second language on the peninsula. "

"I would say that 80% of the Crimean Tatars see no other way but to return Crimea under the auspices of Ukraine. Some do not believe that the return may occur during their lifetime, and emphasize that in anticipation of the return they need to live somehow... There are those who feel fear," Dzhemilev said.

http://en.censor.net.ua/news/333886/ukraine_will_be_russias_last_gamble_dzhemilev

MP reveals Akhmetov's involvement in organizing miners' protests, 24.04.2015

Nayyem posted a document as evidence for his claims. Entitled "Krepost" (or "Fortress" in English), it is alleged to detail plans by one of the companies Akhmetov owns to retain its monopoly on the energy market by organizing public protests and influencing the country's media, politicians, unions, and judges.

"I have reason to believe that the events of recent days in Kyiv, including the miners' strike, the [holding of the] Congress of the miners' union, the demands for the resignation of the energy minister and the attack on the government and the president allegedly from the industry is a part of a plan to protect the interests of Akhmetov's companies on the energy market," Nayyem wrote. "And to be precise, these are attempts by a businessman to suspend any actions to reform the electricity market and to maintain the status quo of a monopolist."

According to Nayyem, the directors of DTEK, under the leadership of Maxim Timchenko, drew up a detailed description of all the activities that are planned to be realized by the management of Akhmetov's companies in the coming months.

<http://www.unian.info/politics/1071041-mp-reveals-akhmetovs-involvement-in-organizing-miners-protests.html>

Russian military general says US, West wage first phase of hybrid war on Russia, 24.04.2015

"The United States is using greater intensity of the Russian Armed Forces' operative and combat training in the Western 'strategic direction', and also Crimea's reunification with Russia in attempts to form the image of our country as an aggressor against European countries," Sidorov said.

He recalled NATO had considerably stepped up its military presence in Eastern Europe.

"The anti-Russian policies of the Baltic countries' political leadership have allowed for the forward deployment of 1,000 troops from the 3rd US infantry division in the territories of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania," he said.

<http://tass.ru/en/russia/791533>

Yatsenyuk: Miners' protests organized to destabilize Ukraine, 24.04.2015

Oligarch Rinat Akhmetov accused of organizing miner rallies to block energy sector reforms Ukrainian Prime Minister Arseniy Yatsenyuk has called protests by miners in Kyiv on Thursday a "provocation" to destabilize the country.

Journalists at the protests said they had seen miners being paid approximately 5 euros each for participating in the protests.

<http://uatoday.tv/politics/yatsenyuk-miners-rsquo-protests-organised-to-destabilise-ukraine-423508.html>

Klimkin: Russia can't force Ukraine to surrender, 24.04.2015

"No one will force us to surrender, and the reason is very simple - as everyone knows, we do not want to, and can't, live like Russia wants," he said.

"Everyone understands that European values and principles are key for us today, and it is not an empty phrase or set of phrases, and we are willing to sacrifice for it," Klimkin said, explaining that during the Normandy Four meetings, French Foreign Minister Laurent Fabius and German Foreign Minister Frank-Walter Steinmeier had expressed to him their understanding of the situation in the Donbas and support for Ukraine.

At the same time, Klimkin referred to the results of the European Sociological Research of public opinion and said that most people clearly understand what is happening in Ukraine.

"They clearly understand that today, if there is no solution for the Donbas, if there is no solution for Ukraine, there will be no solution for Europe," Klimkin said.

<http://www.unian.info/politics/1071061-klimkin-russia-cant-force-ukraine-to-surrender.html>

In Leaked Letter, Steinmeier Urges EU To Ease Russian Concerns On Ukraine Deal, 24.04.2015

In the letter addressed to European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker, which was made available to RFE/RL, Steinmeier called for a resumption of three-way talks between the EU, Ukraine, and Russia in order to identify "practical solutions."

Russia has voiced opposition to the creation of a Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area (DCFTA), the economic core of a wide-ranging Association Agreement concluded in March 2014 by the European Union and Ukraine.

Critics in Russia say the deal would have a negative impact on the Russian economy.

Russian President Vladimir Putin has warned Ukraine that changing national legislation to prepare for the agreement would trigger "an immediate response from Moscow."

Ukraine, in turn, argues that Russia is not a party to the Association Agreement and has no right to interfere.

<http://www.rferl.org/content/ukraine-eu-trade-deal-steinmeier-russian-concerns/26976163.html>

Miners' rallies have been used by political forces and oligarchs for their own purposes – Poroshenko, 24.04.2015

President Poroshenko told about the miners' rallies being taken advantage of by political forces and the oligarchs.

"Who uses it? Unfortunately, it is the sticky fingered political forces and, unfortunately, certain

oligarchs. I can tell you that the problem, including the one concerning those rallies, will be clearly associated with the program of the country's deoligarchisation," the president said. Poroshenko noted that there are numerous proofs of participation of the demonstrators-for-hire in the miners' protest actions.

http://en.censor.net.ua/news/334008/miners_rallies_have_been_used_by_political_forces_and_oligarchs_for_their_own_purposes_poroshenko

Putin calls on Hollande to look for ways to improve bilateral relations, 24.04.2015

Russian President Vladimir Putin has called on his French counterpart Francois Hollande to take steps to improve relations between the two countries.

The Russian leader said on Friday relations between Russia and France "are not at their best, with trade going down, which is regrettable." "We must take steps to improve our relations," he underscored.

The Russian president said he planned to discuss with his French counterpart prospects for the development of Russia's relations with France and with the European Union in general.

"It cannot but be regrettable," Putin said. "We must look for ways to improve our relations. I think we all are interested in that."

Putin invited Hollande to discuss the implementation of the Minsk agreements on Ukrainian settlement. "I know you did much to have these agreements reached and you have been keeping a close eye on that matter," Putin noted.

<http://tass.ru/en/russia/791596>

Poroshenko: Ukraine strictly observes Minsk truce, army not to attack first, 25.04.2015

Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko says he hopes for the liberation of the occupied Ukrainian territory, but a military operation isn't an option, the presidential press service reported.

Answering a question whether beefing the Ukrainian army up can give hope for the liberation of Donbas in the near future, the president said: "I hope very much that we'll see this territory of Ukraine liberated, however, let me stress again – Ukraine strictly abides by the Minsk agreements, therefore the Armed Forces of Ukraine won't launch the offensive first."

Poroshenko also said that holding large-scale military drills at a training range near the city of Mykolaiv on Saturday is aimed at strengthening Ukraine's defense capacity.

<http://www.unian.info/war/1071599-poroshenko-ukraine-strictly-observes-minsk-truce-army-not-to-attack-first.html>

<http://en.interfax.com.ua/news/general/262676.html>

Russian Foreign Ministry calls Riga summit 'anti-Russian', 25.04.2015

Russian Foreign Ministry has called the EU Eastern Partnership summit in Riga, which will be held on May 21-22, "anti-Russian."

"Russia's attitude to this [summit] is very negative. We will be monitoring the situation at the summit in Riga, but it is obvious already that our reaction will be quite tough and principled. We see which direction this 'partnership' is moving to and which shades it has been acquiring if one looks at the positions of scheduled participants, primarily those from the European Union. The meaning of 'partnership' definitely has a pronounced anti-Russian position," Russian Foreign Ministry spokesman Alexander Lukashevich said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/russian_foreign_ministry_calls_riga_summit_anti_russian_330920

Poverty level up by 30%, hurting reforms in Ukraine – finance minister, 26.04.2015

"Supporting the poor is not merely a social obligation – it is crucial for the implementation of economic reforms," warns Finance Minister Natalya Yaresko, addressing an economic forum in Kyiv Apr. 25. An effective means to beef up the budget and Pension Fund would be to pull the economy out of the grey sector assumed to reach 40-60%, Yaresko stressed.

In 2016 a new simplified tax system is to be introduced to make the economy jump straight, she said. The outflow of capital and tax dodging must be cut by introducing transfer pricing and electronic administering of VAT, she added.

She said the cabinet is ready to admit its mistakes and increased rental payments for oil-gas companies are to be stopped as of July 1. "If the mistakes are made they must be rectified".

http://zik.ua/en/news/2015/04/26/poverty_level_up_by_30_hurting_reforms_in_ukraine_finance_minister_584556

Former head of Ukrainian Security Service: Putin can't conquer Ukraine but he can start a WW3, 26.04.2015

"The armed conflict in Ukraine is not simply a local contest between Ukraine and Russia but a clash between two civilizations, the Euro-Atlantic and the so-called 'Russian world,'" Smeshko said. Were Ukraine to lose, this would be "a threat not only for the post-Soviet space, including the Baltic countries but for all of Europe."

What is at stake, he argued, is whether Russia will be able to "stop the processes of European integration," acquire a strong voice in European affairs, and set itself up as a global counterweight to the United States.

Asked why Vladimir Putin decided to engage in this direct confrontation of the West, Smeshko said that Moscow was shocked by the two Maidan protests in Ukraine in 2004 and 2014. "Those protests showed," he said, "that a developed civil society already exists in Ukraine and that the ideas of democracy are spreading ever closer to Russian borders."

<http://euromaidanpress.com/2015/04/26/former-head-of-ukrainian-security-service-putin-cant-conquer-ukraine-but-he-can-start-a-ww3/>

Putin about Crimea: We will go to the very end, 26.04.2015

Putin said that the main thing was to understand what the people living in Crimea wanted, Russia's. "I was telling them [the partners] that it is people who are vitally important to us. I don't know which interests you will defend, but we, while defending ours, will go to the end. And this is an extremely important thing," he said.

"It's not because we want to bite off or snatch [something]. It's even not because Crimea is of strategic importance in the Black Sea region. But because this is an element of historical justice. I think we did the right thing. I have no regrets," Putin said.

<http://www.unian.info/politics/1071767-putin-about-crimea-we-will-go-to-the-very-end.html>

Statement by Minister Nicholson on Russia's Ongoing Violations of Minsk Agreements, 26.04.2015

The Honourable Rob Nicholson, P.C., Q.C., M.P. for Niagara Falls, Minister of Foreign Affairs, today issued the following statement:

"Canada strongly condemns ongoing violations of Minsk agreements by Russia and Russian-backed insurgents in eastern Ukraine.

"Russia continues to violate the ceasefire and maintain troops and equipment in eastern Ukraine. There are credible reports of additional Russian weaponry being moved into the area. These acts are in clear violation of the Minsk agreements and jeopardize their viability.

"We also condemn Russia's reported military buildup along the border with Ukraine to levels not seen in months, which further undermines the region's stability.

"The Minsk agreements are only as good as their implementation. We call on Mr. Putin to respect his commitments, to withdraw Russian troops and weapons from Ukraine and to allow for de-escalation. "We will continue to judge Russia by its deeds and not by its words. We are closely monitoring the situation on the ground and, in close coordination with our partners and allies, will continue to confront the Kremlin to end its brutal aggression."

<http://www.international.gc.ca/media/aff/news-communiqués/2015/04/26a.aspx?lang=eng>

Ukraine fighting on three fronts: military, truth, corruption – Ambassador Pyatt, 27.04.2015

U.S. Ambassador to Ukraine Geoffrey Pyatt has said that Ukraine is currently fighting on three fronts, and the U.S. will help the country in this fight.

He added that "corruption and business as usual are as much a threat to Ukraine today as Russian tanks." "Fighting simultaneously on three fronts is hard. It will be hard for a long time. But you will have our support," Pyatt said.

<http://ukrnews.today/ukraine-fighting-on-three-fronts-military-truth-corruption-ambassador-pyatt/>

Slovakian President: Ukraine should buy weapons from individual countries, rather than from EU, NATO, 27.04.2015

"Nobody can bar Ukraine from buying weapons within the framework of bilateral relations. It's a free choice by Ukraine and the state that sells the weapons. It is absolutely clear that neither the European Union, which doesn't have such instruments [for arming], nor NATO as a coherent structure should be involved in this kind of activity," Slovakian President Andrej Kiska said. The Slovakian president also stressed that his country had always been among active players in the issue of Ukraine.

"Unlike others, who only have talked about help, we've made active steps – a reverse flow of gas supplies to Ukraine was an exceptional step. Slovakia has supported all European Union's sanctions against Russia. I consider the effectiveness of our foreign policy through action, rather than through rhetoric," he said.

<http://ukrnews.today/slovakian-president-ukraine-should-buy-weapons-from-individual-countries-rather-than-from-eu-nato/>

McCain: Mariupol might be Putin's next target, 29.04.2015

US Senator John McCain (R) has warned that Putin is preparing to strike Ukraine's port city of Mariupol. McCain also said that Putin is preparing to deliver a blow to Moldova and put pressure on the Baltic states as well as Poland.

McCain also stated that there are currently 14,000 of Russian peacekeepers in Moldova and Transnistria, so Putin might as well be thinking of seizing those territories, too. Russian president is pressurizing on the Baltic states, thus he would not stop in Ukraine and Crimea, McCain said. The senator noted that the price Putin paid for his grabbing is nothing if compared to what he got.

http://en.censor.net.ua/news/334667/mccain_mariupol_might_be_putins_next_target

Fire near Chornobyl NPP localized, Yatseniuk says, 29.04.2015

This was stated by Prime Minister of Ukraine Arsenii Yatseniuk:

"I have been informed that the fire was localized, that is isolated, as of 12:45 p.m.," Yatseniuk said opening a government meeting in Kyiv on Wednesday.

The prime minister stressed that the radiation quantity exposure is within the norms. "The recommended radiation intensity level is 50 micro-roentgens per hour while it is less than 21 micro-roentgens directly in the zone (zone of exclusion where the fire broke out - Ed.) and less than 11 in Kyiv," he informed.

http://en.censor.net.ua/news/334582/fire_near_chornobyl_npp_localized_yatseniuk_says

Obama reckons Russia's aggression against Ukraine among global threats, 29.04.2015

He said during joint press conference with Prime Minister of Japan Shinzo Abe, who arrived in the U.S. with the official visit.

According to Obama, the US and Japan "are two global partners that stand together for security and human dignity around the world - opposing Russia's aggression against Ukraine, providing relief to innocent civilians threatened by ISIL, combating Ebola and promoting global health, and now offering help to the people of Nepal, who are in our prayers today."

http://en.censor.net.ua/news/334505/obama_reckons_russias_aggression_against_ukraine_among_global_threats

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2015/04/28/remarks-president-obama-and-prime-minister-abe-japan-joint-press-confere>

President had a meeting with DSA Heads: People must feel protection from the state, 29.04.2015

At the meeting with DSA Heads, the President has set a task to maximally protect those in need of state assistance due to the aggression in the East and the implementation of reforms.

"Our task is to protect those in need of state assistance, those whose total income does not exceed the subsistence level and those who cannot pay for tariffs that have been increased pursuant to the agreement with the IMF," Petro Poroshenko emphasized. "People must feel protection from the state, your protection. And those who have money should gradually get used to the market price for gas," the President said.

<http://www.president.gov.ua/en/news/32778.html>

Forest fire near Chornobyl NPP isolated. Radiation level is within norms, there is no threat – State Emergency Service, 29.04.2015

The fire situation near the Chornobyl nuclear power plant has shown great improvement. Acting Head of the State Emergency Service of Ukraine Zorian Shkiriak wrote on Facebook. "Here is the latest update on fire in the exclusion zone: The situation has improved significantly. The forest fire front was localized. The situation is 100% controlled. There are virtually no more spots of open fire left," he wrote. According to Shkiriak, the fire keeps spreading to small branches of young trees, but such cases are rare and depend on wind blows.

http://en.censor.net.ua/news/334521/forest_fire_near_chornobyl_npp_isolated_radiation_level_is_within_norms_there_is_no_threat_state_emergency

Right Sector vows to stop Communist march in Kyiv on May 1, 30.04.2015

The Right Sector organization will not allow people to parade with communist symbols in the Ukrainian capital Kyiv on May 1, according to the organization's spokesman Artem Skoropadsky, Ukrainian news portal theinsider.ua has reported.

<http://www.unian.info/politics/1073656-right-sector-vows-to-stop-communist-march-in-kyiv-on-may-1.html>

Social Policy Minister promises to increase pensions and social benefits by 13% in December, 30.04.2015

The Government plans increase in pensions and other social payments effective December 2015. Minister of Social Policy of Ukraine Pavlo Rozenko stated: "The State Budget of Ukraine stipulates that all pensions and social benefits must grow by 13% effective Dec. 1, 2015," he said. According to Rozenko, the government fulfills all commitments to the socially vulnerable groups as of today. "There will be no reductions of social benefits, and we will raise these payments before the scheduled day - we will do it as soon as the state of the economy provides us the opportunity," Rozenko assured.

http://en.censor.net.ua/news/334732/social_policy_minister_promises_to_increase_pensions_and_social_benefits_by_13_in_december

"Repent, give public money back, and hope for indulgence if people could ever forgive you" - Avakov addressed Firtash and Liovochkin, 30.04.2015

Interior Minister Arsen Avakov stated that Ukraine will continue its policy of deoligarchisation and urged Dmytro Firtash and Serhii Liovochkin to "repent and return public money."

"The further the Interior Ministry investigates corrupt practices used by the companies of Firtash and Liovochkin, which incurred several billion dollar losses for the country, the funnier the derisive attempts of the Inter TV channel look.

"One may even not turn one's TV on to watch Inter so that the exposed hatred would not poison the surrounding space after the Interior Ministry yesterday's action - the arrest by the court of gas of Ostchem company owned by Firtash Group and today's official position of the Interior Ministry regarding the case on the U.S. claims to Firtash.

http://en.censor.net.ua/news/334722/repent_give_public_money_back_and_hope_for_indulgence_if_people_could_ever_forgive_you_avakov_addressed

Actions of Ukrainian Authorities

Conscription to Ukrainian army begins from April 1, 01.04.2015

The military age has changed under the current recruiting campaign. Previously, the ministry recruited men from 18 to 25 years, but now their age is to be from 20 to 27 years.

The ministry also changed the list of persons who are subject to deferments due to health and family reasons.

The deputies of town, city, district and regional councils, and teachers who work in secondary schools in non-rural areas have lost their right to defer service.

In addition, a guardian has the right to defer service only in the case when he is the sole person who can care for disabled people.

<http://www.unian.info/society/1062505-conscription-to-ukrainian-army-begins-from-april-1.html>

Poroshenko and Merkel discuss Minsk agreements and deployment of peacekeepers in Ukraine, 01.04.2015

The two leaders, speaking by phone, agreed that the Russian-backed militants must comply with the ceasefire and implement all provisions of the Minsk agreements, including the release of prisoners.

Poroshenko and Merkel also called for there to be another meeting of the "Normandy Four" foreign ministers of Ukraine, Russia, Germany and France in the coming days to discuss further progress on the implementation of the Minsk agreements and the deployment of a peacekeeping mission in the Donbas.

The two leaders also said they believe that the forthcoming meeting of the Tripartite Liaison Group would also help to implement the Minsk agreements.

<http://www.unian.info/politics/1062303-poroshenko-and-merkel-discuss-minsk-agreements-and-deployment-of-peacekeepers-in-ukraine.html>

Poroshenko calls for world's support in efforts to make Russian troops pull out from Ukraine, 01.04.2015

Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko in a video address posted by his press service has called on the international community to support Ukraine's efforts to make all foreign troops withdraw from Ukraine.

"The only thing we ask is that foreign troops and Russian-backed foreign mercenaries – those from Buryat and Tungusic peoples, Pskov paratroopers and others that demand self-identification – should be withdrawn from Ukraine, so that they could be finally identified by the international community and sent back home," Poroshenko said.

<http://www.unian.info/politics/1062636-poroshenko-calls-for-worlds-support-in-efforts-to-make-russian-troops-pull-out-from-ukraine.html>

Chief prosecutor announces register of Euromaidan-related criminal cases, 01.04.2015

A single register of criminal proceedings for crimes committed during the Revolution of Dignity late in 2013 and early in 2014 will be created and made public soon, Prosecutor General of Ukraine Viktor Shokin announced this at a meeting with the presidium of the advisory council under the Prosecutor General's Office.

Shokin says that the creation of such a register will let the public monitor the pace of investigations and get engaged in this process.

<http://www.unian.info/society/1062590-chief-prosecutor-announces-register-of-euromaidan-related-criminal-cases.html>

Ukraine refuses to extradite Saakashvili to Georgia, 02.04.2015

Prosecutor's General Office of Ukraine held verification on request of Georgian colleagues and decided to refuse extraditing the former President of Georgia Mikhail Saakashvili to Georgia.

"Having examined a request from Georgian authorities, the Prosecutor's General Office of Ukraine came to a conclusion that there is a risk that the request for extradition of the former President Saakashvili had been made on political grounds," – says the press service of the Prosecutor's Office.

http://mw.ua/UKRAINE/ukraine-refuses-to-extradite-saakashvili-to-georgia-1611_.html

Yatseniuk supports new post of deputy PM for European integration, 02.04.2015

"I even offered this post to the representative of Ukraine to the EU, Kostiantyn Yelisieiev," Yatseniuk said.

"However, in order to be appointed to this post, you need to get the support of the Ukrainian parliament," Yatseniuk said.

"I expect that there will be a meeting with the parliamentary coalition, we will find the right solution and the right person in the right place," he said.

"The Cabinet of Ministers has a Government Office for European Integration and everyone has a deputy minister who is responsible for European integration."

The prime minister also said that he led Ukraine's Governmental Committee for European Integration.

<http://www.unian.info/politics/1062735-yatseniuk-supports-new-post-of-deputy-pm-for-european-integration.html>

Lawyer: Bochkovskyi released on bail, 02.04.2015

The former head of the State Emergency Service of Ukraine, Sergiy Bochkovskyi has been released from jail.

This has been reported by TSN, citing information from a lawyer of the former official. According to the TV channel, Bochkovskyi was released from jail on April 1. After the transfer of money had been checked, the former official immediately went to the hospital, reports TSN, citing the lawyer. Allegedly, he suffers from diabetes and high blood pressure.

The official has been released on bail of UAH 1.8 million. As the TSN reports, the origin of the funds had been checked for almost a day, but nothing had been found.

http://mw.ua/UKRAINE/lawyer-bochkovskyi-released-on-bail-1620_.html

Poroshenko ready for referendum on Ukraine's state system, 06.04.2015

"I am ready to launch a referendum on the issue of the state system, if you see a need for that," Poroshenko said at a meeting of the constitutional commission in Kyiv on Monday.

He had previously said that he is ready to hold a referendum on the state system of Ukraine, but said that "almost 90%" of the population opposes federalization and that Ukraine will not agree to any form of pressure on this issue.

<http://en.interfax.com.ua/news/general/258987.html>

Poroshenko announces priority amendments to Ukraine's constitution, 06.04.2015

Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko has said that the decentralization of power, improving constitutional foundations for justice, and constitutional regulations on human rights and freedoms are the priorities in preparing amendments to the Constitution of Ukraine.

"The first [priority] is decentralization, secondly I think that the constitutional principles of justice should be improved, and the third is the improvement of the constitutional regulation of human rights, freedoms and duties," Poroshenko said during the opening session of the Constitutional Commission in Kyiv on Monday.

He said that the commission must focus on these priorities.

<http://en.interfax.com.ua/news/general/259029.html>

Right Sector leader Yarosh appointed adviser to chief of Ukraine's General Staff, 06.04.2015

This was announced by the press service of Ukraine's Defense Ministry.

As part of their agreement concluded at a meeting at the General Staff, the sides also determined the format of cooperation between the volunteer corps and the regular army.

"In the past year, the army has made a big leap to boost the combat capability to protect Ukraine.

<...> We also appreciate that considerable contribution made by volunteer battalions to the common goal to protect home from the aggressor in the east. Volunteer corps fighters have worthily demonstrated high motivation and morale in many battles. Their experience and knowledge will be utilized for the development of the Armed Forces," Muzhenko said.

<http://www.unian.info/politics/1063899-right-sector-leader-yarosh-appointed-adviser-to-chief-of-ukraines-general-staff.html>

Right Sector members to serve in Ukrainian armed forces under contract, 06.04.2015

Members of the Ukrainian Corps of the Right Sector will serve in the national armed forces under contract, said Ukrainian presidential advisor Yuriy Biriukov.

"Right Sector members will serve under contract with the 79th air-mobile brigade," Biriukov said on Facebook.

No confirmation of this report from the Right Sector is available to Interfax-Ukraine so far.

<http://en.interfax.com.ua/news/general/258913.html>

Ukraine to resume paying pensions in occupied Donbas after control is restored – justice ministry, 06.04.2015

The payment of pensions and social benefits to the residents of territories in Donetsk and Luhansk regions under temporary occupation will not be resumed until the Ukrainian authorities regain control, Deputy Justice Minister Natalia Sevostianova has said.

"The position of the government is definitive: all payments will be settled as soon as Ukraine's control over the territories is restored. Anyway, all persons who leave these areas have a chance to receive payments in full," she said at a press conference last week.

Sevostianova said that if neither the treasury nor other financial institutions are able to send funds to those in occupied territory, or the anti-terrorist operation (ATO) zone, then payments will be completely impossible.

She said that two treasury representatives who tried to bring money to these areas were killed.

<http://en.interfax.com.ua/news/general/258959.html>

There are 5,000 applications for 24 openings in the Prosecutor General's Office – Sakvarelidze, 06.04.2015

"At least a year is needed to switch to work under the new law, to carry out the whole optimization process. Today we have 18,500 employees. It is impossible to "surgically" reduce them starting April 25 and create a vacuum of procedural problems - when local prosecutor's offices are established on paper, but physically they do not exist," the deputy prosecutor general said in an interview with Komsomolska Pravda.

http://en.censor.net.ua/news/331502/there_are_5000_applications_for_24_openings_in_the_prosecutor_generals_office_sakvarelidze

'People's mayor' of Berdiansk sentenced to 13 years for separatism, 06.04.2015

Volunteer Anna Velychko was one of the first who reported the news.

Her statement reads: "Anti-people's mayor of Berdiansk city got 13 years and in this case it is a pity that it is not 15 (the maximum sentence for high treason - the Article 111). And he also may be laid charges for 'abortive crime' (the Article 15) and "creation of a terrorist group" (the Article 258-3). And it would be a shame for a hundred thousand residents of the city and its suburbs if he was not dropped."

http://en.censor.net.ua/news/331533/peoples_mayor_of_berdiansk_sentenced_to_13_years_for_separatism_photo

Ukraine's parliament approves series of anti-Soviet and communist laws, 06.04.2015

Ukraine's parliament has approved a series of laws which tackle the country's Soviet past. Communist propaganda and symbols will be made illegal, street names referencing communists changed, while statues like this one of Soviet leader Vladimir Lenin in Dnipropetrovsk will be pulled down.

The brutality of Soviet regimes such as Joseph Stalin's will also be further exposed, after the lawmakers voted to open up all communist era archives from 1917 to 1991. Stalin was responsible for the mass genocide of millions of Ukrainians in the 1930s.

Ukrainian fighters who opposed the Soviet military during World War Two are to be formally recognised as fighting for the country's independence. The move is controversial as these fighters were effectively battling against Ukrainians involved in the Red Army.

<http://uatoday.tv/geopolitics/ukraine-s-parliament-approves-series-of-anti-soviet-and-communist-laws-420696.html>

More than UAH 5 mln found with prosecutor of Kramatorsk and his associates, 07.04.2015

Investigators and prosecutors carried out searches at the places of residence and work of the officials after they were detained by law enforcement officers.

"During these investigative activities the investigators found funds, including [cash from] bribes of \$110,000 and UAH 2.75 million. In addition, the officers seized documents and records that were evidence that these people received bribes every month from businessmen who were engaged in both legal and illegal business," the report says.

A pre-trial investigation is being carried out by officers of the Main Military Prosecutor's Office.

<http://www.unian.info/society/1064692-more-than-uah-5-mln-found-with-prosecutor-of-kramatorsk-and-his-associates.html>

SBU 'detains 10 saboteurs in Odesa', 08.04.2015

"A special operation took place in Odesa in the fight against subversive groups," Tseholko wrote.

"Ten people were arrested. SBU Chairman Valentyn Nalyvaichenko reported this to the president. The detainees were preparing a provocation. The officers found weapons and explosives. Tomorrow the intelligence agency will hold a press conference about it."

<http://www.unian.info/society/1064890-sbu-detains-10-saboteurs-in-odesa.html>

SBU accuses former PM Azarov of financing Easter protests, 08.04.2015

The destabilization actions are funded by the offices of former Ukrainian PM Mykola Azarov, former MPs Oleg Tsarev and Volodymyr Oliynyk.

The Senior Adviser to the SBU head, Markiyan Lubkivskyi has announced that the protests are possible on Easter and May 9.

"SBU has got information that the actions intended to destabilize the situation in the country will take place in the capital of Ukraine, and in other Ukrainian cities. These are the protests paid by the former PM Azarov," – said Lubkivskyi.

http://mw.ua/UKRAINE/sbu-accuses-former-pm-azarov-of-financing-easter-protests-1679_.html

SBU opens case against Yanukovych and Constitutional Court's judges for usurpation of power, 09.04.2015

The SBU has registered criminal proceedings with charges against the former president Viktor Yanukovych, the judges of the Constitutional Court of Ukraine and a number of other major officials for the change of the constitutional order and usurpation of power.

This has been announced by the deputy chairman of the group working on a revision of the lustration law at the Ministry of Justice, Karl Volokh.

http://mw.ua/UKRAINE/sbu-opens-case-against-yanukovych-and-constitutional-court-s-judges-for-usurpation-of-power-1685_.html

Rada adopts law on status of fighters for independence of Ukraine, 09.04.2015

According to the law, the struggle for Ukrainian independence in the XX century was conducted from October 1917 to August 24, 1991, and the fighters for Ukraine's independence were recognized as belonging to numerous military, political and other organizations, including the Ukrainian Insurgent Army and the troops of the Ukrainian National Republic and Western Ukrainian National Republic.

The law stipulates that the state may provide social guarantees, benefits or other payments to fighters for Ukrainian independence in the 20th century. Local governments can, using funds from local budgets, provide them with additional social guarantees, benefits or other payments. The state should recognize state and military awards (insignia) and the military ranks of fighters for Ukrainian independence in the 20th century that were obtained by the participants of the fight against the authorities, organizations, agencies or units that are specified in the bill.

<http://www.unian.info/politics/1065653-rada-adopts-law-on-status-of-fighters-for-independence-of-ukraine.html>

Almost no electricity shipped to uncontrolled Donbas areas, gas supplies insignificant – energy minister, 10.04.2015

There is almost no electricity supply via the backbone power grids with a voltage of 110 kV and higher to the uncontrolled territory in eastern Ukraine, Ukrainian Energy and Coal Industry Minister Volodymyr Demchyshyn said in parliament on Friday.

"Most likely, electricity is shipped via the grids with a voltage of 110 [kV] and lower, as this is the way the power grids work. Small volumes flow there and come back to Ukrainian [controlled] territory," he said.

"We're now in a more or less balanced non-flow system," he said, referring to data of the Ukrainian power grids' operator, national energy company Ukrenergo.

When answering a question about gas shipments to uncontrolled territories in Donbas, Demchyshyn said they were insignificant.

<http://en.interfax.com.ua/news/economic/259942.html>

30,000 servicemen to get free land lots, 13.04.2015

The largest number of applications have been submitted by residents of Volyn oblast (3,443), Lviv oblast (3,171), Kyiv oblast 3,066). Only 55 servicemen wished to get free land in Odesa oblast and 56 in Kharkiv oblast.

The government has already distributed 10,000 hectares of land.

Under the law, Donbas servicemen are awarded free 10-acre land lots. How they will use the land – for construction or farming – is their own business, officials say.

http://zik.ua/en/news/2015/04/13/30000_servicemen_to_get_free_land_lots_580813

Poroshenko informed Merkel that militants violate Minsk agreements, 13.04.2015

Petro Poroshenko has informed Angela Merkel on the escalation of the situation in Donbas due to the unwillingness of militants to cease fire and fully withdraw heavy armament. The President has also emphasized the need for immediate liberation of all hostages.

Petro Poroshenko has called for the increase of the number of the OSCE observers and enhance their technical support for the verification of ceasefire and withdrawal violations.

The parties have agreed that it is necessary to establish all conditions for the delivery of humanitarian cargo to the residents of Donetsk and Luhansk regions provided by the ICRC.

<http://president.gov.ua/en/news/32671.html>

Poroshenko signs law on social protection of demobilized servicemen, 13.04.2015

The law is aimed at improving certain legislative provisions, in particular on vacation and social guarantees for workers who were drafted for military service.

The law stipulates that jobs and average monthly wages should be preserved for employees who were injured or suffered from other health issues during military service and are being treated at medical facilities, as well as for those captured or missing in action.

The law also provides additional social protection guarantees for military personnel who were drafted for military service during a special period, establishes the procedure on granting annual leave to these individuals, and creates the guarantee of a reprieve from the next wave of mobilization for six months, in case of partial mobilization.

<http://en.interfax.com.ua/news/general/260526.html>

Ukraine's foreign minister, German interior minister discuss visa regime liberalization in Berlin, 13.04.2015

"Minister Pavlo Klimkin and German Interior Minister Thomas de Maiziere have discussed the visa liberalization issue," Melnyk said on Twitter on Monday. He also posted a photo of the two ministers meeting.

According to earlier reports, Klimkin arrived in Berlin, where negotiations of the foreign ministers of the "Normandy four" countries will be held, on Monday.

<http://en.interfax.com.ua/news/general/260225.html>

SBU detained 11 terrorists in Kharkiv and seized lots of weapons and explosives – Lubkivskyi, 14.04.2015

The Security Service and Prosecutor General's Office of Ukraine detained a group of saboteurs consisting of 11 persons in Kharkiv April 12-13.

"Along with mopping up of criminals in Odesa, the Security Service of Ukraine was keeping peace in Kharkiv during the Easter holidays as well! Security Service Chairman Valentyn Nalyvaichenko reported to the President of Ukraine Petro Poroshenko that a large terrorist group of 11 (!) people, who were involved in terrorist acts in the Kharkiv region, was neutralized April 12-13 during a special operation of the SBU in conjunction with the Prosecutor's Office of the Kharkiv region," he wrote.

http://en.censor.net.ua/photo_news/332544/sbu_detained_11_terrorists_in_kharkiv_and_seized_lots_of_weapons_and_explosives_lubkivskyi_photosvideo

Poroshenko dismisses Ukraine's ambassador to U.S. Motsyk, 14.04.2015

Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko has dismissed Oleksandr Motsyk as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Ukraine to the United States, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Ukraine in Antigua and Barbuda, and Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Ukraine in the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago.

The corresponding decrees were posted on the website of the Ukrainian president on Tuesday.

<http://en.interfax.com.ua/news/general/260436.html>

Poroshenko to initiate amendments to migration law to ease Ukrainian citizenship rules for Russians persecuted in Russia, 15.04.2015

"The president has informed [the public] on the intention to initiate legislative amendments and simplify the procedure of admitting to citizenship and providing political asylum for persons persecuted in their homeland, particularly Russians," the presidential press service reported. Poroshenko apparently announced this while presenting a Ukrainian passport to journalist Kateryna Sergatskova who was born in Russia and has been living in Ukraine for many years. Sergatskova in turn said that Russians who want to assist Ukraine "should have an opportunity to do this at a legitimate level, [so they can in] live [and] develop Ukraine and themselves."

<http://en.interfax.com.ua/news/general/260684.html>

SBU freezes 26 accounts of ex-high ranking officials in Ukraine – Nalyvaichenko, 15.04.2015

"The SBU opened nine criminal proceedings on economic crimes by former high-ranking officials," he said while speaking at a meeting of the parliamentary committee on preventing and combating corruption.

As part of these criminal proceedings, the SBU blocked "26 bank accounts of former high-ranking officials in the territory of Ukraine."

"Some 645 interrogations and 121 searches were carried out," he said.

Nalyvaichenko said that this concerns bank accounts of former SBU head Oleksandr Yakymenko, former Defense Minister Pavlo Lebedev, and former Interior Minister Vitaliy Zakharchenko.

<http://en.interfax.com.ua/news/general/260725.html>

SBU detained terrorist scout in Donetsk region, 15.04.2015

SBU counterintelligence detained a scout of the terrorists during a raid, who collected military intelligence in the government controlled area of the Donetsk region.

The report notes: "23-year-old native of Horlivka nicknamed Zima (Winter) admitted that he underwent special training in the militant training center under the command of a foreign secret service officer nicknamed Adolf. In particular, he was taught to conduct artillery fire from 122-mm howitzers D-30 designed for shelling bunkers and fortified positions. The militant was gathering information on such objects in the Ukrainian territory."

"According to the mercenary, he received wages for participation in hostilities. Criminal proceedings under pt. 2, Art. 260 of the Criminal Code of Ukraine have been initiated in his regard. The investigation is ongoing," the SBU reported.

http://en.censor.net.ua/news/332628/sbu_detained_terrorist_scout_in_donetsk_region

SBU head accuses ex-PM Azarov of orchestrating protests in Kyiv, 15.04.2015

Former Ukrainian Prime Minister Mykola Azarov continues to transfer money to Ukraine to fund staged protests with the aim of creating propaganda for Russian media outlets, Security Service of Ukraine (SBU) head Valentyn Nalyvaichenko has said.

"We are worried that, even staying in Russia, in Moscow, for instance, the former prime minister continues to transfer money through couriers and accomplices to orchestrate so-called mass actions in Kyiv," Nalyvaichenko said at a meeting of the parliamentary anti-corruption committee on Wednesday.

<http://en.interfax.com.ua/news/general/260554.html>

President requires prompt and transparent investigation of resonant murders, 16.04.2015

Acting Minister of the Interior Vasyl Paskal has reported to the President on the circumstances of murders of Oleh Kalashnykov and Oles Buzyna.

The Head of State has emphasized the need for prompt and transparent investigation of those murders. "It is evident that these crimes have the same origin. Their nature and political sense are clear. It is a deliberate provocation that plays in favor of our enemies. It is aimed at destabilizing the internal political situation in Ukraine and discrediting the political choice of the Ukrainian people," the Head of State said.

Petro Poroshenko has also noted that solving these resonant crimes was a matter of honor for the law enforcement bodies. "I demand the law enforcement bodies to find the executors and organizers of these murders in no time. Given the resonance of crimes, law enforcers should regularly inform the society on the results of their investigation," the Ukrainian President emphasized.

<http://www.president.gov.ua/en/news/32685.html>

Ukrainian Judges Dismissed Over Corruption Allegations, 17.04.2015

Five of the judges were dismissed because of suspicions of corruption, and one was accused of illegally incarcerating peaceful demonstrators during protests that chased President Viktor Yanukovich from power in February 2014.

The Ukrainian Prosecutor-General's Office said on April 17 that the decision had been made on April 15.

The judges -- from the regions of Cherkasy, Zhytomyr, Kyiv, and Vinnytsya, and the capital, Kyiv -- were dismissed based on requests from Prosecutor-General Viktor Shokin, who is also seeking to prosecute them for alleged corruption.

<http://www.rferl.org/content/ukraine-judges-fired-for-corruption/26963140.html>

Poroshenko initiates Ukrainian World Congress meeting, 17.04.2015

"Yesterday, the president confirmed his desire and intention to back the organizing of a Ukrainian World Congress meeting after a long period," he said at a briefing in Kyiv on Friday.

Chaly said that cooperation with the Ukrainian diaspora, as well as the opportunities afforded by cultural diplomacy, has not reached its full potential.

<http://en.interfax.com.ua/news/general/261169.html>

Klimkin rules out amnesty for militants who fired on Mariupol and shot down Boeing, 17.04.2015

"Can we grant an amnesty to those who shot down the Malaysian plane? [Those] who organized the attacks on Mariupol? Of course, not!" Klimkin said.

The minister also excluded the appointment of militants for leadership positions after the elections in the Donetsk and Luhansk regions that are to be held according to the Minsk peace agreements on the Donbas.

Klimkin also said that Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov had recognized that "bandits" such as the Russian mercenary Arseny Pavlov (known by the nom de guerre Motorola) did not represent the people of the Donbas.

<http://www.unian.info/politics/1067242-klimkin-rules-out-amnesty-for-militants-who-fired-on-mariupol-and-shot-down-boeing.html>

American troops arrive in Ukraine to train country's military, 17.04.2015

American servicemen have arrived in Ukraine for training Ukrainian military forces, that information was posted on the twitter account of the US Army Garrison Bavaria. "173rd Airborne Brigade troops from Grafenwoehr arrive in Ukraine for Fearless Guardian rotation," Garrison officials said.

US Ambassador to Ukraine Geoffrey Pyatt has confirmed the arrival of US forces. Ukrainian Interior Minister Arsen Avakov said on March 29 that US servicemen would take part in military drills in Yavorivskiy region near the city of Lviv.

<http://uatoday.tv/news/american-troops-arrive-in-ukraine-to-train-country-s-military-421929.html>

Ukraine's military prosecutor: over 2,500 soldiers charged with unauthorized absence, 17.04.2015

What is more, prosecutors are now investigating 948 criminal proceedings against 8,652 soldiers charged with abandonment of a post, another 107 cases have been opened to investigate other types of military service evasion.

In 2014 the number of criminal cases related to military crimes grew by 4.5 times, to 6,159.

According to him, the growth of the military crime rate has accelerated since the launch of the anti-terrorist operation (ATO) mainly due to offenses related to evasions of military service.

Since the beginning of the current year, 7,560 actions have been brought against over 8,000 soldiers, Matios said.

<http://www.unian.info/war/1068626-ukraines-military-prosecutor-over-2500-soldiers-charged-with-unauthorized-absence.html>

Ukraine announces conditions for demilitarization of Shyrokyne in Donbas, 17.04.2015

"Representatives of the Ukrainian side of the Joint Center for Control and Coordination (JCCC) of the ceasefire and stabilization of the situation along the line of contact in Donbas have carried out a scheduled working visit to the village of Shyrokyne in Donetsk region. Its objective was to identify additional measures to ensure a complete ceasefire on problem stretches of the line of contact in Shyrokyne and surrounding areas," the ministry said on its website.

"The JCCC's Ukrainian team has presented key provisions of the Shyrokyne demilitarization proposals to Deputy Chief Monitor of the OSCE SMM to Ukraine Alexander Hug during the tripartite working meeting. The Ukrainian side said it was ready to ensure the demilitarization of the area on condition of a complete ceasefire for a defined period of time. Among other things, it will let [the JCCC] deploy a permanent observation point," the statement said.

<http://www.unian.info/war/1068597-ukraine-announces-conditions-for-demilitarization-of-shyrokyne-in-donbas.html>

Sytnyk appointed Ukraine's first anti-corruption bureau chief, 17.04.2015

Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko on April 16 appointed ex-prosecutorial investigator Artem Sytnyk as head of a newly established and much-hyped Anti-Corruption Bureau, established to crack down on the endemic, historic and widespread corruption in the nation.

"The front line of fighting against corruption isn't less important than the front line that Ukrainian heroes are holding in Ukraine's east," Poroshenko said during a ceremony where he introduced the 35-year-old as Ukraine's first chief of the Anti-Corruption Bureau.

<http://www.kyivpost.com/content/kyiv-post-plus/sytnyk-appointed-ukraines-first-anti-corruption-bureau-chief-386416.html>

Ivano-Frankivsk Regional Council bans activities of Communist Party, Regions Party, Opposition Bloc, Ukraine Development Party, 17.04.2015

"To ban in the territory of Ivano-Frankivsk region the activities of the Communist Party of Ukraine, the Party of Regions, the Opposition Bloc, and the Ukraine Development Party, which contradict the interests and violates the rights and freedoms of the citizens of Ukraine," reads the resolution which was adopted by Ivano-Frankivsk Regional Council on Friday.

The council also decided to apply to the Department of Justice in the region to demand that the registration of the local branches of these parties be revoked by the next session.

<http://en.interfax.com.ua/news/general/261093.html>

Yanukovych associate Klyuev no longer suspected of involvement in Maidan shootings, 18.04.2015

As the Prosecutor General's Office said, Klyuev on February 26, 2014, was informed about suspicion of committing crimes under Part 3 of Article 365, Part 3 of Article 27 and Clauses 1, 5, 12 of Part 2 of Article 115 of the Criminal Code of Ukraine. Under Article 115, Klyuev was charged with organizing mass killings committed by a group of persons by previous concert. The maximum punishment under the abovementioned articles is life imprisonment.

"In connection with the fact that the pre-trial investigation did not reveal proof of Klyuev's involvement in mass killings of protesters in the center of Kyiv in February-January 2014, accusations of Klyuev were changed on May 23, 2014, to suspicion of committing a crime under Part 3 of Article 27 and Article 340 of the Criminal Code of Ukraine on the fact of impeding meetings and rallies on Kyiv's Maidan Nezalezhnosti (Independence Square) on November 30, 2013," the prosecutors said.

<http://www.unian.info/politics/1068773-yanukovych-associate-klyuev-no-longer-suspected-of-involvement-in-maidan-shootings.html>

<http://en.interfax.com.ua/news/general/261365.html>

Poroshenko's envoy to Cabinet: Anti-Corruption Bureau to start work only in 6 months, 19.04.2015

Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko's representative in the Cabinet of Ministers Oleksandr Danyliuk says that hiring and training of Anti-Corruption Bureau's personnel will take time.

"We should be frank: the bureau will start work only in six months. Because we should select all the employees as thoroughly as we did when headhunting its director, as much will depend on each person there. It's good that we get donors' assistance in this process, and it's not only money. The main thing is expertise of both American and European colleagues. This is their priority. [This includes] the recruitment of personnel, the training of those selected. Important IT systems are being installed," Danyliuk said.

<http://www.unian.info/politics/1068932-poroshenkos-envoy-to-cabinet-anti-corruption-bureau-to-start-work-only-in-6-months.html>

Preparations for fifth wave of mobilization commence in Ukraine - General Staff, 20.04.2015

With the fourth wave of mobilization coming to an end, Ukraine began preparations for the fifth one, the head of the General Staff of Ukrainian armed forces Viktor Muzhenko said.

He noted that 50,000 troops were mobilized according to the plan during the fourth wave of mobilization. "We have almost finished the fourth line of mobilization. And with the indicators that were planned," Muzhenko said.

The work on the fifth wave draft has already begun.

http://en.censor.net.ua/news/333324/preparations_for_fifth_wave_of_mobilization_commence_in_ukraine_general_staff

SSU Detains "Vostok" Militant Preparing a Terrorist Attack in Dnipropetrovsk, 20.04.2015

In Dnipropetrovsk SSU counterintelligence detained a member of "Vostok" illegal armed formation, who was collecting intelligence data on strategic targets preparing acts of terrorism and sabotage, reports SSU press center.

According to intelligence agencies, a resident of Dnipropetrovsk, born in 1977, since the spring of last year was a spy and sapper in "Vostok" illegal armed formation of so-called "DNR" terrorist organization. For a while the detainee was involved in sabotage as part of a terrorist group "Mech" headed by Bezler.

In addition, he was preparing new sabotage groups as an instructor of mine and subversion.

"The detainee came to Dnipropetrovsk to perform another task, namely – to plan and prepare acts of terrorism and sabotage to destabilize the situation in the region. He was supposed to collect information about the construction of engineering lines of defense and defense equipment, as well as information on the security of bridges, overpasses and other strategic infrastructure – reads SSU statement.

<http://ukraineunderattack.org/en/ssu-detains-vostok-militant-preparing-a-terrorist-attack-in-dnipropetrovsk.html>

Foreign Minister of Ukraine Pavlo Klimkin met with EU Commissioner for ENP and enlargement negotiations Johannes Hahn, 21.04.2015

In the framework of the visit to Luxembourg to attend Eastern Partnership ministerial meeting Foreign Minister of Ukraine Pavlo Klimkin met with EU Commissioner for ENP and enlargement negotiations Johannes Hahn.

The parties discussed the practical aspects of preparation for the Riga Eastern Partnership Summit, as well as Ukraine - EU Summit and the International Support for Ukraine Conference. Minister Klimkin informed his interlocutor about Ukraine's progress in implementing systemic reforms within the framework of the Association Agreement. Commissioner Hahn confirmed his participation in the International Support for Ukraine Conference in Kyiv on April 28.

http://www.kmu.gov.ua/control/publish/article?art_id=248106224×tamp=1429605194000

<http://www.unian.info/politics/1069700-klimkin-calls-on-eu-to-establish-mission-in-support-of-minsk-agreements.html>

Three ex-Berkut police officers arrested in Kharkiv, suspected of shooting Maidan activists – PGO, 21.04.2015

"Today, the PGO and the SBU carried out a joint special operation. Three Berkut police officers have been detained. Two of them led different units of Berkut," Prosecutor General of Ukraine Viktor Shokin said in Kyiv on Tuesday. He added that these force officers are suspected of shooting Maidan activists during a rally in Kyiv on February 18, 2014.

Shokin added that all three of the detained held senior posts within Kharkiv police.

<http://en.interfax.com.ua/news/general/261637.html>

Yatseniuk asks ministries to appeal to UN for aid to set up humanitarian mine clearance service, 21.04.2015

"I'm asking the Interior Ministry together with the Foreign Ministry to appeal to the UN and other international organizations for financial and technical support to set up a service on humanitarian mine clearance. This is also a common responsibility of our partners to help Ukraine to overcome this humanitarian catastrophe that menaces people's lives," he said during a meeting of the State Commission for Emergency Situations in Kyiv on Tuesday.

According to State Service for Emergency Situations chief Zorian Shkiriak 34,500 explosives and over 580 especially dangerous explosive devices and ammunition "purposefully placed by the terrorists to kill civilians, children as well" have been cleared and destroyed in Donbas since summer 2014.

According to the service, over 75,000 ammunition and explosive devices currently await clearance and neutralization.

<http://en.interfax.com.ua/news/general/261663.html>

Ukraine's prosecutors have 22 suspects concerning May 2 events in Odesa, 22.04.2015

Ukrainian prosecutors have 22 suspects for the events that occurred in Odesa on May 2, 2014 and another 13 suspected masterminds and participants in the events are wanted by police, Volodymyr Huzyr, first deputy prosecutor general of Ukraine, said.

"Two indictments have been approved for 22 people, of which 11 are currently in custody.

Another 13 organizers and participants in the mass riots are wanted by police," he said.

<http://en.interfax.com.ua/news/general/261898.html>

Government of Ukraine signed with OECD roadmap for cooperation to ensure implementation of reforms in the country, 22.04.2015

On Wednesday, April 22, the OECD headquarters in Paris became the venue for signing a Plan to implement the Memorandum of understanding on strengthening cooperation between the Government of Ukraine and the OECD.

The Government announces that the inked document is a roadmap for a two-year collaboration between the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine and the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD).

http://www.kmu.gov.ua/control/publish/article?art_id=248112637×tamp=1429712954000

Shokin's request to lift immunity of seven MPs might cause a stir in the Rada – Butusov, 22.04.2015

Prosecutor General Viktor Shokin introduced request to the Rada to lift deputy immunity of seven MPs at a time.

This was announced by Yuri Butusov: "There will be a battle in the parliament today. Prosecutor General Shokin prepared several requests for parliamentary consideration on removal of parliamentary immunity of seven deputies at a time. Andrii Denysenko, Viacheslav Konstantynovskiy, Andrii Lozovyi, Ihor Mosiichuk, Serhii Melnychuk. Those are from the parliamentary coalition. Plus Papiiev and Kliuiev of the opposition bloc," he wrote.

"This will be a real test for the coalition's durability. The fate of the government and the authorities' efficiency in general depend on the outcome of the debate in the parliament. I'd like to hear what the deputies are charged with. An important precedent is being created. And today, the coalition will be strictly and clearly divided. Divided to those who do believe that the will of the General Prosecution (which is obviously being the president's will) is the law, and those who do not. It will be a very showing watershed," Butusov noted.

http://en.censor.net.ua/news/333581/shokins_request_to_lift_immunity_of_seven_mps_might_cause_a_stir_in_the_rada_butusov_list

Muzhenko avoids conversation about losing Debaltseve bridgehead. MPs will visit the chief of the General Staff themselves – Tymchuk, 23.04.2015

MPs, members of the parliamentary committee on Debaltseve events intend to go to the armed forces General Staff Head Viktor Muzhenko to clarify the circumstances that led to the loss of Debaltseve bridgehead since the latter has been evading the meeting in every possible way.

"As for the final report of the working group, the following problem arose. The study of the circumstances under which the Debaltseve bridgehead was lost raises many questions personally to the head of the General Staff of the armed forces of Ukraine. Without answers, we cannot complete the report (in my version of the report I provide the reasons, but not the arguments of the General Staff regarding certain actions, or rather inaction and these arguments must be provided by the chief of the General Staff).

"However, since February the committee has been adopting a decision to invite the chief of the General Staff for a conversation at each meeting. And every time the chief of the General Staff simply ignores our persistent invitations without explanation," Tymchuk wrote.

http://en.censor.net.ua/news/333738/muzhenko_avoids_conversation_about_losing_debaltseve_bridgehead_mps_will_visit_the_chief_of_the_general

Debaltseve mayor to be tried for separatism and abetting terrorists – Prosecutor's Office, 23.04.2015

Kyiv Prosecutor's Office filed an indictment against mayor of Debaltseve Volodymyr Protsenko, who is suspected of violation of territorial integrity of Ukraine.

According to the statement, the pre-trial investigation established that when presiding at an extraordinary session of the Debaltseve City Council, Protsenko put the matter of allocating facilities for the so-called referendum on the independence of the self-proclaimed "Donetsk People's Republic" to vote.

"Realizing his criminal intent, he spoke at a meeting of the session calling to change the boundaries of the territory and the state border of Ukraine. His actions are qualified under pt. 2 Art. 110 of the Criminal Code (violation of territorial integrity and inviolability of Ukraine). The suspect is currently in custody," the Prosecutor's Office stated.

http://en.censor.net.ua/news/333762/debaltseve_mayor_to_be_tried_for_separatism_and_abetting_terrorists_prosecutors_office

France will supply helicopters and tactical radio communication devices to Ukraine – Ukroboronprom, 23.04.2015

Ukroboronprom State Concern signed new agreements with world's leading arms manufacturing companies from France. According to the company, strategic agreements in the field of military and technical cooperation between the two countries were reached during the working visit of President of Ukraine Petro Poroshenko to France.

http://en.censor.net.ua/news/333728/france_will_supply_helicopters_and_tactical_radio_communication_devices_to_ukraine_ukroboronprom

SSU Detains Three More “Oplot” Fighters Implied In Terrorist Attacks In Kharkiv, 23.04.2015

In Kharkiv the Security Service of Ukraine arrested three more members of the criminal terrorist organization “Oplot” involved in the shelling of the regional military office and an explosion at the sites of railway infrastructure, reports SSU press center.

As noted, the detainees were members of a subversive group revealed earlier this month, coordinated from Russia by Zhilin. Then during the special operation on cleaning the region of saboteurs and terrorists the SSU arrested eleven “Oplot” fighters.

“A resident of Kharkiv, born in 1975, is suspected of sabotage on the railway: an explosion at the station Zelenyi Kolodiaz of Chuhuiv district in February and an explosion under a moving passenger train near the city Chuhuiv in March, and activating an explosive device under the cargo train en route “Osnova-Shebelynka” in April, “- informed the SSU press center.

<http://ukraineunderattack.org/en/ssu-detains-three-more-oplot-fighters-implied-in-terrorist-attacks-in-kharkiv.html>

Six Russian Citizens Convicted For Terrorism and Spying – Lubkivskyy, 23.04.2015

Security Service of Ukraine informs that as of time being Ukrainian courts have convicted six Russian citizens to prison, reported adviser head of the SSU Markiiian Lubkivskyy during the press conference today in Kiev, according to him, two of them convicted for espionage.

12 incriminating acts against the Russians were sent to the courts, said Lubkivskyy.

In addition, he said, the Security Service has collected evidence of 47 Russian citizens’ participation in “DNR” and “LNR” terrorist organizations.

According to Lubkivskyy, the Secret Service is investigating 2, 863 cases on the attacks, the creation and support of terrorist organizations and terrorist financing.

<http://ukraineunderattack.org/en/six-russian-citizens-convicted-for-terrorism-and-spying-lubkivskyy.html>

Poroshenko approves list of positions in military-civil administrations that are to be substituted by soldiers and law enforcers, 24.04.2015

Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko has approved the list of the position in military-civil administrations of Donetsk and Luhansk regions that are to be substituted by soldiers and law enforcers. The corresponding decree dated April 23 was posted on the president's website. It also includes the list of such positions.

The decree becomes effective immediately and expires together with the law of Ukraine on military-civil administrations.

<http://en.interfax.com.ua/news/general/262467.html>

SBU investigates participation of demonstrators-for-hire in “miners’ strikes”, 24.04.2015

“The Security Service was closely monitoring the situation around the miners' protests in Kyiv. The perpetrators' attempts to turn these rallies into the lever of pressure on the government with its subsequent destabilization and seizure were documented,” the statement reads. “In particular, it was recorded that they financed and facilitated the arrival of instigators and other miscreants in the capital as well as their participation in rallies,” the SBU added.

http://en.censor.net.ua/news/334013/sbu_investigates_participation_of_demonstratorsforhire_in_miners_strikes

Public events banned during May holidays in Kharkiv, 24.04.2015

“The issue of public order during the May holidays was discussed this week at a video conference led by the prime minister, with the participation of the regions,” Avakov told MPs.

“One of the tasks for the leadership of local authorities is to study the social and security situation and, if necessary, in a case of a real threat - to apply to the court for the restriction or prohibition of related activities,” he said.

Ukraine will mark a series of holidays from May 1-9, culminating in the traditional May 9 celebration of Victory Day, commemorating victory over Nazi Germany in 1945.

Both Kharkiv and Odesa have been targeted by a series of mysterious explosions in recent months, most of which have damaged property but caused no deaths or injuries.

<http://www.unian.info/society/1071150-public-events-banned-during-may-holidays-in-kharkiv.html>

Ukraine Interior Ministry fears upcoming holidays may be used to fan political confrontation, 24.04.2015

More than 42,000 Ukrainian police officers will maintain public order during May 1-2 and May 9 festivities, which are expected to draw over one million people, Ukraine's Interior Minister Arsen Avakov has said. "Probably, the upcoming holidays will actively be used to fan political confrontation and may entail unpredictable consequences, bearing in mind the number of people who will take part in these celebrations," he said.

Up to 1.2 million citizens may attend the May 1-2 festivities in the country, as well as World War II commemorations on May 9, Avakov said. The biggest turnout is expected at celebrations in Kyiv, Dnipropetrovsk, Odesa, Kharkiv, Mykolaiv, Cherkasy and Kirovohrad, he added. "We will also give special attention to Lviv, Ternopil and Rivne," the minister said.

<http://en.interfax.com.ua/news/general/262501.html>

Pro-Russian forces will try to destabilize situation in Odesa on May 2 – SBU, 24.04.2015

This was stated by Chief of the Security Service Investigation Department Vasyl Vovk.

"More effort will have to be made to maintain the situation in the region on the eve of the anniversary of the events that occurred on May 2 last year in Odesa. We understand that pro-Russian forces want to use this anniversary to destabilize the situation in the city with a single goal - to create another "republic." We assure you and let everyone hear it - they will not succeed!" Vovk said.

He noted that the SBU has developed an action plan to ensure the safety, especially on the eve of and on May 2 itself.

http://en.censor.net.ua/news/333919/prorussian_forces_will_try_to_destabilize_situation_in_odesa_on_may_2_sbu

Ukraine proposes sending EU mission to Donbas, 25.04.2015

Ukraine is in talks with the European Union countries over the possibility of the EU sending a mission to Donbas, Ukrainian Ambassador to the EU Kostiantyn Yeliseyev said.

"We have suggested that the EU should send an assessment mission to Donbas in the very near future, which would arrive and see what should be done and how. This is a necessary component for discussing, planning and taking a relevant decision," the ambassador said.

A consensus among all EU members is enough for such a mission to be sent, he said. This is why all efforts of the Ukrainian diplomacy are now focused on making sure such a consensus is achieved. "We delivered our proposals which describe clearly 15 possible tasks the future EU mission could be fulfilling.

<http://en.interfax.com.ua/news/general/262640.html>

Petro Poroshenko, Donald Tusk and Jean-Claude Juncker take part in Ukraine - EU Summit in Kyiv, 27.04.2015

The President is currently at the meeting in "vis-à-vis" format with President of the European Council Donald Tusk and President of the European Commission Jean-Claude Juncker.

It is the first summit between Ukraine and the EU after the events on Maidan. It is dedicated to the implementation of the Association Agreement, as well as political and economic reforms in Ukraine, including the issue of financial and other assistance from the EU.

<http://www.president.gov.ua/en/news/32758.html>

PGO creates register of crimes committed during Euromaidan events – Shokin, 29.04.2015

Prosecutor General's Office established docket of crimes carried out against the Euromaidan activists during the Revolution of Dignity. Prosecutor General Victor Shokin said at a briefing. The docket contains information about all crimes committed during the events on Euromaidan, which are investigated by various law enforcement agencies. Shokin noted that the creation of the register was a challenge. He said that the docket will be constantly updated with the new information.

http://en.censor.net.ua/news/334553/pgo_creates_register_of_crimes_committed_during_euromaidan_events_shokin

20 Odesa separatists who were preparing Bessarabia proclamation by order of Russian curators were detained – SBU, 30.04.2015

"A special operation was carried out April 29 ... A group of individuals has been revealed and localized, which group had a clear organizational structure, acted in the Odesa region, and coordinated its activities with the Russian Federation. Almost 20 people were detained, 17 raids conducted ... It was found that the ultimate goal of those persons had been to proclaim an entity titled "Bessarabia," Lubkivskyi said at a briefing in Kyiv on Thursday.

http://en.censor.net.ua/video_news/334766/20_odesa_separatists_who_were_preparing_bessarabia_proclamation_by_order_of_russian_curators_were_detained

Terrorism / Separatism

Four Ukrainian soldiers wounded in Donbas conflict zone in last day, 01.04.2015

"Over the last day, we haven't lost any Ukrainian soldiers, but four were injured as a result of military clashes," ATO spokesman Lysenko said.

<http://www.unian.info/war/1062480-four-ukrainian-soldiers-wounded-in-donbas-conflict-zone-in-last-day.html>

General Staff: Most difficult situation near Avdiivka and Mariupol, 01.04.2015

"The most troubled situation remains near Avdiivka. Yesterday, the militants attacked using armored vehicles, rocket artillery, and 120mm mortars on the positions of the Ukrainian armed forces," ATO spokesman Lysenko said.

"The most violent clashes took place in the village of Shyrokyne. The fighting lasted many hours there yesterday. The militants tried to assault our fortified positions, using tanks and 120mm mortars that should have already been withdrawn from the demarcation line according to the Minsk agreements," Lysenko said.

<http://www.unian.info/war/1062461-general-staff-most-difficult-situation-near-avdiivka-and-mariupol.html>

Kharkiv in danger on new terrorism threat map, 01.04.2015

The situation in Kharkiv is of particular concern to the group's analysts, Tymchuk said.

"This is due to the fact that the region is in a state of heightened danger and could become a testing ground for Moscow's model of non-military destabilization, which will cause a chain reaction throughout the eastern and southern Ukraine," the group said in a statement.

With the destabilization of Kharkiv region, Russia may want to "undermine" a significant part of Ukraine.

<http://www.unian.info/society/1062430-kharkiv-in-danger-on-new-terrorism-threat-map.html>

http://mw.ua/UKRAINE/analysts-publish-map-of-terrorist-threats-in-ukraine-1612_.html

Tymchuk: Militants sharply increase number of attacks on Ukrainian army in last day, 01.04.2015

According to Tymchuk, the militants fired artillery and 120mm mortars, and tried to attack the Ukrainian units, including using armored vehicles. A sharp growth of militant activity has been recorded in the Luhansk, Donetsk and in coastal areas.

The militants were the most active near Avdiivka. Before noon on March 31 a group of militant tanks fired on the positions of the Ukrainian army from a previously prepared firing position. After firing, the tanks were withdrawn. After that, the militants fired 122mm cannon artillery twice - weapons that should have already been withdrawn from the demarcation line according to the Minsk agreements.

Also, a formation of the Russian-backed militants fired 120-mm mortars twice on the positions of Ukrainian troops near the village of Opytne. At the same time, the Ukrainian army near the village of Pisky faced a militant armored force, including three infantry fighting vehicles, which fired 30-mm automatic guns on the positions of the Ukrainian army.

<http://www.unian.info/war/1062323-tymchuk-militants-sharply-increase-number-of-attacks-on-ukrainian-army-in-last-day.html>

OSCE monitors report about shelling of Ukrainian-controlled Avdiivka from separatists' territory, 01.04.2015

"In government-controlled Avdiivka (14km north-north-west of Donetsk), the SMM heard the sound of 17 out-going 125mm tank rounds from 'DPR'-controlled Spartak, seven kilometres to the south-south-east," the update reads.

The SMM also reported that when positioned 3.5 kilometres west of 'DPR'-controlled Shyrokyne (16km east of Mariupol), the SMM heard what it assessed to be 15 mortar rounds impacting in Shyrokyne. At another location 4.5 kilometres north-west of Shyrokyne, the SMM heard in the space of five minutes the sound of what it assessed to have been approximately 22 medium and high calibre rounds impacting in the village.

"Later, over an hour, the SMM heard approximately 70 outgoing 82mm and 120mm mortar shells, fired from locations east, south and south-east of its position, and impacting in and around Shyrokyne village. From the same position, the SMM subsequently heard more shelling, possibly coming from 128mm multiple rocket launchers. Persistent 12.7mm machine-gun fire and some tank fire, and sporadic small-arms fire were audible throughout the day," the SMM said.

<http://www.unian.info/war/1062577-osce-monitors-report-about-shelling-of-ukrainian-controlled-avdiivka-from-separatists-territory.html>

20 trucks with industrial equipment from Donetsk left for Russia on March 30, 01.04.2015

Russian-backed militants on March 30 sent 20 semi-trailer trucks with industrial equipment from Donetsk factories and plant to Russia.

Deputy Commander of the Anti-Terrorist Operation in Donetsk and Luhansk regions Colonel Valentyn Fedychuk wrote this on the Twitter page of Donetsk Regional State Administration. He also informed that "Russia has been forcing militants into peace: fuel supplies to the Donetsk People's Republic and the Luhansk People's Republic have considerably decreased."

<http://www.unian.info/war/1062642-20-trucks-with-industrial-equipment-from-donetsk-left-for-russia-on-march-30.html>

Ukrainian army successfully repels militants' attack in Luhansk region, 01.04.2015

A skirmish took place not far from the village of Zolote in Popasna district, Luhansk region on April 1, the ATO press center wrote on Facebook.

"From 1340 to 1400 Kyiv time [on April 1] there was a skirmish near the village of Zolote in Luhansk region during which the enemy was using mortars and grenade launchers. Our soldiers' successful actions made the enemy pull back. We've seen once again today that Ukrainian soldiers, while resisting provocations, demonstrate firmness and endurance, as our priorities are peace and stability in Donbas," the posting reads.

<http://www.unian.info/war/1062609-ukrainian-army-successfully-repeals-militants-attack-in-luhansk-region.html>

U.S. embassy delegation visits Luhansk region, 01.04.2015

The diplomats visited Novotoshkovka with the regions' governor, Hennadiy Moskal.

The village is located near the 29th checkpoint (the endpoint of the territory controlled by Ukraine). A large part of the village has been destroyed by artillery and Grad rocket launcher strikes. The majority of the inhabitants have fled.

Moskal and the U.S. embassy delegation examined the places that had been shelled, talked to locals, and handed out humanitarian aid.

<http://en.interfax.com.ua/news/general/258215.html>

Militants fire heavy artillery at Ukrainian forces ten times overnight, 02.04.2015

"The militants continue to violate the Minsk agreements and fire weapons that should have already been withdrawn from the demarcation line," the headquarters' report reads.

On April 1, from 1800 to midnight the militants violated the ceasefire ten times.

In general, the armed provocations using small arms and rocket-propelled grenades were observed in the area of Donetsk.

"The militants fired on the villages of Opytne and Krasnohorivka. In addition, from 2030 to 2050 they fired 122mm artillery on Avdiivka, and at 2230 they fired 120mm mortars on it," report says.

<http://www.unian.info/war/1062750-militants-fire-heavy-artillery-at-ukrainian-forces-ten-times-overnight.html>

Another Russian 'aid convoy' reaches border with Ukraine, 02.04.2015

"The first column of trucks arrived at the Donetsk border crossing point, while the second arrived at the Matveev-Kurgan border crossing point, where the customs clearance of vehicles was beginning in accordance with established procedure," the report says.

According to the report, the representatives of the OSCE mission are observing the customs clearance at the Donetsk border crossing point.

"After all the border procedures the columns will continue their route: one part will go towards Donetsk, while the second column of trucks will go to Luhansk," the report reads.

<http://www.unian.info/politics/1062741-another-russian-aid-convoy-reaches-border-with-ukraine.html>

OSCE monitors come under fire near Donetsk airport, 02.04.2015

Kiev forces shelled a village near the embattled Donetsk airport in eastern Ukraine on Thursday during the visit of the monitors of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) there, the Donetsk People's Republic's Defense Ministry spokesman has said.

"Spartak [village] came under fire when the OSCE monitors were there. As a result of the shelling, one militia member was wounded," spokesman Eduard Basurin was quoted by the Donetsk news agency as saying.

Over the past 24 hours the shellings from the Ukrainian positions have been also registered in Gorlovka and the Veseloye village, he added.

<http://tass.ru/en/world/786697>

Militants' provocations continue along line of contact, no Ukrainian casualties – ATO spokesman, 02.04.2015

"Over the past 24 hours of hostilities, all Ukrainian soldiers have remained safe and sound," Lysenko said at a briefing in Kyiv on Thursday.

The fiercest fighting took place in the town of Adviyivka on Wednesday, where militant used tanks and artillery against Ukrainian soldiers, Lysenko said.

"In total, the sector of our defense in the area of Donetsk airport accounts for more than a half of the ceasefire violations by militants," he said.

Militants shelled Ukrainian positions 10 times over the past 24 hours Lysenko said.

"The situation is that the number of provocations is on the decline, but they still occur. Our soldiers know all the directions, all the possible approaches used by the enemy, and are waiting [for them] there," he added.

<http://en.interfax.com.ua/news/general/258461.html>

300 Russian soldiers arrived to Donetsk from Ulan-Ude - ATO headquarters, 02.04.2015

As reported by Censor.NET citing Donetsk city website 62.ua, this was announced by deputy commander of the ATO, Colonel Valentyn Fedychev.

According to the Russian military, they had been officially released from the Russian army for the period of "tour of duty" in the Eastern Ukraine. They will be reinstated in Russian army after the tour of duty ends by signing a new agreement.

http://en.censor.net.ua/news/331046/300_russian_soldiers_arrived_to_donetsk_from_ulanude_ato_headquarters

OSCE reports about humanitarian disaster in Donbas, 03.04.2015

The humanitarian disaster is unfolding in eastern Ukraine, announced the speaker of the OSCE's Special Monitoring Mission in Ukraine (SMM), Michael Bociurkiw.

Talking on results of SMM's visit to Donetsk oblast' at a briefing in Kiev, the SMM's speaker said that infrastructure of many villages and towns is destroyed; hospitals and schools do not work.

"I want to draw your attention to the issue of humanitarian catastrophe that is unfolding in front of our eyes in eastern Ukraine. Our observers visited (eastern regions) and mentioned the deteriorating conditions in many parts of Donetsk and Lugansk oblast' in their reports. Many villages have destroyed hospitals, there is no medical service. Many children left in the region are simply shocked, they have nowhere to play, learn; people do not have access to social assistance," – announced Michael Bociurkiw.

http://mw.ua/UKRAINE/osce-reports-about-humanitarian-disaster-in-donbas-1640_.html

OSCE recommends troop withdrawal from demarcation line in Donbas, 03.04.2015

"It is important that the parties, who have already begun to withdraw heavy weapons, start to remove their troops from the front line," , " Deputy Chief Monitor of the OSCE Special Monitoring Mission (SMM) to Ukraine Alexander Hug said.

"If there are only a few soldiers, equipment, tanks and other weapons here, people will have chances to return to normal life, and IDPs will be able to return to their homes."

According to the mission daily reports, there are still tanks stationed along the demarcation line.

<http://www.unian.info/war/1063338-osce-recommends-troop-withdrawal-from-demarcation-line-in-donbas.html>

OSCE SMM monitors visit Donetsk airport for first time ever, 03.04.2015

Members of the OSCE Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine (OSCE SMM) have finally managed to visit the Donetsk airport, the site of months-long fierce hostilities between the Ukrainian army and militants, mission spokesman Michael Bociurkiw said.

He told a press briefing in Kyiv on Friday they had had their first chance to examine the parking area in front of the airport and the third and fourth floors of the terminal.

The officer added that many monitors visited conflict zones before and seen extensive damage but they were amazed at the scale of airport destruction and large quantities of spent munitions. The mission realizes how difficult it will be to demine the area, Bociurkiw said.

There are still bodies on the premises of Donetsk airport and the large number of spent munitions makes their extraction challenging, he noted. The monitors saw at least one body lying in front of the terminal. The officer added that the bodies had been affected by the weather.

<http://en.interfax.com.ua/news/general/258767.html>

Militants planning to blow up busses, shell churches on Easter – ATO command, 03.04.2015

In order to carry out full-scale provocations and blame the anti-terrorist operation forces for killing civilians in Donbas, militants of the so-called Donetsk and Luhansk People's Republics (LPR and DPR) are mining public transport and planning to shell Easter prayers and marches, Deputy Commander of the ATO Valentyn Fedychev has said.

"We found out that DPR and LPR militants were preparing a full-scale bloody provocation," press service of Donetsk Regional Military-Civil Administration quoted Fedychev.

According to him, militants have planned to mine busses that will go from the occupied areas of Donetsk to Mariupol and Berdiansk, and blame ATO forces for killing passengers.

He also said that provocations might happen near churches during the celebration of Easter.

<http://en.interfax.com.ua/news/general/258638.html>

Russian-backed militants again shell Ukrainian troops near Mariupol, 04.03.2015

The shelling was chaotic, press officer of the Mariupol 'M' sector Dmytro Horbunov said.

DPR militants used a grenade launcher to fire on the positions of the Ukrainian troops in the village of Shyrokyne near the city of Mariupol at about 1900 Kyiv time on Friday. Then they opened fire from an 82mm caliber mortar. No casualties have been reported.

<http://www.unian.info/war/1063596-russian-backed-militants-again-shell-ukrainian-troops-near-mariupol.html>

Donetsk militants announce halt to POW swap, 05.04.2015

This was announced by one of the leaders of the Donetsk People's Republic Denis Pushilin at recent talks of the Trilateral Contact Group in Minsk, militants' information outlet said.

"The exchange of captives needs to be halted until an official decision on the personal composition of all four ad hoc groups for the implementation of the Minsk agreements has been made," he said.

According to Pushilin, there should be four such groups: one for economy and rebuilding, the second for internally displaced persons and humanitarian aid, the third for constitutional reform and elections, and the fourth for security. The exchange of prisoners could become the responsibility of the IDPs and humanitarian aid group. The group could help settle differences in quantities and procedure of the POW swap.

<http://www.unian.info/war/1063836-donetsk-militants-announce-halt-to-pow-swap.html>

Two Ukrainian servicemen killed, another wounded in mine blast in Donetsk region, 06.04.2015

Two Ukrainian servicemen were killed and another was wounded when the cross-country vehicle they were traveling in hit a mine outside the town of Shyrokyne in Donetsk region east of Mariupol on Sunday morning, Ukraine's presidential spokesman for the ATO said.

"The wounded serviceman has been transported to a hospital in Mariupol," Oleksandr Motuzianyk said on 112 Ukraine television.

All three were members of a motorized infantry battalion, he said.

<http://en.interfax.com.ua/news/general/258900.html>

Head of Donetsk police releases details about 40 militants from Motorola unit, 06.04.2015

"The country should know these 'heroes' by name. The blood of our citizens is on their hands," Abroskin said.

The data were gleaned from a video posted by Hennadiy Dubovoy, a correspondent and fighter with the Motorola unit. Most of those listed are militants from Donetsk region, but there are also several citizens from Dnipropetrovsk and Kharkiv regions.

<http://www.unian.info/war/1064017-head-of-donetsk-police-releases-details-about-40-militants-from-motorola-unit.html>

Donetsk Oblast' Administration: 600 Russian military arrive to Donetsk, 06.04.2015

Russian troops are strengthening their presence and create training centers in Donetsk oblast.

600 Russian military, stationed in Buryatia (Russia), have been deployed in Donetsk.

This has been announced by the Deputy Commander of ATO in eastern Ukraine, Colonel Valentyn Fedichev, reports the press service of Donetsk Oblast' Administration.

According to him, Russian forces are strengthening their presence and create training centers in Donetsk oblast.' Thus, for example, on the territory of Donetsk Research Plant "Standard" (Leninsky Ave, 88), Russia's Special Forces' unit has been deployed.

A battery of 120-mm mortars has been deployed to carry out provocative shelling of residential areas and ATO forces' positions around Donetsk.

http://mw.ua/UKRAINE/donetsk-oblast-administration-600-russian-military-arrive-to-donetsk-1644_.html

Six Ukrainian soldiers killed in Donbas conflict zone in last day, 06.04.2015

"Over the last day, we have lost four Ukrainian soldiers as a result of military clashes," ATO spokesman Andriy Lysenko said.

According to Lysenko, another two soldiers were killed and one injured as a result of a vehicle going over a land mine near the village of Shyrokyne.

"We call on all local residents to strictly observe the rules of movement in the Donbas conflict zone and choose only safe routes," Lysenko said.

<http://www.unian.info/war/1064124-six-ukrainian-soldiers-killed-in-donbas-conflict-zone-in-last-day.html>

http://en.censor.net.ua/news/331519/six_ukrainian_soldiers_killed_and_two_wounded_over_the_past_day_nsdg

ATO HQ: Ukrainian troops near Pisky suffer most of attacks in Donbas, 06.04.2015

The Russian-terrorist forces violated the ceasefire 14 times from 18:00 until midnight on April 5, report the ATO HQ.

For the most part it was a chaotic firing of Ukrainian troops from small arms. The militants shelled three times the ATOPositions near Shyrokyne, Leninkse and Pisky from 120-mm mortars.

"Most of the firing took place in the area of Pisky. Further South, in Lugansk oblast,' the militants fired the Ukrainian troops' positions near the village of Sokolniki using the anti-aircraft installation ZU 23-2," – says the report.

http://mw.ua/UKRAINE/ato-hq-ukrainian-troops-near-pisky-suffer-most-of-attacks-in-donbas-1653_.html

Explosion rocked Kharkiv at night: someone attempted to destroy a stele with Ukrainian flag, 07.04.2015

In the night of April 7, an explosion rocked Kharkiv's Pravdy Avenue. "The stele with the flag has been blown up. No one was hurt, the stele remains intact," the message reads.

http://en.censor.net.ua/photo_news/331600/explosion_rocked_kharkiv_at_night_someone_attempted_to_destroy_a_stele_with_ukrainian_flag_photovideo

About 400 Ukrainians held captive by Russian terrorists, Kyiv hopes to get them back – Lubkivskyi, 07.04.2015

"The terrorists voiced a number of "1,379 'DPR' mercenaries" allegedly held by the Ukrainian party, which is not true," he said. "As well as the statement that "16 POWs whom they returned to the Ukrainian side today were the last remaining in captivity in the so-called DPR" is not true. We expect 400 more Ukrainian captives to be returned," Lubkivskyi said.

He reminded that the Ukrainian party abides by the all-for-all principle in returning its soldiers, officers, and civilians home. "We are ready to abide by this principle in the future," the adviser to the SBU head said. "Despite all the difficulties of the mutual exchange of POWs, we continue and will not stop it until the last Ukrainian returns home," Lubkivskyi said.

http://en.censor.net.ua/news/331599/about_400_ukrainians_held_captive_by_russian_terrorists_kyiv_hopes_to_get_them_back_lubkivskyi

SBU detains Russian citizen suspected of organizing bombings in Kharkiv, 07.04.2015

"A citizen of the Russian Federation, an employee of the so-called Ministry of Public Security of the Donetsk People's Republic named Teresa coordinated the criminal activities of subversive groups in Kharkiv region," the report reads.

"It is known that in early 2014 she was an active member of the Kharkiv Antimaidan and pro-Russian protests. Later, she joined the militants in Donetsk, where she entered the so-called 'ministry,' which, under the leadership of the Russian special services, created subversive groups to commit terrorist acts in Ukrainian cities," the report says.

<http://www.unian.info/society/1064593-sbu-detains-russian-citizen-suspected-of-organizing-bombings-in-kharkiv.html>

ATO HQ: Terrorists fire ATO forces in Shyrokyne from "withdrawn" mortars, 07.04.2015

20 violations of ceasefire were recorded on Monday, April 6, from 6 PM until midnight, reports the ATO HQ on Tuesday. The militants used small arms for the most part. In addition, the terrorists carried out six mortar attacks.

"The enemy was the most active in the Donetsk oblast," – says the statement.

"The enemy used twice 120-mm mortars in the area of Mariupol, near Shyrokyne," – report reads. The Ukrainian positions were also shelled from 122-mm and 82-mm mortars in the area of Avdiivka from 18.35 to 19.50. In addition, from 19.36 to 19.40, the positions of Ukrainian troops were fired from mortars in the area of Opytne.

http://mw.ua/UKRAINE/ato-hq-terrorists-fire-ato-forces-in-shyrokyne-from-withdrawn-mortars-1657_.html

ATO press center: Militants violate ceasefire 20 times overnight, 07.04.2015

The armed provocations were carried out mainly with small arms. In addition, the militants launched six mortar attacks at Ukrainian positions.

The military activities were mostly in the Donetsk region. There, from 1805 to 1812, Ukrainian positions near Hranitne were shelled by a Nona self-propelled mortar.

From 1835 to 1950 the militants attacked Ukrainian positions near Avdiivka using 122-mm and 82-mm mortars.

From 1936 to 1940 Ukrainian position in the area of Opytne village was hit by a mortar attack.

In Luhansk from 2035 to 2040 the militants fired from mortars, from infantry fighting vehicles, and with small arms at a fortification of Ukrainian troops to the south of Sokolnyky.

In the area near Mariupol, close to Shyrokyne, the militants fired 120-millimeter mortars twice against Ukrainian positions.

No residential areas were attacked.

<http://www.unian.info/war/1064494-ato-press-center-militants-violate-ceasefire-20-times-overnight.html>

http://mw.ua/UKRAINE/ato-speaker-militants-mine-roads-and-leave-explosives-in-crowded-places-1664_.html

Moskal: Militants intensify in Lugansk oblast, two soldiers wounded, 08.04.2015

The situation has significantly deteriorated in Lugansk oblast.'

"There was not only shooting in some areas, but also military clashes between Ukrainian troops and militants. The terrorists attacked our positions in Krymske using automatic guns and mortars. The last clash occurred at 6 am," – reports Lugansk oblast' administration press service.

http://mw.ua/UKRAINE/moskal-militants-intensify-in-lugansk-oblast-two-soldiers-wounded-1671_.html

http://mw.ua/UKRAINE/is-militants-deliberately-violate-ceasefire-situation-deteriorates-in-ato-area-1668_.html

Latest from OSCE Special Monitoring Mission (SMM) to Ukraine, 08.04.2015

The SMM monitored the implementation of the "Package of measures for the Implementation of the Minsk agreements" which was restricted by third parties and by security considerations*. The SMM observed an increase in the number of ceasefire violations in the Donetsk region, especially around Donetsk airport. The SMM monitored the situation in the area of Shyrokyne and assessed the security situation as remaining tense. The SMM monitored five heavy weapons holding areas belonging to the Ukrainian Armed Forces. In Luhansk region, the SMM observed the security situation to be relatively calm.

<http://www.osce.org/ukraine-smm/150396>

In Odessa, in the hospital shootout - one dead and two injured, 08.04.2015 - ???

According to police, April 8 at 1:20 police received a telephone message from a city hospital №1 of fire, medical institutions committed in the territory of a group of unknown persons. Those who shot disappeared on the car "BMW" dark color.

At the scene went investigative team police, who seized eight cartridges caliber 9 mm to traumatic weapons, reported by GU MVD in the Odessa region.

Guardians establish the circumstances of the incident.

The city declared operational plan "Interception".

<http://ukrainiancrisis.net/news/9809>

OSCE: DPR militants open fire on observers of monitoring mission, 08.04.2015

According to the report, on April 7, while traveling on the highway E58 in the direction of a DPR militants' checkpoint in the village of Shyrokyne 20 kilometers east of Mariupol, representatives of the OSCE special monitoring mission were stopped by militants, who blocked the traffic on the road in the northern part of the village of Shyrokyne, which is controlled by the DPR militants. Moreover, it is said that once the observers approached the checkpoint on foot, the militants immediately fired warning shots from a heavy machine gun and automatic rifle in the direction of one of the representatives of the OSCE mission. The bullets hit on the left and right sides of the representative of the mission.

<http://www.unian.info/war/1064980-osce-dpr-militants-open-fire-on-observers-of-monitoring-mission.html>

Unknown persons fired at military car in Zaporizhia region, 08.04.2015

At 1 a.m. of April 7, armed men fired at a car carrying soldiers of the Ukrainian army in Kuibyshev district of the Zaporizhia region. O61 cited Oleksandr Vovkodav, chief of special operations of the Zaporizhia regional police.

According to the police, no one was hurt in the accident. The unknown fled, an AK assault rifle and nose with bullets have been found at the shooting site.

http://en.censor.net.ua/news/331790/unknown_persons_fired_at_military_car_in_zaporizhia_region

Militants put troops on full combat readiness, spread rumors about offensive, 08.04.2015

"According to intelligence reports, the leaders of the DPR have put their troops on full alert, calling on the militants to return back from health treatment in Crimea, and Russia, as well as in other places," he said.

"The enemy is actively spreading rumors about the beginning of active military actions and an attack on the territories controlled by the Ukrainian government, and is trying to accuse the Ukrainian armed forces in advance of disrupting the ceasefire," Lysenko said.

<http://www.unian.info/war/1065062-militants-put-troops-on-full-combat-readiness-spread-rumors-about-offensive.html>

Terrorists conducted intense shelling near Pisky, Shyrokyne, and Berdianske. A battle took place near Krymske – ATO press center, 09.04.2015

From 6 p.m. to 12 a.m. April 8 the militant formations conducted 13 fire attacks on the positions of Ukrainian troops along the line of demarcation in the area of the anti-terrorist operation.

According to the headquarters, the most intense shelling occurred in the Donetsk region near Pisky, Shyrokyne and Berdianske. At the same time the Russian-terrorist forces continue to use weapons prohibited the Minsk Agreement.

http://en.censor.net.ua/news/331966/terrorists_conducted_intense_shelling_near_pisky_shyrokyne_and_berdianske_a_battle_took_place_near_krymske

Russian-backed militants shell Ukrainian troops 17 times on April 9, 09.04.2015

The most intense shelling occurred near the town of Avdiivka and the villages of Opytne, Pisky and Vodian in Donetsk region, where militants used small arms and artillery systems.

In the latter half of the day, Russian-backed militants were firing on the positions of the Ukrainian troops near Avdiivka with the use of rocket-propelled grenades, machine guns, an anti-aircraft system, a tank, mortars and 122mm caliber artillery systems.

In the early hours of Thursday, militants used small arms to shell Ukrainian troops near the village of Shyrokyne in Donetsk region.

In addition, mortars were used to attack the Ukrainian army near Butivka coalmine, the villages of Pisky and Opytne. All in all, terrorists staged six mortar attacks, including four attacks with the use of 120mm caliber mortars.

<http://www.unian.info/war/1065771-russian-backed-militants-shell-ukrainian-troops-17-times-on-april-9.html>

Militants fire on Ukrainian army 21 times in last day, 10.04.2015

According to the ATO HQ report, the militants were most active around Ukrainian positions near the town of Avdiivka, the villages of Pisky, Opytne, Shyrokyne in Donetsk region, as well as near the villages of Pavlopil and Hnutove in Luhansk region.

In addition, the militants fired 122mm artillery on the positions of the Ukrainian armed forces near the town of Avdiivka. They also fired tank rounds near Avdiivka and the village of Pavlopil.

"There were no attacks on the villages from 1800 to midnight on April 9," the report says.

<http://www.unian.info/war/1065889-militants-fire-on-ukrainian-army-21-times-in-last-day.html>

In the Donetsk region - blast on the railway, 11.04.2015

Currently, the movement of trains stopped.

"April 10 at 20.35 to the duty of the department at the station Volnovakha was reported by railway workers that on the stretch Stations "South Donbas & ndash; Olenevka" there was an explosion in which damaged even and odd tracks. The explosion took place at unaffiliated & nbsp; MAT & nbsp; area of 19.50 on 1173 kilometers of & nbsp; Campaign "- said the Police Department . The affected during the explosion no.

"The event was classified on the basis of paragraph 1 of Article 258 of the Criminal Code of Ukraine (assassination) and included in the Unified Register of pre-trial investigations, "- said in a statement of the Interior Ministry.

<http://ukrainiancrisis.net/news/9917>

Russian-backed militants shell Ukrainian troops 21 times on Saturday – ATO press center, 11.04.2015

Militants haven't stopped attacking the Ukrainian army, having shelled the Ukrainian positions 21 times in total on Saturday. The enemy used small arms in most cases, the ATO press center reported.

Skirmishes took place near the villages of Donetsk and Zhovte in Luhansk region. The attacks were successfully repelled by Ukrainian soldiers.

Over the period under review, militants fired 19 mortar shells at the Ukrainian positions near the village of Sokilnyky in Luhansk region. The enemy also used an antitank missile system near the village of Syze in Luhansk region.

In Donetsk region, the enemy fired on Ukrainian troops near the town of Krasnohorivka, using small arms. The Ukrainian positions near the villages of Opytne and Shyrokyne were attacked twice. What is more, militants twice used mortars to shell Ukrainian troops near the village of Pisky near the destroyed Donetsk airport and an anti-aircraft system was engaged near the town of Avdiivka in Donetsk region.

<http://ukrnews.today/russian-backed-militants-shell-ukrainian-troops-21-times-on-saturday-ato-press-center/>

ATO death toll: 1,541 killed, enemy's loss estimated at 14,600 men, 11.04.2015

The death toll during the anti-terrorist operation (ATO) in eastern Ukraine has totaled 1,541 Ukrainian soldiers from the Armed Forces, including airmobile troops, while the enemy's loss has been estimated at 14,600 men.

This was written on Facebook by civil volunteer Tetiana Rychkova, citing data from a military attaché, who announced the figures at a briefing at Ukraine's Zhytomyr firing range.

"The death toll statistics during the ATO are the following: 1,205 servicemen from the Armed Forces of Ukraine and 336 airmobile troopers have been killed, while the occupants' losses totaled 14,600 people. State awards were given to 894 Ukrainian servicemen, five of them were also awarded with the Hero of Ukraine title," she wrote.

<http://www.unian.info/war/1066387-ato-death-toll-1541-killed-enemys-loss-estimated-at-14600-men-civil-volunteer.html>

More Russian troops and weapons enter east Ukraine war zone, 12.04.2015

As Ukrainian forces faced 20 attacks by Kremlin-led militants in the past 48 hours and spotted 30 enemy drones probing their positions, an unnamed NATO official said that Russia has sent additional military manpower and arms to Donbas, according to a news report by the Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung that interviewed the person.

"We have noticed again support for the separatists, with weapons, troops and training. Russia is still sending troops and arms from one side of the open border with Ukraine to the other," a NATO official, who was not named, told the German news publication.

<http://www.kyivpost.com/content/ukraine/more-russian-troops-and-weapons-enter-east-ukraine-war-zone-386004.html>

Spot report by OSCE Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine, 12.04.2015

At 9.35hrs on 12 April, upon arrival at Donetsk railway station ("Donetsk People's Republic" ("DPR")-controlled, 8km north-west of Donetsk city centre), the SMM witnessed heavy fighting between "DPR" and the Ukrainian Armed Forces in areas near the city visible from its position. Both the Ukrainian Armed Forces representative and the Russian Federation representative to the Joint Centre for Control and Co-ordination (JCCC) told the SMM that the Ukrainian side (assessed to be the Right Sector volunteer battalion) earlier had made an offensive push through the line of contact towards Zhabunki ("DPR"-controlled, 14km west-north-west of Donetsk), but the SMM was not able to verify this.

The SMM observed that an intensive armed clash was underway with the use of tanks, heavy artillery, automatic grenade launchers, mortars, heavy machine-guns, and small arms and light weapons (SALW). From its arrival at 9.35 to 15:00hrs, the SMM observed and recorded 1,166 explosions, caused mainly by artillery and mortar shell strikes. The SMM assessed that weapons with a calibre larger than 100mm were used by both sides during the fighting.

The SMM observed shelling and/or SALW fire outgoing from the following locations: Kyivskiyi district ("DPR"-controlled, 7km west-north-west of Donetsk); Kuibyshevskiyi district ("DPR"-controlled, 7km west-north-west of Donetsk); a forested area one kilometre south-east of Spartak ("DPR"-controlled, 10km north-west of Donetsk); the area of "Ventstvol" mine (government-controlled, 12km north-west of Donetsk); and Butorskaya mine ("DPR"-controlled, 12.5km north-west of Donetsk).

<http://www.osce.org/ukraine-smm/150696>

<http://us6.campaign-archive1.com/?u=b11aceda364f8f9afa6cadbbb&id=6a5e3e698d&e=6b2886dd4c>

Russia is preparing "invasion" of two "humanitarian convoys", 13.04.2015

Russian Emergency Situations Ministry will send two more convoys with the so-called humanitarian aid on April 23 and May 14, stated on Monday Deputy Minister Vladimir Artamonov.

"Both convoys will carry construction materials and food products," he said. At the same time, the official lied stating that in all cases where the Russian convoys crossed the border with Ukraine to deliver aid to the Donbas, it was in full compliance with international law and under the supervision of the OSCE.

http://en.censor.net.ua/news/332492/russia_is_preparing_invasion_of_two_humanitarian_convoys

Ukrainian military blames militants for violating ceasefire 35 times Sunday, 13.04.2015

The 35 breaches included eleven mortar attacks, mostly with 120-millimeter mortars, the press center said on Facebook.

"The enemy was shelling our troops along the forward edge of the battle area in the Donetsk region, using mortars, tanks, tube artillery, grenade launchers and machineguns," it said.

A clash erupted near Avdiivka at 9:15 a.m. Ukrainian forces repelled the attack, the press center said.

The militants shelled a Ukrainian stronghold twice near Novotoshkivske in the Luhansk region, it said.

<http://en.interfax.com.ua/news/general/260200.html>

"Krym" Battalion: Militants Used Phosphorus Ammunitions near Donetsk, 13.04.2015

The positions of the battalion "Krym" near Donetsk airport were fired with phosphorus ammunition by Russia-backed militants tonight, stated in the battalion's message on Facebook.

"They decided to take revenge for the failed previous day attack and, apparently, many casualties on their part. They are shooting with phosphorus ammunition. Everything around, even brick walls of houses, is burning. Hundreds of napalm shells have exploded in the air and continue to explode," is said in a statement.

<http://ukraineunderattack.org/en/krym-battalion-militants-used-phosphorus-ammunitions-near-donetsk.html>

<http://www.unian.info/war/1066674-general-staff-militants-did-not-use-white-phosphorus-near-donetsk.html>

Number of clashes in Donbas sharply rises — OSCE report, 14.04.2015

Some weapons of Ukraine's armed forces are not present at their holding areas, the OSCE reports.

"The SMM [Special Monitoring Mission] revisited six heavy weapons holding areas of Ukrainian Armed Forces and was able to verify that the majority of weapons previously recorded were in situ, that their locations comply with the respective withdrawal lines and all serial numbers conform to previous visits," the report said.

"However, three previously recorded towed artillery guns were not present at one of the locations. The site commander stated that the guns had been removed for training purposes," it said.

<http://tass.ru/en/world/789354>

Latest from OSCE Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine, 14.04.2015

The SMM observed ongoing intensive fighting in and in areas surrounding "Donetsk People's Republic" ("DPR")-controlled Donetsk airport (11km north-west of Donetsk), particularly around government-controlled Avdiivka (17km north-west of Donetsk). Indicative of the intensity of the fighting, the SMM – located at "DPR"-controlled Donetsk railway station (8km north-west of Donetsk) from 13:10 to 19:00hrs on 14 April – heard over 700 explosions, half of which were caused by heavy artillery, tanks, or mortars, either 82mm or 120mm. Meanwhile, "DPR"-controlled Shyrokyne (20km east of Mariupol) remained largely calm for the second consecutive day, as did most of the rest of the Donetsk region and the Luhansk region.

The SMM did, however, hear several explosions whilst in Shyrokyne, one of which caused severe injuries to a Russian journalist, to whom the SMM provided immediate medical assistance. The SMM also heard several bursts of heavy-machine gun and out-going mortar fire. The SMM noted an increased amount of damage to buildings in the village, and much more unexploded ordnance (UXO) on the streets, compared to its last visit to the village on 13 April. The few remaining residents – mostly elderly people – told the SMM that there was no drinking water, electricity or medical supplies available in the village, and food was scarce.

<http://us6.campaign-archive1.com/?u=b11aceda364f8f9afa6cadbbb&id=39671a12dd&e=6b2886dd4c>

Lysenko: Militants planning to redeploy withdrawn Grad systems to Horlivka, 14.04.2015

Fighters of the DPR militant organization are planning to redeploy earlier withdrawn Grad multiple rocket launchers from Torez to Horlivka, NSDC spokesman Andriy Lysenko said.

<http://www.unian.info/war/1066937-lysenko-militants-planning-to-redeploy-withdrawn-grad-systems-to-horlivka.html>

Fighting in Pisky: Militants attack with everything but Grad rockets, 14.04.2015

Members of the Sich special purpose battalion told the newspaper that the fighting in the village of Pisky is now almost of the same intensity as in the winter before the ceasefire.

"The only thing the militants don't use are Grad rockets," the newspaper wrote.

"On Sunday, at 1910 the militants fired heavy machine guns and 30mm automatic grenade launchers from the village of Zhabenkov and a fortified position on the outskirts of Donetsk. In addition, sometimes they fire mortars from their checkpoint," the report says.

According to the report, there were many casualties in the village of Pisky over the last day.

<http://www.unian.info/war/1066802-fighting-in-pisky-militants-attack-with-everything-but-grad-rockets.html>

Militants continue firing at Ukrainian positions with mortars - ATO press center, 14.04.2015

On April 14 from 12 a.m. to 6 p.m. the situation in the ATO area remained troubled.

The summary reads: "The enemy does not stop armed provocations, having conducted 28 shelling of our positions along the demarcation line. Criminals actively used 120-mm mortars, thus grossly violating the Minsk agreement."

"In the Donetsk region, escalation of the armed gangs' attacks continued against the positions of Ukrainian troops near the village of Pisky, where criminals used mortars seven times, including four times of 120-millimeter ones, and conducted shelling from a tank, automatic grenade launchers, and small arms," the ATO press center stressed.

The press center emphasizes: "Militants twice directed mortar fire on our troops near the village of Chermalyk and once near Hranitne. The criminals used anti-aircraft guns to fired at our command and observation post near Avdiivka and automatic grenade launchers and small arms against a position near Shyrokyne, Opytne, Maiorsk, Leninske, Troitske, and Dutivska mine.

http://en.censor.net.ua/news/332623/militants_continue_firing_at_ukrainian_positions_with_mortars_ato_press_center

East Ukraine militia claim Russian journalists got under fire by Ukrainian snipers, 14.04.2015

"According to preliminary reports, Ukrainian snipers carried out today's attack, the Donetsk News Agency quoted the self-proclaimed DPR defense ministry as saying.

The shooting continued for about half an hour, Donetsk News Agency said. OSCE and JCCC representatives were accompanied by journalists from TV channels NTV, RT, Zverda, Rossiya, Perviy Channel, a correspondent from the Donetsk News Agency and reps of the Novorossiya press center. No one was injured in the incident, NTV correspondent Daniil Levin said.

<http://tass.ru/en/world/789236>

6 Troops Killed by Rebels Despite Cease-Fire in Eastern Ukraine, 14.04.2015

Six servicemen were killed and 12 wounded in eastern Ukraine in the past 24 hours despite a cease-fire deal, Ukraine's military said Tuesday, as both sides in the conflict accused the other of increasing attacks and building up weapons on the frontline.

The mutual recriminations have put further strain on a two-month-old truce between Ukraine's military and pro-Russian rebels, though it remains technically in force despite almost daily reports of casualties.

The most active exchange of fire on Monday was around villages near Donetsk, he said.

<http://www.themoscowtimes.com/news/article/6-troops-killed-by-rebels-despite-cease-fire-in-eastern-ukraine/519062.html>

<http://www.unian.info/war/1066930-six-ukrainian-soldiers-killed-twelve-wounded-in-donbas-conflict-zone-in-last-day.html>

OSCE observers report escalation of hostilities in Ukraine, 15.04.2015

"That day [April 11], after 18:35hrs, the SMM witnessed an escalation of hostilities, with a tank round being fired and small-arms and machine-gun fire exchange between forces in government-controlled Berdianske and Shyrokyne," the report said.

"At 19:05hrs, the SMM saw flashes resulting from intermittent heavy mortar shelling. The JCCC [Joint Center for Control and Coordination] confirmed the SMM's observations and described the fighting during this period as intensive," it said.

Earlier today, Russia's envoy to the OSCE Andrey Kelin said Kiev initiated the escalation of fighting. He said it was evident from OSCE SMM reports.

<http://tass.ru/en/world/789364>

300 Ukrainian soldiers held captive by terrorists, some were transferred to Russia – negotiators, 15.04.2015

"We know where our guys are, despite the other party's claims that the 16 prisoners we picked up last week were the last remaining. There are facts that some of them are on the territory of the neighboring state. We know the places where our guys are, at bordering regions, regional centers of Rostov and Kursk, in addition to Moscow and St. Petersburg, where we have seen traces of our guys. I think that we will know exactly some time soon whether this information is confirmed (that prisoners are also taken to Crimea. - Ed.) or not," head of the Ministry of Defense Center for release of prisoners Yurii Tandyt said.

He noted that the Defense Ministry knows of "about 300 people, a little more" who are held captive by the militants.

http://en.censor.net.ua/news/332652/300_ukrainian_soldiers_held_captive_by_terrorists_some_were_transferred_to_russia_negotiators

Claims of cooperation between some OSCE mission members and militants are investigated, 15.04.2015

According to the minister, many among the OSCE SMM members are committed to achieving a ceasefire, but there are also those who do not contribute to de-escalation.

"Let's not talk without evidence. There are a lot of people in the OSCE mission, I say this with full confidence, who are committed to maintaining the ceasefire and the withdrawal of heavy weapons," Klimkin said during a televised interview on Tuesday evening.

"We have established a very effective and fruitful contact with the leadership of the mission. But, of course, there people who do not contribute to the process of de-escalation."

The minister mentioned cases of Ukrainian checkpoints being visited by SMM representatives, and then those positions subsequently being attacked by the Russian-backed militants.

"We analyze in great detail every fact, and if we have a suspicion that a representative of the mission is involved, we have a very serious talk with the leadership of the mission, and always with the right result - that's what I responsibly say," Klimkin said.

<http://www.unian.info/war/1067325-klimkin-claims-of-cooperation-between-some-osce-mission-members-and-militants-are-investigated.html>

One militia fighter killed, five wounded in shelling of village in east Ukraine — DPR, 15.04.2015

"Over the past 24 hours we failed to avoid casualties. As a result of the Ukrainian forces' shellings one militiaman died. Another five were sent to medical facilities of the DPR with various wounds," a defense ministry representative said.

Two violations of silence regime were registered with the use of heavy artillery in the area of Shirokino. "The Ukrainian forces fired 15 shells from self-propelled weapons," the ministry said. The Kiev troops violated the ceasefire a total of 50 times over the past 24 hours, it stressed. The forces used tanks, armored vehicles, anti-tank guided missiles, mortars, grenade launchers and small arms in the Donetsk republic.

The shelling targeted the areas of the Donetsk airport, Volvo-Center, and also the settlements of Shirokino, Spartak, Gorlovka, Zhabichevo, Tavricheskoye, Golmovsky, Nikolayevka.

<http://tass.ru/en/world/789390>

Russian Military Drills Continue With T-90A Tank Exercises Near Ukraine Border, 15.04.2015

The Russian military conducted drills this week with dozens of modern T-90A tanks in Russia's Krasnodar region, located south of the border it shares with Ukraine, according to reports. The training exercise was the latest instance of Russian military activity that has caused tension with government leaders in Ukraine and the West.

The T-90A is a newer version of Russia's standard T-90 tank. Russian tank crews drove through mud and fired shells for target practice, Ukraine Todayreports. Several outlets obtained footage of Russian military personnel as they trained with the tanks.

<http://www.ibtimes.com/russian-military-drills-continue-t-90a-tank-exercises-near-ukraine-border-report-says-1883795>

Ex-Regions Party MP Kalashnikov found shot to death in Kyiv, 15.04.2015

Kalashnikov was shot dead at the entrance to his flat in Kyiv's Vynohradar district on Wednesday evening. Mass media also reported that Kalashnikov's death had been confirmed by some of his relatives. They also said that he had been receiving threats.

"No doubt the late [MP] knew much about who and how had been financing the Antimaidan, which cost [ousted president Viktor] Yanukovych and his gang several million hryvnias per day. He'll take all these secrets away. But not only he alone knew who and how had been financing the Antimaidan," Heraschenko wrote.

<http://www.unian.info/politics/1067645-ex-regions-party-mp-kalashnikov-found-shot-to-death-in-kyiv.html>

http://en.censor.net.ua/news/332805/police_investigation_considers_four_theories_of_kalashnykovs_murder

<http://www.rferl.org/content/former-ukrainian-lawmaker-shot-dead-in-kyiv/26957995.html>

One Ukrainian soldier killed, two wounded on Tuesday - ATO speaker, 16.04.2015

"Over the past day, one Ukrainian soldier was killed in fighting, and two were wounded," ATO speaker Andrii Lysenko said.

http://en.censor.net.ua/news/332715/one_ukrainian_soldier_killed_two_wounded_on_tuesday_ato_speaker

Gunfire in Donetsk Republic as Leader Refuses Unity With Ukraine, 16.04.2015

The chances of full-scale war are now "very high, 90 percent" after two months of truce, Zakharchenko said in his downtown office, puffing on his third Parliament of the interview. A disassembled submachine gun lay next to religious icons on a bookshelf. "The enemy is actively preparing for offensive actions, enforcing front line positions."

The "enemy" he referred to is the government of Ukraine, the country his breakaway region belonged to until last year's pro-Russian insurgency muddled the issue. The United Nations says the conflict has claimed more than 6,000 lives. It also plunged Ukraine into economic crisis and brought Russia's relations with the U.S. and allies to a post-Cold War low.

Ukraine is also the country that, under the February cease-fire agreed to by international negotiators in Minsk, will eventually gain back the rebel regions of Donetsk and Luhansk, albeit under special status. While the truce has largely held amid mutual accusations of breaches by the two sides, Zakharchenko remains defiant.

"Nobody wants to come back to Ukraine under any pretext," Zakharchenko says of reunification. "I can't even imagine this happening. Fundamental disagreements between us and Kiev are not disappearing. In fact they become stronger every day."

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2015-04-15/gunfire-in-donetsk-republic-as-leader-refuses-unity-with-ukraine>

OSCE: Observers do not give away positions of Ukrainian army, 16.04.2015

"I can tell you that our colleagues are working in a very close team," Bociurkiw said.

"When they arrive, they undergo a lot of training, and they sign a code of conduct... They're working in a close team, they all keep secrets, [and] no one gives information to a third party," he said. According to Bociurkiw, about 500 observers of the OSCE mission are working in Ukraine, including 350 people on the territory of the Donbas, 24 of whom are delegates from the RF.

"All the people working in the OSCE special mission are working on a special mission, and not for the country from which they came," Bociurkiw said.

As reported earlier, a member of the Parliamentary Committee on NSDC Andriy Teteruk said that the Russian-backed militants immediately fired on the positions of the Ukrainian armed forces after the OSCE representatives had visited them.

<http://www.unian.info/war/1067802-osce-observers-do-not-give-away-positions-of-ukrainian-army.html>

399 people held captive by militants – Medvedchuk, 17.04.2015

399 people, including 240 servicemen, are held captive by militants in eastern Ukraine.

These data have been reported by special representative for humanitarian issues within the Trilateral Contact Group to resolve situation in eastern Ukraine Viktor Medvedchuk.

"1450 people are considered missing. But the number may change. Every day, the hard work is being conducted, we update the data, search for people, share the lists," Medvedchuk says.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/399_people_held_captive_by_militants_medvedchuk_330702

Spot report by OSCE Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine, 17.04.2015

On 15 April the SMM discussed in Shyrokyne with the senior Ukrainian and Russian Federation Armed Forces representatives at the Joint Centre for Control and Co-ordination (JCCC) strategies for establishing a sustainable ceasefire regime in the area. This meeting was a follow-up to a discussion held on 9 April with the two senior officers. The senior Ukrainian and Russian representatives at the JCCC came with separate proposals for a ceasefire regime, based on the demilitarisation of Shyrokyne village. This included the withdrawal of all mortars, tanks, and artillery to locations preventing their engagement, as well as the removal of all armed formations to a distance of five to eight kilometres from the village.

The SMM intends to capitalise on the emerging momentum for a sustainable ceasefire, while at the same time reducing the security dilemma of the parties by diminishing their uncertainty about each other's intentions. Also, it aims at establishing solid ground for confidence building measures.

<http://us6.campaign-archive2.com/?u=b11aceda364f8f9afa6cadbbb&id=3805cd5e17&e=6b2886dd4c>

Up to 459 Ukrainian soldiers killed near Ilovaisk in 2014 - Ukraine's chief military prosecutor, 17.04.2015

Investigators have confirmed that 459 Ukrainian Armed Forces servicemen and other units that participated in the army operation in Donbas were killed and another 478 were injured in armed clashes outside of Ilovaisk in August-September 2014, Ukraine's Deputy Prosecutor General and Chief Military Prosecutor Anatoliy Matios has said.

<http://en.interfax.com.ua/news/general/261072.html>

Stanytsia Luhanska District Council recognizes Russia as aggressor, LPR as terrorist organization – regional governor, 17.04.2015

"The session was attended by 21 members of the council (with the required minimum being 19), two of whom abstained and the rest voted 'yes.' The issue of recognizing Russia as an aggressor state and the LPR as a terrorist organization was the last on agenda and its adoption was preceded by a heated discussion. However, a nearly unanimous decision was taken," reads the statement posted on Moskal's website on Friday.

He said that the decision of the district council was "very significant."

"First of all, Stanytsia Luhanska district suffered the most from military actions in Luhansk region. Second of all, the district center is located on the demarcation line (the nearest terrorists' checkpoint to the district state administration is less than a kilometer away, occupied Luhansk is 12 km away). Thus, the influence of the so-called LPR can be felt here," Moskal said. Another reason as to why he thinks the decision was significant is that the Don Cossacks, who have never concealed their affection for Russia, live in this region.

<http://en.interfax.com.ua/news/general/261065.html>

'Opposition Bloc' claims being threatened by 'Ukrainian Insurgent Army', 17.04.2015

An email sent to 'Opposition Bloc' in the early morning hours of Friday alleged the responsibility of a certain 'Ukrainian Insurgent Army' for murdering a number of opposition politicians and journalists and claimed plans for the physical elimination of representatives of the incumbent authorities and opposition members.

"We are assuming responsibility for the elimination of [...] Chehetov, Peklushenko, Melnyk, Kalashnikov and Buzyna. It was a warning to the anti-people regime of traitor oligarchs: we were not joking when we said 'either lustration or liquidation'," the 'Opposition Bloc' press service quoted the letter received at 00:17 a.m. on April 17 as saying.

The anonymous message claimed the readiness to begin physical elimination of representatives of the incumbent authorities who "did not declare martial law and a state of war with Russia, did not breakup diplomatic and trade relations with the invader, and [...] were guilty of surrendering Ukrainian territories to the enemy and major corruptive practices."

"People who call themselves 'Ukrainian Insurgent Army' give 'those acting against Ukraine and its people' 72 hours starting from midnight, March 18 [sic] to leave Ukraine once and for all," the bloc press service said.

<http://en.interfax.com.ua/news/general/261113.html>

Yet Another Illegal Russian Convoy Enters the Donbas, 17.04.2015

Twenty-fourth illegal Russian convoy consisting of 123 cars arrived today in Donbas, reported Oleh Slobodyan, the State Border Service of Ukraine spokesman.

According to him, the Ukrainian observers did not get a chance look inside of the trucks again, because Russia has repeatedly violated all the possible norms on providing humanitarian assistance. "Between 7.30 a.m. and 8.35 a.m. through border entry points "Donetsk" and "Matviyev Kurhan" two columns (a total of 123 cars) entered Ukrainian territory. In general the cargo consisted of food – 97 cars, and building materials – 6 cars. During the visual inspection the representatives of Ukrainian interagency group didn't record weapons, ammunition and military cargo " - said the spokesman.

<http://ukraineunderattack.org/en/yet-another-illegal-russian-convoy-enters-the-donbas.html>

Attack on Triokhizbenka repelled, 18.04.2015

"At 12:20, fighting in Triokhizbenka was over. As a reminder, today at 10:30, the militants came to the destroyed bridge over the Siversky Donets River and tried to break through the demarcation line to Triokhizbenka. The fighting started and lasted more than two hours. During the clash, the militants used sub-machine guns, heavy machine guns, mortars, grenade launchers and rapid-fire anti-aircraft guns," says the report of press office of Head of Luhansk Regional Military and Civil Administration Hennady Moskal.

According to preliminary data, some Ukrainian servicemen have been wounded.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/attack_on_triokhizbenka_repelled_330737

Moskal: Militants' artillery systems badly damage two private houses in Valuyske, 18.04.2015

After 1600 Kyiv time on Saturday, pro-Russian militants used artillery systems to shell the village of Valuyske near the village of Stanytsia Luhanska in Luhansk region.

"They shelled the village four times, two of the shells hit private houses, having seriously damaged them. Villagers live in the houses; local authorities are now trying to find out if they're safe and sound," Luhansk Regional Military and Civil Administration Chairman Hennadiy Moskal's press service reported.

The artillery shells were fired from the village of Mykolaivka, located on a bank of the Siversky Donets River, which is controlled by militants of the so-called Luhansk People's Republic, the press service said.

<http://ukrnews.today/moskal-militants-artillery-systems-badly-damage-two-private-houses-in-valuyske/>

Russian-backed militants shell Ukrainian ATO forces more than 30 times on Saturday, 18.04.2015

On April 18, Russian-backed militants shelled the Ukrainian forces participating in the anti-terrorist operation (ATO) zone in Donbas 32 times, mostly small arms were used.

<http://www.digitalnewsworld.com/news/russianbacked-militants-shell-ukrainian-ato-forces-more-than-30-times-on-saturday.html>

Ukraine crisis: Rebel leader warns truce 'could fail', 18.04.2015

Aleksandr Zakharchenko told the BBC he wanted to expand the self-proclaimed DNR. He said the truce agreement brokered by the West in Minsk in February was not being properly implemented by Kiev.

"Ukraine doesn't want to resolve all the issues," he said. Kiev has repeatedly denied the claim.

<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-32363766>

ATO: Militants attack Ukrainian army with Grad rockets and mortars, violating Minsk accords, 19.04.2015

Russian-backed militants have again violated the terms of the Minsk agreement, attacking Ukrainian forces overnight with weapons they were supposed to have withdrawn from the front line, the press center of Ukraine's Anti-Terrorist Operation headquarters said on Sunday.

<http://www.digitalnewsworld.com/news/ato-militants-attack-ukrainian-army-with-grad-rockets-and-mortars-violating-minsk-accords.html>

http://en.censor.net.ua/news/333225/terrorists_violated_ceasefire_50_times_over_past_24_hours_map

Latest from OSCE Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine, 19.04.2015

The SMM temporarily withdrew from Shyrokyne (20km east of Mariupol, 102km south of Donetsk) following skirmishes involving small-arms and machine-gun fire and the use of mortars (on both sides) on 18 April at which point the SMM-brokered ceasefire had been holding for 67 hours. On 19 April, the SMM at observation posts 1.5km and 5km west of Shyrokyne heard small arms fire being exchanged and mortar impacts on the outskirts of Shyrokyne. Fighting continued in and around Donetsk airport and in the nearby government-controlled villages of Opytne and Pisky (between 15-20km north-west of Donetsk city). The SMM, from an observation point at Donetsk railway station, observed a total of 311 incidents involving the use of heavy weapons over two days on 18 and 19 April, representing a significant reduction compared to previous days.

<http://www.osce.org/ukraine-smm/152151>

<http://us6.campaign-archive2.com/?u=b11aceda364f8f9afa6cadbbb&id=1fec4b529a&e=6b2886dd4c>

Azov regiment repels militants' attack in Shyrokyne after 5-hour fight, 19.04.2015

The Azov regiment's press officer nom de guerre 'Croat' told Channel 5 by phone that the fight had been lasting for almost five hours on Saturday. According to him, the militants wanted to take advantage of OSCE observers' presence in Shyrokyne and attempted to approach the Ukrainian military's positions. They attacked the forward group of the Azov regiment by firing from rocket-propelled grenades, mortars and machine guns.

"Our troops started firing in exchange. A fight broke out. Our soldiers killed one militant. And then they started shelling our positions with the use of grenade launchers, heavy machine guns. The attack has been lasting for several hours," 'Croat' said.

Two Azov soldiers were wounded in the fight; one of them has got serious injuries.

<http://www.unian.info/war/1068814-azov-regiment-repels-militants-attack-in-shyrokyne-after-5-hour-fight.html>

Russian-terrorist troops violated silence mode six times last night – ATO, 20.04.2015

The activity of illegal armed groups along the demarcation line continued to decrease from 6 p.m until 12 a.m. April 19.

According to the headquarters, the Russian-terrorist troops violated the silence mode six times. In four cases the gangs used 120-mm mortars.

"In the Donetsk region the enemy carried out attacks on our positions in the area of Avdiivka, Pisky, Opytne and Krasnohorivka. Strong points near Avdiivka were shelled by 120-mm mortars three times and one time with an anti-aircraft gun".

http://en.censor.net.ua/news/333275/russianterrorist_troops_violated_silence_mode_six_times_last_night_ato_press_center

ATO: Russia sends 50 trucks, 20 APCs, and 40 wagons of military equipment into Donbas, 20.04.2015

"According to intelligence reports, over the past few days from the territory of the Russian Federation via the Dolzhansky checkpoint Ural 50 military trucks and 20 infantry fighting vehicles with fighters seen were heading in the direction of the town of Debaltseve" he said.

"And a freight train of about 40 wagons carrying military equipment, which was covered with tents, passed from the territory of the Russian Federation through Dolzhanska railway station in the city of Sverdlovsk in Luhansk region," Lysenko added.

<http://www.unian.info/war/1069247-ato-russia-sends-50-trucks-20-apcs-and-40-wagons-of-military-equipment-into-donbas.html>

Terrorists turned Luhansk into a large military camp with 6,000 militants – InfoResist, 20.04.2015

The city of Luhansk has been turned into one large warcamp by the terrorists, wrote MP Dmytro Tymchuk on his Facebook page.

"At the moment, six large separate detachments with the total of up to 6 thousand people are deployed in the city; they include Russian army servicemen disguised as 'militia,' Russian mercenaries, and local militants," Tymchuk wrote.

Another 3,000 Russian soldiers, mercenaries, and 'LPR' militants were recorded in villages around the city, mostly in the Kamenobrodskyi district and Stanytsia Luhanska vicinity.

"Terrorists' artillery is deployed to the south of Luhansk," Tymchuk added.

http://en.censor.net.ua/news/333286/terrorists_turned_luhansk_into_a_large_military_camp_with_6000_militants_inforesist

400 civilians killed in Donbas in 2015 – UN, 20.04.2015

The numbers were announced by press secretary of the UN Human Rights Ravina Shamdasani. "Civilians continue to suffer seriously as a result of the protracted conflict," UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) spokesperson Ravina Shamdasani told reporters in Geneva today. "In 2015 alone, about 400 civilians have been killed as a result of indiscriminate shelling of residential areas and because of landmines and unexploded ordnance - both in government-controlled territories and in territories controlled by armed groups." She noted that "According to reports, fighting has intensified, especially in the vicinity of the Donetsk airport and near the village of Shyrokyne in the Donetsk region, where heavy weapons, including mortars, artillery and tanks are reportedly extensively used - running counter to the Minsk Accords."

http://en.censor.net.ua/news/333304/400_civilians_killed_in_donbas_in_2015_un

UN says Ukraine's internally displaced population exceeds 1.2 million, 20.04.2015

The conflict in eastern Ukraine has affected 5 million people and forced 1.23 million of them to seek homes in other parts of Ukraine, the UN said.

<http://www.kyivpost.com/content/ukraine/un-says-ukraines-internally-displaced-population-exceeds-12-million-386612.html>

ATO press center: Militants reduce military activity in Donbas conflict zone, 20.04.2015

The militants attacked eight times in the Donetsk region from 1800 to midnight, mostly with small arms and automatic grenade launchers.

In the morning, the militants attacked Ukrainian positions near the villages of Opytne and Shyrokyne and fired 120mm mortars several times at their positions near the town of Popasna. In the afternoon, the militants attacked the positions of the Ukrainian armed forces near the village of Pisky in Donetsk region. They also fired on a Ukrainian fortified position near the town of Avdiivka for ten minutes.

The Ukrainian armed forces returned fire only if there was a real threat to the lives of soldiers, the press center said.

There was no shelling in the area of Luhansk during this period, it said.

<http://www.unian.info/war/1069060-ato-press-center-militants-reduce-military-activity-in-donbas-conflict-zone.html>

Militants fire 'withdrawn weapons' on Avdiivka and Donetsk area overnight, 20.04.2015

According to the report, the militants have violated the ceasefire six times in the last day, with the militants firing 120mm mortars on the positions of the Ukrainian armed forces in four incidents.

"In Donetsk region, the militants fired on the positions of the Ukrainian army near the town of Avdiivka, and in the villages of Pisky, Opytne and Krasnohorivka," the report says.

"Russian-backed militants fired 120mm mortars three times and anti-aircraft gun one time at our fortified positions near Avdiivka."

According to the report, the militants also fired 120mm mortars on the positions of the Ukrainian armed forces near the village of Pisky.

In addition, a sniper fired at a fortified position of the Ukrainian army near the village of Opytne, and the militants fired guns near the town of Krasnohorivka of Mariynskiy district.

"There was quiet in the area of Luhansk during this period. There was no shelling of residential areas," the report reads.

<http://www.unian.info/war/1069094-militants-fire-withdrawn-weapons-on-avdiivka-and-donetsk-area-overnight.html>

Border Guards' Car Tripped a Landmine Yesterday – ATO Staff, 21.04.2015

Yesterday in Luhansk region near the village Krasna Talivka a car of Ukrainian border guards tripped a landmine, planted by an enemy subversive group, reported Col. Andriy Lysenko, ATO spokesman during the press conference in Kiev on Tuesday, 21 April.

"Two border guards were injured, they were provided with the necessary medical assistance," – he said.

<http://ukraineunderattack.org/en/border-guards-car-tripped-a-landmine-yesterday-ato-staff.html>

OSCE says withdrawn militant weapons missing from storage, spots Ukrainian weapons moving, 21.04.2015

"The SMM returned to six 'DPR' heavy weapons holding areas. At three of the six sites the SMM was able to confirm that all weapons previously recorded by the SMM were in situ.," the report reads.

"At one site the number of heavy weapons corresponded to the number and type recorded by the SMM on their previous visit, though the SMM was prevented from checking the serial numbers on weaponry by 'DPR' members. At two other sites none of the weapons previously recorded at the locations by the SMM were present. 'DPR' members at one of these sites (where all four previously recorded Multiple Launch Rocket System (MLRS Grad) were missing) said that the weapons were taken away in preparation for a Victory Day parade on 9 May. At another site, both artillery pieces previously recorded were missing, and there were no 'DPR' members present."

The mission also recorded the movement of equipment that supposed to have been withdrawn by Ukrainian forces.

<http://start.co.ua/index.php/news-about-ukraine-in-english/18426-osce-says-withdrawn-militant-weapons-missing-from-storage-spots-ukrainian-weapons-moving>
<http://us6.campaign-archive1.com/?u=b11aceda364f8f9afa6cadbbb&id=ff840b1f77&e=6b2886dd4c>

UN: Number of refugees from Ukraine exceeds 800,000 people, 21.04.2015

"According to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, as of April 16, a total of 800,961 Ukrainians had filed a request for asylum, a residence permit or another legal status in neighboring countries," the document says.

It is also reported that nearly 660,000 people are officially registered in Russia, and another 81,000 people are registered in Belarus.

The number of people fleeing from the Donbas in other regions of Ukraine as of April 15 has reached 1.228 million people.

"This is about 15,000 people more than the previous week," the report reads.

<http://www.unian.info/society/1069575-un-number-of-refugees-from-ukraine-exceeds-800000-people.html>

Seven tanks, 16 armored vehicles, and 31 military trucks - Ukrainian air reconnaissance found terrorists' military equipment near demarcation line, 21.04.2015

Air reconnaissance unit of Dnipro-1 regiment found evidence of Russian tanks near the demarcation line.

As reported, air reconnaissance revealed 31 military vehicles, 16 armored vehicles, seven tanks, and a ground artillery intelligence station in the village of Bezimenne, the Donetsk region. Four of the seven tanks are T-72B models, which only serve in the Russian army.

http://en.censor.net.ua/video_news/333425/seven_tanks_16_armored_vehicles_and_31_military_trucks_ukrainian_air_reconnaissance_found_terrorists

Militants continue committing armed provocations: Shyrokyne village was shelled from mortars and tanks - ATO press center, 21.04.2015

The report reads: "14 attacks on positions of our troops along the demarcation line were conducted totally from midnight to 6 p.m. The illegal armed groups of the so-called 'DPR' opened fire at an ATO forces' strong point near the village of Shyrokyne in the Donetsk region four times in the morning using small arms, automatic grenade launchers, 120 and 82-mm mortars, as well as a tank gun. In addition, the enemy shelled our positions near the village of Pisky from 120-millimeter mortars.

"Our positions near the village of Opytne were assaulted by the gangs three times in the afternoon using automatic grenade launchers, small arms, and sniper rifles. The gangs also used small arms and anti-tank missile systems against the Ukrainian troops' positions near the villages of Avdiivka, Leninske, and Shumy.

http://en.censor.net.ua/news/333538/militants_continue_committing_armed_provocations_shyrokyne_village_was_shelled_from_mortars_and_tanks

Russian Prisoners Are Offered to Become Militants in the Donbas – ATO Staff, 21.04.2015

The Russian government offers prisoners an amnesty in exchange for fighting for illegal armed groups in the Donbas, said Col. Andriy Lysenko, ATO spokesman during the press conference in Kiev on Tuesday, April 21. "According to intelligence data, the Russian government offers amnesty to citizens serving sentences in Russian colonies. The requirement for amnesty is leaving to the Donbas and joining the ranks of "DNR" and "LNR" illegal armed gangs." – said Lysenko.

For your interest, according to the "Information resistance" group the militants turned Luhansk into large military camp, where six large individual units of the Russian-terrorist forces are deployed.

<http://ukraineunderattack.org/en/russian-prisoners-are-offered-to-become-militants-in-the-donbas-ato-staff.html>

17 drones, helicopter invade Ukraine's airspace, 22.04.2015

Spokesman for the anti-terrorist operation in eastern Ukraine Andriy Lysenko said this at a briefing in Kyiv on Wednesday, an Ukrinform correspondent reported.

"Ukrainian border guards observed the flight of Mi-8 helicopter, allegedly of the Russian Armed Forces, that invaded Ukraine's airspace on the administrative border with the occupied Autonomous Republic of Crimea," Lysenko said.

He also noted that the terrorists enhanced their aerial reconnaissance activities.

Thus, according to Ukraine's State Border Service, 17 flights of enemy's UAVs were observed in the area of the anti-terrorist operation in Donbas.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/17_drones_helicopter_invalidate_ukraines_airspace_330842

Miners give ultimatum to cabinet on Demchyshyn's resignation, 22.04.2015

About 500 miners picketing the building of the Cabinet of Ministers in the center of Kyiv on Wednesday said they will not leave the capital until Minister of Energy and the Coal Industry Volodymyr Demchyshyn is dismissed.

The miners are also demanding the development of the coal industry, an end to mine closures and the payment of salaries and other social benefits, according to an UNIAN correspondent. The protesters have blocked the traffic on Hrushevskiy Street, on which the Cabinet Office and the parliament are located, and are holding a rally near the main entrance to the building of the Cabinet of Ministers.

More than 100 policemen are standing nearby, behind a metal fence.

As reported, more than a thousand miners gathered on Wednesday for a rally in Kyiv to protest at the problems in the industry. They said they planned to block all traffic on Khreshchatyk Street.

<http://www.unian.info/politics/1070275-miners-give-ultimatum-to-cabinet-on-demchyshyns-resignation.html>

Latest from OSCE Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine, 22.04.2015

Between 09:40 and 13:22hrs, while at the observation post of the Joint Centre for Control and Co-ordination at the Donetsk railway station ("Donetsk People's Republic" ("DPR")-controlled, 8km north-west of Donetsk), the SMM heard 356 explosions, anti-aircraft machine gun, automatic grenade launcher, heavy machinegun and small arms fire (complete breakdown of the ceasefire violations). The SMM estimates that the majority of the explosions were caused by 82mm and 120mm mortar fire. The JCCC made three ceasefire attempts around the airport at 10:30, 11:00 and 11:30hrs, but none of them succeeded.

The SMM met "DPR" members at the destroyed new terminal of Donetsk airport ("DPR"-controlled, 11km north-west of Donetsk) who stated that the building had suffered heavy shelling during the night of 21 to 22 April. They also said that they had identified the smell of what they believe to be decomposing human remains under the ruins. The SMM could not verify this information. While at this location, the SMM heard exchanges of heavy artillery and mortar fire with two impacts consistent with artillery shell 700m south-south-east of the SMM's position.

<http://www.osce.org/ukraine-smm/153116>

<http://us6.campaign-archive1.com/?u=b11aceda364f8f9afa6cadbbb&id=d0eee2396d&e=6b2886dd4c>

Tymchuk: Militants carrying out reconnaissance of Ukrainian positions on Azov coast, 22.04.2015

According to Tymchuk, the Ukrainian army recorded several reconnaissance overflights by enemy drones along the coast to the west of Mariupol.

To the west of the village of Telmanove, the militants equipped a platoon fortified position. For this purpose, they transferred engineering equipment from the town of Komsomolsk, including a grader and an excavator.

<http://www.unian.info/war/1070075-tymchuk-militants-carrying-out-reconnaissance-of-ukrainian-positions-on-azov-coast.html>

ATO: Militants fire anti-aircraft guns and self-propelled artillery at Ukrainian army, 22.04.2015

Militants fired 120mm mortars eight times on the positions of the Ukrainian forces. Also, at 2305 the militants fired mortars on the village of Leninske in Dzerzhynskiy district of Donetsk region.

"In the Donetsk region, the militants fired 120mm mortars three times on the positions of the Ukrainian army near the village of Pisky. They also fired mortars twice near the village of Leninske, as well as in the area of the town of Avdiivka, the villages of Shyrokyne and Novhorodske. Near the villages of Opytne and Pershe Travnia, the militants fired anti-aircraft guns and self-propelled artillery at the fortified positions of the Ukrainian troops," the report says.

<http://www.unian.info/war/1070040-ato-militants-fire-anti-aircraft-guns-and-self-propelled-artillery-at-ukrainian-army.html>

Miners came to protest at the Cabinet of Ministers. The building is guarded by 10 rows of policemen, 23.04.2015

About a thousand miners from the western and eastern regions of Ukraine, who had previously rallied near the Presidential Administration and the Verkhovna Rada are now picketing the Cabinet. Miners hold banners reading "Demchysyn to the sidelines" and others, drumming their helmets and shouting "Shame!"

There are about 10 rows of policemen in full riot gear in front of the Cabinet entrance.

There are additional buses with policemen in the nearby Mariinskyi park. There have been no squabbles. Hrushevskoho Street, where the Cabinet is located is blocked by traffic police with protesters standing on the roadway.

http://en.censor.net.ua/news/333650/miners_came_to_protest_at_the_cabinet_of_ministers_the_building_is_guarded_by_10_rows_of_policemen
<http://sputniknews.com/politics/20150423/1021271837.html>

SBU: Militants demand from UAH 2,000 to \$10,000 to release each Ukrainian captive, 23.04.2015

The ransom paid to release Ukrainian armed forces servicemen held by militants is from UAH 2,000 to \$10,000 per soldier, Chief of the Investigation Department of the Security Service of Ukraine Vasyly Vovk said on Thursday.

"The militants name different prices: from UAH 2,000 to \$10,000," he said, asked about what was the average ransom per soldier.

According to Vovk, everything depends on the soldier's own financial status.

"Ukraine is a great country, but when it comes to life and death, you can learn everything. For example, you can find out about the income of any soldier, or [that of] his relatives " he said.

"One Cossack held five of our guys in captivity. As they told, he asked for UAH 2,000 for the five of them. This is small money for a businessman. But sometimes the militants ask \$50,000 for a 'famous' soldier. And some of them want UAH 700, but the money has to be transferred to their bank card. Many of them are scammers," Vovk said.

<http://www.unian.info/society/1070641-sbu-militants-demand-from-uah-2000-to-10000-to-release-each-ukrainian-captive.html>

No death casualties over the past day. Seven Ukrainian soldiers wounded, 23.04.2015

"Over the past day, no Ukrainian soldiers were killed in hostilities; seven were wounded, mostly near Pisky village in the Donetsk airport vicinity," presidential administration representative on ATO matters Colonel Oleksandr Motuzianyk said.

http://en.censor.net.ua/news/333775/no_death_casualties_over_the_past_day_seven_ukrainian_soldiers_wounded_nsd
<http://www.unian.info/war/1070709-seven-ukrainian-soldiers-wounded-in-donbas-conflict-zone-in-last-day.html>

Militants fire 'withdrawn' mortars on Pisky, three soldiers injured, 23.04.2015

At least three Ukrainian soldiers have been wounded in the village of Pisky as a result of another mortar attack by Russian-backed militants, volunteer Olha Holubeva said on Wednesday. Weapons of caliber greater than 100mm were supposed to have been withdrawn from the front line under the Minsk peace agreements, but the Ukrainian military and the OSCE have reported their use by the militants in several recent attacks.

All the victims of the shelling have been admitted to the Mechnikov hospital in Dnipropetrovsk.

<http://www.unian.info/war/1070567-militants-fire-withdrawn-mortars-on-pisky-three-soldiers-injured.html>

Latest from OSCE Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine, 23.04.2015

The SMM monitored the implementation of the "Package of measures for the Implementation of the Minsk agreements". Its monitoring was restricted by third parties and security considerations*. The SMM were prevented from accessing part of Shyrokyne (20km east of Mariupol) by "Donetsk People's Republic" members. The SMM revisited heavy weapons holding areas, and noted some weapons had been removed. Protests in Kyiv were monitored by the SMM.

<http://us6.campaign-archive1.com/?u=b11aceda364f8f9afa6cadbbb&id=57f0cea7c0&e=6b2886dd4c>

Militants increase attacks, fire from tanks, self-propelled artillery, anti-aircraft guns, 23.04.2015

Russian-backed militants in the Donbas attacked Ukrainian army positions 30 times from 1800 to midnight on Wednesday, Ukraine's ATO press service reported on Facebook on Thursday.

<http://www.digitalnewsworld.com/news/militants-increase-attacks-fire-from-tanks-selfpropelled-artillery-antiaircraft-guns.html>

Spot Report by OSCE Observer Mission, Russian convoy, 23.04.2015

On 23 April 2015 at 07:25hrs (Moscow time), a Russian convoy arrived at the Donetsk Border Crossing Point (BCP). A total of 62 vehicles were checked by the Russian border guard and customs services. All the vehicles had crossed back into the RF by 18:40hrs on 23 April.

<http://us6.campaign-archive1.com/?u=b11aceda364f8f9afa6cadbbb&id=a67c1d16c7&e=6b2886dd4c>

Demilitarization of Shyrokyne does not mean Ukrainian army will leave the village – Turchynov, 23.04.2015

"When we speak of demilitarization, it does not mean that we need to retreat from a village, let's say, of Shyrokyne. We mean that we need to create a permanent OSCE monitoring mission point in Shyrokyne. As of now, they work as follows: they travel around the territory from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. As soon as they leave at 5 p.m., the Russian terrorist groups start shelling," Turchynov said. He added that under the Minsk agreements, Shyrokyne is under total control of Ukraine.

http://en.censor.net.ua/news/333722/demilitarization_of_shyrokyne_does_not_mean_ukrainian_army_will_leave_the_village_turchynov

Night in ATO zone: Militants did not cease fire from heavy artillery systems, tanks, 24.04.2015

"In Donetsk region, there were mortar attacks on the positions of the Ukrainian troops near the village of Shyrokyne, the town of Avdiyivka, and the villages of Mayorske, Zaitseve and Orlovske," the press center said.

What is more, a 122mm-caliber self-propelled artillery system, a tank, automatic grenade launchers and small arms were used to shell the ATO forces near the village of Shyrokyne.

In Luhansk, militants used small arms, automatic grenade launchers and an anti-aircraft system to attack the Ukrainian troops four times near the town of Schastia.

At the same time, civilian facilities were not being shelled over the period under review.

According to the report, enemy unmanned aerial vehicles were spotted three times from 2000 to 2100 Kyiv time on Thursday: one was seen over the Ukrainian-held city of Mariupol in Donetsk region and two in Luhansk region.

<http://ukrnews.today/night-in-ato-zone-militants-did-not-cease-fire-from-heavy-artillery-systems-tanks/>

OSCE: monitors prevented by militants from freely accessing Shyrokyne's east, 24.04.2015

"Today SMM has been prevented by the so-called "DPR" from freely accessing the eastern part of Shyrokyne," the OSCE SMM to Ukraine wrote on Facebook on Thursday evening.

"The "DPR" has also abused SMM's presence to redeploy and rotate," the mission reported.

In this connection, Deputy Chief Monitor of the OSCE SMM to Ukraine Alexander Hug said that such action is "unacceptable interference with the mandate of the SMM and represents an intolerable exploitation of SMM's presence and role in Shyrokyne".

<http://ukrnews.today/osce-monitors-prevented-by-militants-from-freely-accessing-shyrokyne-east/>

<http://us6.campaign-archive2.com/?u=b11aceda364f8f9afa6cadbbb&id=839fc35ecd&e=6b2886dd4c>

ATO Staff Publishes Precise Data on Russian Regular Troops in the Donbas, 24.04.2015

In total a pool of 55,000 Russian servicemen was recorded along the Ukrainian-Russian border.

"In general in Ukraine there are about 9,000 Russian soldiers only in regular Russian army formations. This does not include Russian military within "DNR" and "LNR" armed units. They declare forming the first and second Army Corps of Brigadier composition. The first represents Donetsk region, the second one – Luhansk region, "According to Colonel Serhiy Halushko. He said, the militants do not possess enough of their high-level officers able to engage in training and departments management, so they have to involve experts from Russia. The total number of "DNR" and "LNR" militants, according to ATO Staff, is more than 32,000 people. Approximately a half of the gangs are mercenaries who came from Russia, and a half of the rest are Russian military personnel.

<http://ukraineunderattack.org/en/ato-staff-publishes-precise-data-on-russian-regular-troops-in-the-donbas.html>

Russian Federation redeploys scouts of the 74th Independent Motorized Rifle Brigade from Novosibirsk to Luhansk by plane, 24.04.2015

Russia redeployed army intelligence to Luhansk, the Donbas, from Novosibirsk, Russia, using IL-76 aircrafts. The flight from Siberia to Millerovo, at the Ukrainian border, was photographed by Russian soldier Ruslan Kurshutov. Ruslan serves at the 74th Independent Motorized Rifle Brigade, was awarded a medal for the annexation of Crimea, and was at the Ukrainian border not far from the Sumy region in summer 2014.

Russian command uses aviation for the redeployment of divisions of the 74th brigade from Novosibirsk. On April 11, Russian troops at the air base Tolmachevo boarded a transportation plane IL-76MD, which had been modified to fit as much troops as possible.

http://en.censor.net.ua/photo_news/333774/russian_federation_redeploys_scouts_of_the_74th_independent_motorized_rifle_brigade_from_novosibirsk

Night with Grads in Donbas: militants again use multiple rocket launchers to shell troops, civilians, 25.04.2015

"In the early hours of April 25, illegal armed formations in Donbas again shelled the positions of the ATO forces and villages with the use of Grad BM-21 multiple-launch rocket systems. From 0110 to 0115 Kyiv time and from 0210 to 0220 Kyiv time [on Saturday] the criminals launched 40 and 20 rockets respectively towards the position of Ukrainian troops near the village of Hranitne in Donetsk region. What is more, the militants used Grad systems to shell civilians for the second time in the past week: from 0230 to 0235 Kyiv time they launched 20 rockets from a Grad BM-21 system to attack the village of Starohnativka in Volnovakha district [in Donetsk region]," the ATO press center said.

The frequency of shelling by pro-Russian militants who use heavy weapons has increased recently, the source said. Last night alone, illegal armed formations used 120mm-caliber mortars to attack the Ukrainian army's positions near the village of Pisky [located near the destroyed Donetsk airport] and the town of Avdiyivka.

<http://www.unian.info/war/1071556-night-with-grads-in-donbas-militants-again-use-multiple-rocket-launchers-to-shell-troops-civilians.html>

One Ukrainian soldier killed and two wounded over past 24 hours, 25.04.2015

One soldier was killed in the anti-terrorist operation area on Friday, April 24.

Two more servicemen were wounded, ATO press secretary Andrii Lysenko said.

http://en.censor.net.ua/news/334054/one_ukrainian_soldier_killed_and_two_wounded_over_past_24_hours

Spot Report by OSCE Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine, 26.04.2015

On 26 April, the SMM observed what it assessed to be the most intense shelling in Shyrokyne (20km east of Mariupol) since fighting began in the area in mid-February 2015. For the last 12 hours, and on-going at the time of this report, the SMM has observed sporadic to continuous exchanges of fire involving small arms, machine gun, rocket propelled grenade and automatic grenade launcher. Throughout the day, from two adjacent observation posts, located 1,5km west and 4,5km north-west of Shyrokyne, the SMM observed 69 outgoing tank shots, originating from 600 metres south-east and 800 metres north of its position, 191 outgoing mortar rounds (82mm) and 153 outgoing mortar rounds (120mm), originating from 600 metres south-east, 300 and 1,500 metres north-west and 800 metres north of the its position.

<http://www.osce.org/ukraine-smm/153501>

Donbas militants shell Ukrainian troops 46 times in first half of Sunday, 27.04.2015

From 0000 to 1800 Kyiv time on Sunday, pro-Russian militants shelled the Ukrainian troops along the entire line of contact 46 times, using mainly small arms, though mortars and artillery systems were also engaged, the ATO press center reported.

“Militants opened fire on the position of Ukrainian troops near the village of Shyrokyne in Donetsk region 13 times, using, among other things, 120mm-caliber mortars and 122mm-caliber artillery systems, a tank and an anti-aircraft system. The village of Pisky [near the destroyed Donetsk airport] and the areas around it were shelled from 122-mm caliber artillery systems and a tank, and 120mm-caliber mortars were used five times,” the report said.

“A short fight took place near Pisky at about 5 o’clock in the morning [on Sunday], but the ATO forces were able to repel the enemy’s attack,” the press service said.

Different types of weapons were used to shell the Ukrainian troops near the town of Avdiyivka, and the villages of Opytne and Kirove.

<http://ukrnews.today/donbas-militants-shell-ukrainian-troops-46-times-in-first-half-of-sunday/>

ATO update: Ukrainian forces being shelled 23 times since Sunday evening, 27.04.2015

"In Donetsk region, militants fired from 120mm-caliber mortars on the ATO forces near the village of Pisky three times and near the town of Avdiyivka twice. The enemy also used 122mm-caliber artillery systems to attack the positions near Avdiyivka twice.

An artillery system of the same caliber was used one time by militants to fire on the Ukrainian positions near the village of Shyrokyne. They also used an 82mm-caliber mortar, machine guns and small arms to attack Ukrainian troops near the villages of Zaitseve and Opytne.

In Luhansk region, pro-Russian terrorists five times fired on Ukrainian troops near the town of Schastia, in particular, they used anti-aircraft systems three times and automatic grenade launchers twice.

Automatic grenade launchers were also used to shell Ukrainian troops near Sokilnyky village.

In addition, militants again shelled civilians: chaotic shelling from a ZU-23-2 anti-aircraft system at 2205 Kyiv time on Sunday hit the town of Schastia.

Over the period under review, the enemy was actively conducting aerial reconnaissance. The peak period was from 2100 to 2200 Kyiv time on Sunday.

<http://www.unian.info/war/1071847-ato-update-ukrainian-forces-being-shelled-23-times-since-sunday-evening.html>

One Ukrainian soldier killed, 14 wounded in Donbas conflict zone in last day, 28.04.2015

One Ukrainian soldier has been killed and another 14 injured in the Donbas conflict zone over the last 24 hours, the ATO HQ press center head Colonel Oleksandr Motuzianyk said.

<http://www.unian.info/war/1072518-one-ukrainian-soldier-killed-14-wounded-in-donbas-conflict-zone-in-last-day.html>

Paratroopers attempted to disarm a Right Sector unit – Yarosh, 29.04.2015

Units of the 95th airmobile and the 25th Airborne brigade put up checkpoints around the base of the Right Sector in the village of Velykomykhailivka, which is out of the ATO area, in the Dnipropetrovsk region. This is stated by editor-in-chief Yuriy Butusov.

http://en.censor.net.ua/news/334493/paratroopers_attempted_to_disarm_a_right_sector_unit_yarosh

Ukraine's Right Sector to Picket Presidential Administration Building, 29.04.2015

"Right Sector informs that according to reliable information, the authorities are preparing a large-scale provocation against volunteer units. So to prevent such operations, we are gathering near the building of the presidential administration at 12:00 local time," according to a Right Sector message.

Commenting on the incident, Right Sector leader and advisor to the Military Chief of Staff Dmytro Yarosh said that the country's military and political leadership had decided to deliberately provoke a conflict between nationalists and the army in order to discredit the volunteer units.

<http://sputniknews.com/europe/20150429/1021507911.html>

Terrorists committed 29 attacks on Ukrainian troops' positions in the evening. An engagement took place near Sokilnyky - ATO press center, 29.04.2015

According to the headquarters, the illegal armed groups attacked the Ukrainian troops' positions along the demarcation line 29 times from 6 p.m. to midnight. The criminals shelled Chermalyk and Shchastia villages twice.

The enemy again shelled the Ukrainian positions near Avdiivka from Grads at 6 p.m.

"The illegal armed groups shelled our positions near Chermalyk from man-portable antitank guns and 82-mm mortars. Several shells hit the residential neighborhood. A local resident was killed as a result," the statement reads.

The enemy attacks were the heaviest in the Luhansk region: 120-mm mortars, automatic grenade launchers and snipers were engaged in assaults on the Luhansk thermal power plant situated in the city of Shchastia; the villages of Shchastia and Krymske came under fire from mortars, automatic grenade launchers and small arms.

<http://en.censor.net.ua/news/334518/terrorists-committed-29-attacks-on-ukrainian-troops-positions-in-the-evening-an-engagement-took-place>

Groysman: More than 100 Ukrainian soldiers killed in Donbas since 'ceasefire', 30.04.2015

"Since the announcement of the ceasefire on February 15, the Ukrainian positions have been fired on over 2,500 times. As a result, more than 100 Ukrainian soldiers have been killed and more than 500 people injured," he said.

<http://www.unian.info/politics/1073404-groysman-more-than-100-ukrainian-soldiers-killed-in-donbas-since-ceasefire.html>

Pilot Savchenko

Savchenko Lawyer Feigin Investigated for 'Extremist' Tweets, 02.04.2015

Mark Feigin, an avid Twitter user, claimed Wednesday on the social network that the inquiry was also prompted by the prosecution's failure to prove its charges against Savchenko, whom Moscow accuses of abetting the killing of two Russian journalists in eastern Ukraine last summer. "They held on for 9.5 months. After that it became clear the 'Savchenko case' is crumbling. Can't pull it off without removing Feigin," the lawyer wrote.

Feigin said he received a call earlier Wednesday from an Investigative Committee official asking about his Twitter account. Given the April 1 date of the call and the tweet, he added in another message: "Confirmed, not a joke."

The "extremism" inquiry appeared to have been prompted by a complaint from lawyer and Kremlin supporter, Ilya Remeslo, who has acknowledged on his Twitter he had written to the Justice Ministry "so they raise the question about disbaring" Feigin over his Twitter messages.

"Things work quickly," Remeslo added. "I wrote about [Feigin] to the organs just a few days ago." In response, Feigin denounced Remeslo as a "snitch."

The inquiry comes amid the government's increasing efforts to suppress opposition-minded voices on social networks, which have emerged as the main means of galvanizing supporters and communicating with onlookers for Russia's political dissidents and Savchenko's defense team.

<http://www.themoscowtimes.com/news/article/savchenko-lawyer-feigin-investigated-for-extremist-tweets/518458.html>

Russian investigation's main proof does not belong to Nadiya Savchenko, 16.04.2015

Russian investigative expertise has found that one of the major proofs of the case, a notebook with records which had been found by the terrorists and allegedly proved her guilty, does not belong to Nadiya Savchenko, announced Savchenko's lawyer Ilya Novikov.

"Those notes found by the terrorists, they are not Nadiya's notebook. We were shown the results of the expertise today, and it confirmed that Nadiya had nothing to do with them," he said.

"Although most of expertise investigations serve for purposes of time delaying, in this case they really helped," Novikov said.

http://en.censor.net.ua/news/332831/russian_investigations_main_proof_does_not_belong_to_nadiya_savchenko_lawyer

Vera Savchenko campaigns in Paris for sister's release from Moscow jail, 16.04.2015

The sister of Nadiya Savchenko came to Paris to get more support from the French government and high-profile French intellectuals ahead of another trial hearing expected to be held on Friday. The visit included meetings with members of the Senate, the National Assembly, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe and the Foreign Ministry, as well as with the French "intelligentsia" and cultural figures, such as writer and philosopher Bernard Henri Levy.

<http://www.unian.info/society/1067911-vera-savchenko-campaigns-in-paris-for-sisters-release-from-moscow-jail-video.html>

Ukraine repeats call for Russia to release Savchenko, 18.04.2015

Ukraine's Foreign Ministry has expressed protest in connection with the refusal of the Basmanny Court of Moscow to close criminal proceedings against Ukraine's MP, pilot Nadiya Savchenko and demanded that the Russian side immediately liberate the Ukrainian woman.

<http://www.kyivpost.com/content/ukraine/ukraines-foreign-ministry-demands-russia-to-liberate-savchenko-386537.html>

Mother Of Jailed Ukrainian Pilot In Global Appeal, 21.04.2015

Her mother, Maria Savchenko, told AP on April 20 that her daughter is a political prisoner. Maria Savchenko said Russian prosecutors have provided "no evidence" that her daughter provided guidance for a mortar attack that killed two Russian state TV journalists at a checkpoint in eastern Ukraine, as Moscow claims.

Savchenko launched her global campaign in Germany, where she pleaded for help from lawmakers. New York is her second stop and she will meet on April 21 with UN Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights Ivan Simonovic.

<http://www.rferl.org/content/ukraine-savchenko-mother-global-appeal-/26969109.html>

<http://ukraine.usembassy.gov/statements/power-savchenko-04222015.html>

Russia FM says amnesty for jailed Ukrainian ex-pilot Savchenko possible, 22.04.2015

Ukrainian ex-pilot Nadezhda Savchenko, who has been held for months in a Moscow jail on charges of complicity in the killing of two Russian journalists, can be granted amnesty as part of the Minsk agreements, but the case should come to trial first, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov said on Wednesday. "She is being charged with a serious crime, in complicity in actions that resulted in the death of Russian journalists. We should not be indifferent towards the investigation into these crimes," Lavrov said in an interview with three radio stations, Ekho Moskvy, Sputnik and Govorit Moskva.

Savchenko was arrested before she became a member of Ukraine's parliament, the Verkhovna Rada, and a member of Ukraine's delegation at the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE), Lavrov said, adding that the parliamentary immunity is only granted when people actually fulfill their duties.

"Speaking on all-for-all prisoner exchange, then she [Savchenko] is not a hostage, she is arrested on suspicion of having committed crimes. Here we can talk about using another part of the Minsk agreements envisaging amnesty for all those linked to events in the south-east," Lavrov said.

<http://tass.ru/en/russia/791032>

Russia's investigators went for broke: Savchenko will be charged of illegal border crossing on Friday – Feigin, 22.04.2015

Investigators of the case of the Ukrainian pilot and MP Nadiya Savchenko, who is illegally held on the territory of the Russian Federation, intends to indict her with illegal crossing of the Russian border on Friday.

"So, they went for broke. The investigator has just told me that Savchenko will be charged of illegal border crossing on Friday!" he wrote.

Feigin also said that, in his opinion, the charges for illegal border crossing, brought to kidnapped Savchenko under the Article 322 of the Criminal Code, are mockery.

"The defense will appeal against the decision in court immediately after bringing in the indictment under the Article 322 of the Criminal Code. It is usually done another way, but they do not leave us a choice," the lawyer added.

http://en.censor.net.ua/news/333642/russias_investigators_went_for_broke_savchenko_will_be_charged_of_illegal_border_crossing_on_friday

Rada appeals to Putin to release Savchenko, other Ukrainians held captive illegally in Russia, 22.04.2015

The appeal was supported by 249 parliamentarians on Wednesday.

Ukrainian lawmakers also called on Putin to use his influence on illegal armed groups in eastern Ukraine so that they immediately release Ukrainian captives held by them in the 'all-for-all' format. They insist that Savchenko, Sentsov and other Ukrainians who were taken prisoner in Ukrainian territory, then brought to Russia and held captive illegally, must be released.

<http://en.interfax.com.ua/news/general/261935.html>

U.S. House Committee on Foreign Affairs adopted resolution on Savchenko, 23.04.2015

Committee on Foreign Affairs Ranking Member Congressman Eliot Engel said during the hearing that Nadiya Savchenko is true hero of Ukraine while her firmness has inspired many people fighting for the independent, democratic, and prosperous Ukraine.

The resolution calls on the United States, its European allies, and the international community to aggressively support efforts to release Nadiya Savchenko and other illegally detained persons.

Sources in the U.S. Congress specified that according to the procedure, the document will be sent from the Committee directly to a vote at the House of Representatives. As the resolution does not contain any conflicting provisions, its final adoption is expected shortly.

It should be reminded that the document was submitted late January by congressmen Sander Levin, Marcy Kaptur, Mike Fitzpatrick, Mike Quigley and Bill Pascrell.

http://en.censor.net.ua/news/333855/us_house_committee_on_foreign_affairs_adopted_resolution_on_savchenko

Ukraine's Foreign Ministry protests against new charges against Savchenko, 24.04.2015

Ukraine's Ministry of Foreign Affairs has expressed its strong protest against charges brought by the Russian side on Friday against Ukrainian citizen Nadia Savchenko, who was captured by pro-Russian militants in Luhansk region in Ukraine in June 2014.

Despite multiple enquiries by the Ukrainian side regarding the forced transportation of Savchenko to Russia, that country's Investigative Committee brought additional charges against her, accusing her of illegally crossing the Russian border, the ministry said in a statement. Such a decision demonstrates an attempt by the Russian side to justify at any price the imprisonment of a Ukrainian citizen and her criminal prosecution in territory of the Russian Federation. Every piece of the evidence provided by Savchenko's defense to prove her innocence has been ignored, the ministry said.

http://www.fm-tv.kiev.ua/main_news/59617/view/

Nadiya Savchenko faces new charges for crossing border illegally, 24.04.2015

Ukrainian MP and captive pilot Nadiya Savchenko can now face new charges - this time, for crossing the border into Russia illegally. That's according to her lawyer Mark Feygin. An expert has been appointed to figure out where exactly Savchenko was at the time of her arrest, reports the Echo of Moscow.

Savchenko was abducted by militants in summer last year and funnelled across the border into Russia, where she was handed over to authorities and charged with involvement in the deaths of two Russian journalists in the conflict zone.

<http://uatoday.tv/politics/ukrainian-pilot-nadiya-savchenko-faces-new-charges-for-crossing-border-illegally-lawyer-423366.html>

Postal service releases Savchenko stamp to support imprisoned pilot, 26.04.2015

Ukraine's postal service, Ukrposhta, began issuing postage stamps bearing the image of Nadiya Savchenko in a move to raise support and awareness for the Ukrainian pilot, who has had two hunger strikes since her imprisonment in a Moscow jail. Her detention is widely viewed as illegal. The stamp depicts Savchenko with her head rested on folded arms and her trademark blue eyes. It is issued as a single honorary postage stamp that will be sent to her along with letters of support, in what postal workers hope will provide a pleasant surprise and morale boost. Even though it was issued as a special present for Savchenko, anyone can order a similar stamp from Ukrposhta's custom-made stamps service Vlasna Marka.

<http://www.kyivpost.com/content/ukraine/postal-service-releases-savchenko-stamp-to-support-imprisoned-pilot-387152.html>

Nadiya Savchenko's response to Ukraine's Security Service Chief, 26.04.2015

Vasyl Vasylyovych,

You've decided that you have the right to make announcements regarding my life and my freedom. Naturally, I have the right to respond to you for this reason.

I live my life using my own judgment. If I am dissatisfied with my attorneys, I will discharge them myself.

But I have complete trust in my defense team! And I fully support our line of defense. I am wholly satisfied with the qualifications, methods, and sincere intentions of Mark Feygin, Nikolay Polozov, and Ilya Novikov.

I ask that you keep your nose out of my business, since you are unable and unwilling to provide me with [legal] defense. At the same time, you are preventing others from doing it! You have no moral right to talk about me in the first place!!!

I also have a question for you: if you graduated from a Russian university in Soviet times, if you were a government official and held prominent positions under Yanukovich [ousted Ukrainian president], then what are you still doing as part of the [new Ukrainian] government? Where is our lustration [team]? Isn't it high time for you to retire?

<http://maidantranslations.com/2015/04/26/nadiya-savchenkos-response-to-ukraines-security-service-chief-stay-out-of-it-freesavchenko/>

Savchenko on third day of resumed hunger strike, 27.04.2015

"For the last three days Nadia Savchenko has refused to eat. Therefore, a medical consultation will be held today," said Kristina Belousova, a representative of the service.

As reported earlier, Chairman of the Russian Human Rights Council Mikhail Fedotov told reporters that Savchenko had resumed her hunger strike and could be sent to hospital due to her deteriorating health.

"She is on a hunger strike, her blood sugar level is low and other test results are precarious, so we've just talked about the possibility of sending her to hospital," he said.

<http://ukrnews.today/savchenko-on-third-day-of-resumed-hunger-strike/>

<http://ukrnews.today/savchenko-has-refused-food-for-three-days-board-of-doctors-will-convene-fsin/>

Hospital conditions for Savchenko worse than jail, lawyer says, 30.04.2015

According to Novikov, Savchenko's ward is on the fourth floor, and the windows are barred.

"There is little air and light, walks and visits from family members are not allowed, and the mattress smells of bedridden patients. In this special block they often bring the dying, who can no longer walk. Nadia still can walk," he said.

"According to Russia's Federal Penitentiary Service, she is considered as a person who is inclined to escape, violence and suicide. On the first day the guards were afraid: she was taken in handcuffs to the shower or toilet. Today, they are not afraid," Novikov said.

<http://www.unian.info/politics/1073392-hospital-conditions-for-savchenko-worse-than-jail-lawyer-says.html>

Mass Media

Crimean ATR TV Channel halts broadcasting, 01.04.2015

The stream on the channel's Web site now shows only a black screen.

Previously, channel General Director Elzara Islyamova said that a Russian broadcasting license had not been issued to the channel despite the repeated provision of the necessary documents. From March 25 the channel held a telethon entitled "Do Not Kill ATR," during which in the corner of the screen a countdown to the ending of broadcasting was shown.

"The management of the channel is under pressure and we've been called on to sell the channel," Islyamova said at a press-conference.

<http://www.unian.info/society/1062284-crimean-atr-tv-channel-halts-broadcasting.html>

<http://www.unian.info/society/1062510-russian-occupiers-shut-down-worlds-only-crimean-tatar-tv-channel-in-ukraines-crimea.html>

Ukraine, U.S. Condemn Russia Over Closure of Crimean Tatar Media Outlets, 03.04.2015

KIEV — The silencing of a television station for the Tatar people in Crimea, annexed by Russia from Ukraine a year ago, sparked outcry on Friday, with Kiev accusing Moscow of trying to stamp out non-Russian influence on the peninsula.

The station, ATR, which formerly broadcast under a Ukrainian license, has sought four times to re-register with Russia's media regulator, Roskomnadzor, to stay on the air. But each time it was turned down because of alleged mistakes in its applications, Tatar officials said.

There was no immediate comment from Roskomnadzor in Moscow.

<http://www.themoscowtimes.com/news/article/ukraine-us-condemn-russia-over-closure-of-crimean-tatar-media-outlets/518588.html>

Reporter killed near Donetsk airport – media, 13.04.2015

Journalist was killed in car shelling attack on the Donetsk airport on Sunday, Hromadske TV said. As a senior chief of the Ukrainian JCCC team in Donetsk Colonel Andriy Lischynsky said, under various sources two local journalists were inside the car.

"Under preliminary report, an antitank missile hit the car. One journalist killed. Another correspondent jumped out of the car and managed to survive," he said.

<http://en.interfax.com.ua/news/general/260220.html>

Russia to Fund Crimean Tatar TV After Forcing Independent Channel to Close, 15.04.2015

An independent television station run by Crimean Tatars that was taken off air this month will be replaced by a Russian government-sponsored channel, Crimean PM Sergei Aksyonov said. Given the Russian government's practice of keeping a tight grip on television news, the new channel could be used as a powerful tool to mollify Tatars, many of whom reject Russia's annexation of Crimea from Ukraine last year.

The Tatar channel ATR, which broadcast in Russian, Ukrainian and Crimean Tatar, went off air on April 1 after its attempts to register for a broadcast license with Russian authorities were repeatedly rejected.

<http://www.themoscowtimes.com/article/519133.html>

Journalist Oles Buzyna shot dead in Kyiv, 16.04.2015

At the same time, the Department of Public Relations Research Affairs of Ukraine in Kyiv told that the journalist was killed at about 1320 in the Shevchenko district of Kyiv on Dehtiarivska Street, near the house where he lived. An investigative team is working at the crime scene.

According to witnesses, Buzyna was shot by one of two unknown men from a car.

The killing of the journalist was also confirmed by advisor to the Interior Ministry Anton Herashchenko on his Facebook page.

"The famous journalist Oles Buzyna has just been killed on Dehtiarivska Street near the house No. 58 from a dark blue Ford Focus car. The license plates on the car were Latvian or Belarussian, but not Ukrainian," he said.

<http://www.unian.info/politics/1067940-journalist-oles-buzyna-shot-dead-in-kyiv.html>

<http://www.novinite.com/articles/167936/Famous+Journalists+Shot+Dead+in+Ukraine's+Kiev>

National Minorities

'Remember and Demand': Armenian Genocide in Facts, 24.04.2015

Armenians across the entire world on Friday hold commemorations marking the centenary of the Armenian massacre by Ottoman authorities.

The mass killings and deportations, which started in 1915, are considered the most tragic page in the history of the Armenian people. The genocide has left a heavy imprint, not only on their entire subsequent history but also on their sense of national identity.

The massacre took place on the territories of the Ottoman Empire, the predecessor of present-day Turkey, that were historically called Western Armenia, now Eastern Anatolia, and were inhabited predominantly by Armenians. Their annihilation was part of the Ottoman Empire's policy based on its ideology of Pan-Turkism and intolerance of non-Turkic people.

<http://sputniknews.com/world/20150424/1021322267.html>

Commercial facilities of Crimean Tatar businessmen set on fire on the occupied peninsula - Human rights activists, 28.04.2015

This was stated by coordinator of the Committee for Protection of rights of the Crimean Tatar people, member of the Majlis Eskender Bariiev

"In Crimea, commercial sites of Crimean Tatar entrepreneurs are set on fire. In the past few days in the village of Rybacha of the town of Alushta, seven private commercial facilities have been torched: a hotel, cafe Ai-Petri, cafe Uyut, a bazaar, retail outlets and four cars owned by businessmen who are Crimean Tatars," he said.

http://en.censor.net.ua/news/334436/commercial_facilities_of_crimean_tatar_businessmen_set_on_fire_on_the_occupied_peninsula_human_rights

Ukraine Worldwide

Conscription to Russian army starts in Crimea, 01.04.2015

According to the report, more than 150,000 people aged from 18 to 27 years, subject to conscription, will be sent to the Russian Armed Forces by July 15.

In particular, according to the Russian Defense Ministry, about 500 Crimean recruits will join the Russian Armed Forces.

All of them, according to officials of the Russian Defense Ministry, will serve on the peninsula.

On March 30 Russian President Vladimir Putin signed a law that defines the rules for the Crimean population on recruitment and delays in service in the Russian Armed Forces.

<http://www.unian.info/society/1062388-conscription-to-russian-army-starts-in-crimea.html>

NATO launching exercises for rapid reaction force, 01.04.2015

As reported, the VJTF is being established as a part of an overall enhancement to the NATO Response Force in order to address new security challenges on NATO's southern and eastern peripheries.

"The Noble Jump 'Alert Exercise' being conducted in early April is the first time that high-readiness units will practice responding to rapid 'orders to move' under the new VJTF framework. As such, this event represents a learning process that will allow NATO military staff to identify both successes and shortfalls during the early stages of the development process," the communiqué reads.

<http://www.unian.info/world/1062381-nato-launching-exercises-for-rapid-reaction-force.html>

Russian trawler sinks off Kamchatka, more than 40 dead, including Ukrainians, 02.04.2015

There were 132 people on board the Dalniy Vostok trawler, 63 of whom have been rescued from freezing waters.

A total of 26 ships of various types have been engaged in search operations.

The ship was carrying 78 Russian nationals, as well as 54 people from Myanmar, Ukraine, Lithuania and Vanuatu, the news agency said.

The freezer trawler Dalniy Vostok went down in the Sea of Okhotsk, 330 km west of Krutogorovsky settlement in Russia's Kamchatka region and 250 km south of the city of Magadan.

<http://www.unian.info/world/1062755-russian-trawler-sinks-off-kamchatka-more-than-40-dead-including-ukrainians.html>

<http://www.unian.info/world/1062765-possible-causes-named-for-sinking-of-dalniy-vostok-trawler.html>

http://mw.ua/WORLD/russin-trawler-sinks-in-the-sea-of-okhotsk-1616_.html

How the Kremlin's support for the EU far-right threatens to split European unity, 03.04.2015

Russian-sympathetic parties across the EU helped Putin claw influence in the 28-nation-bloc.

How dangerous is the Kremlin's support for the EU's far-right political parties? It's a debate that has filled hours of talk in Brussels in recent months. Since the conflict in Ukraine began with Russia's takeover of Crimea last March, Moscow has attempted to move westwards – somewhat militarily but more so politically - by expanding its influence using fringe parties – which in turn give Vladimir Putin more indirect power to divide the 28-nation-union.

<http://uatoday.tv/politics/how-the-kremlin-rsquo-s-support-for-the-eu-far-right-threatens-to-split-european-unity-419340.html>

FSB in Crimea recognizes "Right Sector" as terrorist organization, 03.04.2015

Russian FSB has added the "Right Sector" to a list of organizations which activities are illegal in the annexed Crimea.

According to Russian media, the decision of Moscow court on the recognition of "Right Sector" as terrorist organization in Russia will now be active in the annexed Crimea.

In general, according to the list, Russia recognizes 23 organizations as terrorist and illegal on its territory. Along with the "Right Sector" the list has such organizations as "Islamic State", "Al-Qaeda" and "Taliban."

http://mw.ua/UKRAINE/fsb-in-crimea-recognizes-right-sector-as-terrorist-organization-1638_.html

Interior Ministry Troops Conduct Drills Reportedly Modeled on Maidan Protests, 09.04.2015

Russia's Interior Ministry troops are conducting large-scale exercises involving a "full arsenal" of anti-riot weapons to practice suppressing political protests such as the one that toppled the pro-Russian administration of neighboring Ukraine last year, a news report said Thursday.

The week-long exercises dubbed "Barrier-2015" will continue through Friday around the country, including the North Western, Central, Volga, North Caucasus, and Southern federal districts, and in Crimea, interior troops spokesman Vasily Panchenkov said, RIA Novosti reported.

The exercises are "based on events that took place in recent past in one of the neighboring countries," Panchenkov was quoted as saying. "In order to create conditions close to real events, the attributes of those events were used, up to burning car tires and stones and bottles being thrown at servicemen."

The goal of the drills is to "combat expressions of terrorism and extremism," Panchekov said.

<http://www.themoscowtimes.com/news/article/interior-ministry-troops-conduct-drills-reportedly-modeled-on-maidan-protests/518852.html>

Russian Court Starts Hearings Against Dzhemilev's Son, 14.04.2015

Khaiser Dzhemilev was arrested in May 2013 by Ukrainian authorities after allegedly shooting a friend dead. Khaiser has claimed he shot his friend accidentally.

After Crimea's annexation by Russia in March last year, the Moscow-backed authorities took over Khaiser's case and transferred him to Russia's Krasnodar region. They said Khaiser Dzhemilev was being held on three charges under the Russian Criminal Code, including murder and the illegal possession of weapons.

The European Court of Human Rights (ECHR) has ruled that Russia must release Khaiser from detention, but Moscow ignored the ruling.

Khaiser Dzhemilev's lawyer, Nikolai Polozov, told RFE/RL on April 14 that Russia violates his client's rights and international regulations by ignoring the ECHR ruling.

Mustafa Dzhemilev says the Kremlin is holding Khaiser hostage because of his father's rejection of the annexation.

<http://www.rferl.org/content/russian-court-starts-hearings-into-khaiser-dzhemilevs-case/26955200.html>

Russian Investigators Present Final Indictment To Ukrainian Film Director, 17.04.2015

Sentsov's lawyer, Dmitry Dinze, told reporters on April 16 that his client had been charged with terrorism and illegal weapons possession.

Sentsov and three other Ukrainian citizens were arrested in May on suspicion of planning terrorist attacks in the Crimean cities of Simferopol, Yalta, and Sevastopol.

Sentsov is being held in Moscow's Lefortovo jail.

<http://www.rferl.org/content/ukraine-jailed-film-director-given-russian-indictment/26963114.html>

Ukraine's Usyk beats Russia's Knyazev in emotional eight round bout, 19.04.2015

Oleksander Usyk, the undefeated Ukrainian boxer notorious for colorful performances with a high dose of patriotism, beat Russia's Andrei Knyazev in an eighth round technical knock out in front of an emotional crowd at Kyiv's Palace of Sports.

Known for performing Kozak Hopak dances after bouts and brandishing a trademark scalplock haircut, Usyk dominated the duel, leaving Knyazev's face heavily bruised and his nose bleeding. During the match, thousands of spectators stood to sing the Ukrainian national anthem. As both fighters scrapped in the ring the crowd chanted patriotic slogans and offensive jeers directed at Russian President Vladimir Putin.

<http://www.kyivpost.com/content/sport/ukraines-usyk-stops-russias-knyazev-in-emotional-eight-round-bout-386551.html>

Show trial of Euromaidan activist who allegedly beaten up riot policemen was staged in Crimea, 20.04.2015

On April 20, the first hearing in the case of Euromaidan activist Oleksandr Kostenko commenced in Simferopol, Crimea. He is accused of causing bodily harm to Berkut policeman on the Maidan in Kyiv in February 2014.

The court session is held in Kyiv district court in open mode.

The first hearing was attended by numerous media, including Russian federal, Crimean, and Ukrainian ones. The biggest courtroom was selected for the occasion. The hearing will include an indictment against Oleksandr Kostenko, as well as witness testimony.

The prosecutor in this case is "Russian prosecutor of Crimea" Natalia Poklonskaya. Kostenko did not answer reporters' questions as to whether he admits guilt.

http://en.censor.net.ua/photo_news/333322/show_trial_of_euromaidan_activist_who_allegedly_beaten_up_riot_policemen_was_staged_in_crimea_photos

Crimea faces growing problems with payment of salaries, 22.04.2015

Enterprises and organizations on the Russian-occupied Ukrainian territory of Crimea as of early April owed their employees RUB 156.9 million in salaries.

In particular, a total of 65 companies are in debt for that amount to a total of 7,400 employees.

Three Crimean plants have racked up RUB 3.3 million in debts due to the late receipt of money from budgets at all levels. The remaining RUB 153.6 million haven't been paid by 62 organizations to employees due to their lacking their own funds.

The amount in wages owed per employee amounts to RUB 21,100.

<http://www.unian.info/economics/1070076-crimea-faces-growing-problems-with-payment-of-salaries.html>

Belgium ratifies EU-Ukraine Association Agreement, 24.04.2015

The voting took place at the plenary session of the Federal Parliament on Thursday, own Ukrinform correspondent in Brussels reported.

102 out of 138 present deputies voted for this decision, while 17 voted against it.

"This is a great news. Ukraine has taken another step towards rapprochement with the European Union. It is very important for the cooperation development between our countries and peoples," member of the Federal Parliament of Belgium Georges Dahlmann commented the decision. In addition, the implementation of the Association Agreement with the EU will allow Ukraine to restore its territorial integrity and to strengthen democracy.

Simultaneously with Ukraine, the Belgian parliamentarians also supported and ratified the EU Association of Georgia and Moldova.

According to the formal procedure, the King of Belgium has to sign the ratification law.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/belgium_ratifies_eu_ukraine_association_agreement_330886

Norway adds more Russian citizens, Donbas militants on its sanction list, 25.04.2015

Following the EU's steps, Norway has extended the list of sanctioned individuals and companies from Russia and Ukraine, by adding 19 persons and 9 legal entities on it.

This is said in an official statement by Norway's Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

"The adopted changes concern the list of individuals whose foreign [bank] accounts should be frozen in line with recent decisions by the EU," the document said.

Norway has been consistent in joining all the packages of EU sanctions, though the country is not an EU member state. Norway's black list is similar to the EU's one. The recent changes correspond to those announced by the EU on February 16, 2015.

<http://www.unian.info/politics/1071610-norway-adds-more-russian-citizens-donbas-militants-on-its-sanction-list.html>

Powerful Magnitude-7.8 Earthquake Rocks Nepal, Death Toll Nears 1,900, 25.04.2015

The toll continues to rise to more than 1,800 dead after a magnitude-7.8 earthquake struck near Nepal's capital of Katmandu on Saturday, causing widespread damage.

<http://www.wsj.com/articles/strong-earthquake-strikes-central-nepal-1429944379>

Report: To Aid Combat, Russia Wages Cyberwar Against Ukraine, 28.04.2015

A new report adds to the body of evidence, charging that the Russian military is waging a sustained cyber campaign against Ukrainian military and law enforcement agencies; and the purpose is to extract a steady stream of classified documents that can aid violence and on-the-ground combat.

CEO Chris Coleman says the attacks are persistent, but not sophisticated. "We're not claiming we found some big exploit in the Windows operating system. We tracked malware that was in emails, and it shows full-scale coordination."

Lookingglass says a dedicated group of hackers is getting Ukrainian military, counter-intelligence, border patrol and local police to open emails with malicious attachments.

Only, they look legit. It's masterful – so far as manipulation goes — because of the "lure documents" that attackers use as bait.

<http://www.npr.org/blogs/alltechconsidered/2015/04/28/402678116/report-to-aid-combat-russia-wages-cyberwar-against-ukraine>

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