



Monitoring of Xenophobia and Extremism in Ukraine August 2014

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Introduction

August 2014 was not much different from the previous months in Ukraine.

The economic crisis has exacerbated, local currency (hryvnia) has been falling to new lows every day, the number of dead, wounded and displaced persons has increased, shelling of Ukrainian from the territory of the neighboring country continued ...

Ukrainian army and volunteer battalions in the area of ATO advancing slowly, without taking too much of decisive actions in order not to harm the civilian population ...

In spite of numerous difficulties Ukraine finally agreed to accept the Russian humanitarian convoy for the eastern regions of the country, though Russia had violated a number of agreements and international standards.

Western countries continued to express various levels of concern.

Sanctions against Russia were put in force but did not reflect in anticipated results.

German Chancellor visited Kiev on the eve of Independence Day and on the Day of Ukrainian Flag. Both holidays were celebrated comparatively quiet. On Independence Day the President made a decision on the dissolution of the Verkhovna Rada (Supreme Council / Ukrainian Parliament) and called early elections on October 26, 2014.

The faint hope was pinned on the meeting in Minsk Ukraine - EU - Euroasian Troika which took place on August 26th. In the frames of this meeting negotiations between Russian and Ukrainian presidents were performed. It looked like they have found points of contact but...

On the night of August 28, the Russian regular troops captured the border town Novoazovsk. Militants could not appear there physically. NATO confirmed the presence of Russian troops on the territory of Ukraine. The UN, EU, OSCE held an urgent meetings due to that...

The world community once again expressed different degrees of concern, but even President the United States has seen fit to use the term "invasion". He called it "ingression". Ukrainian army suffered heavy losses. Several strategic points including the Lugansk airport were abandoned by Ukrainian troops. Militants, supported by the regular forces of the Russian Federation, took the offensive, calling their actions "military-humanitarian" operation. Russia continued to deny its military presence on the territory of Ukraine. Russian paratroopers "lost" and found themselves on Ukrainian territory and the Ukrainian military from time to time forced to retreat to the territory of the Russian Federation. Thus, Ukraine and Russia have exchanged their officers, though there is no a state war ... On August 31 President Poroshenko said that everything <war> should be stopped ASAP! It is planned that working meeting of contact group "Ukraine-Russia-OSCE" to resolve the situation in the Donbas will be held in Minsk on September 1.

Prognosis

Europe to bid for liquefied natural gas - German expert, 01.08.2014

KYIV, August 1 /Ukrinform/. Europe in the current conflict with Russia also plans to focus on liquefied gas, German energy expert Claudia Kemfert says.

"Europe will also make a big bet on liquefied gas... Europe plans that Ukraine will receive from the West at least part of required gas. There is a pipeline from the West to the East, so it is possible from the technical point of view. You need only to carry out some works before winter comes. Of course, there is also possibility to supply more liquefied gas to Europe. If we can provide reversed gas supplies from Western Europe towards Ukraine, most likely there will be no problems," she said to the DW.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/europe_to_bid_for_liquefied_natural_gas_german_expert_324684

Expert about Western sanctions: China won't save Russia, 04.08.2014

KYIV, August 4 /Ukrinform/. The EU decided to impose third-level sanctions against Russia. The US did the same. Canada said it would follow Brussels and Washington. Restrictions will affect the energy, financial sectors of the Russian Federation, as well as the production of military and double-purpose items.

"Sanctions is quite unpleasant thing and, of course, the impact on the Russian economy will be negative. The fact is that the Russian economy over the last year has already been not in the best condition, as the Minister of Economic Development and other officials have repeatedly stated. Therefore, in these circumstances, the sanctions will be particularly sensitive," Russian economist, Professor at the National Research University "Higher School of Economics" Alexei Portansky said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/expert_about_western_sanctions_china_wont_save_russia_324771

"Russian peacekeepers" to be prepared by September? , 08.08.2014

KYIV, August 8 /Ukrinform/. The fears of U.S. and NATO military officials on the possible bringing by Russia of peacekeepers to Donbas and Luhansk region to "protect humanitarian convoys" are yet unfounded - the "peacekeeping battalions" are not fully prepared to such actions, and there are no relevant international decisions for that.

The Russian Nezavisimaya Gazeta wrote citing a source with the Russian Defence Ministry. "At the moment almost all the units of the "blue helmets" are being supplemented by contract soldiers, combat coordination is underway. Moreover the battalions are being actively retrofitted with modern weapons. This process should be completed by September 2014," a Russian military official said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/russian_peacekeepers_to_be_prepared_by_september_325038

Smeshko on situation in Donbas: Nobody tells Putin that Ukrainians are not Russians, 08.08.2014

KYIV, August 8 /Ukrinform/. "In my opinion, Russia did not impose its forces until now to Donetsk and Luhansk regions, because it did not expect such a resistance from the Ukrainian people at the lower level," former SBU Chairman Ihor Smeshko told in an interview to the Den publication.

In the expert's opinion, a so-called "royal court" has formed around Russian President Vladimir Putin, who report to their "autocrat" only what he wants to hear, and actually - untruth. "He was not told by anyone that the Ukrainian people are not the Russians. I think, finally, the entire world will start to realize that the word "Rus" and "Russian" are also two different contents and notions," he noted.

Just due to this, in his opinion, an active phase of the aggression on the part of Russia, as imposing the forces in Donbas like in Crimea, did not take place so far.

"But Putin crossed the Rubicon - thanks to total propaganda, his support in Russia reaches more than 80%. It was not occasionally that he praised Goebbels even before the Jewish rabbi, because because he, perhaps, is really fond of this person and applies his methods in information processing primarily of his own people," Smeshko said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/smeshko_on_situation_in_donbas_nobody_tells_putin_that_ukrainians_are_not_russians_325082

Statements of officials

Release of 20 persons from each side agreed in Minsk - Kuchma, 01.08.2014

KYIV, August 1 /Ukrinform/. During a meeting in Minsk, a contact group on peaceful settlement of the crisis in the east of Ukraine agreed on the release of 20 persons, captured during the clashes on each side in Donbas.

Second President of Ukraine Leonid Kuchma told in an interview with Interfax Ukraine. "20 persons will be released in the nearest future," Kuchma said.

In addition, according to him, the contact group representatives "received a promise to hand over personal belongings of the deceased onboard the Boeing."

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/release_of_20_persons_from_each_side_agreed_in_minsk_kuchma_324705

Russia deploys 17 Grad rocket launchers near Chernihiv region, 01.08.2014

KYIV, August 1 /Ukrinform/. Russia is preparing new firing positions to shell Ukraine. Ukrainian NSDC information and analytical center spokesman Andriy Lysenko said.

"The Russian side is actively preparing firing positions for shelling Ukrainian territory. So, yesterday, near the village of Strativa in the Bryansk region (five kilometers from the border with Ukraine - in front of Chernihiv region), in a wooded area, the positions have been taken by 17 Grad multiple launch rocket systems," he said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/russia_deploys_17_grad_rocket_launchers_near_chernihiv_region_324726

Ukrainian customs service preparing response to Russian bans, 01.08.2014

KYIV, August 1 /Ukrinform/. The State Customs Service of Ukraine is preparing measures against Russian imports after the introduction by Russia of restrictions on Ukrainian exports. Deputy Head of the State Customs Service Anatoliy Makarenko told on Friday.

"Russia currently has a tougher stand on Ukrainian exports and all that is imported into Russia from Ukraine. Our service has planned and is taking proper measures. My position in this regard is that we need to adequately respond not only to the actions of the Russian side. Every country that launches a mechanism for suspending foreign economic activity in terms of a certain product from Ukraine should feel our counter-reaction. Then they we will listen to us and respect us," he said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/ukrainian_customs_service_preparing_response_to_russian_bans_324732

Russia fires with Grads and launches drones again, 02.08.2014

KYIV, August 2 /Ukrinform/. Positions of border guards and the Armed Forces of Ukraine are systematically shelled from the territory of the Russian Federation.

Spokesman of the National Security and Defense Council Andriy Lysenko told on Saturday. "Within the day, the militants have repeatedly shelled positions and roadblocks of the Armed Forces of Ukraine in the settlements of Avdiivka, Pisky, Maryinka, Manuilivka, Stepanivka and Chervonopartyzansk. Positions of border guards and the Armed Forces of Ukraine are systemically bombarded from the territory of the Russian Federation," he said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/russia_fires_with_grads_and_launches_drones_again_324746

Russian soldiers pulled to Ukrainian border again, 02.08.2014

KYIV, August 2 /Ukrinform/. Russia continues to increase the concentration of troops near the Ukrainian border.

"In Russia, deployment of the three BM-21 and drones on the positions were revealed in the direction of Yekatyerinovka (Russia) - Shevchenko (Ukraine)," the Spokesman said.

In addition, near Malinovka and Naumovka, Belgorod region, a large group of Russian soldiers was fixed. "Up to 1,000 soldiers, 12 tanks T-72BM, 52 BTR-80/82A, 12 mortars of various calibers, 4 SAM Osa, 2 SAM 9K35 Strela-10 and 2 anti-aircraft installations ZU-23," spokesman of the NSDC Information and Analytical Center Andriy Lysenko said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/russian_soldiers_pulled_to_ukrainian_border_again_324747

Barack Obama talks to The Economist, 02.08.2014

AS he prepares to host a summit in Washington, DC, that will bring together leaders from across Africa, how does Barack Obama see the continent's future. Does he feel let down by Vladimir Putin? Could he have designed a more elegant health-care law? And why don't more business leaders admit that they have lunch with him?

Mr Obama: I don't feel let down. We had a very productive relationship with President Medvedev. We got a lot of things done that we needed to get done. Russia I think has always had a Janus-like quality, both looking east and west, and I think President Putin represents a deep strain in Russia that is probably harmful to Russia over the long term, but in the short term can be politically popular at home and very troublesome abroad.

But I do think it's important to keep perspective. Russia doesn't make anything. Immigrants aren't rushing to Moscow in search of opportunity. The life expectancy of the Russian male is around 60 years old. The population is shrinking. And so we have to respond with resolve in what are effectively regional challenges that Russia presents. We have to make sure that they don't escalate where suddenly nuclear weapons are back in the discussion of foreign policy. And as long as we do that, then I think history is on our side.

<http://www.economist.com/blogs/democracyinamerica/2014/08/barack-obama-talks-economist>

Britain urges NATO to prepare for Russian aggression, 04.08.2014

KYIV, August 4 /Ukrinform/. British Prime Minister David Cameron has called on NATO Secretary General Anders Fogh Rasmussen and the leaders of the alliance to prepare for potential aggression from Russia.

"We must agree on long-term measures to strengthen our ability to respond quickly to any threat, to reassure those allies who fear for their own country's security and to deter any Russian aggression," he wrote in a letter to the leaders and secretary general of the alliance, which was obtained by Reuters.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/britain_urges_nato_to_prepare_for_russian_aggression_324761

Nineteen more senators ask Obama to recognize DPR and LPR as terrorists, 04.08.2014

KYIV, August 4 /Ukrinform/. "Nineteen U.S. senators sent a letter to Obama calling on him to recognize DPR and LPR as terrorist organizations," Ukrainian Foreign Minister Pavlo Klimkin wrote this on his page on Twitter.

Klimkin also cited Oklahoma Senator Jim Inhofe as saying: "The Ukrainian military is willing and able to fight."

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/nineteen_more_senators_ask_obama_to_recognize_dpr_and_lpr_as_terrorists_324765

ATO forces not to use heavy artillery during liberation of Donetsk and Luhansk - Shkiriak, 04.08.2014

KYIV, August 4 /Ukrinform/. The ATO forces will liberate Donetsk and Luhansk without the use of heavy artillery and air strikes, Ukrainian interior minister's adviser, Zorian Shkiriak told.

"We absolutely do not use these means [artillery and aviation] so as not to endanger any civilian. This is a fundamental, unchanging and clear position of the commander-in-chief of the Ukrainian Armed Forces and the ATO command," Shkiriak said.

He also noted that pinpoint strikes were locally delivered solely on the bases and positions of militants of the self-declared Donetsk and Luhansk People's Republics.

"Populated areas will be liberated only within the ground special operations of the Armed Forces and National Guard units," Shkiriak said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/ato_forces_not_to_use_heavy_artillery_during_liberation_of_donetsk_and_luhansk_shkiriak_324769

Ukrainian military didn't seek asylum in Russia - NSDC, 04.08.2014

KYIV, August 4 /Ukrinform/. None of the ATO soldiers, who, after exhaustion of ammunition, were forced to move into the territory of Russia, did not apply for asylum in the RF.

"There really are representatives of the Armed Forces of Ukraine and the State Border Guard Service, but there are no reports that they have allegedly asked for some kind of asylum,"

Ukrainian NSDC information and analytical center spokesman Andriy Lysenko emphasized.

According to him, contacts are maintained with the soldiers "through diplomatic channels." "Our representative from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs is currently working with them, there are negotiations on how to get them back to the territory of Ukraine," Lysenko said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/ukrainian_military_didnt_seek_asylum_in_russia_nsd_324780

Russia ready for not receiving Mistral, 04.08.2014

KYIV, August 4 /Ukrinform/. Moscow is ready for any development of the situation as concerns the French helicopter carrier Mistral.

Deputy Head of the Military-Industrial Commission Oleg Bochkaryov told at the exhibition of the innovations of the Defense Ministry, opened in Alabino, near Moscow, Monday, the Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty informs.

"Either we receive them (helicopter carriers), or France will return us money with fines," he said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/russia_ready_for_not_receiving_mistrals_324784

Switzerland does not want to join EU sanctions, 04.08.2014

KYIV, August 4 /Ukrinform/. The Swiss authorities do not want to impose sanctions on Russia, Swiss Economy Minister Johann Schneider-Ammann said this in an interview with the Schweiz am Sonntag newspaper.

According to the Swiss minister, on the "international arena" there should be a state that "does not support any of the parties to the conflict," the Ukrainska Pravda online newspaper reported.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/switzerland_does_not_want_to_join_eu_sanctions_324799

EU sanctions to hurt Germany, but they are needed - vice chancellor, 04.08.2014

KYIV, August 4 /Ukrinform/. EU sectoral economic sanctions against Russia will hurt the German economy.

German Vice Chancellor Sigmar Gabriel announced this in a television interview.

However, he said that the introduction of sanctions was necessary so that Europe would not face substantial consequences in future: "There would be much, much greater negative consequences if Europe did not act."

"Where war and peace are at stake, economic policies can't be the main concern... If all the lessons learned in Europe are that someone can start a civil war in a neighboring country and

nothing happens, then that would cost a lot more than a few percentage points of possible [economic] growth," Gabriel said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/eu_sanctions_to_hurt_germany_but_they_are_needed_vice_chancellor_324810

Commissioner Oettinger says Russia won't prevent reverse gas flows to Ukraine, 04.08.2014

KYIV, August 5 /Ukrinform/. EU Energy Commissioner Guenther Oettinger insists that Russia will not prevent reverse gas supplies to Ukraine.

He told this to the German newspaper Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung in an interview.

Oettinger made it clear that the EU will not allow Russia's attempts to prevent reverse gas supplies from Europe to Ukraine.

According to him, the EU market rules allow Ukraine to buy gas from the EU and European energy concerns, according to the Deutsche Welle.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/commissioner_oettinger_says_russia_wont_prevent_reverse_gas_flows_to_ukraine_324831

Some 30,000 Russian troops, 160 tanks staying near Ukraine's border - NSDC, 05.08.2014

A total of 33,000 of Russian military and 160 tanks are staying on the territory adjacent to the border with Ukraine, Deputy Secretary of National Security and Defense Council (NSDC) of Ukraine Mykhailo Koval has said.

"Up to 33,000 military of the Russian Armed Forces and up to 160 tanks are near the border with Ukraine," Koval said in the Svoboda Slova (Freedom of Speech) program on the ICTV Channel on Monday night.

<http://en.interfax.com.ua/news/general/216913.html>

Russia pulls 45,000-strong army, hundreds of combat vehicles, aircraft to border - NSDC, 05.08.2014

KYIV, August 5 /Ukrinform/. Russia has pulled the units of its Armed Forces of a total number of about 45,000 people, and a lot of military hardware to the border with Ukraine, National Security and Defence Council of Ukraine (NSDC) information and analytical center spokesman Andriy Lysenko said at a briefing in Kyiv on Tuesday.

"The total number of the units of the Russian Armed Forces and the Interior Troops of the Russian Federation, concentrated along the state border of Ukraine, is about 45,000 people, 160 tanks, up to 1,360 armored combat vehicles, up to 350 artillery systems, 130 multiple rocket launchers, 192 combat aircraft, 137 attack helicopters," Lysenko said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/russia_pulls_45000_strong_army_hundreds_of_combat_vehicles_aircraft_to_border_nsd_324851

UN Security Council supports Ukraine, points to Russia as a source of military crisis, 06.08.2014

KYIV, August 6 /Ukrinform/. Ukraine's Acting Permanent Representative to the UN Oleksandr Pavlychenko has said at a UN Security Council meeting held at Russia's request that Ukraine is fulfilling in full its social obligations to the residents of Donetsk and Luhansk regions, that there is no humanitarian crisis in the country, and that the government is able to cope with the situation and is doing it.

According to a Ukrinform correspondent, Russia's envoy to the UN Vitaly Churkin urged the meeting participants "to take urgent joint measures to provide humanitarian assistance to the population in eastern Ukraine" and insisted that Russian humanitarian aid, accompanied by Red Cross representatives, be sent to eastern Ukraine.

However, Ukraine's representative said that "the real cause of the crisis is the activity of Russian-supported illegal armed groups."

Pavlychenko informed the international community about the situation and about Russia continuing to shell the positions of Ukrainian military and building up its military presence on the border.

"We propose that Russia stop sending its mercenaries and weapons, inciting instability," he said.

Russia's proposals were rejected by all Security Council members.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/un_security_council_supports_ukraine_points_to_russia_as_a_source_of_military_crisis_324889

Russia's proposal on 'humanitarian mission' is cynical - Foreign Ministry, 06.08.2014

KYIV, August 6 /Ukrinform/. The Russian Foreign Ministry's proposal on the so-called international humanitarian mission in the Donbas is cynical only because it is Russia that continues to destabilize the situation in eastern Ukraine, supporting in every way possible the criminal acts of terrorists and bearing full responsibility for humanitarian problems in Donetsk and Luhansk regions.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/russias_proposal_on_humanitarian_mission_is_cynical_foreign_ministry_324896

Polish PM says threat of Russia's intervention in Ukraine has risen, 06.08.2014

(Reuters) - Polish Prime Minister Donald Tusk said on Wednesday the threat of a direct intervention by Russia's military in Ukraine has risen over the last couple of days.

"We have reasons to suspect - we have been receiving such information in the last several hours - that the risk of a direct intervention (by Russia's military in Ukraine) is for sure higher than it was several days ago," Tusk told a news conference.

"If (it) were to come to a direct intervention of Russian forces in Ukraine than this would obviously be a qualitatively new situation and in my opinion nobody has a good, unequivocal answer today how the Western community should react to that," Tusk said.

Tusk also said that sanctions imposed by the European Union on Russia will be costly for Europe's economy, but a lack of reaction to Russia's actions during the Ukraine crisis would have the most "catastrophic" consequences.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/08/06/us-ukraine-crisis-russia-war-idUSKBN0G60NZ20140806>

NSDC denies reports of airstrike on Donetsk, 06.08.2014

KYIV, August 6 /Ukrinform/. The National Security and Defence Council (NSDC) denies reports that Donetsk was hit by an airstrike on Tuesday.

National Security and Defence Council of Ukraine (NSDC) information and analytical center spokesman Andriy Lysenko said at a briefing in Kyiv on Wednesday.

"The Ukrainian aviation does not make air strikes on cities," Lysenko said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/nsdc_denies_reports_of_airstrike_on_donetsk_324921

Putin may use humanitarian mission to invade Ukraine - NATO, 06.08.2014

YIV, August 6 /Ukrinform/. Moscow may use a humanitarian or peacekeeping mission for the Russian troops' incursion into Ukraine, Reuters reported on Wednesday, citing NATO spokesperson Oana Lungescu.

NATO was concerned that Moscow could use "the pretext of a humanitarian or peace-keeping mission as an excuse to send troops into eastern Ukraine," she said.

According to the alliance's spokesperson, the concentration of Russian troops on the Ukrainian-Russian border is increasingly escalating the situation and undermining efforts to find a diplomatic solution to the crisis.

"We're not going to guess what's on Russia's mind, but we can see what Russia is doing on the ground - and that is of great concern. Russia has amassed around 20,000 combat-ready troops on Ukraine's eastern border," Lungescu said, describing the situation as "dangerous."

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/putin_may_use_humanitarian_mission_to_invade_ukraine_nato_324924

Yatseniuk presents tax reform, 06.08.2014

KYIV, August 6 /Ukrinform/. The Cabinet of Ministers has proposed a plan of comprehensive changes in the tax system.

The tax reform was presented by Prime Minister Arseniy Yatseniuk at a Cabinet meeting on Wednesday.

"There were 22 taxes, now there would be 9. There was the payment of income tax in the tax reporting, we are canceling it, and now we will pay according to financial statements. We will build and transform some of the taxes and fees and promise to improve the administration and the system of taxes and fees," he said.

With regard to a single social contribution, Yatseniuk noted, the government reduces the load on the payroll three times.

"We will de-shadow salary and introduce the principle of fair taxation of incomes of citizens: if you earn less - you pay less taxes, if you earn more - you pay more taxes," the head of government said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/yatseniuk_presents_tax_reform_324926

Germany again urges Russia to leave Ukraine alone, 06.08.2014

KYIV, August 6 /Ukrinform/. The German government calls on the Russian authorities to refrain from taking steps that could lead to a further escalation of the conflict in Ukraine.

Deputy spokeswoman for the German Foreign Ministry Sawsan Chebli said on Wednesday in Berlin, according to Ukrinform's correspondent in Germany.

"We demand the greatest possible transparency and call on Russia to refrain from any steps that could lead to a further escalation," the diplomat said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/germany_again_urges_russia_to_leave_ukraine_alone_324928

Ukraine demands Russia return 245 servicemen, 06.08.2014

KYIV, August 6 /Ukrinform/. Ukraine has demanded that Russia ensure the return of 245 Ukrainian servicemen who are on its territory.

Deputy Director of the Policy and Communication Department of the Ukrainian Foreign Ministry Vasyl Zvarych said this at a briefing in Kyiv on Wednesday, a Ukrinform correspondent reported.

"Another 245 Ukrainian servicemen, including 50 officers, are still near the Gukovo checkpoint in Rostov region," Zvarych said.

He said that the military were guarded by Russian special units and that the investigative measures and interrogations were being conducted, with methods of moral and psychological pressure being used.

"None of the soldiers have expressed a desire to be granted asylum in the Russian Federation. All of them want to return home as quickly as possible," the diplomat said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/ukraine_demands_russia_return_245_servicemen_324933

<http://en.interfax.com.ua/news/general/217215.html>

Russia must withdraw its troops from border with Ukraine - German government, 06.08.2014

KYIV, August 6 /Ukrinform/. The German government has called on Russia to pull back its troops from the border with Ukraine.

German government deputy spokeswoman Christiane Wirtz said this in Berlin on Wednesday, a Ukrinform correspondent in Germany reported.

"We call on Russia to contribute to de-escalation and withdraw its additional troops from the border [with Ukraine]," Wirtz said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/russia_must_withdraw_its_troops_from_border_with_ukraine_german_government_324937

World won't accept Russia's sending of peacekeepers to Ukraine – presidential administration, 06.08.2014

Russia's sending of peacemaking contingent to Ukraine will be estimated as a direct aggression, First Deputy Head of Presidential Administration Hennadiy Zubko said.

"Russia's unilateral bringing in of the peacekeepers [to Ukraine] contradicts to itself... Secondly, it is difficult to call the contingent, which has been deploying near the borders over five months as a peacemaking one. That's why it would be a direct aggression," Zubko said.

According to him, today the world community won't allow Russia to bring in of the peacemaking contingent to Ukraine.

"If today somebody tries to call confrontation on the east of Ukraine as a civil war, we clearly say that today this is a war between Russian subdivisions and people, who have been hired to fight against Ukrainian army for money," he stressed.

<http://en.interfax.com.ua/news/general/217220.html>

US now not planning to arm Ukraine, 07.08.2014

KYIV, August 7 /Ukrinform/. U.S. President Barack Obama has said in Washington that he sees no urgent need to expand military assistance to Ukraine, Reuters has reported.

In his opinion, the separatists have not been able to match the Ukrainian army's strength so far despite causing a lot of violence. Obama said the United States would continue to work on a day-by-day, week-by-week basis to determine what Ukraine needed to defend itself against separatists who were backed by Moscow.

Given NATO's statement that Russia had amassed some 20,000 troops on Ukraine's border and could use the pretext of a "humanitarian mission" to invade, Obama said that "the Russian army is a lot bigger than the Ukrainian army." "So the issue here is not whether the Ukrainian army has some additional weaponry," he said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/us_now_not_planning_to_arm_ukraine_324939

Obama thinks sanctions against Russia are effective, 07.08.2014

KYIV, August 7 /Ukrinform/. U.S. President Barack Obama has said at a news conference in Washington that Western sanctions against Russia have proved to be effective.

"Sanctions are working as intended in putting enormous pressure and strain on the Russian economy," he said.

According to Obama, the Russian economy has ground to a halt, the Associated Press reported.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/obama_thinks_sanctions_against_russia_are_effective_324945

Merkel wants to help Ukraine with equipment, 07.08.2014

KYIV, August 7 /Ukrinform/. German Chancellor Angela Merkel favors the idea of giving Ukraine equipment that would help effectively control the border.

Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the European Parliament and ally of Chancellor Angela Merkel, MEP Elmar Brok, said this in an interview with the TSN.

As for military support from the EU, Brock believes that talking about it now would be wrong.

"The purpose of the Europeans and the United States is to reach a political and diplomatic solution. Military confrontation would have closed the way to negotiations. However, we believe, and Angela Merkel herself insists on this, that we should help Ukraine with equipment so it could effectively control the border with Russia and stop deliveries of weapons and fighters," Brok said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/merkel_wants_to_help_ukraine_with_equipment_324947

EU ready to further pressurize Russia, 07.08.2014

KYIV, August 7 /Ukrinform/. If Russia does not change its policies towards Ukraine, the European Union is ready to continue to "tighten the screws".

Richard Kuehnel, Head of Representation of the European Commission in Germany, told Deutsche Welle when asked about EU sanctions against Russia and possible responses from Moscow.

"As for Russia's threat to close its airspace for the transit of European aircraft, the EU can act based on the principle of "an eye for an eye" Kuehnel said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/eu_ready_to_further_pressurize_russia_324951

Russia closes its skies for Ukrainian airlines, 07.08.2014

KYIV, August 7 /Ukrinform/. "There is one decision that the government has made: the matter concerns the termination of transit flights of Ukrainian airlines through Russian airspace to a number of countries, such as Azerbaijan, Georgia, Armenia, and Turkey," RIA Novosti quoted RF Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev as saying on Thursday.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/russia_closes_its_skies_for_ukrainian_airlines_324961

Russia holding 46 Ukrainian officers, wresting admission of guilt from them, 07.08.2014

KYIV, August 7 /Ukrinform/. Russia is holding 46 Ukrainian officers and wresting an admission of guilt from them that they shelled Russian territory.

Ukrainian National Security and Defense Council (NSDC) information and analytical center spokesman Andriy Lysenko said this at a briefing on Thursday.

"Eighteen officers of the Ukrainian Armed Forces and 28 border guards are still held on Russian territory. All this time Russian investigators have forced a confession from the Ukrainians that they deliberately fired at Russian territory. According to operational information, criminal cases have been opened against 18 of our servicemen," he said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/russia_holding_46_ukrainian_officers_wresting_admission_of_guilt_from_them_324969

Biden to Poroshenko: US will always be with people of Ukraine in any situation, 07.08.2014

Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko has spoken with U.S. Vice President Joseph Biden by phone, the press service of the Ukrainian president reported early on Thursday.

"Petro Poroshenko expressed his gratitude for the United States' consistent support for Ukraine," reads the report.

Biden, in turn, assured Poroshenko that the United States would be with the people of Ukraine in any situation.

<http://en.interfax.com.ua/news/general/217239.html>

Ukraine to appeal to international courts to seek release of its servicemen in Russia, 07.08.2014

KYIV, August 7 /Ukrinform/. Ukrainian Justice Minister Pavlo Petrenko has said on Thursday he does not rule out an appeal to international courts regarding the release of Ukrainian servicemen who are held hostage in Russia.

He said that the Ukrainian Foreign Ministry was currently doing everything possible through diplomatic channels for the release and return of the Ukrainian military.

However, the minister said if diplomacy does not work, legal mechanisms will be used.

"This is an appeal to UN committees with statements that one country holds hostage Ukrainians. There may also be an appeal to the courts, including the ECHR and the UN International Court [of Justice]," Petrenko said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/ukraine_to_appeal_to_international_courts_to_seek_release_of_its_servicemen_in_russia_324983

Ukraine to cope with Russian ban on transit flights - Justice Ministry, 07.08.2014

KYIV, August 7 /Ukrinform/. Ukraine will cope with Russia's ban to carry out transit flights through its aviation area, Ukrainian Justice Minister Pavlo Petrenko told on Thursday.

"I think we will survive the Russian ban to fly across its territory. Moreover, it is dangerous," Petrenko said.

In turn, member of the Georgian Parliament Giorgi Vashadze noted that with this kind of bans Russia isolates itself on the international scene, but does not hinder aircraft traffic. "It is an act which is done in agony. This is ridiculous," Vashadze said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/ukraine_to_cope_with_russian_ban_on_transit_flights_justice_ministry_324988

NATO curtails cooperation with Russia, 08.08.2014

KYIV, August 7 /Ukrinform/. NATO Secretary General Anders Fogh Rasmussen said in Kyiv that the Alliance decided to increase the level of support and cooperation with Ukraine.

He announced this at a meeting with Verkhovna Rada Chairman Oleksandr Turchynov.

"The Alliance condemns the actions of the Russian Federation, which led to the violation of the territorial integrity of Ukraine and illegal annexation of Crimea ... Currently, the North Atlantic Alliance is suspending cooperation with the Russian Federation, strengthening collective defense for the protection of all NATO members, and decided to increase the level of support and co-operation with Ukraine," Rasmussen noted.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/nato_curtails_cooperation_with_russia_325004

Rasmussen promises stronger sanctions if Russia invades Ukraine, 08.08.2014

KYIV, August 7 /Ukrinform/. NATO Secretary General Anders Fogh Rasmussen said Thursday at a press conference in Kyiv that the new sanctions against Russia are possible with further deterioration of the situation in the east of Ukraine.

He noted that if "peacekeepers" are introduced in Ukraine, Russia would find itself in international isolation. "At this stage, it is a hypothetical question," Rasmussen said.

"We are very concerned that Russia continues to hold this option in reserve. If it continues its intervention, there would be new, more severe sanctions," the NATO chief promised.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/rasmussen_promises_stronger_sanctions_if_russia_invades_ukraine_325007

NATO urges Russia not to rattle saber near Ukraine, 08.08.2014

KYIV, August 7 /Ukrinform/. NATO calls on Russia to withdraw its military from the border with Ukraine, Alliance chief Anders Fogh Rasmussen said at a press briefing in Kyiv on Thursday.

"I call on Russia to step back from the brink. Step back from the border. Do not use peacekeeping as an excuse for war-making," Rasmussen said.

He also urged Russia to follow the genuine path to peace, to stop support for separatists, to pull back its troops from Ukraine's border, and to engage in a sincere dialogue for a peaceful solution.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/nato_urges_russia_not_to_rattle_saber_near_ukraine_325011

Medvedev frightens world with new sanctions, 08.08.2014

KYIV, August 7 /Ukrinform/. The Russian government is ready to introduce protective measures in aircraft building, shipbuilding and the automobile industry.

Russian Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev said this at a government meeting on Thursday.

"We are potentially ready to introduce protective measures in aircraft building, shipbuilding, automobile, and other sectors, but we will be doing this judiciously," Medvedev said.

He said that the government understands how significant cooperation in this area is.

"But, naturally, we realistically assess our own capabilities as well," he said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/medvedev_frightens_world_with_new_sanctions_324992

Poroshenko promises e-governance by end of year, 08.08.2014

KYIV, August 7 /Ukrinform/. President Petro Poroshenko promises that by the end of August his Administration will fully move to a system of electronic governance, and by the end of the year - all other government agencies.

He said this at the inaugural meeting of the National Reform Council on Thursday in Kyiv.

"We should finally launch projects on the introduction of e-governance, the creation of information resources for citizens, ensuring openness of public registers, providing administrative services through a "single window" digitally ... We have been talking 15 years about electronic governance, I assure you that by the end of August the Presidential Administration will move to the electronic document management system within the Presidential Administration. Until the end of the year it will cover all regional state administrations, I am sure that all the authorities," he said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/poroshenko_promises_e_governance_by_end_of_year_325013

Canada to give Ukraine body armors, helmets at \$5 mln, 08.08.2014

KYIV, August 8 /Ukrinform/. Canada will provide military equipment to Ukraine in the amount of \$5 million, Canadian Defence Minister Rob Nicholson has said, according to the Podrobnosti online edition.

"Canada's contribution, in the amount of up to \$5 million through Canada's Global Peace and Security Fund (GPSF), includes a range of targeted protection, medical and logistical equipment, such as helmets, ballistic eyewear, protective vests, first aid kits, tents and sleeping bags," reads a press release of the office of Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/canada_to_give_ukraine_body_armors_helmets_at_5 mln_325021

Aidar can become special Armed Forces unit, 08.08.2014

KYIV, August 8 /Ukrinform/. Ukrainian Defense Minister Colonel General Valeriy Heletei has made a working visit to the sites of deployment of Ukrainian Armed Forces units, the Defense Ministry's press service has reported.

In particular, he met with the staff of the 24th Aidar territorial defense battalion and heard a report by the commander of the battalion.

As a result, the minister announced the decision to engage the battalion more intensively in fulfilling the combat tasks of the Ukrainian Armed Forces as part of the anti-terrorist operation (ATO) in eastern Ukraine.

This unit will receive additional weapons, including military equipment, and instructors.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/aidar_can_become_special_armed_forces_unit_325023

State Department not understanding Russian sanctions, 08.08.2014

KYIV, August 8 /Ukrinform/. Professional experts from the U.S. State Department have responded to the introduction by Russia of sanctions regarding a ban on imports to Russia of certain food products. They do not understand how depriving Russian citizens of food can improve the situation in the country.

U.S. State Department's Coordinator for Sanctions Policy Daniel Fried said this at a briefing in Kyiv on Thursday.

"I don't understand how depriving the Russian people of access to good food is going to help anyone," he said, adding that the Russian government should explain why such sanctions are a positive step in the interests of Russia.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/state_department_not_understanding_russian_sanctions_325032

US sees idea of Russian 'peacekeepers' in Ukraine as unacceptable, 08.08.2014

The U.S. authorities have rejected the idea of sending Russian "peacekeepers" to Ukraine, White House press secretary Josh Earnest has said.

He said at a briefing in Washington on Wednesday that "it is deeply troubling to hear any discussion of Russian 'peacekeepers' being sent to Ukrainian territory."

"These statements are destabilizing and unhelpful," he said.

<http://en.interfax.com.ua/news/general/217433.html>

EC: Russian troops on Ukraine's border do not help stabilize situation in region, 08.08.2014

The European Commission continues to monitor closely developments in eastern Ukraine, and is concerned about continuing shelling and transfer of weapons across the border.

"We've noted with concern continuing reports of the flow of significant new quality and quantity of arms and equipment across the border from Russia into Ukraine, reports of shelling across the border," European Commission spokesman Sebastien Brabant said on Thursday.

He said that the EU, in general, appreciates Ukraine's activity in the ATO area.

"The Ukrainian government has an obligation and a duty to restore order within its borders," Brabant said, adding that justifiable force should always be used with restraint and particular care to protect civilian lives.

<http://en.interfax.com.ua/news/general/217460.html>

Ukraine foreign minister confirms return of 48 Ukrainian soldiers from Russia, 08.08.2014

Forty-eight Ukrainian servicemen have already returned home from Russia, and another five remain on the Russian side of the border, Ukraine's Foreign Minister Pavlo Klimkin said on his Twitter page early on Friday morning.

"Our consul in Rostov-on-Don has reported that 48 soldiers have returned to Ukraine. Another five remain on the territory of the Russian Federation. We will bring them back soon," he said.

<http://en.interfax.com.ua/news/general/217470.html>

Kyiv may appeal to international agencies over release of Ukrainian military arrested in Russia, 08.08.2014

Ukrainian Justice Minister Pavlo Petrenko said that Ukraine may use legal mechanisms for ensuring the return of Ukrainian servicemen held in Russia if diplomatic methods don't work.

"The Foreign Ministry is now taking all measures to bring back our military who were forced to retreat to Russian territory because of shelling. They are hostages there, and Russia has no rights and grounds to keep them on its territory. If diplomatic mechanisms do not help, we will use legal ones, but these are the most extreme measures," he said at a press conference in Kyiv on Thursday.

<http://en.interfax.com.ua/news/general/217475.html>

National Bank forecasts 1% economy growth in 2015, 08.08.2014

KYIV, August 8 /Ukrinform/. The National Bank of Ukraine forecasts that GDP will grow by 1% next year.

NBU governor Valeria Hontareva told an informal meeting at the National Bank.

"As concerns real GDP growth next year, today all that is related to next year is taken from the International Monetary Fund outlook. When anyone says about half a percent (growth - Ed.) - this is an error, plus 0.5 or minus 0.5, we still do not use the IMF outlook," Hontareva noted.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/national_bank_forecasts_1_economy_growth_in_2015_325049

Chubarov: ATO not an excuse to postpone Crimea's return, 08.08.2014

KYIV, August 8 /Ukrinform/. "The issue of the return of Crimea should stand at the same level with the fight against terrorists. Someone seems that there is an order: let's agree on the completion of the ATO, take up the de-escalation, and then the return of Crimea. But such a procedure is impossible. We should talk about three priorities simultaneously," the chairman of the Mejlis of the Crimean Tatar People, Refat Chubarov said.

"Nevertheless, but all the events in Ukraine will result in global negotiations. We must fight with terrorists, but also prepare for the negotiations. To weaken the Russian side there should be an unquestioning argument concerning Crimea. Its capture is a violation of the rights of indigenous peoples," Chubarov emphasized.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/chubarov_ato_not_an_excuse_to_postpone_crimeas_return_325051

Government submits list of sponsors of terrorists to NSDC, 08.08.2014

KYIV, August 8 /Ukrinform/. The Ukrainian government is initiating the introduction of sanctions against 172 citizens of Russia and other countries and 65 legal entities.

Prime Minister Arseniy Yatseniuk said this after a government meeting on Friday.

"The Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine submits for consideration by the National Security and Defense Council a list of 172 individuals-citizens of Russia and other countries who finance terrorism, supported the annexation of Crimea and encroach on the territorial integrity and independence of the Ukrainian state. The list of 65 legal entities mainly owned by Russia or Russian residents who finance terrorism and are directly related to crimes committed on Ukrainian territory is also submitted for the introduction of sanctions," he said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/government_submits_list_of_sponsors_of_terrorists_to_nsd_325063

Yatseniuk: Ukraine to lose \$7 bln after suspension of cooperation with Russia, 08.08.2014

KYIV, August 8 /Ukrinform/. Ukraine's annual losses from termination of economic cooperation with Russia will not exceed \$7 billion, Prime Minister Arseniy Yatseniuk said at a meeting of the Cabinet of Ministers on Friday in Kyiv.

"Under the most negative scenario, the losses from sanctions and aggressive policy of the Kremlin during the first year of termination of cooperation - 7 billion dollars," the prime minister said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/yatseniuk_ukraine_to_lose_7_bln_after_suspension_of_cooperation_with_russia_325064

Yatseniuk urges West to stop defense cooperation with Kremlin, 08.08.2014

KYIV, August 8 /Ukrinform/. Ukrainian Prime Minister Arseniy Yatseniuk has urged the Western countries to stop military and technical cooperation with Russia.

The head of government said this at a briefing on Friday.

"Especially I appeal to our Western partners - one cannot supply weapons to those who then use these weapons against independent democratic countries," Yatseniuk said.

In addition, he said that these arms could also be used and "against the Western countries."

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/yatseniuk_urges_west_to_stop_defense_cooperation_with_kremlin_325070

Netherlands views Russia as threat to Europe, 08.08.2014

KYIV, August 8 /Ukrinform/. Dutch Foreign Minister Frans Timmermans believes that the Russian policy towards Ukraine can be applied in other countries, and it poses a threat to the whole of Europe. He wrote this on his Facebook page.

"The approach that Russia applies to Ukraine leads to a violent armed confrontation in eastern Ukraine and has serious international implications. This is an approach that Russia could apply to other neighboring European countries, with which it will have a difference of opinion, if there is no adequate response. The approach, posing a threat to European and international security," Timmermans wrote.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/netherlands_views_russia_as_threat_to_europe_325072

Ukraine manages to stop Russian invasion - Chaly, 09.08.2014

KYIV, August 9 /Ukrinform/. Ukraine has managed to stop the provocation on the border and the bringing of Russian troops to Ukraine, Deputy Head of the Presidential Administration Valeriy Chaly said on the Shuster live talk show on Friday, President Petro Poroshenko's spokesman Sviatoslav Tseholko wrote this on his Facebook page.

"Under the guise of a humanitarian aid Russia has made an attempt to bring a military contingent to the territory of Ukraine. Concentration of troops on the border has been also recorded by Western partners. The President convened the operational headquarters meeting for immediate response. Petro Poroshenko held talks with the U.S. Secretary of State and the leadership of the Red Cross. Crossing the border by the so-called peacekeepers will be considered in Ukraine as an act of aggression. And we will have the full right to defend ourselves," the report reads.

According to Chaly, a huge convoy moved to the Ukrainian border, accompanied by the Russian military and technology, and supposedly by agreement of the Red Cross, a humanitarian aid with peacekeepers was supposed to enter Ukraine "apparently in order to provoke a full-scale conflict."

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/ukraine_manages_to_stop_russian_invasion_chaly_325092

U.S. says Russian 'humanitarian convoy' to Donbass to be regarded as invasion, 09.08.2014

KYIV, August 9 /Ukrinform/. The United States will view the bringing of Russian troops to deliver a "humanitarian aid" to the ATO area in Ukraine as a direct invasion, U.S. Ambassador to the UN Samantha Power said at a meeting of the UN Security Council on Friday.

“Russia's proposal for a “humanitarian corridor” imposed unilaterally by Russia would really be a pretext for Russian invasion of Ukraine,” Power said.

“If Russia wishes to channel humanitarian aid to Ukraine, international aid organizations like the ICRC can deliver aid on Russia's behalf,” Power said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/us_says_russian_humanitarian_convoy_to_donbass_to_be_regarded_as_invasion_325096

Lithuanian FM Linkevicius: “Everyone is fed up with Russian 'humanitarian' efforts”, 09.08.2014

KYIV, August 9 /Ukrinform/. “Everyone is fed up with Russian 'humanitarian' efforts. Only international mechanisms can be used,” Lithuanian Foreign Minister Linas Linkevicius wrote on his Twitter <<https://twitter.com/LinkeviciusL>>, commenting on the UK and U.S. warning against Russian not to use humanitarian assistance as a pretext for sending troops into eastern Ukraine.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/lithuanian_fm_linkevicius_everyone_is_fed_up_with_russian_humanitarian_efforts_325096

Klitschko: 80% of Kyiv residents don't support Maidan in its present condition, 09.08.2014

KYIV, August 9 /Ukrinform/. Kyiv Mayor Vitali Klitschko at Saturday's clean-up event told those who remain on the Maidan that the main square of the country should not have the appearance it has today.

"80% of Kyiv residents today do not support the existence of the Maidan in its current condition," he said from the stage after negotiations with the commanders.

According to the mayor, the Maidan square should look "European", there should not be shots, explosions, and there is no need to beat journalists there.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/klitschko_80_of_kyiv_residents_dont_support_maidan_in_its_present_condition_325102

Russia pulls Pskov Airborne Assault Division to border with Ukraine, 09.08.2014

KYIV, August 9 /Ukrinform/. "Russia continues to accumulate its military hardware along the Ukrainian border. Thus, units of Pskov Airborne Assault Division of the Russian Armed Forces have been deployed to the village of Veidelevka, Voronezh region, 10 km from the state border of Ukraine," Ukrainian NSDC information and analytical center spokesman Andriy Lysenko said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/russia_pulls_pskov_airborne_assault_division_to_border_with_ukraine_325112

Red Cross tells Russia what humanitarian aid means, 09.08.2014

KYIV, August 9 /Ukrinform/. The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) acknowledged receipt of the offer from Russian Minister of Foreign Affairs Sergei Lavrov about organizing aid convoys to the affected areas in eastern Ukraine, but stressed that this assistance can be provided only in strict adherence to its fundamental working principles of neutrality, impartiality, and independence.

The ICRC said this in a statement, available on its official website.

“Our priority is to assist the displaced and resident people in Donbass, and to provide medical services to the wounded in all affected areas. The current situation calls for a bigger effort to help the civilian population, and we are deploying additional teams in Marioupol and Starobilsk,” said Michel Masson, head of the ICRC operations in Ukraine.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/red_cross_tells_russia_what_humanitarian_aid_means_325116

Poroshenko, Kerry discuss humanitarian aid for Luhansk, 11.08.2014

KYIV, August 11 /Ukrinform/. Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko has spoken with U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry on the phone.

"John Kerry welcomed the Ukrainian president's initiative on an international humanitarian mission for the residents of Luhansk. Moreover, the Secretary of State praised the actions of Poroshenko on Friday, August 8, owing to which Ukraine achieved compliance with international law and legitimate procedures in the issue of delivering humanitarian assistance," reads the statement of the press service of the Presidential Administration on Facebook.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/poroshenko_kerry_discuss_humanitarian_aid_for_luhansk_325124

Poroshenko tells Merkel he is considering humanitarian mission to Luhansk, 11.08.2014

Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko has told German Federal Chancellor Angela Merkel on the phone that Kyiv is prepared to send a humanitarian mission to Luhansk.

"The president called attention to the effort of the Ukrainian authorities to start humanitarian assistance to cities. For instance, specialists may be sent to Luhansk for repairing power plants and water mains and food may be delivered," says a report posted by the presidential press service.

Following negotiations with International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) President Peter Maurer and other international partners, a possibility to send a humanitarian mission to Luhansk is being considered, Poroshenko said.

<http://en.interfax.com.ua/news/general/217721.html>

Only two Russians allowed to NATO Headquarters - Dolhov, 11.08.2014

KYIV, August 11 /Ukrinform/. "The Alliance suspended all channels of cooperation with the Russian Federation. No cooperation can be with aggressors. NATO left only a diplomatic channel of communication. I will even say that only Russian Ambassador and his deputy are allowed to the NATO Headquarters. And that's all!" Head of the Ukrainian Mission to NATO, Ambassador Ihor Dolhov told in an interview to Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/only_two_russians_allowed_to_nato_headquarters_dolhov_325135

Saakashvili: Putin goes too far in Ukrainian issue, losses for Russia inevitable, 11.08.2014

KYIV, August 11 /Ukrinform/. Russian President Vladimir Putin has gone too far in the Ukrainian issue and Russia will not do without losses, Georgia's former President Mikheil Saakashvili believes.

"I have traveled a lot to Ukraine in recent months. And people talk about reforms, people want to avoid corruption, that there was no continuation of the old practices. Actually, people are very mobilized for war, but the least they want it. However, this is not the choice of the Ukrainian people. I think that Russia has no prospects. Putin already is unable to walk out of the situation safe. He is out of control. Crimea seemed to him so easy that he probably thought that now he will go and there will be Anschluss: east of Ukraine will break away, south will break away and all will surrender, and the great Russian empire will be restored," he told the Ukraina television channel.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/saakashvili_putin_goes_too_far_in_ukrainian_issue_losses_for_russia_inevitable_325138

Putin could invade Ukraine - Obama, 11.08.2014

KYIV, August 11 /Ukrinform/. U.S. President Barack Obama this in an interview with the New York Times has said he does not rule out an open incursion by the Russian army into Ukraine. Obama said that the prospects for a diplomatic agreement that would prevent Russian President Vladimir Putin from invading Ukraine were real, but dimming. He said that this option could not be ruled out.

He also added that "we are at a dangerous time, in part because the position of the separatists has weakened."

"I think Putin does not want to lose face, and so the window for arriving at that [diplomatic] compromise continues to narrow," Obama said, adding that "he [Putin] could invade."

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/putin_could_invalidate_ukraine_obama_325145

ATO forces preparing for final stage of Donetsk liberation - NSDC, 11.08.2014

KYIV, August 11 /Ukrinform/. The anti-terrorist operation (ATO) forces are preparing for the final stage of the operation to liberate Donetsk, NSDC spokesman Andriy Lysenko.

"The forces of the anti-terrorist operations are preparing for the final stage of the liberation of Donetsk. Our forces completely cut Luhansk from Donetsk. We are working on the liberation of the two cities," Lysenko said told Reuters.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/ato_forces_preparing_for_final_stage_of_donetsk_liberation_nsd_325149

568 Ukrainian servicemen killed since start of anti-terrorist operation - Security and Defense Council, 11.08.2014

KYIV, August 11 /Ukrinform/. A total of 568 Ukrainian servicemen have been killed and over 2,000 have been wounded since the beginning of the ATO in the Donbas.

Ukrainian National Security and Defense Council (NSDC) information and analytical center spokesman Andriy Lysenko said this at a briefing in Kyiv on Monday.

"As of 09.00 today, 568 Ukrainian servicemen were killed and 2,120 were injured," Lysenko said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/568_ukrainian_servicemen_killed_since_start_of_anti_terrorist_operation_security_and_defense_council_325154

Over 80,000 refugees, mostly from Luhansk and Donetsk regions, recorded in Ukraine - social policy minister, 11.08.2014

About 83,000 internally displaced persons (IDPs) have currently been registered in Ukraine, Social Policy Minister Liudmyla Denisova has said.

"The largest number of persons travels to Kharkiv and Kyiv regions. There are about 83,000 IDPs," she told reporters in Kyiv on Monday.

Denisova said that 15,000 of the 83,000 IDPs were persons who left Crimea, and the rest are from Luhansk and Donetsk regions.

<http://en.interfax.com.ua/news/general/217786.html>

Auto traffic restored in Khreschatyk and adjacent streets, apart from Instytutska Street, says official, 11.08.2014

Auto traffic has been restored in Khreschatyk Street and all neighboring streets, apart from Instytutska Street, head of Kyivavtodor Volodymyr Zhukov said on Sunday, August 10.

He said that around 500 employees of utility services and 200 activists removed garbage and mud in Khreschatyk Street and adjacent territories. Lighting was also repaired.

According to a posting on the Web site of Kyiv Mayor Vitali Klitschko on Sunday, utility services and Kyivans completed removed garbage on Maidan and along Khreschatyk Street near the building of the conservatory.

<http://en.interfax.com.ua/news/general/217794.html>

Some 250,000 Luhansk residents have no power for two weeks, city has no food, medication, fuel supplies, 11.08.2014

As of Monday morning, the situation in Luhansk remains critical - the city is completely cut off from power, the Luhansk City Council press office said in a statement.

"About 250,000 Luhansk residents, who stayed in the city, have no power and water for nine days already, cellular and landline service do not operate," the document said.

<http://en.interfax.com.ua/news/general/217799.html>

Government creates state service for veterans, disabled and ATO participants, 11.08.2014

The Cabinet of Ministers has created the State Service for Veterans, People with Disabilities and Participants in the ATO, Ukrainian Prime Minister Arseniy Yatseniuk has said.

"According to our calculations, about 50,000 of our guys are currently engaged in the ATO. In this regard, at today's meeting the government created the State Service for Veterans, People with Disabilities and Participants in the Anti-Terrorist Operation," he told reporters on Monday after visiting the military hospital in Kyiv.

<http://en.interfax.com.ua/news/general/217807.html>

PUTIN SENDS HIS 'HUMANITARIAN CONVOY' TO UKRAINE, 11.08.2014

KYIV, August 11 /Ukrinform/. Russia at the second attempt has decided to send its "humanitarian convoy" to Ukraine.

This is said in a statement by the press office of the Kremlin about a phone call of President of

the European Commission Jose Manuel Barroso and Russian President Vladimir Putin. "The President [Vladimir Putin - ed.] noted that Russia, working together with International Red Cross officials, is sending a humanitarian convoy to Ukraine," the Kremlin said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/putin_sends_his_humanitarian_convoy_to_ukraine_325191

Poroshenko, Barroso discuss proposal for humanitarian aid to east Ukraine, 11.08.2014

Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko and European Commission President Jose Manuel Barroso discussed a proposal for humanitarian relief for eastern Ukraine in a phone call on Monday, the Ukrainian leader's office said.

Poroshenko said Barroso had "discussed the situation in [eastern Ukraine] and the Ukrainian President's initiative for an international humanitarian mission for Luhansk under the aegis of the International Committee of the Red Cross," the office said in a statement.

They "also discussed a schedule for the implementation of the Association Agreement with the EU and issues of energy-related cooperation and the resumption of negotiations on natural gas in the trilateral EU-Ukraine-Russia format," it said.

<http://en.interfax.com.ua/news/general/217875.html>

PM Yatseniuk: Some 50,000 military participate in ATO, 11.08.2014

KYIV, August 11 /Ukrinform/. "Already at the moment about 50,000 fighters are members of the anti-terrorist operation," Prime Minister Arseniy Yatseniuk said this while visiting the wounded servicemen at Kyiv's main clinical hospital, the Governmental portal reported.

According to Yatseniuk, of them "thousands are wounded, many families are left without a breadwinner."

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/pm_yatseniuk_some_50000_military_participate_in_ato_325180

ICRC to step up humanitarian aid to Donbas residents in strict adherence to its fundamental principles, 11.08.2014

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) is to step up humanitarian aid to the affected residents in Donbas, but stresses that any ICRC action will be taken in strict adherence to its fundamental working principles.

"We are exploring the possibility of distributing additional aid in the conflict zones; this implies the involvement, endorsement, and support of all concerned parties. Any ICRC action will be taken in strict adherence to our fundamental working principles of neutrality, impartiality, and independence. Furthermore, the ICRC teams also need safe access to perform their work," head of the ICRC operations in Ukraine Michel Masson said.

"Our priority is to assist the displaced and resident people in Donbas, and to provide medical services to the wounded in all affected areas. The current situation calls for a bigger effort to help the civilian population, and we are deploying additional teams in Mariupol and Starobilsik," he said.

<http://en.interfax.com.ua/news/general/217891.html>

Kiev agrees to organize international aid convoy to Lugansk, 11.08.2014

By Roman Olearchyk in Donetsk and Kathrin Hille in Moscow

Kiev on Monday agreed to organise an international humanitarian convoy to Lugansk in eastern Ukraine where pro-Ukrainian forces have been battling pro-Russian separatists – leaving residents trapped without power and water.

The aid mission will be led by the International Committee of the Red Cross, with the participation of the EU, Germany and Russia. Petro Poroshenko, Ukrainian president, agreed to the humanitarian intervention after a telephone call with US President Barack Obama, his office said.

Dmitry Peskov, Vladimir Putin's spokesman, said an agreement with the Ukrainian government on the mission was finalised on Sunday night.

"It will be organised by the ICRC but consist of a Russian convoy, which will enter Ukrainian territory at the point agreed upon with the Ukrainian side," he told the Financial Times. Mr Peskov said there would be no military accompanying the convoy. The spokesman added that he did not know whether other countries would be part of the mission and it was "not clear yet" when it would be sent.

An official close to Mr Poroshenko expressed concern that the Kremlin could still try to invoke a humanitarian crisis to intervene, separately to the agreed mission.

The Red Cross agency stressed in a statement on Monday that it needed agreement from all parties as well as security guarantees to carry out the operation.

"The practical details of this operation need to be clarified before this initiative can move forward," said Laurent Corbaz, head of ICRC operations for Europe and Central Asia.

<http://www.ft.com/intl/cms/s/0/3877761c-2166-11e4-b96e-00144feabdc0.html?siteedition=intl#axzz3AAHogqzi>

Convoy of 280 Russian trucks heading to Ukraine, 12.08.2014

KYIV, August 12 /Ukrinform/. A convoy of 280 trucks of the Russian Emergencies Ministry has left the suburbs of Moscow and is heading to Ukraine, ITAR-TASS has reported.

The trucks are carrying 2,000 tonnes of food, medicines and drinking water.

President Vladimir Putin's press secretary, Dmitry Peskov, said that Russian servicemen were not engaged in escorting the cargo.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/convoy_of_280_russian_trucks_heading_to_ukraine_325196

Ukrainian, U.S. presidents discuss humanitarian mission, 12.08.2014

KYIV, August 12 /Ukrinform/. "The U.S. president expressed support for the actions of the Ukrainian president, in particular, his initiative regarding an international humanitarian mission for Luhansk under the auspices of the International Committee of the Red Cross involving the EU, Russia, Germany and other partners," the Ukrainian presidential press service reported

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/ukrainian_us_presidents_discuss_humanitarian_mission_325199

"Resuscitators of reforms," Svoboda demand election amendments, lustration near Rada walls, 12.08.2014

KYIV, August 12 /Ukrinform/. Protesters near the Verkhovna Rada demand amendments to the election law and lustration of officials.

As a Ukrinform correspondent reported, public activists hold posters: "New Elections - New Rules!" "We Demand Lustration!" "Lustration - Cleanup! and others.

"We demand lustration and amendments to the election law so that the elections were held according to new rules. This will help completely change the situation in Ukraine. It is important to receive an absolutely new and qualitative parliament in autumn. Therefore, it is necessary to set a threshold even less than 3%. Also, political forces must be controlled by the society and tell about the funds, spent by them for their political campaigns. Elections must be held by open lists," participant in the meeting and coordinator of the "Resuscitation Package of Reforms" Hanna Hopko said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/resuscitators_of_reforms_svoboda_demand_election_amendments_lustration_near_rada_walls_325200

Hontareva says hryvnia "scared," but it is - temporarily, 12.08.2014

KYIV, August 12 /Ukrinform/. In Ukraine today, there are no macroeconomic grounds for significant fluctuations in the exchange rate.

National Bank governor Valeria Hontareva said, the press service of the regulator informs.

"The National Bank does not intend to depart from the policy of a flexible exchange rate. At the same time, now the pressure on the hryvnia exchange rate is caused by a reaction of economic agents to the military conflict in the east of the state. This is - temporarily, as the external position of the country in recent months has significantly improved, macroeconomic foundations for significant exchange rate fluctuations are absent," the NBU governor said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/hontareva_says_hryvnia_scared_but_it_is_temporarily_325206

U.S., EU ready to join international humanitarian aid mission for Luhansk - Chaly, 12.08.2014

KYIV, August 12 /Ukrinform/. The United States and the European Union are ready to participate in an international mission to deliver humanitarian aid to Luhansk, Deputy Head of the Presidential Administration Valeriy Chaly said on the Svoboda Slova talk show on Monday, the president's press office reported.

"It should be not convoys but a humanitarian aid, which is delivered through controlled by Ukraine border crossings with safety measures, under the coordination of the International Committee of the Red Cross. We have coordinated all activities, agreed positions," Chaly said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/us_eu_ready_to_join_international_humanitarian_aid_mission_for_luhansk_chaly_325208

Kerry hopes world can find way for Ukraine's cooperation with Russia, 12.08.2014

KYIV, August 12 /Ukrinform/. U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry has said he is hopeful that the international community will in the next few weeks find a way for Kyiv to be able to cooperate with Moscow on humanitarian assistance, the investigation into the Malaysian Boeing crash and political settlement in eastern Ukraine.

He said this in Sydney on Tuesday at a joint press conference with Australian Foreign Minister Julie Bishop, Reuters reported.

"Our hope is that in the next days and weeks, we can find a way for (Ukrainian) President Poroshenko and Ukraine to be able to work with the Russians to provide the humanitarian assistance necessary in the east, to facilitate the thoroughness of the investigation to begin to bring the separatists - to the degree that they are Ukrainian - into the political process and for those that are not Ukrainian, they need to leave the country," Kerry said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/kerry_hopes_world_can_find_way_for_ukraines_cooperation_with_russia_325209

Russian "humanitarian convoy" may pose military threat - Hrytsenko, 12.08.2014

KYIV, August 12 /Ukrinform/. A humanitarian convoy of Russia may pose a military threat for Ukraine.

MP Anatolii Hrytsenko said in the Freedom of Speech TV program, according to his website.

"We must be vigilant. It is hard to imagine that in 1943, the Nazi government decided to send a humanitarian convoy to the Soviet Union," Hrytsenko said.

Putin's actions are infinitely cynical as all his policies, he said.

"Putin triggered off this war, he is the enemy, and the Russian troops kill our soldiers, down our aircraft. It is not a slip in speaking. He verifies every word, therefore, the word "convoy," which provides combat support - is not used occasionally," Hrytsenko said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/russian_humanitarian_convoy_may_pose_military_threat_hrytsenko_325210

Convoy with Russian humanitarian aid will cross Ukraine's border in Kharkiv region - Kuchma, 12.08.2014

The convoy with humanitarian aid for Luhansk sent by Russia under the auspices of the International Committee of the Red Cross will enter Ukrainian territory through a customs checkpoint in Kharkiv region, former Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma told on Tuesday.

"The Contact Group decided at a session on Monday that the humanitarian aid will be delivered through Kharkiv region. A route to Luhansk has been determined as well," he said.

"This aid will be provided under the auspices of the International Committee of the Red Cross. Representatives of the OSCE [Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe] are accompanying the convoy," Kuchma said.

A convoy of trucks with the humanitarian aid from Russia will arrive to the border with Ukraine on Wednesday, August 13, in the first half of the day, RIA Novosti reported citing a source familiar with the situation.

<http://en.interfax.com.ua/news/general/217935.html>

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/humanitarian_convoy_to_arrive_on_wednesday_media_reports_say_325212

Barroso warns Putin against any unilateral military actions in Ukraine, including under humanitarian pretext, 12.08.2014

President of the European Commission Jose Manuel Barroso during a telephone conversation warned Russian President Vladimir Putin against any unilateral military actions in Ukraine, under any pretext, including humanitarian.

"Speaking with President Putin, President Barroso said that the EU would join in international efforts to assist people in need as a result of the conflict. President Barroso expressed concern at the gathering of Russian troops near the Ukrainian border, as well as the continuing flow of arms, equipment and militants from Russian territory, which run counter to efforts towards de-escalating the crisis. President Barroso warned against any unilateral military actions in Ukraine, under any pretext, including humanitarian," the European Commission's press service reported. Barroso also called on Russia to use its influence to ensure that civilian populations could safely and freely leave areas of conflict controlled by illegal armed groups.

<http://en.interfax.com.ua/news/general/217908.html>

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/barroso_backs_ukraines_position_on_humanitarian_mission_in_donbas_325250

Norway to join sanctions against Russia, 12.08.2014

The Norwegian authorities will join the sanctions imposed by the European Union on Russia on July 31, the Norwegian Foreign Ministry has reported.

Foreign Minister Borge Brende said that Norway would introduce the same sanctions as the EU. In particular, it will expand the list of persons and entities whose financial assets in the country will be frozen. Visa bans will also be imposed on individuals.

Brende said that Norway's restrictive measures would be a response to the violation by Russia of the UN Charter. He also noted that Moscow had not expressed its readiness to change its behavior towards Ukraine.

"Even after the tragedy on July 17, when a Malaysian plane was downed, Russia, although it changed its behavior, continued to destabilize the situation in the eastern regions of Ukraine," he said.

<http://en.interfax.com.ua/news/general/217937.html>

Tigipko: Radicalization of society impedes Ukrainian unity, 12.08.2014

Ukrainian parliament deputy, Strong Ukraine party leader Sergiy Tigipko has called for keeping radicalized forces which hamper the achievement of national unity off political activity.

"It is time to keep off radicals: nowadays radicals are worse than any aggressor; they break our unity and do not let us unite the country. And a divided country is a weak country. It will be strong when every citizen feels oneself comfortable," Tigipko said.

"First and foremost, we will achieve the unity only when we recognize our diversity. We will never be fully united without this recognition and it will be very easy to drive a wedge between people - our country is too large and our historical formation has proceeded in completely different ways," Tigipko opined.

The Ukrainian diversity should be recognized with institutional transformations, among them a regional reform, which can be held without an adjustment of the constitution, he said.

<http://en.interfax.com.ua/news/general/217942.html>

Possible meeting of Russian, Belarusian and Kazakh leaders with Ukrainian president being discussed - CIS secretariat, 12.08.2014

The possibility of holding a meeting of the presidents of the Customs Union member countries and Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko is being discussed, CIS Executive Secretary Sergei Lebedev told reporters in Minsk on Tuesday.

"President of Belarus Alexander Lukashenko has come up with an initiative to hold a meeting of the presidents of Belarus, Russia and Kazakhstan and invite the president of Ukraine to it. This proposal is now being discussed," he said.

"There is a need for this dialogue," Lebedev added.

<http://en.interfax.com.ua/news/general/217953.html>

French FM Fabius says Russia can use humanitarian aid for constant presence in region, 12.08.2014

KYIV, August 12 /Ukrinform/. A Russian convoy of 280 trucks, which are moving in the direction of Ukraine to deliver a "humanitarian aid" to residents of the country's eastern regions, may be an attempt by Moscow to establish a permanent presence on the Ukrainian territory, French Foreign Minister Laurent Fabius told the France Info radio station.

"We have to be extremely watchful, because the Russians can use it as a cover to stay nearby Luhansk and Donetsk and confront us with a fait accompli, which has already taken place," Fabius said.

The head of French diplomacy noted that the delivery of the humanitarian assistance should be carried out only under the auspices of the Red Cross.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/french_fm_fabius_says_russia_can_use_humanitarian_aid_for_constant_presence_in_region_325214

Ukrainian military servicemen could be exempted from paying credit rates when they participating in ATO, 12.08.2014

The participants of the armed operations for the period when they are staying in the counterterrorist operation zone (ATO) are to be exempted from paying credit rates to commercial banks, Ukrainian Prime Minister Arseniy Yatseniuk has said.

"We're working with commercial banks so that ATO participants could be able not to pay credit rates when they are participating in the ATO. The major part of the banks has agreed," he told reporters in Kyiv on Monday after visiting the military hospital.

<http://en.interfax.com.ua/news/general/217969.html>

Price of sanctions against Russia nothing compared to lives of Ukrainians - Yatseniuk, 12.08.2014

"We realize that the introduction of sanctions will have consequences for the Ukrainian economy. But this price is nothing compared to the lives of Ukrainian soldiers, Ukrainian people, who are shot by Russian-supported terrorists," Ukrainian Prime Minister Arseniy Yatseniuk said in parliament on Tuesday.

Yatseniuk said that a government bill proposes imposing 29 types of sanctions.

"It's a matter of national dignity," he said.

<http://en.interfax.com.ua/news/general/217997.html>

Chaly: Russian 'humanitarian aid' to be delivered to border only, 12.08.2014

KYIV, August 12 /Ukrinform/. A Russian "humanitarian aid", sent today to Ukraine, will be delivered only to the border, and then its movement will be accompanied by Red Cross representatives, Deputy Head of the Presidential Administration Valeriy Chaly told reporters in Kyiv on Tuesday.

"We do not consider any movement of the Russian convoy on the Ukrainian territory. This delivery must undergo the usual procedure: delivery to the border, customs formalities in the transit area. Then - customs clearance. The Red Cross is responsible for that, it coordinates and delivers this aid. The cargo will be reloaded onto the vehicles leased by the Red Cross, the official," said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/chaly_russian_humanitarian_aid_to_be_delivered_to_border_only_325225

Foreign Ministry calls Putin and Medvedev's visit to Crimea unacceptable, 12.08.2014

KYIV, August 12 /Ukrinform/. The Ukrainian Foreign Ministry has said that a visit by Russian President Vladimir Putin, Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev and State Duma deputies to Crimea is unacceptable.

Ukrainian Deputy Foreign Minister Danylo Lubkivsky said this at a briefing in Kyiv on Tuesday.

"It is unacceptable. Crimea is illegally occupied. The presence of the Russian leadership there is unacceptable. This is a clear and unambiguous position of the Ukrainian Foreign Ministry," Lubkivsky said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/foreign_ministry_calls_putin_and_medvedevs_visit_to_crimea_unacceptable_325237

Ukraine has not yet received list of humanitarian goods from Russia - Chaly, 12.08.2014

KYIV, August 12 /Ukrinform/. The Ukrainian Foreign Ministry still expects a note from Russia with a list of humanitarian goods for residents of Luhansk.

Deputy Head of Ukraine's Presidential Administration Valeriy Chaly said this at a briefing in Kyiv on Tuesday, Ukrinform reported.

"Unfortunately, as of 16.40, we still did not get the promised Russian note with the list or specification of goods. Therefore, we still do not know what exactly is there. This worries us, because we still would like to get an understanding of what will be cleared," the official said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/ukraine_has_not_yet_received_list_of_humanitarian_goods_from_russia_chaly_325241

NBU governor vows to return exchange rate to UAH 11.5-11.9 per dollar, 12.08.2014

KYIV, August 12 /Ukrinform/. The National Bank of Ukraine (NBU) will do everything possible to stabilize the exchange rate at a balanced level of UAH 11.5-11.9 per U.S. dollar.

NBU Governor Valeriya Hontareva said this in her report in the Verkhovna Rada on Tuesday, a Ukrinform correspondent reported.

"It's clear to everyone that there are no economic factors for the exchange rate of UAH 13-13.5 per dollar. It's just panic. Everyone understands that the exchange rate is far from its sustainable level. Even given the fighting [taking place in eastern Ukraine], a balanced exchange rate currently stays at UAH 11.5-11.9 per dollar. NBU is not going to keep it away from the market and will do everything possible to stabilize the exchange rate to its balanced level," she said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/nbu_governor_vows_to_return_exchange_rate_to_uah_115_119_per_dollar_325247

Putin's 'humanitarian aid' won't be let in Ukraine if not certified by Red Cross - NSDC, 12.08.2014

KYIV, August 12 /Ukrinform/. Any foreign humanitarian aid must be certified by the International Committee of the Red Cross, so far no "humanitarian convoy" has received such certification to enter Ukraine.

Ukrainian National Security and Defence Council (NSDC) Information and Analysis Center spokesman Andriy Lysenko thus commented on a video with trucks repainted white by Russian military and information on sending by Russia of a "humanitarian convoy" to Ukraine, which has already allegedly left Moscow region.

"This convoy is not certified by the International Committee of the Red Cross," Lysenko said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/putins_humanitarian_aid_wont_be_let_in_ukraine_if_not_certified_by_red_cross_nsd_325219

ICRC has no accurate information about content of Russian aid convoy heading to Ukraine's border, 13.08.2014

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) still has no complete information about the content of a Russian convoy with humanitarian aid for Ukraine, and technical details of the transfer of cargo are also under consideration, ICRC spokesperson Andre Loersch said.

He told Interfax-Ukraine on Wednesday that many technical issues were still under discussion and that there was no exact plan with technical details.

He said that the ICRC received two official reports from Russia on Tuesday, in particular, one on the sending of the convoy to the Ukrainian border and another on the convoy content.

Loersch said that the ICRC had received a general description of the cargo, but it needed more accurate information about what these trucks are carrying.

Among the technical issues requiring coordination, there is a question whether these trucks will cross the Ukrainian-Russian border and where this will happen, he said.

All these issues are resolved at the international level, Loersch said.

<http://en.interfax.com.ua/news/general/218176.html>

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/red_cross_does_not_know_what_putin_brings_to_ukraine_325280

Russian humanitarian convoy not to be admitted to Kharkiv region - Ukrainian Interior Minister Avakov, 13.08.2014

A Russian humanitarian convoy will not be allowed to pass through the Kharkiv region's territory, Ukrainian Interior Minister Arsen Avakov has said.

"No 'humanitarian convoy' from [Russian President Vladimir] Putin will be admitted through the Kharkiv region's territory. A provocation by the cynical aggressor on our territory is unacceptable," Avakov said in Facebook on Wednesday, adding that his words amounted to an official statement.

<http://en.interfax.com.ua/news/general/218177.html>

Yatseniuk on 'humanitarian aid': Russia should better send empty trucks for terrorists, 13.08.2014

KYIV, August 13 /Ukrinform/. "The level of Russian cynicism knows no bounds. First they supplied tanks, Grads, terrorists, and bandits who shot the Ukrainians, and then they bring water and salt," Ukrainian Prime Minister Arseniy Yatseniuk said while opening a government meeting on Wednesday.

He said that the assistance foundation already has about \$6 million, which is in the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights.

"We, as the government of Ukraine, the president of Ukraine, supply essential commodities to all liberated territories. We, as the Ukrainian state, provided and are able to provide our citizens [with the necessary goods]," Yatseniuk said.

He said that government allocates additional UAH 10 million to purchase essential goods. Yatseniuk also said that Ukraine can accept any kind of humanitarian aid solely within international law and only from the Red Cross.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/yatseniuk_on_humanitarian_aid_russia_should_better_send_empty_trucks_for_terrorists_325276

<http://en.interfax.com.ua/news/general/218178.html>

Kyiv guarantees security of humanitarian convoy, if it formed by ICRC, 13.08.2014

Ukraine will ensure security of a humanitarian convoy if it is formed by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), NSDC spokesman said.

"Ukraine will ensure security for the column with humanitarian cargo passing to its destination," Ukrainian NSDC spokesman Andriy Lysenko said at a briefing on Wednesday.

According to Lysenko, the ICRC should make sure that cargo poses no threat and that it can be delivered.

"As a rule, cargo sent to transit area is checked by the ICRC there and then columns are formed, which deliver cargo to sites," Lysenko said.

"Any convoys that are accompanied by the military or consist of the military, and do not have a mandate of the Red Cross and are not a humanitarian aid under its auspices, are viewed as aggressive forces, respectively, the reaction to it will be adequate," Lysenko said.

<http://en.interfax.com.ua/news/general/218203.html>

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/any_convoys_without_red_cross_mandate_viewed_as_aggressive_forces_nsd_325303

Russia suddenly changes route of 'humanitarian aid convoy' to Ukraine, 13.08.2014

KYIV, August 13 /Ukrinform/. A "humanitarian aid convoy" from Russia to Ukraine is heading for Ukraine bypassing Kharkiv region, Kharkiv Regional State Administration press office said.

The "humanitarian aid" from Russia, as it became known, will be delivered to Ukraine bypassing checkpoints in Kharkiv region. Yet it is unknown what will be the route of the "humanitarian convoy," the report reads.

According to unofficial data, the "humanitarian aid" will be directed through Rostov region.

Chairman of Kharkiv Regional State Administration Ihor Baluta said the "humanitarian aid", which today has been expected at Pletnivka checkpoint in Volchansk district of Kharkiv region, would have been immediately reloaded onto Ukrainian trucks and continued movement as the goods of the Red Cross. "The issue of the convoy accompanying Kamaz trucks from Russia with the humanitarian cargo disappears by itself," Baluta said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/russia_suddenly_changes_route_of_humanitarian_aid_convoy_to_ukraine_325277

Russian aid camp dismantled in Kharkiv region, 13.08.2014

A camp set up by the Ukrainian Emergency Situations Service close to the border checkpoint in Pletenivka, Kharkiv region, for the Russian humanitarian convoy, is being removed. Trucks and other vehicles, as well as buses carrying personnel are leaving the camp, an Interfax-Ukraine correspondent said.

The camp was set up in the early hours of Wednesday morning.

<http://en.interfax.com.ua/news/general/218195.html>

Putin to try to stage armed coup in Ukraine, defence minister's advisor says, 13.08.2014

KYIV, August 13 /Ukrinform/. "When we win this war, Putin will certainly try to organize an armed coup," Oleksandr Danyliuk, the adviser to Ukrainian Defence Minister Valeriy Heletey, wrote this on his Facebook page.

According to him, for the coup the Kremlin will use Russian paratroopers, who will pose themselves as Ukrainian "volunteers", and one of extremely advertised "field commanders".

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/putin_to_try_to_stage_armed_coup_in_ukraine_defence_ministers_advisor_says_325292

NSDC still does not know where Putin's "convoy" is heading, 13.08.2014

KYIV, August 13 /Ukrinform/. The National Security and Defense Council still has no information about the route of the Russian column of supposedly humanitarian aid.

Spokesman of the Information-Analytical Center of the National Security and Defense Council Andriy Lysenko says, a Ukrinform correspondent reports.

"Indeed, there is information that the convoy does not reach the limits of Ukraine in Kharkiv region, but it is not known where it will go further," Lysenko said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/nsdc_still_does_not_know_where_putins_convoy_is_heading_325304

Presidential press secretary on humanitarian aid to Luhansk, 13.08.2014

KYIV, August 13 /Ukrinform/. Press Secretary of the President of Ukraine Sviatoslav Tseholko made comments on organizing humanitarian aid for Ukrainian Luhansk.

No civilized country refuses real humanitarian aid. Today, as a result of the terrorists' actions, Luhansk has been without electricity, water, and medicine.

So, how do we direct assistance to Luhansk?

The International Committee of the Red Cross has offered to guarantee the delivery of the international humanitarian mission to Luhansk. This organization has agreed with our partners, among them Russia, on international humanitarian assistance to Luhansk.

Yesterday, Ukraine agreed to accept the Russian part of the humanitarian aid if it is transferred to Red Cross trucks and accompanied only by the Red Cross.

But Russia has rejected the proposal.

So, today we have three scenarios:

First. Direct invasion of the territory of Ukraine under the pretext of humanitarian cargo.

Second. Provocations with the load in Kharkiv region with a high probability of aggression by Russia.

Third. Help Luhansk by passing through the checkpoint closest to this Ukrainian city. Our customs officers, border guards and the OSCE can scan the goods on the Russian-Ukrainian border. The mission will move to a territory that is under the control of the militants. After arrival in Luhansk, the Red Cross will distribute the aid among the civilians.

The decision to accept the assistance for Luhansk and thus prevent a large-scale invasion by Russia was adopted at a joint meeting on the night of 12th to 13th August with the participation of the President, Prime Minister, Speaker of the Parliament and ministers concerned with armed forces and internal troops.

Today, the Ukrainian part of the international humanitarian aid is being sent to Luhansk. Ukraine cannot leave its citizens, who are held hostage to the terrorists in the occupied territories.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/presidential_press_secretary_on_humanitarian_aid_to_luhansk_325308

Merkel: EU doesn't accept Russia's actions in Ukraine, 13.08.2014

German Chancellor Angela Merkel has said that for last 70 years Europe has been living peacefully, mainly because there was a basic consensus that Europeans respect the territorial integrity of its member states.

"The compliance of the states' territorial integrity and the impossibility of changing the border lines unilaterally is the key European accord, Merkel said in an interview with The Saxon newspaper posted on Wednesday, adding that after the annexation of Crimea Putin went against these principles.

<http://en.interfax.com.ua/news/general/218287.html>

Death toll in Ukraine's east reaches over 2,000 - UN, 13.08.2014

KYIV, August 13 /Ukrinform/. Over the past two weeks the death toll in the Ukrainian conflict has almost doubled to more than 2,000 people, UN human rights spokeswoman Cecile Pouilly said at a press conference on Wednesday, according to Reuters.

"The estimated death toll in the Ukraine conflict nearly doubled to at least 2,086 as of Aug. 10 from 1,129 on July 26," she said.

Pouilly added that nearly 5,000 have been wounded to date.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/death_toll_in_ukraines_east_reaches_over_2000_un_325297

Putin's 'convoy' heading God knows where, 14.08.2014

KYIV, August 14 /Ukrinform/. A convoy with a "humanitarian aid" from Russia, which was heading to the east of Ukraine, but stopped at Malshevo airbase near Voronezh, again started to move, according to the BBC Ukrainian.

"BBC's reporter watched a long chain of white truck moving outside the airbase. Yet it is unclear where the column is heading to," the report reads.

On Wednesday evening, the trucks did not reach a checkpoint in Kharkiv region, where the Ukrainian guards had to inspect 270 KamAZ trucks, and turned east. For some time it was not known exactly where the convoy was. Later journalists found it near Voronezh.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/putins_convoy_heading_god_knows_where_325310

Filaret: We will receive everyone who withdraws from Moscow patriarchate, 14.08.2014

KYIV, August 14 /Ukrinform/. Today there is an outflow of the clergy and parishioners of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Moscow Patriarchate to Kyiv Patriarchate, Patriarch of Kyiv and All-Ukraine Filaret told Channel 5 on Wednesday.

"The outflow of priests and parishioners from Moscow to Kyiv Patriarchate will be and is already taking place. It is small so far, but I think eventually there will be a large outflow," he said.

"We will receive everyone, because we are a single Ukrainian church, divided by Moscow. We need to explain the clergy, the episcopate and the faithful that the church was not divided by Ukrainians, but by Moscow at the Kharkiv synod," Filaret said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/filaret_we_will_receive_everyone_who_withdraws_from_moscow_patriarchate_325314

Russian aid must be inspected in presence of ICRC representatives – Ukrainian authorities, 14.08.2014

"The movement of the convoy will be blocked by whatever forces are available," Andriy Lysenko, the Ukrainian NSDC spokesman said at a briefing in Kyiv on Thursday.

The Russian convoy must be checked by border guards and customs officers, in the presence of International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) representatives, he said.

"We hope that Russia will meet these requirements and will not violate Ukrainian and international laws," Lysenko said.

<http://en.interfax.com.ua/news/general/218381.html>

Putin confesses to using army to annex Crimea, 14.08.2014

KYIV, August 14 /Ukrinform/. Russian President Vladimir Putin has admitted that he used the Russian armed forces for the illegal referendum in Crimea.

He said this on Thursday in his speech in Yalta at a meeting with members of the Duma factions and members of the Russian government, Russia's independent television channel Dozhd reported.

"Yes, we used our armed forces, but in order to hold a referendum," he said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/putin_confesses_to_using_army_to_annex_crimea_325347

'Humanitarian convoy' stops near border with Ukraine, 14.08.2014

KYIV, August 14 /Ukrinform/. Russia's "humanitarian convoy" stopped in a field before reaching the border with Ukraine, BBC Russian reported.

"We have turned off the M4 highway, the turning to the Russian town of Donetsk near the border; lorries are parking in a field," BBC's Steve Rosenberg wrote on Twitter on Friday.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/humanitarian_convoy_stops_near_border_with_ukraine_325349

President Barroso: phone call with President Putin on the situation in Ukraine, 14.08.2014

President Barroso and President Putin spoke today on the phone. As in yesterday's call with President Poroshenko and in the contacts earlier in the week with both the President of Russia and the President of Ukraine, the purpose was to discuss the situation in Ukraine and its overall context, including ways to de-escalate the current situation. It was agreed to hold consultations between the Presidents of Russia, Ukraine and the European Commission on the issues related with the implementation of the Association Agreement as well as on the supply of gas, in parallel with the efforts to stabilise the political and security situation. The concrete arrangements for these talks will be further discussed through the appropriate diplomatic channels."

http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_STATEMENT-14-253_en.htm

Column of Russian military equipment breaks through to Luhansk - NSDC, 15.08.2014

KYIV, August 15 /Ukrinform/. A column of Russian military equipment, on Friday, crossed the border of Ukraine in the area of Izvaryne checkpoint, trying to break through to help militants in besieged Luhansk, spokesman of the NSDC Information-Analytical Center Andriy Lysenko said. When asked why the column was not destroyed from the air, Lysenko said that this border area is not controlled by the ATO.

"But I assure you that what has got here, will not be released," he said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/column_of_russian_military_equipment_breaks_through_to_luhansk_nsd_325379

ICRC accepting Ukrainian humanitarian aid in Luhansk region, 15.08.2014

Ukrainian humanitarian aid has been partially unloaded at warehouses in Starobilsk, Luhansk region, and representatives of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) are accepting the cargo, said Iryna Heraschenko, the president's envoy for the settlement in eastern Ukraine.

"A third of the trucks have been unloaded. The Red Cross begins to accept the cargo consistent with the manifest and to fulfill its schedule of the relief's transfer," she wrote on Facebook.

<http://en.interfax.com.ua/news/general/218515.html>

Ukraine clear Russian humanitarian aid at Donetsk checkpoint in Rostov region, 15.08.2014

Ukrainian border guards and customs officers are checking Russian humanitarian aid at the Donetsk checkpoint in the Rostov region on the Russian-Ukrainian border, the press center of the army operation in eastern Ukraine said.

"Customs control and clearance of the humanitarian cargo from that country began at the Donetsk checkpoint at 1000. Fifty-nine Ukrainian specialists are participating in the inspection, among them 41 representatives of the Ukrainian State Border Service and 18 customs officers. According to a preliminary agreement, the cargo will be routed to Luhansk," the press center said in a report posted on Facebook.

<http://en.interfax.com.ua/news/general/218537.html>

Ukraine not to start customs clearance of Russian humanitarian cargo without documents from ICRC - NSDC, 15.08.2014

Ukrainian experts haven't started formal procedures for accepting the Russian humanitarian cargo at Donetsk border crossing checkpoint in Rostov region, as the International Committee of the Red Cross has not yet provided documents describing the cargo, the National Security and Defense Council of Ukraine has said.

"The Ukrainian side has sent its experts - border guards and customs officers there (to the Donetsk checkpoint on the Russian border). They are ready to start clearing the cargo, the working places have been prepared. However, our representatives have not received any documents from the International Committee of the Red Cross about the cargo. Once these papers are received, the border guards and customs officers will start the clearance of the goods," NSDC spokesman Andriy Lysenko said.

<http://en.interfax.com.ua/news/general/218607.html>

Poroshenko meets with Ukrainian military released from captivity, 15.08.2014

KYIV, August 15 /Ukrinform/. President of Ukraine Petro Poroshenko met with 25 soldiers, who had been released from captivity in Donetsk region.

The press service of the President informs.

"We managed to free 25 Ukrainians from captivity. We managed to return them home alive. I am very glad. This involved a lot of people, many countries, it is nice that we have the first result," Poroshenko said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/poroshenko_meets_with_ukrainian_military_released_from_captivity_325389

More than 100 Ukrainian law enforcers in captivity - Poroshenko, 15.08.2014

KYIV, August 15 /Ukrinform/. More than 100 Ukrainian law enforcers are still in the terrorist captivity, President Petro Poroshenko said at a meeting with 25 Ukrainian military, released from captivity in Donetsk region.

"We in any case will not stop fighting for the liberation of our people, because each of them is Ukrainian and each of them should be free ... Ukrainians want peace. We will help everyone who wants peace," Poroshenko said, who was quoted by his press office.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/more_than_100_ukrainian_law_enforcers_in_captivity_poroshenko_325391

Artillery destroys part of Russian military equipment that broke border, 15.08.2014

KYIV, August 15 /Ukrinform/. Some Russian military equipment was destroyed by the artillery almost immediately after the invasion of Ukraine.

President Petro Poroshenko said in a telephone conversation with British Prime Minister David Cameron, the press service of the President informs.

"Much of this equipment was destroyed by the Ukrainian artillery at night," a statement reads.

Information about destruction of Russian military equipment was also confirmed by the NSDC.

"I want to reassure: this column was led, it always was under the supervision of our intelligence and weapons of destruction, appropriate active actions were made and a part of the column does not exist now," NSDC Information-Analytical Center spokesman Andriy Lysenko noted.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/artillery_destroys_part_of_russian_military_equipment_that_broke_border_325401

President open to dialogue with leaders of Customs Union countries - Foreign Ministry, 16.08.2014

KYIV, August 16 /Ukrinform/. The head of the information policy department of the Ukrainian Foreign Ministry, Yevhen Perebyinis, has said on the Ukraine television channel that the Foreign Ministry and President Petro Poroshenko are open to dialogue with the leaders of the Customs Union countries, UNN has reported.

"Different options, different dates and venues for these important meetings are being discussed. But I would like to say that our minister, Pavlo Klimkin, will be in Berlin where he will meet with the Russian foreign minister and the foreign ministers of Germany and France. At these

meetings the sides will discuss the normalization of the situation in the east, including the delivery of humanitarian aid by Russia, and the development of further dialogue, perhaps at a higher level. But we still cannot talk about any specific agreements. Obviously, the dialogue is needed, and we are open to it," he said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/president_open_to_dialogue_with_leaders_of_customs_union_countries_foreign_ministry_325405

Russian 'humanitarian aid' escorted by 1,000 disguised military - SBU, 16.08.2014

KYIV, August 16 /Ukrinform/. The drivers of half-empty trucks carrying the so-called humanitarian aid from Russia and their assistants are disguised servicemen, Deputy Head of the Security Service of Ukraine (SBU) Viktor Yahun has said, according to UNN.

"They have a special ministry on emergency situations that has white special machinery, white helicopters, airplanes, and vehicles. In this regard, there were many questions why it was necessary to take military trucks and paint them with the paint used for painting military vehicles in winter. If necessary, it can be easily washed away," Yahun said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/russian_humanitarian_aid_escorted_by_1000_disguised_military_sbu_325406

Media: Poroshenko speaks with Putin by phone for one-and-a-half hours, 16.08.2014

KYIV, August 16 /Ukrinform/. Russian President Vladimir Putin, with his operation "Humanitarian convoy," is conducting reconnaissance, learning how the Ukrainian side will behave, journalist Serhiy Rakhmanin has reported on the Dzerkalo Tyzhnia (Mirror Weekly) online newspaper.

"The Kremlin is testing the boundaries of acceptable. Try, give up. Try not to let our convoy in... Your actions? Will you shoot? Try," he wrote, suggesting one version.

"The Kremlin hopes that a similar, not hybrid, but absolutely frank rudeness will increase our compliancy and indulgence of the West, which, as before, does not fully believe our firmness and does not want a full-scale war," the journalist said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/media_poroshenko_speaks_with_putin_by_phone_for_one_and_a_half_hours_325411

Europe wants Russia not to cover military aggression with humanitarian situation, 16.08.2014

KYIV, August 16 /Ukrinform/. The European Union has said that the humanitarian situation cannot serve as a reason for Russian military action against Ukraine.

This is stated in the conclusions of the EU Foreign Affairs Council, which met in Brussels on Friday, a Ukrinform correspondent reported.

"Any unilateral military actions on the part of the Russian Federation in Ukraine under any pretext, including humanitarian, will be considered by the European Union as a blatant violation of international law," the EU foreign ministers said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/europe_wants_russia_not_to_cover_military_aggression_with_humanitarian_situation_325412

Steinmeier: Some progress achieved after difficult conversation, 18.08.2014

KYIV, August 18 /Ukrinform/. German Foreign Minister Frank-Walter Steinmeier has said after a meeting of the foreign ministers of Germany, Russia, Ukraine and France, who discussed the ways of resolving the situation in eastern Ukraine for nearly five hours, that the sides have achieved some progress after a difficult conversation.

"I think and hope that we have achieved progress on some points," Deutsche Welle quoted Steinmeier as saying.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/steinmeier_some_progress_achieved_after_difficult_conversation_325417

'Putin's convoy' to enter Ukraine through Izvaryne in batches of 30 trucks, 18.08.2014

KYIV, August 18 /Ukrinform/. A humanitarian cargo from Russia will be let in Ukraine in batches of 30 trucks and only escorted by representatives of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC).

Deputy Head of the Ukrainian State Fiscal Service and Head of the Customs Service Anatoliy Makarenko reported this on Facebook.

"As agreed with the Red Cross mission, the cargo will arrive in the Izvaryne-Donetsk (Rostov region) international checkpoint in batches [of up to 30 vehicles] and will be transferred only to official representatives of the Red Cross, who will be accompanying it, and only after it passes border and customs control," he wrote.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/putins_convoy_to_enter_ukraine_through_izvaryne_in_batches_of_30_trucks_325430

Germany not to provide military assistance to Ukraine, 18.08.2014

KYIV, August 18 /Ukrinform/. The German government is not considering providing military assistance to Ukraine to fight separatists in the east of the country.

A German Federal Foreign Office spokesperson said this in Berlin on Monday, while commenting on a respective request from Ukrainian Foreign Minister Pavlo Klimkin.

"The fact that the Ukrainian leadership, given the really difficult military situation in the east of Ukraine, expressed such a wish can be understood.... But the German government is not considering the issue of providing military supplies to Ukraine," the spokesperson said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/germany_not_to_provide_military_assistance_to_ukraine_325448

Turchynov urges world to stop Russian threat, 18.08.2014

KYIV, August 18 /Ukrinform/. Russian state terrorism endangers not only Ukraine or Ukrainian people, but poses a "threat to the entire world," and people everywhere on the planet should realize that after the downing of the Malaysian Boeing passenger jet in eastern Ukraine.

Verkhovna Rada Chairman Oleksandr Turchynov said this during a conference of parliamentary speakers of the Nordic and Baltic countries in Palanga (Lithuania) on Monday, the press service of the Ukrainian parliament reported.

"A terrible tragedy took the life of innocent people, many children who dreamed of a relaxing holiday, but died in the Ukrainian sky because of the insidious blow of monster terrorists. So the sooner Ukraine manages to stop Russian aggression through joint efforts with the international community, the more lives we will save," he said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/turchynov_urges_world_to_stop_russian_threat_325449

Kyiv accuses Russia's ombudsman Astakhov of misrepresenting situation with abchildren from east of Ukraine, 18.08.2014

Russia's commissioner for children's rights Pavel Astakhov has been misinforming the public over the situation with children abducted from eastern Ukraine for several months on his official Web page, Ukrainian Foreign Ministry reported.

It has been done "probably with an aim to veil the illegal actions of the illegal armed units that operate on the territory of Ukraine," reads a comment from the Ukrainian Foreign Ministry.

"His [Pavel Astakhov] last statement on a ban by the Ukrainian authorities of the removal of children from the ATO area is, frankly speaking, of a provocative character," the ministry said.

<http://en.interfax.com.ua/news/general/218939.html>

Merkel's visit to Kyiv is a unique fact - Klimkin, 19.08.2014

KYIV, August 19 /Ukrinform/. German Chancellor Angela Merkel's visit to Ukraine on August 23 this year is unusual.

"As for the chancellor's visit, it is an unusual visit, which is planned just before the national holiday. I want to emphasize that it is an unusual visit... The visit is the result of very close personal contacts of the Ukrainian president and the German chancellor... Knowing German political and diplomatic tradition, I can say that it's an absolutely unique fact," Ukrainian Foreign Minister Pavlo Klimkin said this at a briefing on Monday.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/merkels_visit_to_kyiv_is_a_unique_fact_klimkin_325457

Ukraine should regain influence on world food market - Yatseniuk, 19.08.2014

KYIV, August 19 /Ukrinform/. Ukraine should regain influence on the world food market, because the agricultural sector is currently the only industry in the economy showing growth.

Ukrainian Prime Minister Arseniy Yatseniuk said this at a roundtable meeting entitled "The key aspects of a government package of comprehensive changes in the tax system" in Cherkasy region on Tuesday, according to the governmental press service.

"Agriculture is currently the only industry showing growth. I insisted and insist that we have two points of growth in the Ukrainian economy. The first is agriculture, and the second is energy. Our goal is to do everything to ensure that Ukraine regains influence on the global food market," Yatseniuk said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/ukraine_should_regain_influence_on_world_food_market_yatseniuk_325465

UN chief wants safe passage for refugees from Donbas, 19.08.2014

KYIV, August 19 /Ukrinform/. UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon is deeply disturbed by reports of an attack on a group of internally displaced persons who were trying to leave Luhansk. In this regard, he called on all sides to provide safe passage for those who leave the danger zone.

UN spokesperson Stephane Dujarric said this on Monday, the UN News Center reported.

"He urges all sides to respect the rules governing the status of IDPs and refugees and to allow safe passage to anyone attempting to leave areas of active military operations," Dujarric said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/un_chief_wants_safe_passage_for_refugees_from_donbas_325466

Jagland calls on European governments to step up humanitarian aid to Donbas, 19.08.2014

KYIV, August 19 /Ukrinform/. Council of Europe Secretary General Thorbjorn Jagland has called on the governments of European countries to step up humanitarian aid to the residents of eastern Ukraine.

He wrote this in a letter to Council of Europe foreign ministers, the press service of the Council of Europe told Ukrinform.

"In my letter to Council of Europe foreign ministers today, I urge all member states to step up humanitarian aid in the region, in particular through the UNHCR and the International Red Cross and in co-ordination with the relevant national authorities," Jagland said.

He said that the humanitarian situation in eastern Ukraine was worsening day by day and that the number of internally displaced persons and refugees was rising dramatically.

"It is my responsibility as Secretary General of the Council of Europe to undertake every effort to assist our member States in ensuring that the rights guaranteed by the European Convention for Human Rights are effectively implemented, and to protect all displaced persons, regardless of who they are and where they live," Jagland said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/jagland_calls_on_european_governments_to_step_up_humanitarian_aid_to_donbas_325469

Ukraine guarantees security for Russian aid convoy only on territory controlled by Ukrainian army – Foreign Ministry, 19.08.2014

Ukraine is ready to provide security for the Russian humanitarian aid convoy heading to eastern Ukraine, but only on territory controlled by the Ukrainian army, Ukrainian Foreign Ministry reported.

"As we already mentioned, militants themselves and Russia, who control them, brings all responsibility for the security of this cargo over the territory controlled by the terrorists. Ukraine, in turn, has many times confirmed its readiness to provide security guarantees and provided them on the territory that is under control of the Ukrainian ATO forces," Ukrainian Foreign Ministry's spokesman Yevhen Perebyinis said.

<http://en.interfax.com.ua/news/general/219094.html>

Yatseniuk: Terrorists on Kremlin's instruction strangle Ukraine economically, 20.08.2014

KYIV, August 20 /Ukrinform/. Terrorists, acting on the instructions of the Kremlin, are deliberately destroying the infrastructure of Donbas "to strangle" Ukraine economically.

Prime Minister of Ukraine Yatseniuk said, opening the government meeting on Wednesday.

"It is extremely difficult to have the working economy and a healthy financial sector in the current conditions, when there is the war in the country that is supported by terrorists from the Russian Federation. Every day we lose our economic potential," the head of government said. According to him, terrorists, whose fire is adjusted by Russia, make surgical strikes at the critical infrastructure: the mines, power plants, electrical grids, railways, bridges and communications. Every minute, millions of intentional damages are inflicted to Ukraine.

"It is clear that this is a planned action to strangle us economically. Russia realizes that for the recovery of Donbas not billions of hryvnias will be needed, but billions of dollars that should be taken somewhere," the Prime Minister stressed.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/yatseniuk_terrorists_on_kremlins_instruction_strangle_ukraine_economically_325496

Poroshenko, Batkivschyna faction to cooperate when designing road map over Donbas situation – presidential staff, 20.08.2014

Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko and MPs from Batkivschyna faction have agreed to cooperate when designing a road map for de-escalating the situation in the country's east, the deputy head of the presidential administration, Valeriy Chaly, has reported.

"Today we reached agreement, and this is a completely new style - that the president is ready to communicate with the deputies on definite stages of the difficult process of [designing] a road map on ending the war," Chaly told journalists after the president met with MPs from Batkivschyna on Wednesday.

<http://en.interfax.com.ua/news/general/219260.html>

Finance Ministry proposes to IMF to combine tranches, 20.08.2014

KYIV, August 20 /Ukrinform/. The Finance Ministry approached the International Monetary Fund with a proposal to combine the third and fourth tranches of the stand-by loan and to allocate them as one payment.

Finance Minister Oleksandr Shlapak told journalists Wednesday, a Ukrinform correspondent reports.

"We proposed to combine the third and fourth loan applications to combine resources and to get them as one tranche so that the Mission will come to us in late October. They were going to come twice until the year end - we offer to do this once. We expect that this will be about USD 2.2-2.3 billion. We want to get them by the end of the year," Shlapak said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/finance_ministry_proposes_to_imf_to_combine_tranches_325506

Government will use USD 1 billion from IMF loan to repay public debt, 20.08.2014

KYIV, August 20 /Ukrinform/. The government approached the International Monetary Fund requesting for permission to use USD 1 billion from the second tranche of the stand-by loan for repayment of the public debt.

Finance Minister Oleksandr Shlapak told reporters Wednesday.

"We asked for the change of the resource distribution. We thought that the funds, like over the previous years of our relations with the IMF, will go to the NBU reserves. We had to ask that out of USD 1.4 billion of the second tranche USD 1 billion will go to the state budget and USD 400 million - to the National Bank. We need this money to repay debts - in order not to deal again with the rate difference, taking the hryvnia somewhere and purchasing the expensive currency. We will act this way," the Minister explained.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/government_will_use_usd_1_billion_from_imf_loan_to_repay_public_debt_325508

Turchynov: Russia needs war with Ukraine to divert attention from crisis in Russia itself, 20.08.2014

The Russian authorities need an armed conflict in eastern Ukraine to divert the attention of Russians from the crisis in Russia itself, Verkhovna Rada Chairman Oleksandr Turchynov said. "Sooner or later the 'propaganda frenzy' will pass, and the Russian people will see that their authorities needed the war with Ukrainians only to divert their attention from the crisis in Russia

itself, where a totalitarian curtain is currently being re-hung at a hysterical pace, in order to fence their citizens from democratic and civilized values, depriving them of any chance of development and a worthy life," the speaker's press service quoted him as saying. Turchynov also reminded the Russian Foreign Ministry of the biblical saying: "For all who take the sword will perish by the sword."

He said that the armed conflict in eastern Ukraine would result in huge problems in Russia itself. He noted that the events in the eastern regions were not a Ukrainian conflict.

"It's a hybrid war that Russia has begun against Ukraine, a war with the participation of the Russian security services and the army," Turchynov said.

<http://en.interfax.com.ua/news/general/219272.html>

Merkel does not care whether Putin is offended by her visit to Kyiv - Der Spiegel, 20.08.2014

KYIV, August 20 /Ukrinform/. An official visit of German Chancellor Angela Merkel on Saturday night to Kyiv and her meeting with President Petro Poroshenko and Prime Minister Arseniy Yatseniuk against the background of the continuing war with pro-Russian terrorists in the East of Ukraine will be a clear signal of support, German publication Der Spiegel wrote.

"Merkel, of course, is aware of the symbolism of her visit to Ukraine and is not against that Kyiv took the opportunity to once again demonstrate to Russian President Vladimir Putin, which side Germany and the European Union have taken in the conflict," Zerkalo Nedeli quotes.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/merkel_does_not_care_whether_putin_is_offended_by_her_visit_to_kyiv_der_spiegel_325518

Herashchenko: All schools will start working in Sloviansk from September 1, 21.08.2014

KYIV, August 21 /Ukrinform/. "All 24 schools of the city will receive children on September 1 - repairs are in full swing now. The problem of textbooks is also being solved. The main funding of school repairs was undertaken by sponsors," President's Commissioner for peaceful settlement of the conflict in Donetsk and Luhansk regions Iryna Herashchenko wrote on FB.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/herashchenko_all_schools_will_start_working_in_sloviansk_from_september_1_325529

Poroshenko will dissolve Rada next week - Advisor to President, 21.08.2014

KYIV, August 21 /Ukrinform/. Next week, President of Ukraine Petro Poroshenko will sign a decree to dissolve the Parliament and on early elections to the Ukrainian parliament.

Advisor to the President Oleh Medvedev told on air of the Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty.

"Some of these days, 30 days expire to form a new coalition and the President of Ukraine has a legal ground to dissolve the parliament," a statement reads.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/poroshenko_will_dissolve_rada_next_week_advisor_to_president_325535

Poroshenko: Situation in Donbas cannot be solved by military methods alone, 21.08.2014

KYIV, August 21 /Ukrinform/. Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko has met with UN Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs Jeffrey Feltman, the presidential press service reported. The president thanked the UN secretary general for supporting peace and de-escalation of the situation in the Donbas. He said that there was no internal conflict in Ukraine.

"People in Donetsk and Luhansk want peace. The implementation of the peace plan proposed by us determines our further actions. We realize that this situation cannot be settled by military methods alone," Poroshenko said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/poroshenko_situation_in_donbas_cannot_be_solved_by_military_methods_alone_325531

Instructions given to clear humanitarian aid in near future - National Security and Defense Council, 21.08.2014

All the necessary instructions have been issued to start the clearance of the Russian humanitarian cargo for the southeastern part of Ukraine, the Ukrainian NSDC has said.

"The Russian humanitarian cargo had not undergone border and customs clearance as of noon today. However, all the necessary instructions have been issued to start the cargo's clearance in the near future," National Security and Defense Council spokesman Andriy Lysenko said.

<http://en.interfax.com.ua/news/general/219356.html>

Over UAH 2 billion needed to repair roads and bridges in Donbas, 21.08.2014

KYIV, August 21 /Ukrinform/. More than UAH 2.15 billion is needed to restore the infrastructure, damaged or destroyed during fighting in eastern Ukraine.

The preliminary cost of repairs in Donetsk region will be UAH 735.1 million and in Luhansk region - UAH 1.423 billion, the Ukravtodor (State Agency of Motor Roads) press service informs. "This is the reference sum, as full survey is so far conducted only in areas, liberated from the terrorists. Meanwhile, damage was not yet established in places, where military operations are still conducted, because of the threat to lives of road builders," Ukravtodor head Serhiy Pidhainy said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/over_uah_2_billion_needed_to_repair_roads_and_bridges_in_donbas_325544

Poroshenko on parliament dissolution: This will happen on Independence Day, 21.08.2014

KYIV, August 21 /Ukrinform/. The constitutional grounds for the dissolution of the Verkhovna Rada will come on Independence Day.

Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko said this during his working visit to Mykolaiv on Thursday, a Ukrinform correspondent reported.

"The decisions on the dissolution of the Verkhovna Rada will be taken when there are constitutional grounds. This will happen on Independence Day. Prior to this, of course, I will hold consultations with factions, with the Verkhovna Rada, as required by law. But in my decisions I will be guided by the aspirations of the people. Ukrainian people demand a reboot of power and its lustration," he said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/poroshenko_on_parliament_dissolution_this_will_happen_on_independence_day_325553

President makes adjustments to mobilization, 21.08.2014

KYIV, August 21 /Ukrinform/. Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko has approved the schedule of rotation and made adjustments to mobilization. The issue concerns the draft of regular officers during the third wave of mobilization.

He told this to reporters in Mykolaiv on Thursday, the presidential press service reported.

"Those who have military specialties, including special forces officers, gunners and other military experts, will be drafted," he said.

"We have to replace the units of the Ukrainian Armed Forces and the National Guard with a more qualitative composition of mobilized military. This will speed up the achievement of peace in Ukraine," he said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/president_makes_adjustments_to_mobilization_325556

Poroshenko says Ukraine strives for peace, 21.08.2014

At the meeting in Minsk, President of Ukraine Petro Poroshenko is willing to hold negotiations on peace, for "the whole world is tired of war".

"Ukraine strives for peace," the president said in the course of a working visit to Mykolaiv.

He said that on August 26, together with a powerful team consisting of three high EU representatives, he is going to Minsk to speak of peace.

The president said that Ukraine would urge to withdraw militants from its territory at the meeting.

"I am confident that we will manage to achieve that," Poroshenko said.

<http://en.interfax.com.ua/news/general/219436.html>

Klitschko: Parade needed to raise patriotic spirit, 22.08.2014

KYIV, August 22 /Ukrinform/. Military units that will participate in a parade on Khreshchatyk Street on Independence Day will leave for the anti-terrorist operation (ATO) zone immediately after the event, Kyiv Mayor Vitali Klitschko has said.

"The parade is needed. It won't be pompous. Its goal is to raise patriotic spirit and show that we have patriots - people who protect the integrity and independence of the country. Immediately after the parade the guys and the machinery will head to the ATO zone," Klitschko said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/klitschko_parade_needed_to_raise_patriotic_spirit_325571

Ukraine will not agree to "frozen conflict" with Russia - Chaly, 22.08.2014

KYIV, August 22 /Ukrinform/. Ukraine will not agree to a "frozen conflict" with Russia and counts on military-technical cooperation with the European Union.

Deputy Head of the Presidential Administration of Ukraine Valeriy Chaly told on air of the TV channel "Ukraine."

"A "frozen conflict" does not suit us. It can quickly lead to a new escalation. We want to address the issue in a strategic respect," gazeta.ua quotes Chaly.

He said that Ukraine relies on military-technical cooperation with the EU.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/ukraine_will_not_agree_to_frozen_conflict_with_russia_chaly_325561

Militants have Russian weapons that have never been in service with Ukrainian army - Heletei, 22.08.2014

Illegal armed groups operating in eastern Ukraine have samples of Russian-made weapons that have never been in service with the Ukrainian army, which is another proof of the Russian side providing military support to militants, Ukrainian Defense Minister Valeriy Heletei has said.

He said that weapons, military vehicles and personnel were sent from Russia into Ukraine every day in order to reinforce illegal armed formations.

"A sign of this, in particular, is that terrorists have BTR-80A and BTR-82 fighting vehicles, which have never been in service with the Ukrainian Armed Forces and other military formations of our state. Among the weapons and explosives seized from terrorists there are also many samples of Russian weapons that are not used by the Ukrainian army. The issue concerns AK-100s, MANPADS, Shmel flamethrowers, new sniper rifles, anti-personnel mines etc," the Defense Ministry's press service quoted Heletei as saying at the House of Officers in Kyiv on Thursday at a meeting with representatives of the military and diplomatic corps accredited in Ukraine.

<http://en.interfax.com.ua/news/general/219481.html>

Russian 'humanitarian convoy' leaves for Luhansk - Russian Foreign Ministry, 22.08.2014

KYIV, August 22 /Ukrinform/. The Russian authorities have decided to start the movement of a "humanitarian convoy" in the direction of Luhansk, reads a statement posted on the website of the Russian Foreign Ministry on Friday.

"The Russian side has decided to begin acting. Our convoy with humanitarian cargo is starting to move in the direction of Luhansk. Of course, we are ready for it being escorted by ICRC representatives and their participation in the distribution of the aid," reads the statement. The Russian Foreign Ministry also appealed to terrorists operating in eastern Ukraine, on preventing the disruption of a humanitarian mission to residents of Luhansk. Moscow warned its mercenaries against provocations.

"We have advised all sides against making any attempts to disrupt this purely humanitarian mission, which has been prepared for a long period of time amid full transparency and in cooperation with the Ukrainian side and the ICRC. Responsibility for all possible consequences of provocations against the humanitarian convoy will rest entirely with those who are prepared to continue to sacrifice human fates for the sake of their ambitions and geopolitical plots, grossly violating the norms and principles of international humanitarian law," the ministry said.

The first batch of the Russian "humanitarian convoy" of 34 KamAZ trucks crossed the Ukrainian-Russian border at Izvaryno checkpoint.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/russian_humanitarian_convoy_leaves_for_luhansk_russian_foreign_ministry_325578

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/first_34_kamaz_trucks_of_putins_convoy_cross_ukrainian_border_325579

Russia violates agreements on 'humanitarian convoy' - NSDC, 22.08.2014

KYIV, August 22 /Ukrinform/. Trucks carrying Russian "humanitarian aid," in violation of the previously reached agreements, have voluntarily headed towards Ukraine through the Izvaryno checkpoint, which is temporarily controlled by terrorists.

Ukrainian National Security and Defense Council (NSDC) information and analytical center spokesman Andriy Lysenko said this at a briefing on Friday.

"Today, at 11.10, 34 trucks from a Russian humanitarian convoy headed towards Ukraine through the Izvaryne checkpoint, which is temporarily controlled by terrorists. The movement is taking place without the escort and participation of representatives of the International Committee of the Red Cross. Therefore it is a violation of the previously reached agreements between Ukraine and Russia on the inspection and clearance of Russian humanitarian cargo," he said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/russia_violates_agreements_on_humanitarian_convoy_nsd_325587

130 Russian trucks cross Ukrainian border - media, 22.08.2014

KYIV, August 22 /Ukrinform/. A total of 130 KamAZ trucks with Putin's "humanitarian aid" have crossed the Ukrainian-Russian border at the Izvaryne checkpoint.

This was stated on the Rossiya 24 television channel.

"One hundred and thirty trucks have already crossed the border [with Ukraine] and are heading towards Luhansk," reads the statement.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/130_russian_trucks_cross_ukrainian_border_media_325588

Russian convoy illegally crossed Ukraine's state border - Foreign Ministry, 22.08.2014

KYIV, August 22 /Ukrinform/. A Russia humanitarian convoy illegally crossed Ukraine's state border, in violation of international rules and procedures, without the consent and escort of the International Committee of the Red Cross. Thus, Russia started illegally sending its "humanitarian aid" to Ukrainian territory, reads a statement posted on the website of the Ukrainian Foreign Ministry.

"Although the border and customs control services of Ukraine preliminarily began the clearance of the Russian convoy, this morning Ukrainian officials were blocked by Russian forces and removed from inspecting the rest of the convoy's trucks, despite prior agreements and their previous invitation into the territory of the Russian side. We are concerned about the safety of our staff. Moreover, at this point no official from the Ukrainian government or the ICRC knows the contents of the trucks in question," reads the statement.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/russian_convoy_illegally_crossed_ukraines_state_border_foreign_ministry_325589

Movement of Russian convoy a direct incursion of Russia into Ukraine - Nalyvaichenko, 22.08.2014

"We call that a direct incursion. Under the cynical cover of the Red Cross these are military vehicles with cover documents," Chief of the Security Service of Ukraine (SBU) Valentyn Nalyvaichenko told reporters in Kyiv on Friday.

<http://en.interfax.com.ua/news/general/219538.html>

Work of Ukrainian border guards and customs officers on clearance of humanitarian aid at Russia's Donetsk checkpoint blocked - State Border Service, 22.08.2014

The State Border Service of Ukraine has said that the work of Ukrainian border guards and customs officers on the clearance of Russian humanitarian aid at the Russian Donetsk checkpoint has been blocked.

"The work of Ukrainian border guards and customs officers is being blocked, and further clearance of the trucks carrying with humanitarian cargo is carried out without our participation," the service's press office told.

<http://en.interfax.com.ua/news/general/219556.html>

Drivers of Russian trucks that crossed into Ukraine will next drive military vehicles - Nalyvaichenko, 22.08.2014

The drivers of Russian trucks carrying humanitarian aid for Ukraine will next drive military vehicles that are being illegally sent into Ukraine, SBU Chief Valentyn Nalyvaichenko has said.

"In fact, at the wheel are a group of people who will drive military vehicles that are being illegally enter our state every day through Izvaryne and other checkpoints [not controlled by Ukraine]," he said

<http://en.interfax.com.ua/news/general/219559.html>

Situation with 'humanitarian convoy' must be returned to legal field - Poroshenko, 22.08.2014

KYIV, August 22 /Ukrinform/. Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko has said he is concerned about the situation with the breakthrough of the Russian "humanitarian convoy" across the Ukrainian border, but promises to do everything possible to avoid more serious consequences. He said this at a meeting with Lithuanian Foreign Minister Linas Linkevicius, the press service of the head of state reported.

"We'll do our best to ensure this didn't lead to more serious consequences," he said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/situation_with_humanitarian_convoy_must_be_returned_to_legal_field_poroshenko_325591

Russian convoy's crossing border into Ukraine is provocation – Yatseniuk, 22.08.2014

Ukrainian Prime Minister Yatseniuk doesn't rule out that the fact that Russia's humanitarian convoy has crossed the border into Ukraine is a provocation to be used for subsequent accusations of Kyiv of an attack on the convoy.

"Now they anticipate a few vehicles of this so-called humanitarian convoy will just be bombed, probably by Russians themselves, with the aim of raising a clamor around the globe:" It's the junta, which is fighting against its own people," Yatseniuk said in an interview with leading Ukrainian TV channels on Friday.

Ukraine won't let it happen, he said.

Yatseniuk says it's solely Russia's responsibility to ensure the safety of the column.

<http://en.interfax.com.ua/news/general/219618.html>

Russian media: All 280 Russian aid trucks cross Ukrainian border, 22.08.2014

KYIV, August 22 /Ukrinform/. All 280 KamAZ trucks carrying Russian "humanitarian aid" have crossed the Ukrainian-Russian border at the Izvaryne checkpoint, the Rossiya 24 television channel has reported.

According to the report, the trucks are moving in the direction of Luhansk.

According to the Russian southern customs department, "all vehicles of the Russian convoy with humanitarian cargo have already passed all the necessary customs and border procedures and crossed the border."

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/russian_media_all_280_russian_aid_trucks_cross_ukrainian_border_325592

Terrorists kill Honorary Consul of Lithuania in Luhansk, 23.08.2014

KYIV, August 23 /Ukrinform/. Terrorists kidnap and kill Honorary Consul of Lithuania in Luhansk Nicholas Zieleniec.

Lithuanian Foreign Minister Linas Linkevicius wrote on his Twitter page.

"With deep regret I have just learned that the Honorary Consul of Lithuania in Luhansk Nicholas Zieleniec was kidnapped and brutally murdered by terrorists," - he wrote.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/terrorists_kill_honorary_consul_of_lithuania_in_luhansk_325593

Lysenko: 45,000 Russian soldiers concentrated on border with Ukraine, 23.08.2014

KYIV, August 23 /Ukrinform/. Spokesman of the NSDC Information-Analytical Center Andriy Lysenko told on air of the Shuster LIVE program.

"45,000 soldiers are now along the border of Ukraine with the Russian Federation, these are professional military, they are taught to kill. And only thanks to the fact that now we have high-class complex work of our leaders both by diplomatic channels, and by political channels, and through the public, it constrains the Russian authorities not to give the command to open aggression," he said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/lysenko_45000_russian_soldiers_concentrated_on_border_with_ukraine_325599

Part of humanitarian convoy returns back to Russia - media, 23.08.2014

KYIV, August 23 /Ukrinform/. Russian humanitarian convoy is unloaded in Donbas, and a part of already unloaded trucks returns to the Russian Federation.

"Ukrainian customs workers managed to check and make customs clearance of only 34 trucks of the Russian humanitarian convoy. The rest of over 200 trucks crossed by border absolutely illegally... According to the Ukrainian customs workers, a part of trucks has already headed back. What does this mean, where did they unload, what did they leave on the territory of Ukraine - now there are more questions than answers," a statement reads.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/part_of_humanitarian_convoy_returns_back_to_russia_media_325601

Poroshenko raises flag and says everything will be fine, 23.08.2014

KYIV, August 23 /Ukrinform/. President of Ukraine Petro Poroshenko raised the National Flag on Sophia Square on Saturday, August 23.

After that, the Head of State addressed Ukrainians with a festive speech re the Day of the National Flag.

"We are at the threshold of tremendous tectonic changes. Just as our soldiers hoist a flag over the liberated towns and villages, we must all together make a joint effort required to raise the banner of victory to overcome corruption, unemployment and poverty. We will succeed in everything, my dear compatriots, Everything will be fine. We are strong and determined. And I am proud that I am Ukrainian," Poroshenko said.

He also noted that Ukraine has finally formed a political nation.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/poroshenko_raises_flag_and_says_everything_will_be_fine_325607

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/ukrainians_celebrate_flag_day_today_325603

US supports right of all Ukrainian people to choose own path - greeting from Kerry, 23.08.2014

U.S. State Secretary John Kerry on behalf of U.S. President Barack Obama and the people of the United States congratulate the people of Ukraine as Ukraine celebrates the 23rd anniversary of its independence on August 24.

"During my most recent visit to Ukraine, I was inspired by the remarkable strength of the Ukrainian people. I walked down Instytutska Street and paid my respects to the heroes of the Euromaidan. I saw the barricades, the burned tires, and the bullet holes in the street lamps. But I also saw the flowers and the photographs of the people who gave their lives for Ukraine. I spoke to the men and women of Kyiv who told me of their commitment to a more prosperous, peaceful future for all Ukrainians," reads a greeting posted on the Web site of the U.S.

Department of State.

<http://en.interfax.com.ua/news/general/219669.html>

Association Agreement with EU to be ratified by current parliament in September – Yatseniuk, 23.08.2014

Ukrainian Prime Minister Arseniy Yatseniuk says he is confident that the Association Agreement between Ukraine and the European Union will be ratified by the current parliament in September 2014.

"Let me stress: everything is ready for the ratification. The incumbent parliament will ratify the Agreement with the European Union in September," the premier said in an interview with leading Ukrainian TV channels on Friday.

Statements by Russia about the negative consequences of this agreement for Russians are groundless, Yatseniuk said.

<http://en.interfax.com.ua/news/general/219619.html>

ATO to go down in history as Patriotic War of 2014 - Poroshenko, 25.08.2014

KYIV, August 25 /Ukrinform/. "The events of recent months have become a real war for us though it hasn't been declared. Probably, it will go down in history as the Patriotic War of 2014. The war against foreign aggression and for Ukraine, for its will, dignity and glory, for the people. For Independence," Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko said in his speech on Independence Square in Kyiv on August 24 on the occasion of Ukraine's Independence Day.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/ato_to_go_down_in_history_as_patriotic_war_of_2014_poroshenko_325618

Russia to send another 'humanitarian convoy' to Ukraine in next few days, 25.08.2014

KYIV, August 25 /Ukrinform/. "Russia has notified Ukraine of its intention to send another humanitarian convoy using the same route in the next few days," Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said this at a briefing in Moscow on Monday.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/russia_to_send_another_humanitarian_convoy_to_ukraine_in_next_few_days_325622

Poroshenko: peace in Ukraine will not be achieved in exchange for its sovereignty and integrity, 25.08.2014

Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko says peace in the ATO zone in Ukraine's east will not be achieved at the expense of the country's sovereignty or territorial integrity.

"Steps towards peace cannot be unilateral. They cannot be made at the expense of the sovereignty, territorial integrity and independence of Ukraine," he said at festivities on the 23rd anniversary of Ukraine's independence in Kyiv on August 24.

<http://en.interfax.com.ua/news/general/219770.html>

Turchynov: Diplomacy alone cannot settle conflict in eastern Ukraine, 25.08.2014

"Diplomatic talks and consultations are necessary, of course, and efforts to negotiate a peace accord must be continued," Verkhovna Rada Speaker Oleksandr Turchynov said.

"But, honestly, I don't think diplomacy can yield results. Only the Ukrainian armed forces and National Guard can put an end to this war and liberate Donetsk and Luhansk regions, There is no other realistic option," Turchynov said.

<http://en.interfax.com.ua/news/general/219771.html>

Situation stable in Mariupol, Ukrainian troops get all necessary assistance - city council, 25.08.2014

"All utility enterprises in the city are operating normally. Planned measures are being taken to prepare for the heating season. All shelters and facilities for shelter are in full readiness. The necessary assistance is being promptly provided to the military. The distribution of food packages to displaced persons has begun. The city's medical institutions and ambulance station are operating as usual, on around-the-clock duty. There are all the necessary medical supplies," the press service of the Mariupol City Council has reported.

<http://en.interfax.com.ua/news/general/219808.html>

MP Moskal, several other Batkivschyna members expelled from party for violation of statute – party's press service, 25.08.2014

Several members of the Batkivschyna Party, including MP Hennadiy Moskal, were expelled from the party for violating the statute of the party, the party's press service reported.

The press service recalled that the party's statute says that, among other things, a party member should "contribute to the victory of party candidates in elections to state and local government agencies and campaign for them among the population."

"However, Hennadiy Moskal, being a member of the Batkivschyna Party, not only campaigned for another presidential candidate, but also became his authorized representative at the 71st territorial constituency. Given this, Batkivschyna's political council decided that Hennadiy Moskal's further stay in the party would be illogical," the press service reported.

Moskal said on Monday that he had been notified of his expulsion from the Batkivschyna Party and all its governing bodies. The politician said he had been told that a party meeting had been closed and that nobody would give any explanations.

<http://en.interfax.com.ua/news/general/219826.html>

US concerned about second Russian 'humanitarian convoy', 26.08.2014

KYIV, August 26 /Ukrinform/. "We are certainly concerned about Russian plans for a second aid convoy. Any new mission done without the explicit permission of Ukraine would not be yet another provocative measure that would only escalate a situation President Putin claims he wants to resolve," U.S State Department spokeswoman Jen Psaki said in Washington.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/us_concerned_about_second_russian_humanitarian_convoy_325638

Akhmetov ready to lose Donbas Arena for peace, 26.08.2014

KYIV, August 26 /Ukrinform/. Rinat Akhmetov is willing to sacrifice all his business in order that peace was on the Donbas land.

Businessman and president of FC Shakhtar said in comments about the loss from shelling of the Donbas Arena stadium, which, according to preliminary estimates, was USD 1 million.

"The damaged building, even such as the Donbas Arena, is a trifle compared to the real value - human life. If I was asked if I was ready to have our stadium smashed into small pieces, and I lost all my business, but there was peace in Donbas, I would agree, not hesitating a second," the website of the FC Shakhtar quoted Akhmetov.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/akhmetov_ready_to_lose_donbas_arena_for_peace_325651

Obama's advisor: Russian incursions into Ukraine unacceptable and dangerous, 26.08.2014

KYIV, August 26 /Ukrinform/. "Repeated Russian incursions into Ukraine unacceptable.

Dangerous and inflammatory," U.S. National Security Advisor Susan Rice wrote on her Twitter page on Tuesday.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/obamas_advisor_russian_incursions_into_ukraine_unacceptable_and_dangerous_325657

NSDC does not believe in tales about Russian paratroopers who 'got lost' in Ukraine, 26.08.2014

KYIV, August 26 /Ukrinform/. The NSDC does not believe in a "random" version of Russian paratroopers entering Ukraine, which the Russian side is currently trying to present, NSDC spokesman Andriy Lysenko said this at a briefing on Tuesday.

"If the elite troops of the Russian Armed Forces are not competent with topography and cannot find their way on the ground, then I have nothing to say about other troops and especially generals who send people to the east of Ukraine," Lysenko said.

He said that the penetration of a military unit into Ukraine was not a mistake, but a special task, which was clearly being fulfilled.

"The Russian military leadership should think about what they are doing, because there is a lot of information that the families of Russian servicemen who are sent to Ukraine do not know where they are sent, or believe that they leave for exercises," Lysenko said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/nsdc_does_not_believe_in_tales_about_russian_paratroopers_who_got_lost_in_ukraine_325660

Nazarbayev calls for meeting between Putin, Poroshenko, 26.08.2014

Kazakh President Nursultan Nazarbayev has called for direct dialogue between Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko and Russian President Vladimir Putin for the purpose of resolving the situation in Donbas.

"I believe the main thing is that you should have a direct, eye-to-eye meeting with Putin. I think the moment of truth is now coming for Russia and Ukraine. This bloodshed cannot go on," the Kazakh president said during a meeting with his Ukrainian counterpart in Minsk.

Nazarbayev said the sides should look for a compromise to achieve peace ASAP, adding that Kazakhstan is ready to provide humanitarian assistance to the eastern regions of Ukraine.

"If that [the conflict] continues, it may develop into a global conflict," Nazarbayev said.

<http://en.interfax.com.ua/news/general/219979.html>

Ukraine's ties with CU won't expand if Association Agreement starts working – Putin, 26.08.2014

President Vladimir Putin favors Ukraine's broader interaction with the Customs Union, but he doubts it will be feasible after the enforcement of Ukraine's Association Agreement with the EU.

"We think it would be reasonable to maintain and strongly intensify interaction. However, the question arises: Can this be attained if Ukraine's association agreement with the EU starts working?" Putin said in Minsk at the Customs Union leaders' meeting with the Ukrainian president, attended by European Commission officials.

Russia has said on many occasions, Putin said, that Kyiv's commitment to comply with all requirements listed in the agreement will negatively impact trade and investment cooperation in the Eurasian region.

"Kyiv's pledge to fulfill all requirements on tariff liberalization and on the switch to the EU technical and sanitary-veterinary standards, listed in the agreement, will inevitably have a negative effect on the volume and pace of trade and investment cooperation in the Eurasian region," the Russian president said.

"It goes without saying that all of these standards – phytosanitary norms and rules used in the EU, but not applied in Russia – will actually close the Ukrainian market to Russian products," he said. "The abandonment of technical standards used in the Commonwealth of Independent States, and adaptation to the EU standards will cost Ukraine billions of euros. Partnership ties with the Customs Union in industry, in the financial sector, farming and transport will be lost," Putin said.

<http://en.interfax.com.ua/news/general/219982.html>

Pentagon: Russia supplies terrorists with military hardware, 26.08.2014

KYIV, August 26 /Ukrinform/. The Pentagon has confirmed that Russia continues to send military hardware to Ukraine and shell the Donbas from Russian territory.

U.S. Defense Department spokesman Army Col. Steven Warren told this to reporters on August 25, the Pentagon's press service reported.

"We've seen columns of Russian heavy equipment flow from Russia into Ukraine for the last several weeks. I can confirm that there have been numerous columns of Russian heavy equipment including tanks, armored personnel carriers, rocket launchers, air defense equipment and other heavy weapons," he said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/pentagon_russia_supplies_terrorists_with_militaryHardware_325663

Poroshenko urges Customs Union members to focus on interaction mechanisms, 26.08.2014

Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko has called on the Belarusian-Kazakh-Russian Customs Union member-states to put aside disagreements and focus on interaction mechanisms in setting up a free trade area between Ukraine and the EU.

"I am absolutely convinced that it would be more productive to dismiss artificial disagreements and the calculation of possible economic losses and focus on interaction mechanisms that would strengthen the potential inherent in integration processes," Poroshenko said at a high-level meeting between the leaders of Ukraine and the Belarusian-Kazakh-Russian Customs Union and European Union representatives in Minsk on Tuesday.

<http://en.interfax.com.ua/news/general/220032.html>

Poroshenko invites Eurasian Troika to participate in conference on collecting funds to restore Donbas, 26.08.2014

Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko invited Russia, Belarus and Kazakhstan to participate in a conference on the creation of an endowment fund for the restoration of the Donbas.

"I invite you to participate in this conference," the president said at a high-level Ukraine-EU-Eurasian Troika meeting in Minsk on Tuesday.

<http://en.interfax.com.ua/news/general/220011.html>

Poroshenko: all of Eurasian Troika leaders support peace plan for Ukraine's east, 27.08.2014

Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko announced that the major subject of recent negotiations in Minsk was the peaceful settlement of the situation in the east of Ukraine.

"I can say that the logic of the peace plan was supported by all heads of state, without exception, at long last," Poroshenko told reporters in Minsk.

He said that he had had "very difficult negotiations" during his visit to Minsk.

<http://en.interfax.com.ua/news/general/220065.html>

Ukraine, Russia to hold border agencies' consultations to establish control of border – Poroshenko, 27.08.2014

Ukraine and Russia will launch consultations between border agencies and general staffs of both countries in the context of the settlement of the situation in east Ukraine, Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko said.

"We have agreed that consultations between the border forces will begin immediately with the aim to ensure the implementation of this condition [the establishment of control over the border of Ukraine and Russia]," Poroshenko told reporters at the end of his visit to Minsk.

The president also said that the Ukrainian and Russian chiefs of staff would hold consultations to ensure preconditions for the restoration of peace in Donbas.

"A road map will be developed on the basis of the peace plan, maybe consultations will be held through a tripartite contact group in order to declare a ceasefire, which will be monitored by representatives of the OSCE monitoring mission," Poroshenko said, adding that the ceasefire should be observed by both sides.

<http://en.interfax.com.ua/news/general/220066.html>

EU commissioner proposes Russia, Ukraine reach interim agreement on gas, 27.08.2014

The European Union, Russia and Ukraine have agreed to continue official trilateral contacts on gas, EU Energy Commissioner Gunther Oettinger, who is also deputy chairman of the European Commission, said in Minsk on Tuesday evening.

The EU's goal has been and continues to be to avoid any problems with the security of gas supplies for all 28 EU countries, plus the Western Balkan nations, as well as Ukraine and Moldova, in the coming months, Oettinger said.

Therefore, something needs to be done, Oettinger said, adding that he has proposed coming to an interim solution.

<http://en.interfax.com.ua/news/general/220098.html>

17,000 internally displaced persons from east return home – Social Policy Ministry, 27.08.2014

As of August 26, a total of 132, 593 people had left the flash points in country's east and Crimea and are temporarily accommodated in other regions of Ukraine, the government's Website says. Ukrainian Social Policy Minister Liudmyla Denysova said that there are 44,000 children among the total number of displaced.

<http://en.interfax.com.ua/news/general/220128.html>

Poroshenko wants coalition to be formed before parliamentary elections, 27.08.2014

Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko has called on Ukraine's democratic forces to unite into a coalition before the elections to the Verkhovna Rada.

"It is desirable that they win, uniting before the elections, as a single political bloc, the Bloc of Petro Poroshenko and all democratic forces. If someone doesn't like such a format of our electoral model, then we need to sign a declaration now to unite into a coalition after winning the parliamentary elections," he said in Kyiv on Wednesday at a congress of the Solidarity Party, during which the party was renamed the Bloc of Petro Poroshenko.

<http://en.interfax.com.ua/news/general/220240.html>

Nazarbayev offers truce for delivery of humanitarian aid to Donbas, 27.08.2014

KYIV, August 27 /Ukrinform/. President of Kazakhstan proposes to declare a truce in the ATO area for the time of delivery of humanitarian aid to Donbas, which is to go by a specially provided corridor.

"Kazakhstan is also ready to take part in its maintenance. I put forward a proposal to declare a truce for the time of delivery of humanitarian aid, with a special corridor for its passage," President of the Republic of Kazakhstan Nursultan Nazarbayev said after a meeting in Minsk on Tuesday.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/nazarbayev_offers_truce_for_delivery_of_humanitarian_aid_to_donbas_325682

Russia wants to fully cut Ukraine from energy resources - Yatseniuk, 27.08.2014

KYIV, August 27 /Ukrinform/. "The situation in the energy is difficult. We know about the plans of the Russian Federation to cut transit in winter - even for the EU member countries. And just for this their companies were ordered to maximum pump gas to storages on the territory of Europe. We know about the plans of the Russian Federation, the aim of which is to actually cut Ukraine from all energy resources," Prime Minister Arseniy Yatseniuk said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/russia_wants_to_fully_cut_ukraine_from_energy_resources_yatseniuk_325690

Lavrov threatens that second convoy - not last, 27.08.2014

KYIV, August 27 /Ukrinform/. "We have reasons to expect that constructive technical and logistic solutions will be found for the second humanitarian convoy to be sent to the southeast. I am sure that it will not be the last," Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov announced today.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/lavrov_threatens_that_second_convoy_not_last_325699

Pyatt says more Russian troops in eastern Ukraine, 28.08.2014

KYIV, August 28 /Ukrinform/. Russia is more actively engaged in the fighting in eastern Ukraine, U.S. Ambassador to Ukraine Geoffrey Pyatt has said.

"Russian supplied tanks, armored vehicles, artillery and multiple rocket launchers have been insufficient to defeat Ukraine's armed forces. So now an increasing number of Russian troops are intervening directly in fighting on Ukrainian territory. Russia has also sent its newest air defense systems, including the SA-22, into eastern Ukraine and is now directly involved in the fighting," he wrote on his Twitter page.

As reported, German Chancellor Angela Merkel, during a telephone conversation with Russian President Vladimir Putin on August 27, demanded that he explain the presence of Russian troops on Ukrainian territory.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/pyatt_says_more_russian_troops_in_eastern_ukraine_325706

Yatseniuk asks West to convene urgent UN and OSCE meeting, 28.08.2014

KYIV, August 28 /Ukrinform/. "Under current circumstances, I think it necessary for our Western partners to immediately convene an emergency meeting of the UN Security Council. Russia has significantly increased its military presence on Ukrainian territory, therefore it is also necessary that an emergency meeting be held at the OSCE and the European Union at the level of EU foreign ministers," Ukrainian Prime Minister Arseniy Yatseniuk said after a ceremony to sign a memorandum of cooperation between the government of Ukraine and the Ukrainian World Congress.

"It's hard for Ukraine to cope with the Russian army and Russia as a nuclear state, which is armed to the teeth, especially because some countries have military contracts with Russia for the supply of weapons used against Ukraine, against the EU and the world," Yatseniuk said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/yatseniuk_asks_west_to_convene_urgent_un_and_osce_meeting_325711

Yatseniuk calls on world to freeze all Russian accounts, 28.08.2014

KYIV, August 28 /Ukrinform/. "Unfortunately, the introduction of sanctions has produced no results on de-escalation of the situation in Ukraine. In such circumstances, one of the likely elements of deterring Russian aggression should be the consideration of the issue of freezing all Russian assets and stopping all banking transactions by Russia in the EU member states, the United States and the Group of Seven countries," Ukrainian Prime Minister Arseniy Yatseniuk.

He said that Russian assets and finances should be frozen until the withdrawal by Russia of its armed forces, military equipment and agents from Ukraine.

Yatseniuk said that the situation in the country was "really, really difficult."

He reiterated that Russian President Vladimir Putin had deliberately launched a war in Ukraine and Europe: "The entire world knows that, and it is impossible to hide that."

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/yatseniuk_calls_on_world_to_freeze_all_russian_accounts_325713

Switzerland convenes urgent OSCE Permanent Council meeting on Ukraine, 28.08.2014
KYIV, August 28 /Ukrinform/. Switzerland, which is holding the OSCE presidency, convenes an emergency meeting of the OSCE Permanent Council due to the situation in Ukraine. Such an initiative was made by Switzerland's Permanent Representative to the OSCE Thomas Greminger, the Swiss OSCE Chairmanship reported via Twitter.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/switzerland_convenes_urgent_osce_permanent_council_meeting_on_ukraine_325712

U.S. Department of State: Russia directing counteroffensive in Donbas, 28.08.2014
U.S. State Department spokeswoman Jen Psaki says that Russia is directing a counteroffensive in Donetsk and Luhansk regions, Voice of America reported in the early hours of Thursday. The U.S. Department of State said Russian military hardware crossing the border included tanks and rocket launchers. "We've also seen reports of separatists shelling residential areas in a coastal town between the border and Mariupol, and we have seen reports of heavy fighting and shelling near the city and airport in Donetsk," Psaki told reporters.

<http://en.interfax.com.ua/news/general/220326.html>

Canadian foreign minister calls for action in response to Russia's aggression against Ukraine, 28.08.2014

Russia's aggression and intimidation toward Ukraine should get a collective response from Canada and its allies, Canadian Foreign Minister John Baird has said.

"Russia's acts of aggression and intimidation toward Ukraine call for collective action. Canada, together with its like-minded allies, must clearly speak out," Baird wrote on Facebook.

<http://en.interfax.com.ua/news/general/220339.html>

Tymoshenko calls for introduction of martial law due to war waged against Ukraine, 28.08.2014

Batkivschyna Party leader Yulia Tymoshenko has said that it is necessary to immediately impose martial law in eastern Ukraine due to external aggression.

"We need to make three primary steps. The first is to immediately impose martial law in Donetsk and Luhansk regions. This will greatly strengthen our defense system and coordination of our actions," she told reporters in Kyiv on Thursday.

In addition, Tymoshenko said that it was necessary to immediately set the headquarters of the commander-in-chief and that Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko should take over all levers of management of the country's defense.

"And thirdly, it is necessary to convene an extraordinary meeting of the Verkhovna Rada and approve the imposition of martial law in Donetsk and Luhansk regions," she said.

<http://en.interfax.com.ua/news/general/220383.html>

RUSSIAN TROOPS TAKE OVER NOVOAZOVSK AND OTHER LOCALITIES IN SOUTH OF DONETSK REGION - NSDC, 28.08.2014

<http://en.interfax.com.ua/news/general/220392.html>

Kolomoisky convenes meeting of Dnipropetrovsk region defense council, 28.08.2014

Senior officials of the Dnipropetrovsk region authorities and local security services will attend an emergency meeting of the regional defense council in Dnipropetrovsk, the TSN Web site reported on Thursday, citing Dnipropetrovsk region administration Ihor Kolomoisky chairman.

"The advisability of enacting a Plan B in the region will be discussed," Kolomoisky was quoted as saying. He refused to provide further details.

<http://en.interfax.com.ua/news/general/220393.html>

Latvia calls Russian invasion in Ukraine a war, 28.08.2014

Latvian Foreign Minister Edgars Rinkevics has said that reports of the appearance of Russian troops on Ukrainian territory are a sign of the beginning of a full-scale war.

"The Russian invasion of Ukraine must be considered by the UN Security Council as act of aggression, the UN must react accordingly - this is war," he wrote on his Twitter page on

Thursday, calling for an immediate response from the international community.

<http://en.interfax.com.ua/news/general/220437.html>

Ukraine asks for large-scale military aid from EU, 28.08.2014

KYIV, August 28 /Ukrinform/. Ukraine has called on the EU to hold an extraordinary session of the European Council on August 30 to introduce further sanctions against the Ukrainian side and provide large-scale military assistance to Ukraine to counter direct military aggression from Russia.

Ukraine's representative to the European Union Kostiantyn Yeliseyev said this on Thursday. "Ukraine and the European Union must stop this war. We call for the holding on August 30 of an extraordinary session of the European Council on Ukraine. Enough concessions and pacification to the aggressor! Solidarity should be absolute and unequivocal. It should be materialized into further definite and substantial sanctions, as well as large-sale military and military-technical assistance to Ukraine to stop the aggressor," he said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/ukraine_asks_for_large_scale_military_aid_from_eu_325716

Official: Russian forces back rebels with tanks in eastern Ukraine, 28.08.2014

Kiev, Ukraine (CNN) -- Pro-Moscow rebel forces in eastern Ukraine, backed by Russian tanks and armored personnel carriers, battled government forces on two fronts Thursday, a Ukrainian military official said.

The fighting was taking place southeast of Donetsk, and along the nation's southern coast in the town of Novoazovsk, about 12 miles (20 km) from the Russian border, according to Mykhailo Lysenko, the deputy commander of the Ukrainian Donbas battalion.

"This is a full-scale invasion," Lysenko said, referring to the fighting in the south.

U.S. officials also said Russian troops were directly involved in the latest fighting, despite Moscow's denials.

http://edition.cnn.com/2014/08/28/world/europe/ukraine-crisis/index.html?hpt=ieu_c1

NATO reports over 1,000 Russian troops in Ukraine, 28.08.2014

"We assess well over 1,000 Russian troops are now operating inside Ukraine," a NATO officer said in Mons in Belgium on Thursday.

He said 1,000 is very conservative estimate.

<http://en.interfax.com.ua/news/general/220464.html>

List of Russian journalists who may be denied entry in Ukraine published in Kyiv, 28.08.2014

The Ukrainian National Television and Radio Broadcasting Council has published a list of journalists and heads of Russian television channels, who may be denied entry in Ukraine. There are 49 people on the list, which the regulator has provided to the Ukrainian Security Service and which was published at a briefing held at the National Television and Radio Broadcasting Council on Thursday.

Yuriy Artemenko, the head of the National Television and Radio Broadcasting Council, said decisions on entry denials will be made and the list of individuals denied entry to Ukraine will be published by the Ukrainian Security Service.

<http://en.interfax.com.ua/news/general/220460.html>

Klimkin proposes holding NATO session in Kyiv and OSCE meeting in Mariupol, 28.08.2014

KYIV, August 28 /Ukrinform/. It would be expedient to hold the next meeting of the OSCE Permanent Council in Mariupol and a NATO session in Kyiv.

Ukrainian Foreign Minister Pavlo Klimkin wrote this on his Twitter page on Thursday.

"It would be useful to hold the next meeting of the OSCE Permanent Council in Mariupol instead of Vienna and a NATO session in Kyiv before or after Newport," the minister said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/klimkin_proposes_holding_nato_session_in_kyiv_and_osce_meeting_in_mariupol_325717

Poroshenko: Russia actually deployed its troops in Ukraine, 28.08.2014

KYIV, August 28 /Ukrinform/. Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko has canceled his visit to Turkey due to the actual deployment by Russia of its troops in Ukraine.

This is stated in a video address of the head of state, which was posted on Facebook.

"Today, due to the sharp worsening of the situation in the south of Donetsk region, in the center, near Amvrosiyivka and Starobesheve, due to the actual deployment of Russian troops on Ukrainian territory, I have decided to cancel my visit to Turkey, despite the fact that seven important bilateral meetings were planned there, which Ukraine badly needs. The Ukrainian president's place today is in Kyiv," he said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/poroshenko_russia_actually_deployed_its_troops_in_ukraine_325718

Lithuania demands Kremlin immediately withdraw its troops from Ukraine, 28.08.2014

KYIV, August 28 /Ukrinform/. The Lithuanian Foreign Ministry has described the situation in Ukraine as "obvious military invasion by the Russian armed forces" and demanded that Moscow withdraw its troops from Ukrainian territory, according to a statement on the ministry's website.

"The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Lithuania strongly condemns the obvious invasion of the territory of Ukraine by the armed forces of the Russian Federation," reads the statement.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/lithuania_demands_kremlin_immediately_withdraw_its_troops_from_ukraine_325721

Situation in Donbas controlled - Poroshenko, 28.08.2014

KYIV, August 28 /Ukrinform/. "To be honest, the situation is certainly very difficult and nobody is going to simplify it, but it is sufficiently controlled so as not to yield to panic and keep common sense," Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko said before NSDC meeting opening.

He said that the destabilization of the situation and panic were also a weapon of Ukraine's enemy.

"We have just had a meeting - the leadership of the country and the chief of the General Staff reported to me on our further steps. I approved it, and at a closed part of the National Security and Defense Council we will discuss a clear and consistent plan of our actions for the near future," he said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/situation_in_donbas_controlled_poroshenko_325722

All details about Ukrainian troop movements to be secret – Poroshenko's team, 28.08.2014

No details about the movements of the units of the Armed Forces of Ukraine will be made public, First Deputy Head of Presidential Administration Hennadiy Zubko has said.

"Today all information about the movements of the military forces of Ukraine will not be made public, because yesterday after it was reported that [Ukrainian] troops had advanced to Starobesheve, they were shelled by a Grad [rocket launcher]. The position of the leader of the General Staff is that all information will be closed," he told the protesters outside the presidential administration on Thursday.

<http://en.interfax.com.ua/news/general/220477.html>

Russian servicemen coming to help militants after success of ATO forces – Poroshenko, 28.08.2014

Subdivisions of the Russian army arrived as a helping hand to the illegal armed formations that operate on the east of Ukraine after the actions of the anti-terrorist operation's (ATO) forces were successful, President of Ukraine Petro Poroshenko has said.

"To save the terrorist gang, from Russia - through a part of the border we don't control - came columns of heavy vehicles, a large amount of arms and military men from regular army units of Russia," he said opening the National Security and Defense Council's meeting in Kyiv on Thursday.

<http://en.interfax.com.ua/news/general/220521.html>

Security & Defense Council decides to bring back military conscription from autumn 2014, 28.08.2014

The National Security and Defense Council of Ukraine has taken a decision to bring back a regular military service, NSDC Deputy Secretary Mykhailo Koval reported.

"The council decided from the beginning of this autumn to restore conscription to the Armed Forces of Ukraine," he said at a briefing after the NSDC meeting on Thursday.

Koval said that conscript for a regular term won't be involved into the military tasks in the anti-terrorist operation's zone.

<http://en.interfax.com.ua/news/general/220546.html>

Ukraine hopes for U.S. assistance in granting Ukraine major non-NATO ally status, 28.08.2014

Ukraine is hoping to obtain a major non-NATO ally status, the National Security and Defense Council said on Thursday evening.

"Our state hopes for the U.S. help, in particular, through granting us a major non-NATO ally status," Deputy Secretary of the National Security and Defense Council Mykhailo Koval said.

<http://en.interfax.com.ua/news/general/220550.html>

Putin calls on militants in Ukraine's east to open humanitarian corridor for surrounded Ukrainian troops, 29.08.2014

Russian President Vladimir Putin has called on militants in east Ukraine to open a humanitarian corridor for surrounded Ukrainian troops, the Kremlin's press service said in a statement in the early hours of Friday.

"I call on the militant forces to open a humanitarian corridor for the Ukrainian troops who have been surrounded, in order to avoid senseless casualties and let them freely withdraw from the area of military operations and reunite with their families, return to their mothers, wives and children, and immediately provide medical aid to those wounded in the military operation," the statement says.

<http://en.interfax.com.ua/news/general/220570.html>

Obama: no U.S. military action in Ukraine, 29.08.2014

U.S. President Barack Obama rules out any U.S. military action in Ukraine to resolve the escalating conflict in its east.

"We are not taking military action to solve the Ukrainian problem," he said.

"Ukraine is not a member of NATO, but a number of those states who are close by are," he said. "And we take our Article Five commitments to defend each other very seriously — and that includes the smallest NATO member as well as the largest."

<http://en.interfax.com.ua/news/general/220571.html>

Merkel: EU to discuss new sanctions against Russia, 29.08.2014

KYIV, August 29 /Ukrinform/. The heads of state and government of the EU will discuss the possible extension of sanctions against Russia at an extraordinary summit on August 30.

German Chancellor Angela Merkel said this at a press conference in Berlin.

"This issue [of sanctions] will be put on the agenda of the summit, and we will ask ourselves how to respond," Merkel said, recalling that the EU has always made it clear that further sanctions will be discussed in the event of further escalation of the situation in Ukraine. She added that the EU wants a diplomatic solution to the crisis and "will not weaken its aspirations," but the situation after a meeting between Presidents Vladimir Putin and Petro Poroshenko in Minsk has worsened.

"We get reports of increased presence of Russian soldiers, new destabilization and new movements of separatists in the areas where it was quiet earlier," Merkel said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/merkel_eu_to_discuss_new_sanctions_against_russia_325724

Ukrainian World Congress urges world to immediately response to Russian aggression, 29.08.2014

KYIV, August 29 /Ukrinform/. The Ukrainian World Congress (UWC) strongly urges the international community, including NATO, the United Nations, the G7 countries and the European Union, to immediately react to this invasion of Ukraine by Russian troops. UWC President Eugene Czolij told in his statement to Ukrinform.

"The Ukrainian World Congress calls upon the international community to concretely help Ukraine defend its territorial integrity. Only the immediate intervention by the international community can stop the brazen threat by Russia to peace and stability in Europe," UWC President Eugene Czolij said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/ukrainian_world_congress_urges_world_to_immediately_response_to_russian_aggression_325736

NATO releases evidence of Russia's incursion into Ukraine. Photos, 29.08.2014

KYIV, August 29 /Ukrinform/. "NATO released new satellite images on Thursday, 28 August 2014, that show Russian combat forces engaged in military operations inside the sovereign territory of Ukraine. The images, captured in late August, depict Russian self-propelled artillery units moving in a convoy through the Ukrainian countryside and then preparing for action by establishing firing positions in the area of Krasnodon, Ukraine," NATO said.

The alliance also said that this information had been confirmed from other sources.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/nato_releases_evidence_of_russias_incursion_into_ukraine_photos_325745

UN says about almost 3,000 killed in east of Ukraine, 29.08.2014

KYIV, August 29 /Ukrinform/. Ivan Simonovic, U.N. Assistant Secretary General for Human Rights said, presenting a report by a U.N. monitoring mission Friday.

"The current number of killed is 2,593 - close to 3,000 if we include the 298 victims of the MH17 (Malaysian airliner) plane crash," Simonovic said.

He noted that civilian casualties grew over a recent month.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/un_says_about_almost_3000_killed_in_east_of_ukraine_325746

Belgium also concerned about Russia's behavior in east of Ukraine, 29.08.2014

KYIV, August 29 /Ukrinform/. Belgium expressed great concern at reports of strengthening Russia's participation in the escalation of violence in the east of Ukraine, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Belgium told.

Various reports on strengthening participation of the Russian Federation cause a great concern, the agency quoted the position of Foreign Minister Didier Reynders.

The minister called on Russia to take responsibility at the international level on the issue of achieving a peaceful resolution of the situation.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/belgium_also_concerned_about_russias_behavior_in_east_of_ukraine_325748

To resume gas shipments Ukraine must first pay \$1.45 bln in 2013 debt – Gazprom, 29.08.2014

In order to resume gas shipments, Ukraine must first pay \$1.45 billion in debt for 2013 and then agree on installments, Gazprom CEO Alexei Miller told journalists.

Energy Minister Alexander Novak said the International Monetary Fund (IMF) was supposed transfer another \$1.3 billion tranche soon. Russia is expecting this to go towards debt settlement.

Novak added that Russia was ready to recalculate Ukraine's gas debt retroactively for April-June of this year

<http://en.interfax.com.ua/news/general/220677.html>

Russia offers USD 100 discount on gas for Ukraine, 29.08.2014

KYIV, August 29 /Ukrinform/. "The Russian side confirms those suggestions, which were heard before, the possibility of giving a discount of USD 100 with respect to the price, which is formed in accordance with the formula of the contract," Energy Minister Alexander Novak announced

after the talks in Moscow with European Commissioner for Energy Guenther Oettinger. Now, the price of Russian gas for Ukraine is USD 485.5 per 1,000 cubic meters.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/russia_offers_usd_100_discount_on_gas_for_ukraine_325750

Oettinger agrees in Russia on trilateral meeting on gas, 29.08.2014

KYIV, August 29 /Ukrinform/. Russian Energy Minister Alexander Novak and European Commissioner for Energy Gunther Oettinger agreed at the talks in Moscow to hold a trilateral meeting with Ukraine to discuss gas issues.

"We agreed that we will have a trilateral meeting [Ukraine-Russia-EU]. We have not yet decided on the date as it needs additional approval," Novak said this after a meeting with Oettinger.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/oettinger_agrees_in_russia_on_trilateral_meeting_on_gas_325752

Government tables in parliament bill cancelling Ukraine's non-aligned status - Yatseniuk, 29.08.2014

KYIV, August 29 /Ukrinform/. The Ukrainian government has tabled in the Verkhovna Rada a bill that resumes the state's course for NATO membership and bans participation in any pro-Soviet unions, Ukrainian Prime Minister Arseniy Yatseniuk said, while opening a government meeting on Friday.

"The Ukrainian government is submitting for consideration by parliament a [draft] law cancelling the non-aligned status of the Ukrainian state and resuming Ukraine's course towards NATO membership," Yatseniuk said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/government_tables_in_parliament_bill_cancelling_ukraines_non_aligned_status_yatseniuk_325753

Putin publicly gave order to terrorists - Security & Defense Council, 29.08.2014

KYIV, August 29 /Ukrinform/. Russian President Vladimir Putin has confirmed through his address to terrorists in Ukraine that they are directly controlled by him, NSDC has reported.

"An instruction and call by Putin to terrorists on the creation of corridors for the withdrawal of Ukrainian military means only one thing: these people are guided and controlled directly from the Kremlin," reads the report.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/putin_publicly_gave_order_to_terrorists_security_and_defense_council_325754

NATO not against Ukraine's accession - Rasmussen, 29.08.2014

KYIV, August 29 /Ukrinform/. "We fully respect Ukraine's decisions as regards Ukraine's security policy and alliance affiliation... Ukraine will become a member of NATO provided, of course, that Ukraine so wishes and provided that Ukraine fulfills the necessary criteria," NATO Secretary General Anders Fogh Rasmussen said this on Friday, recalling the decision taken at the NATO summit in Bucharest in 2008.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/nato_not_against_ukraines_accession_rasmussen_325755

US ambassador to OSCE blames Moscow for escalating tensions in Ukraine, demands it stop supporting separatists, 29.08.2014

U.S. Representative to the Permanent Council of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe, Ambassador Daniel Baer, said during the meeting in Vienna that Russia is continuing to escalate tensions in Ukraine.

"Despite the international community's calls for peace, Russia continues to escalate tensions with activity that is extremely dangerous and provocative," he said.

<http://en.interfax.com.ua/news/general/220629.html>

Ukraine to get \$100 mln microfinancial aid from Japan – Yatseniuk, 29.08.2014

Ukrainian Premier Arseniy Yatseniuk has said that Japanese government will allocate \$100 million in microfinancial aid to Ukraine.

"I had several conversations with our Western partners and one of them – the Japanese government – decided to allocate \$100 million in microfinancial aid to Ukraine. And we'll receive these \$100 million today," he said at a government meeting on Friday.

<http://en.interfax.com.ua/news/general/220675.html>

Rasmussen: Russian army engaged in hostilities in eastern Ukraine, 29.08.2014

KYIV, August 29 /Ukrinform/. "Russian forces are engaged in direct military operations inside Ukraine," NATO Secretary General Anders Fogh Rasmussen said after the NATO-Ukraine Commission meeting, which was convened on Friday at the request of the Ukrainian side. He confirmed that Russia continues to supply the separatists with tanks, armored vehicles, artillery and rocket launchers and that Russia had fired on Ukraine from both Russian territory and within Ukraine itself.

"Today, we expressed strong solidarity with Ukraine," Rasmussen said, adding that the alliance will confirm this to President Petro Poroshenko at a summit in Wales.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/rasmussen_russian_army_engaged_in_hostilities_in_eastern_ukraine_325758

Ukraine ready to decide future of Crimea's Scythian gold, 29.08.2014

The Ukrainian Culture Ministry hopes that the collection of Scythian gold will be returned from the Netherlands to Ukraine this September.

Its exhibition at the Allard Pierson Museum in the Netherlands ends on August 31, said Svetlana Fomenko, Deputy Minister of Culture for European Integration.

"On September 1, staff from the (Ukrainian) National Historical Museum will be in Amsterdam to dismantle, pack and return the exhibition to Ukraine," she said.

The whole collection on display (2,111 items) will return to Ukraine, the deputy minister said.

<http://en.interfax.com.ua/news/general/220753.html>

Poroshenko expects tough reaction toward Russia from EU, 30.08.2014

KYIV, August 30 /Ukrinform/. Introduction of Russian troops on the territory of Ukraine requires an adequate response from the EU.

President of Ukraine Petro Poroshenko stressed during a meeting with European Council President Herman Van Rompuy in Brussels, the Presidential press service informs.

"The President of Ukraine expressed hope that leaders of the EU member states will firmly respond to an act of aggression against Ukraine by results of a meeting of the European Council on August 30, in particular, the military-technical assistance to Ukraine from the EU member states," a statement reads.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/poroshenko_wants_more_sanctions_against_russia_325767

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/poroshenko_expects_tough_reaction_toward_russia_from_eu_325769

Poroshenko: Ukraine not counting on legionaries, but requires military equipment, 30.08.2014

KYIV, August 30 /Ukrinform/. "Ukraine is able to defend itself. We do not expect that other countries' soldiers will fight in Ukraine to protect the sovereignty of Ukraine, independence and integrity of our borders," Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko said after a meeting with European Commission President Jose Manuel Barroso in Brussels on Saturday.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/poroshenko_ukraine_not_counting_on_legionaries_but_requires_military_equipment_325779

Poroshenko confident EU will progress with sanctions against Russia today, 30.08.2014

KYIV, August 30 /Ukrinform/. "I have no doubt that today, after our discussion, the European Council will decide to authorize the European Commission to prepare a decision on sanctions. Whether they are implemented will depend on how quickly the progress is demonstrated on de-escalation of the situation," Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko said after a meeting with European Commission President Jose Manuel Barroso in Brussels.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/poroshenko_confident_eu_will_progress_with_sanctions_against_russia_today_325783

Poroshenko in Brussels says Ukraine will ratify Association Agreement in September, 30.08.2014

KYIV, August 30 /Ukrinform/. President of Ukraine Petro Poroshenko assured the European leaders that the Verkhovna Rada will ratify the Association Agreement with the EU in September.

The head of the Ukrainian state said after a meeting with European Commission President Jose Manuel Barroso in Brussels on Saturday.

"During the meeting, I assured that the Verkhovna Rada will ratify the EU-Ukraine Association Agreement in September, as we agreed before," Poroshenko said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/poroshenko_in_brussels_says_ukraine_will_ratify_association_agreement_in_september_325787

OSCE Chair says reports about growing flows of military equipment from Russia into Ukraine greatly troubling, 30.08.2014

Swiss Foreign Minister and OSCE Chairperson-in-Office, Didier Burkhalter, expressed great concern about the spreading of military confrontation to further areas in eastern parts of Ukraine and the respective escalation of tensions.

"The reports about growing flows of military personnel and military equipment from the Russian Federation into Ukraine were greatly troubling and must be thoroughly investigated," reads a chair's statement available on OSCE Web site.

He recalled that "the territorial integrity of Ukraine and its sovereignty had to be respected and preserved by all sides and at all times, adding that failure to do so would contravene international law and fundamental principles of the OSCE."

<http://en.interfax.com.ua/news/general/220816.html>

EU would provide adequate evaluation of Russian actions – Rompuy, 30.08.2014

European Council President Herman Van Rompuy said the EU is deeply concerned over the recent development in Ukraine's east, Ukrainian president's press service said.

"Recent actions of Russia had caused further escalation of the conflict in the Donbas which raised deep concern of the EU leaders and had become a reason for the inclusion of the 'Ukrainian issue' into the agenda of the emergency meeting of the European Council," the press service said referring to the meeting of Petro Poroshenko and Herman van Rompuy in Brussels.

<http://en.interfax.com.ua/news/general/220869.html>

Fule says Russia actions in Ukraine unthinkable, 30.08.2014

EU Commissioner for Enlargement and European Neighborhood Policy Stefan Fule said it was a shock to learn Russian army now is in Ukraine.

"In 21st century unthinkable for a nuclear power to rely more on 'green men' than on international law," he tweeted on Saturday after informal EU Foreign Ministers meeting in Milan. The EU commissioner also wrote on Twitter: "My thoughts are with citizens of Mariupol & all those defending integrity & sovereignty of Ukraine."

<http://en.interfax.com.ua/news/general/220883.html>

Contact group for Ukraine to meet in Minsk on Monday – Belarusian Foreign Ministry, 30.08.2014

"A meeting of the contact group for Ukraine is planned in Minsk on September 1," the Belarusian Foreign Ministry spokesperson said on Saturday.

<http://en.interfax.com.ua/news/general/220885.html>

Batkivschyna initiates all-Ukrainian referendum on NATO's membership on Oct 26 – Tymoshenko, 30.08.2014

Batkivschyna leader Yulia Tymoshenko has said that Batkivschyna All-Ukrainian Union is going to launch procedures necessary to carry a nationwide referendum on NATO's membership.

According to Tymoshenko, the referendum is planned to be held on the same day as the parliamentary elections, on October 26, she told the journalists in Kyiv on Saturday.

<http://en.interfax.com.ua/news/general/220899.html>

Grybauskaite: Russia in a state of war against Europe, 31.08.2014

Lithuanian President Dalia Grybauskaite has said that Russia's current actions in Ukraine should be classified as a war against Europe.

"Russia is openly and directly involved in a state of war against Ukraine. Russia is in a state of war against a country that wants to be closer to Europe, so it means it is in a state of war against Europe," she told reporters before a European Council meeting in Brussels on August 30.

She also stressed the need to introduce a complete embargo on the supply of arms and military technology to Russia.

<http://en.interfax.com.ua/news/general/220980.html>

European Council calls on Russia to immediately withdraw its troops from Ukraine, 31.08.2014

"[The European Council] calls upon the Russian Federation to immediately withdraw all its military assets and forces from Ukraine," the European Council said in the conclusions adopted after an extraordinary meeting in Brussels on August 31.

<http://en.interfax.com.ua/news/general/221001.html>

Actions of Ukrainian Authorities

Trilateral contact group in Minsk agree on release of hostages, 01.08.2014

KYIV, August 1 /Ukrinform/. The trilateral contact group for the settlement of the situation in eastern Ukraine has agreed to hold another meeting next week following consultations with representatives of the self-proclaimed Donetsk and Luhansk People's Republics in Minsk, reads a statement posted on the OSCE website.

"The Contact Group agreed with the representatives of separatist groups that they will hold another meeting next week," reads the statement.

During the meeting in Minsk, the parties committed to the immediate release of a sizable number of hostages and other persons captured by of illegal armed groups in the Donbas.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/trilateral_contact_group_in_minsk_agree_on_release_of_hostages_324682

Ukrainian army frees Novy Svit in Donetsk region, 01.08.2014

KYIV, August 1 /Ukrinform/. Ukrainian servicemen have liberated Novy Svit in Donetsk region from terrorists, the press center of the anti-terrorist operation (ATO) has reported on Facebook. "The units of the ATO forces freed the settlement of Novy Svit in Donetsk region from militants. A stable life is being restored here," the ATO press center reported.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/ukrainian_army_frees_novy_svit_in_donetsk_region_324691

Poroshenko allows Dutch and Australian police to arrive in Ukraine, 01.08.2014

KYIV, August 1 /Ukrinform/. Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko has signed the laws that allow Australia and the Netherlands to send their missions to investigate the crash of the Malaysian Boeing aircraft, the presidential press service has reported.

According to the law on the ratification of an agreement between Ukraine and Australia on sending Australian personnel to Ukraine due to the crash of Malaysia Airlines Flight MH17, Australia can send to Ukraine its police, military and civilian personnel and assets related to them. This staff can move freely through Ukraine to reach the crash site of the airliner. The Ukrainian side will provide Australian experts with all necessary info to help the investigation.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/poroshenko_allows_dutch_and_australian_police_to_arrive_in_ukraine_324697

Russian spy detained in Lviv, 01.08.2014

KYIV, August 1 /Ukrinform/. "A Russian citizen who, on the instruction of the Russian military intelligence, had to create a network of agents from among former and current military servicemen, was detained in Lviv on July 30," reads the statement of Ukrainian Security Service (SBU) press service.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/russian_spy_detained_in_lviv_324728

1,400 policemen to protect Odesa against pogroms today, 02.08.2014

KYIV, August 2 /Ukrinform/. On Saturday and Sunday, August 2 and 3, public order in Odesa will be protected by about 1,400 police officers.

The press service of the Interior Ministry's Main Police Department in Odesa region told a Ukrinform correspondent.

As the regional Interior Ministry department noted, public events are planned on Kulykove Pole (Kulykove Field).

In order to ensure public order and security of citizens during these events, as well as to prevent riots, about 700 police officers will be involved to protect public order every day.

Ultras and Right Sector vow not to smash Odesa

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/1400_policemen_to_protect_odesa_against_pogroms_today_324742

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/ultras_and_right_sector_vow_not_to_smash_odesa_324744

ATO forces release another two towns near Donetsk, 02.08.2014

KYIV, August 2 /Ukrinform/. Last night, the ATO forces liberated the district town of Krasnogorivka and the settlement of Staromykhailivka, Donetsk region.

This was announced by Spokesman for the NSDC Information-Analytical Center Andriy Lysenko at a briefing on Saturday.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/ato_forces_release_another_two_towns_near_donetsk_324749

Ukraine has no ballistic missiles, says defense minister, 02.08.2014

Ukrainian Defense Minister Valeriy Heletei has denied reports on the use of intermediate-range ballistic missiles by the Ukrainian armed forces in the antiterrorist operation in the eastern part of the country.

"Ukraine doesn't have such ballistic missiles that have been mentioned. They don't exist in nature," Heletei said in the Shuster Live television program in the early hours of Saturday.

<http://en.interfax.com.ua/news/general/216624.html>

U.S. considering extending support to Ukraine in various areas, says Biden, 02.08.2014

Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko has had a telephone conversation with U.S. Vice President Joseph Biden, during which they discussed the situation in Donbas and the progress of the international inquiry into the circumstances of the crash of the Malaysia Airlines MH17 flight.

"The settlement format, which we have established at the site of the inquiry, namely the bilateral ceasefire, the OSCE monitoring with the use of appropriate technologies, including air drones, the negotiations of the trilateral contact group, the start of liberation of the hostages, can later become a model for the whole of the hostilities zone, and enable the full implementation of the peace plan," Poroshenko said.

For his part, Biden expressed the U.S. support of Ukraine's position in the IMF, which is considering disbursement of the second tranche under the Stand-By Arrangement. In addition, the U.S. vice president said that a special team for expanding the direct economic support is currently working in Ukraine. Overall, apart from the financial and economic assistance, the U.S. is considering the possibility of expanding its support for Ukraine in other fields.

<http://en.interfax.com.ua/news/general/216629.html>

Poroshenko repeals lifetime benefits to former senior officials, 05.08.2014

KYIV, August 5 /Ukrinform/. President Petro Poroshenko repealed the presidential orders of 1992-2010 on financial support and protection of senior government officials.

This is stated in the order No. 977/2014-RP, published on the website of the head of state.

In particular, the document withdraws a stamp "not for publishing" and repeals the orders for servicing and security of the former Prime Ministers of Ukraine: Yevhen Marchuk, Pavlo Lazarenko, Valeriy Pustovoitenko, Viktor Yushchenko, Mykola Azarov, Anatoliy Kinakh and Viktor Yanukovich.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/poroshenko_repeals_lifetime_benefits_to_former_senior_officials_324826

Ukraine places Zhirinovskiy, Zyuganov, Mironov on wanted list, 05.08.2014

The Ukrainian Interior Ministry has placed Russian citizens Sergei Mironov, Vladimir Zhirinovskiy and Gennady Zyuganov on the wanted list, according to the ministry's posting on its website. The Ukrainian Interior Ministry's Main Investigations Department said on Saturday that several Russian citizens were suspected of financing and organizing criminal armed groups in Ukraine. "A letter was referred to Russian Ambassador to Ukraine Mikhail Zurabov saying that Vladimir Zhirinovskiy, Gennady Zyuganov, Sergei Mironov, Sergei Shoigu and Konstantin Malafeyev are the suspects and must report for questioning," the press service said.

<http://en.interfax.com.ua/news/general/216905.html>

Agency for Crimea, IDPs set up in Ukraine, 05.08.2014

KYIV, August 5 /Ukrinform/. The Cabinet of Ministers set up the State Service for the Autonomous Republic of Crimea, Sevastopol and Internally Displaced Persons, reads a decree No.297, available on the Governmental portal.

The Ministry of Finance is tasked to develop amendments to the state budget to provide for the costs of the new agency.

In addition, head of the state service is tasked within two weeks after the appointment to submit to the Cabinet of Ministers a draft charter of the agency, as well as draft regulations of the government on the approval of the number of employees and location of the agency.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/agency_for_crimea_idps_set_up_in_ukraine_324845

NSDC urges Russia to do away with militants, pull back troops, 05.08.2014

KYIV, August 5 /Ukrinform/. The National Security and Defence Council of Ukraine (NSDC) demands that Russia stop heating up terrorists in the east and remove its army from the border, NSDC information and analytical center spokesman Andriy Lysenko said at a briefing in Kyiv.

"We once again strongly urge the Russian side to immediately stop such criminal acts directed against the independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine, to withdraw troops from the border with Ukraine and to join efforts of our state and the international community to stabilize the situation in Donetsk and Luhansk regions," he said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/nsdc_urges_russia_to_do_away_with_militants_pull_back_troops_324849

Poroshenko orders dismissal of Ukrainian military leaders responsible for logistic support, arms purchases, 06.08.2014

Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko has instructed Defense Minister Valeriy Heletei to dismiss two heads of ministry departments responsible for material and technical support and the organization of tenders and for purchases of weapons.

"I have issued an instruction to the defense minister to dismiss two department heads. The first one was responsible for material-technical support and the organization of tenders, and the second was responsible for purchases of weapons. New managers have been appointed starting today, and I hope they'll be more efficient," Poroshenko said at a meeting with volunteers providing support to the military operation in the eastern part of Ukraine.

<http://en.interfax.com.ua/news/general/217164.html>

Parubiy tenders resignation as NSDC secretary, 07.08.2014

KYIV, August 7 /Ukrinform/. "I have tendered my resignation as secretary of the National Security and Defense Council of Ukraine. I think it's unacceptable to comment on my resignation in a time of war," Parubiy wrote on Facebook.

He also said that he would continue to deal with the provision of assistance to the front, first and foremost, to volunteer battalions.

Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko has signed a decree dismissing Andriy Parubiy as secretary of the Ukrainian National Security and Defense Council.

The document has already been published on the website of the head of state.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/parubiy_tenders_resignation_as_nsdc_secretary_324971

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/poroshenko_accepts_parubiys_resignation_324979

President Poroshenko awards Order of Liberty to NATO chief, 08.08.2014

KYIV, August 7 /Ukrinform/. Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko awarded the highest award of Ukraine for foreigners - the Order of Liberty - to NATO Secretary General Anders Fogh Rasmussen, the president's press office reported on Thursday.

According to the president's decree, Rasmussen is awarded "for significant contribution to the development of cooperation between the state of Ukraine and NATO, important support in defending the sovereignty, independence and integrity of Ukraine".

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/president_poroshenko_awards_order_of_liberty_to_nato_chief_325002

National Bank orders to suspend financial operations in cities controlled by terrorists, 08.08.2014

KYIV, August 8 /Ukrinform/. The National Bank of Ukraine obliged national financial institutions to stop carrying out all types of financial operations in settlements, which are temporarily controlled by terrorists.

The regulator's statement reads of August 6, the regulator's press service told Ukrinform.

"To stop carrying out all types of financial operations by banks of Ukraine at settlements, not controlled by the Ukrainian authority," the document says.

At the same time, the NBU recommends to banks, until complete resumption of activities, to render services to clients with the help of mobile devices.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/national_bank_orders_to_suspend_financial_operations_in_cities_controlled_by_terrorists_325027

ATO forces enter Miusynsk, Panteleymonivka - NSDC, 08.08.2014

KYIV, August 8 /Ukrinform/. The Ukrainian army has liberated Miusynsk, cutting the road between Snizhne and Krasny Luch, and went into Panteleimonivka, cutting off communication between Makiyivka and Horlivka.

Ukrainian National Security and Defense Council (NSDC) information and analytical center spokesman Andriy Lysenko said this at a briefing on Friday.

"Indeed, the Ukrainian military liberated these settlements and continue to attack, which cannot be stopped. If terrorists are willing to give up - we are ready to accept them," Lysenko said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/ato_forces_enter_miusynsk_panteleymonivka_nsdc_325046

Ukraine reduces gas imports ten times in July, 09.08.2014

KYIV, August 9 /Ukrinform/. Ukraine has reduced natural gas imports in July to 221 million cubic meters, 10 times less than in the same period last year, PJSC Ukrtransgas said in a statement. At the same time, for the period from January to July of this year from abroad Ukraine has imported 14.72 billion cubic meters, 18% up than in the same period in 2013. The entire volume of gas imported in July for the needs of Ukraine came from Poland and Hungary, and was 118 and 103 million cubic meters, respectively.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/ukraine_reduces_gas_imports_ten_times_in_july_325106

Poroshenko introduces bill to Rada to abolish income tax on charitable contributions to ATO, 11.08.2014

Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko has introduced to Verkhovna Rada a bill on the amendments to the Tax Code of Ukraine on charitable aid taxation.

The relative bill No. 4455a was registered in the parliament and submitted for its consideration on Monday, however, its text, as well as the accompanying sheet, hasn't been posted on the parliamentary Web site so far.

As reported, on August 6, Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko urged the leaders of parliamentary factions and groups to support the initiative to abolish income tax on charitable contributions, which are carried out by volunteers exclusively to the needs of the anti-terrorist operation (ATO).

<http://en.interfax.com.ua/news/general/217831.html>

Poroshenko, Obama speaking on phone, 11.08.2014

KYIV, August 11 /Ukrinform/. Ukraine's President Petro Poroshenko is speaking on the phone with U.S. President Barack Obama.

The Presidential Administration wrote this on its Twitter page.

Russian President Vladimir Putin said he would send a "humanitarian convoy" to Ukraine.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/poroshenko_obama_speaking_on_phone_325192

Sanctions against Russia adopted at first reading, 12.08.2014

KYIV, August 12 /Ukrinform/. The Verkhovna Rada has approved a bill on the introduction of sanctions against Russia at first reading.

A total of 243 MPs voted for this decision. The Party of Regions faction did not participate in the vote.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/sanctions_against_russia_adopted_at_first_reading_325217

Parliament ratifies agreement on sending Malaysian personnel to Ukraine due to plane crash, 12.08.2014

The Verkhovna Rada has ratified an agreement between Ukraine and Malaysia on sending Malaysian personnel to Ukraine due to the Malaysia Airlines Flight MH17 crash.

311 MPs voted for a respective decision on Tuesday.

<http://en.interfax.com.ua/news/general/217966.html>

Verkhovna Rada permits detention of terrorists for 3 to 30 days, 12.08.2014

KYIV, August 12 /Ukrinform/. Ukrainian lawmakers have approved a law permitting the preventive detention in the area of the anti-terrorist operation (ATO) of persons involved in terrorist activity for more than 72 hours.

232 MPs voted for a respective decision on Tuesday.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/verkhovna_rada_permits_detention_of_terrorists_for_3_to_30_days_325220

Policemen allowed shooting on sight in ATO zone, 12.08.2014

KYIV, August 12 /Ukrinform/. Police officers in the area of the antiterrorist operation are allowed to use physical force, special means and weapons since now.

Relevant amendments were made to the law "On Police."

This decision was supported by 288 MPs.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/policemen_allowed_shooting_on_sight_in_ato_zone_325223

Rada passes law on economic activity in Crimea, 12.08.2014

KYIV, August 12 /Ukrinform/. The Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine adopted the law on the tax and customs control in the free economic zone of Crimea and the peculiarities of the economic activity in the temporarily occupied territory of Ukraine.

The decision was supported by 227 MP.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/rada_passesLaw_on_economic_activity_in_crimea_325242

ATO forces release Pervomaisk, Komyshuvakha and Kalynove, 12.08.2014

KYIV, August 12 /Ukrinform/. The anti-terrorist operation (ATO) forces on Tuesday released three populated localities in eastern Ukraine: Pervomaisk and Kalynove in Luhansk region and Komyshuvakha in Donetsk region, the ATO press center has reported.

"Today the ATO forces, which included special purpose battalions, released three settlements - Pervomaisk, Komyshuvakha and Kalynove," reads the statement.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/ato_forces_release_pervomaisk_komyshuvakha_and_kalynove_325244

Vuhlehirsk liberated from terrorists, 12.08.2014

KYIV, August 12 /Ukrinform/. Ukrainian government forces have liberated the town of Vuhlehirsk in Donetsk region from terrorists, NSDC information and analytical center spokesman Andriy Lysenko.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/vuhlehirsk_liberated_from_terrorists_325245

Ukraine ready to receive gas from Slovakia, 13.08.2014

KYIV, August 13 /Ukrinform/. Ukrtransgaz has completed work to ensure the technical possibility of receiving gas from Slovakia, PJSC Naftogaz of Ukraine press service reported. "On August 7, 2014, PJSC Ukrtransgaz completed work at the Uzhgorod compressor station to ensure the technical possibility of receiving natural gas from Slovakia. The work was carried out according to schedule, using the company's own means and funds," reads the statement.
http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/ukraine_ready_to_receive_gas_from_slovakia_325284

President signs law on stronger protection of children during mobilization, 13.08.2014

President of Ukraine Petro Poroshenko signed law that strengthens the protection of the children's rights in the period of mobilization training and mobilization, as well as enhances the protection of children of the military men retired from the Armed Forces of Ukraine. As the presidential press service reported, the law No. 1614-VII "On amendments to several laws of Ukraine on strengthening the protection of the rights of children" foresees that from now on, the following persons are not subject to mobilization: men bound to military service that keep three or more children under 18, women that keep children under 18, women and men who raise children under 18 alone or keep disabled children of the I or the II group under 23.
<http://en.interfax.com.ua/news/general/218235.html>

Rada revives military procurasy, 14.08.2014

KYIV, August 14 /Ukrinform/. The Verkhovna Rada has passed a bill to resume military prosecutor's offices in Ukraine. The decision was supported by 249 MPs
http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/rada_revives_military_procurasy_325325

Kyiv sends 240 tonnes of humanitarian aid to Luhansk, 14.08.2014

KYIV, August 14 /Ukrinform/. 19 trucks with 240 tonnes of humanitarian aid were sent from Kyiv for Luhansk residents. Infrastructure Minister Maksym Burbak said when a column of Ukrainian trucks was sent from the Boryspil highway, a Ukrinform correspondent reports. "240 tonnes of aid are sent from Kyiv - this is mainly flour, cereals and sugar. From Kharkiv necessities and personal care items are sent, as well as two trucks of medicines," he said.
http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/kyiv_sends_240_tonnes_of_humanitarian_aid_to_luhansk_325327

Rada cancels earlier decision to adopt law on economic activities in Crimea, 14.08.2014

Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine has canceled a decision it took on Tuesday to approve at second reading a bill on tax and customs control in the free economic zone of Crimea, and on the peculiarities of economic activities on the temporarily occupied territory of Ukraine. During its sitting on Thursday Verkhovna Rada Chairman Oleksandr Turchynov said that he received written complaints from MPs that the law was passed at second reading in violation of procedure: in particular the law was adopted via MPs using other MPs' voting cards.
<http://en.interfax.com.ua/news/general/218349.html>

Rada fails to put on today's agenda three bills on elections of MPs, 14.08.2014

The Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine has refused to put on the agenda three bills on the election of MPs of Ukraine. None of the three bills put on the agenda garnered the necessary number of votes – 226
<http://en.interfax.com.ua/news/general/218366.html>

Rada gives go-ahead to GTS reform, 14.08.2014

KYIV, August 14 /Ukrinform/. The Verkhovna Rada passed a bill to reform the management system of the unified gas transit system of Ukraine (GTS). The decision was supported by 228 MPs
http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/rada_gives_go_ahead_to_gts_reform_325330

RADA PASSES SANCTIONS LAW, 14.08.2014

KYIV, August 14 /Ukrinform/. The Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine passed a law on sanctions in view of the aggression of Russia.

The decision saw 244 votes in favor

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/rada_passes_sanctions_law_325331

Rada passes bill on government lustration in first reading, 14.08.2014

The Ukrainian parliament on Thursday adopted a bill on government lustration at first reading. The bill lays down legal framework and the procedure of lustration of the government with the aim of establishing the rule of law and improving the efficiency of the fight against corruption. A total of 252 out of the 299 registered MPs voted for the bill at first reading.

<http://en.interfax.com.ua/news/general/218428.html>

Poroshenko signs law on loan of JPY 10 billion, 14.08.2014

KYIV, August 14 /Ukrinform/. President Petro Poroshenko signed the law on a loan, adopted by the Verkhovna Rada, from the government of Japan at JPY 10 billion for support of economic reforms in Ukraine.

The press service of the head of state informed.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/poroshenko_signs_law_on_loan_of_jpy_10_billion_325345

Ukrainian army liberates three settlements, 15.08.2014

KYIV, August 15/Ukrinform/. The ATO forces liberated three settlements - Bulavinske, Chornukhine and Oleksandrove. An artillery barrage was inflicted yesterday and as a result militants suffered losses, ATO Spokesman Leonid Matiukhin said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/ukrainian_army_liberates_three_settlements_325364

Ukraine checks Russian "humanitarian aid" at Izvaryne checkpoint, 15.08.2014

KYIV, August 15 /Ukrinform/. At 10:00 a.m., August 15, customs examination and customs clearance of the "humanitarian" aid from the Russian Federation started at the checkpoint of Donetsk, Rostov region (on the Ukrainian side, this is a temporarily closed checkpoint of Izvaryne). The ATO press center informs about this.

"On the Ukrainian side, participating in the examination are 59 specialists. Out of these, 41 - representatives of the State Border Service of Ukraine and 18 - customs workers," a statement reads.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/ukraine_checks_russian_humanitarian_aid_at_izvaryne_checkpoint_325372

Ukrainian army liberates Zhdanivka in Donetsk region - Poroshenko, 16.08.2014

Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko has said that the Ukrainian Armed Forces have liberated the town of Zhdanivka in Donetsk region.

"The Ukrainian Armed Forces have heroically liberated the town of Zhdanivka in Donetsk region. Glory to Ukraine!" he wrote on his Twitter page on Saturday.

<http://en.interfax.com.ua/news/general/218736.html>

Government forces liberate Chornukhyne, enter Khriashchuvate, 18.08.2014

KYIV, August 18 /Ukrinform/. The anti-terrorist operation (ATO) forces continue to liberate populated localities in Luhansk region from terrorists, the ATO press center has reported.

As of the morning of August 18, government troops released the urban village of Chornukhyne.

"The ATO forces have entered and are holding the settlement of Khriashchuvate. Active hostilities are going on near the settlements of Stanytsia Luhanska, Yasynuvata, Zhdanivka, and Nyzhnia Krynka. The blocking of Ilovaisk continues. The cleansing of the settlements of Mala Ivanivka and Andrianivka has been finished. Horlivka has been fully blocked. The isolation of the settlement of Alchevsk is being completed," reads the statement.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/government_forces_liberate_chornukhyne_enter_khriashchuvate_325416

Ukrainian troops liberate Yasynuvata, 18.08.2014

KYIV, August 18 /Ukrinform/. Servicemen of the 95th brigade of the Ukrainian Armed Forces have taken control of the district center of Yasynuvata in Donetsk region, which is of strategic importance, President Petro Poroshenko has reported on his page on Facebook.

"The Ukrainian flag has been raised! The National Guard is completing the search for and elimination of certain groups of fighters," he wrote.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/ukrainian_troops_liberate_yasynuvata_325423

Poroshenko signs law on serving justice in ATO zone, 18.08.2014

KYIV, August 18 /Ukrinform/. Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko has signed a law that provides a mechanism to determine courts for considering cases and carrying out investigation of criminal offenses in the area of the anti-terrorist operation (ATO), the presidential press service has reported.

"Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko has signed the law on serving justice and criminal proceedings in connection with the anti-terrorist operation, which envisages a mechanism to determine the courts for trying cases and carrying out pre-trial investigation of criminal offenses, if this is impossible in the area of the anti-terrorist operation," reads the report.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/poroshenko_signs_law_on_serving_justice_in_ato_zone_325446

Ukrainian flag raised over Ilovaisk - Donbas battalion, 19.08.2014

The Donbas and Dnipro battalions, as well as other forces of the anti-terrorist operation, made another attempt on August 18 to gain control over the town of Ilovaisk in Donetsk region, eastern Ukraine.

"Grad and Uragan [systems], as well as armored hardware, were used against Ukrainian servicemen. Groups of the Donbas battalion that entered the town from ten different directions managed to access the town center, where the blue-and-yellow flag of the Ukrainian state is already flying," the Donbas battalion said on its Facebook.

<http://en.interfax.com.ua/news/general/218968.html>

Ukraine sends almost 1,200 tonnes of humanitarian aid to eastern regions – State Emergency Service, 20.08.2014

From July 6 to August 19, 2014 Ukrainian rescuers delivered over 1,200 tonnes of food, 800 daily ration kits, 8,650 liters of water and 6,500 loaves of bread to the eastern part of the country, Ukrainian State Emergency Service reported.

Rescuers of the State Emergency Service are organizing the constant collection and delivery of humanitarian aid to delivery sites and will continue to do that until the full restoration of services in the towns liberated from the terrorists, the service said on its Web site on Wednesday.

<http://en.interfax.com.ua/news/general/219227.html>

Over 2,700 policemen dismissed in Donetsk, Luhansk regions - ministry, 20.08.2014

A total of 2,717 police officers have been dismissed in the Donetsk and Luhansk regions, and this process will continue, Anton Heraschenko, an advisor to the Ukrainian interior minister, has said.

"In all, 2,717 people have been removed from the police ranks. This is far from being all, this is just the beginning," Heraschenko said at a briefing in Kyiv on Wednesday.

In both regions, 1,490 policemen did not fight terrorism and refused to obey orders to redeploy to other cities and continue the fight, he said. Yet another 1,227 officers have quit of their own free will. The two regions have 23,026 police personnel in total.

<http://en.interfax.com.ua/news/general/219264.html>

Yarema sends letter to Russian prosecutor general on involvement of Russian citizens in Donbas conflict, 20.08.2014

Ukrainian Prosecutor General Vitaliy Yarema has sent an official letter to Russian Prosecutor General Yury Chaika regarding the need for Russian law enforcement agencies to take

measures to prevent participation of Russian citizens in the armed conflict on Ukrainian territory. "Dear Yury Yakovlevich! Recent tragic events in Donetsk and Lugansk regions of Ukraine encourage me to address you with the following. In [Donetsk and Luhansk regions] an armed confrontation still continues between the authorities of our country, in particular, the Ukrainian army, and representatives of the so-called Donetsk People's Republic and Luhansk People's Republic armed with separatist armed formations," reads the letter, which was published on the Web site of the Prosecutor General's Office of Ukraine on Wednesday.

<http://en.interfax.com.ua/news/general/219281.html>

Government confirms Sheremeta's resignation as economy minister - media, 21.08.2014

KYIV, August 21 /Ukrinform/. Ukrainian Economic Development and Trade Minister Pavlo Sheremeta handed in his resignation on August 20, RBC-Ukraine has reported, citing a source in the Cabinet of Ministers secretariat.

"Today he wrote a statement of resignation and sent it to the Verkhovna Rada, because the Verkhovna Rada will have to consider this statement," reads the report.

The secretariat did not specify the reason why Sheremeta tendered his resignation.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/government_confirms_sheremetas_resignation_as_economy_minister_media_325526

Kharkiv court bans pro-Russian South-East movement – prosecutor's office, 21.08.2014

Kharkiv District Administrative Court on Wednesday satisfied a lawsuit lodged by the city's prosecutor's office to ban the activities of the pro-Russian South-East movement.

"The court recognized as weighty all evidence submitted by the prosecutor's office and decided to ban the South-East public movement through its forceful dissolution," the press service of the Kharkiv Prosecutor's Office reported.

<http://en.interfax.com.ua/news/general/219306.html>

Ukrainian border guards, customs officers did not clear Russian humanitarian aid as of 0700 – State Border Service, 21.08.2014

The State Border Service of Ukraine has reported that Ukrainian border guards and customs officers did not clear Russian humanitarian aid as of 0700 on Thursday.

"No truck was cleared as of 0700," the State Border Service's press office told.

The service did not provide other comments on this issue.

<http://en.interfax.com.ua/news/general/219316.html>

Ukrainian State Border Guard Service confirm clearance of Russian humanitarian cargo, 21.08.2014

Ukrainian border guards and customs officers have begun the procedure of clearing the Russian humanitarian cargo through customs at the checkpoint Donetsk, Rostov region of Russia, the press service for the Ukrainian State Border Guard Service has reported.

"The Ukrainian authorities began the customs clearance of the Russian humanitarian cargo at 1415 p.m. (1515 p.m. Moscow time)," the press service told Interfax.

<http://en.interfax.com.ua/news/general/219400.html>

Poroshenko signs law on preventive detention in conflict zone, 22.08.2014

Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko has signed the law introducing amendments to the law of Ukraine on combating terrorism regarding the preventive detention in the area of the anti-terrorist operation (ATO) of individuals involved in terrorist activities, for a period exceeding 72 hours, the press service of the head of state has reported.

According to the document, in order to prevent terrorist threats in the area of the anti-terrorist operation it is possible to conduct the preventive detention of persons involved in terrorist activities, for a period exceeding three days. The deadline for preventive detention cannot exceed 30 days. The ground for preventive detention is the presence of a reasonable suspicion that a person was engaged in terrorist activity.

<http://en.interfax.com.ua/news/general/219457.html>

Another six law enforcers released from captivity, 22.08.2014

KYIV, August 22 /Ukrinform/. Six Ukrainian soldiers are released from the terrorist captivity. Head of the Dnipropetrovsk regional state administration Borys Filatov writes on Facebook. To remind, the Center to release captives, headed by Volodymyr Ruban, is located in Dnipropetrovsk.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/another_six_law_enforcers_released_from_captivity_325581

Ukraine sees 'elections' in Abkhazia as illegitimate, 25.08.2014

KYIV, August 25 /Ukrinform/. "Ukraine does not recognize the legitimacy of the so-called 'presidential elections,' which were held contrary to the principles of international law, democratic values and human rights in Abkhazia, Georgia, on August 24, 2014," the Ukrainian Foreign Ministry has reported.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/ukraine_sees_elections_in_abkhazia_as_illegitimate_325625

Poroshenko dissolves Verkhovna Rada, early elections to be held on October 26, 26.08.2014

KYIV, August 26 /Ukrinform/. Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko has terminated the powers of the Verkhovna Rada of the seventh convocation.

"Dear compatriots, I have decided to terminate the powers of the Verkhovna Rada of the seventh convocation. The election of the new parliament will be held on October 26, 2014. I have made this decision in strict accordance with Article 90 of the Constitution of Ukraine. I urge everyone to come to the polls and complete the process of the formation of the new government, which was launched in June. Glory to Ukraine!" reads the statement posted on the Twitter page of the head of state.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/poroshenko_dissolves_verkhovna_rada_early_elections_to_be_held_on_october_26_325629

Putin shakes hands with Poroshenko, 26.08.2014

KYIV, August 26 /Ukrinform/. Russian President Vladimir Putin and his Ukrainian counterpart Petro Poroshenko have shaken hands before the start of negotiations in the EU-Ukraine-Eurasian Troika format, RIA Novosti has reported.

"Putin and Poroshenko shook hands during a photo ceremony, which was held at the Independence Palace in Minsk ahead of the summit," reads the statement.

The Ukrainian and Russian leaders personally talked again. Their first meeting took place over two months ago - on June 6 in France as part of celebrations marking the 70th anniversary of the Normandy landings.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/putin_shakes_hands_with_poroshenko_325662

Poroshenko signs decree dissolving Verkhovna Rada, 27.08.2014

KYIV, August 27 /Ukrinform/. President of Ukraine Petro Poroshenko signed a decree dissolving the Verkhovna Rada of the seventh convocation and holding of early parliamentary elections on October 26.

The document is dated August 27 and published on the website of the Head of state.

"Stop powers of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine of the seventh convocation ahead of time. Approve early parliamentary elections in Ukraine on October 26, 2014," the document says.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/poroshenko_signs_decree_dissolving_verkhovna_rada_325692

Solidarity renamed as "Bloc of Petro Poroshenko", 27.08.2014

KYIV, August 27 /Ukrinform/. The Solidarity party congress renamed the political force as "Bloc of Petro Poroshenko."

Journalist Serhiy Leshchenko announced on Twitter.

"Solidarity was renamed as the party "Bloc of Petro Poroshenko." Poroshenko himself entered the room at that moment," Leshchenko said.

The congress also elected ex-Interior Minister Yuriy Lutsenko as party leader.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/solidarity_renamed_as_bloc_of_petro_poroshenko_325701

Poroshenko cancels visit to Turkey, urgently convenes NSDC meeting, 28.08.2014

KYIV, August 28 /Ukrinform/. Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko has cancelled his working visit to Turkey due to the deteriorating situation in Donetsk region and is convening an urgent meeting of NSDC, the presidential press service has reported.

"I have decided to cancel my working visit to Turkey due to the worsening situation in Donetsk region, particularly in Amvrosiyivka and Starobesheve, because there was the use of Russian troops in Ukraine," he said, adding that he decided to cancel his visit despite seven planned bilateral meetings.

Poroshenko said that today he would convene a meeting of the National Security and Defense Council to plan further actions.

"Ukraine will urgently initiate a meeting of the UN Security Council. The world should assess a sharp aggravation of the situation in Ukraine," he said.

He also said that Ukraine would ask its European partners to hold an emergency meeting of the EU Council.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/poroshenko_cancels_visit_to_turkey_urgently_convenes_nsdg_meeting_325714

Poroshenko arrives in Brussels, 30.08.2014

KYIV, August 30 /Ukrinform/. President Petro Poroshenko jointly with a delegation arrived on a visit to Brussels.

According to a program of the visit, at 11:00 Kyiv time, the Head of state Petro Poroshenko was to have a meeting with President of the European Council Herman Van Rompuy.

Also, in the first half of the day, Petro Poroshenko will meet with President of the European Commission Jose Manuel Barroso.

Then, the President of Ukraine will participate in the summit of one of the largest political forces of Europe - the European People's Party.

In the second half of the day, Petro Poroshenko will speak before heads of states and governments of 28 EU member countries in the format of the European Council meeting, where he will inform the European leaders on the situation in Ukraine in the conditions of direct military aggression from the Russian side.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/poroshenko_arrives_in_brussels_325759

Ukraine, Russia agree to resume border control, 30.08.2014

KYIV, August 30 /Ukrinform/. Heads of border guard services of Ukraine and Russia are negotiating the renewal of border controls. Negotiations are held in the Russian checkpoint of Nekhoteyevka.

"On behalf of the President of Ukraine, at the checkpoint of Nekhoteyevka (Russian Federation), the checkpoint of Hoptivka (Ukraine) today, at the level of heads of border guard departments of Ukraine and Russia, there are consultations on resuming control of the state border of Ukraine and on prevention of further illegal cross-border movement of arms, military equipment and personnel," State Border Guard Service statement reads.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/ukraine_russia_agree_to_resume_border_control_325781

Terrorism / Separatism

29 orphans taken from Khartsyzsk, 01.08.2014

KYIV, August 1 /Ukrinform/. 29 orphans were taken from Khartsyzsk for health improvement to Zaporizhzhia region.

"Today (July 31 - Ed.) it was succeeded to take for health improvement pupils from the city center of social and psychological assistance. 29 children went to have a rest. They arrived safely and settled in one of the centers of social and psychological assistance in Zaporizhzhia region," the Donetsk regional state administration press service noted.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/29_orphans_taken_from_khartsyzsk_324695

Russian warplanes violate Ukraine's air space 7 times in 24 hours, 01.08.2014

KYIV, August 1 /Ukrinform/. Russian warplanes over the past day violated Ukraine's airspace 7 times, director of the Center of Military-Political Studies Dmytro Tymchuk wrote on Facebook. "Russian military aviation continues to actively invade the airspace of Ukraine. Over the past 24 hours at least 7 violations have been recorded - 4 times the Russian army aviation (helicopters), and at least 3 times warplanes. The Russian aviation invades the airspace of Ukraine at low altitudes, at a depth of 10-15 km," he said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/russian_warplanes_violate_ukraines_air_space_7_times_in_24_hours_324701

Four injured servicemen taken from Russia to Ukraine, 01.08.2014

KYIV, August 1 /Ukrinform/. Ukraine has managed to take four injured servicemen from Russia. Ukrainian Foreign Minister Pavlo Klimkin reported this on his page on Twitter.

"Four of our soldiers were taken from the Gukovo and Taganrog hospitals in the early hours of Friday. It is a result of the interaction between the Defense Ministry and the Foreign Ministry. The consul is now working with another wounded serviceman in Russia," he wrote.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/four_injured_servicemen_taken_from_russia_to_ukraine_324703

5 civilians killed in Luhansk, 01.08.2014

KYIV, August 1 /Ukrinform/. Over the past 24 hours 5 civilians have been killed in Luhansk, 9 injured, including a child, the local authorities reported on Friday.

"As a result of the continued shelling 5 civilians have been killed, 9 suffered gunshot wounds and injuries as a result of armed clashes, including 1 child," the report reads.

The artillery fire hit all the districts of the city.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/5_civilians_killed_in_luhansk_324720

Terrorists mine seven more bridges in Donetsk region, 01.08.2014

KYIV, August 1 /Ukrinform/. Militants have mined two more bridges in Donetsk and five in Donetsk region.

Ukrainian National Security and Defense Council (NSDC) information and analytical center spokesman Andriy Lysenko said at a briefing on Friday, a Ukrinform correspondent reported.

"Saboteurs mined two more bridges in Donetsk, as well as bridges in Khartsyzsk, Shakhtarsk, the villages of Olenivka in Volnovakha district, Rebrykove in Antratsyt district and Prydorozhne in Amvrosiyika district," Lysenko said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/terrorists_mine_seven_more_bridges_in_donetsk_region_324722

10 paratroopers killed, 11 missing after battle near Shakhtarsk, 01.08.2014

KYIV, August 1 /Ukrinform/. Ten Ukrainian servicemen have been killed, another 13 wounded, and 11 are missing after the battle near Shakhtarsk in Donetsk region, after a column of paratroopers was ambushed by Russian mercenaries.

Acting Commander of the Highly Mobile Airborne Troops of the Ukrainian Armed Forces, Colonel Yuriy Halushkin, said this at a briefing at Ukrinform on Friday.

"The commander of the unit was leading his unit out of the settlement, but was ambushed.

There was a battle, in which we sustained heavy losses. Ten soldiers were killed and 13 soldiers were wounded, another 11 are missing," he said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/10_paratroopers_killed_11_missing_after_battle_near_shakhtarsk_324724

Police chief of Dokuchayevsk, Donetsk region, killed - media, 01.08.2014

The police head in the town of Dokuchayevsk, Donetsk region, Vasyl Riabokon, and his driver were killed on Thursday evening, the Ostrov online newspaper has reported, citing a source in Ukraine's Interior Ministry.

"The killers gave him a finishing shot in the head. The crime was committed on the territory under the control of the Ukrainian state," it said.

<http://en.interfax.com.ua/news/general/216455.html>

Over 260 Luhansk residents leave city on Thursday - local administration acting head, 01.08.2014

Over 260 Luhansk residents left the city on Thursday, acting head of the Luhansk Regional State Administration Iryna Veryhina said.

"Today 267 people at 96 vehicles left Luhansk," Veryhina posted on Facebook.

<http://en.interfax.com.ua/news/general/216427.html>

Water supply limited in Horlivka - city council, 01.08.2014

The situation in Horlivka, Donetsk region of Ukraine, remains tense, with water supply in a saving mode and many enterprises, including housing and utilities enterprises, working on reduced schedules, Horlivka City Council has reported.

According to the city council, several hospitals, initial medical and social assistance centers, blood transfusion stations, dental clinics, emergency services, and cancer and drug clinics, and mental health clinic are working.

Public transport has been reduced in the city, the report says.

<http://en.interfax.com.ua/news/general/216553.html>

Shelling of Luhansk continues all night - Tymchuk, 02.08.2014

KYIV, August 2 /Ukrinform/. Throughout the night from Friday to Saturday militants were shelling the airport in Luhansk.

Coordinator of the Information Resistance group Dmytro Tymchuk wrote on Facebook.

"The Luhansk Airport was bombarded seven times (once - with mortar, six times - with MLRS BM-21 Grad). Shelling did not actually stop through all night," he wrote.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/shelling_of_luhansk_continues_all_night_tymchuk_324738

No light, water, food, fuel, salaries and Internet in Luhansk, 02.08.2014

KYIV, August 2 /Ukrinform/. The "activity" of terrorists put Luhansk on the brink of a humanitarian catastrophe - there is no light, water, fuel, food, communications and the Internet.

"Luhansk is in full blockade and isolation. Today, despite all the difficulties, we make maximum efforts and are looking for solutions to the problems. With each passing day, the situation is exacerbated and today it is really critical," Mayor Serhiy Kravchenko said. This was reported by the press service of the Luhansk city council.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/no_light_water_food_fuel_salaries_and_internet_in_luhansk_324755

ATO forces come under fire from Russian territory at least three times, 04.08.2014

KYIV, August 4 /Ukrinform/. The positions of the anti-terrorist operation (ATO) forces in eastern Ukraine came under artillery and mortar fire from Russian territory late on August 3 and early on August 4, the ATO press center has reported on Facebook.

"In particular, 21.00 - artillery shelling of paratroopers near the settlement of Chervonopartyzansk. Without losses. 20.30-21.00 - mortar fire on the positions of Ukrainian troops near the settlement of Zelenopillia. Without losses. 23.00-00.40 - BM-21 shelling of the positions of paratroopers near the settlement of Diakove. Without losses," the ATO press center reported.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/ato_forces_come_under_fire_from_russian_territory_at_least_three_times_324757

Terrorists fire on paratroopers' positions overnight, 04.08.2014

KYIV, August 4 /Ukrinform/. On August 3-4, band formations of separatists increased intensity of firing at the ATO forces' positions.

The ATO press center informs on its Facebook page.

"Shelling of paratroopers' positions near the settlement of Novoannivka was carried out six times with BM-21 Grad, tank weapons and mortars, with no casualties. The Luhansk airfield was shelled six times with mortar and BM 21 Grad. Lossless," a message reads.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/terrorists_fire_on_paratroopers_positions_overnight_324759

Military prosecutor's office qualifies firing of military commissariat as terrorist attack, 04.08.2014

KYIV, August 4 /Ukrinform/. Prequalification of the night fire on the Kharkiv regional military commissariat in Kotsarska Street is an attack.

A Ukrinform source in the military prosecutor's office said.

"The shelling occurred, probably with a machine gun and flamethrower Shmel of Russian origin. There are no victims. The prequalification of the event - a terrorist attack," the source said.

He said the investigation is carried out by the SBU.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/military_prosecutors_office_qualifies_firing_of_military_commissariat_as_terrorist_attack_324767

Five enforcers killed in ATO zone over last day, 04.08.2014

KYIV, August 4 /Ukrinform/. For the last day, five soldiers were killed and 14 wounded in the antiterrorist operation zone.

Spokesman of the Information-Analytical Center of the National Security and Defense Council Andriy Lysenko briefed on Monday, a Ukrinform correspondent reports.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/five_enforcers_killed_in_ato_zone_over_last_day_324774

ATO forces take over Yasynuvata in Donetsk region, 04.08.2014

KYIV, August 4 /Ukrinform/. The anti-terrorist operation (ATO) forces have occupied the town of Yasynuvata in Donetsk region, which is an important point of rail traffic in the region, and unblocked the roads that link the settlements of Dmytrivka and Diakove.

Ukrainian National Security and Defense Council (NSDC) information and analytical center spokesman Andriy Lysenko said this at a briefing on Monday.

"The liberation of Yasynuvata has helped reach Donetsk from north and cut off one of the important channels of supply of weapons and technology to terrorists," Lysenko said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/ato_forces_take_over_yasynuvata_in_donetsk_region_324776

NSDC urges civilians to leave ATO area, 04.08.2014

KYIV, August 4 /Ukrinform/. On the territory captured by militants in eastern Ukraine terrorists are robbing the local population, kidnapping people and seizing private buildings and vehicles. NSDC information and analytical center spokesman Andriy Lysenko said this at a briefing.

"On the temporarily occupied territories in eastern Ukraine terrorists are robbing the local population, kidnapping citizens and seizing private buildings and vehicles. In this regard, we urge local residents to leave the territory seized by terrorists," Lysenko said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/nsdc_urges_civilians_to_leave_ato_area_324782

Fighting underway in Shakhtarsk, Horlivka, Torez, media reports say, 04.08.2014

KYIV, August 4 /Ukrinform/. Fighting continues near the cities of Shakhtarsk, Horlivka and Torez between the ATO forces and terrorists, the informant.lg.ua online edition reported.

The resource said that at 10.00 militants resumed shelling of Ukrainian positions near Shakhtar using mortar units, BM-21 Grad multiple rocket launchers.

The locals say there're over 300 terrorists, aged 35-50 years, mostly Caucasians in Shakhtarsk. In Torez terrorists do not let people out. A large column of civilians is waiting to leave the city.

Fighting is also underway near the mine No.20.

In Horlivka shots are heard.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/fighting_underway_in_shakhtarsk_horlivka_torez_media_reports_say_324796

311 Ukrainian military forced to step back to Russian territory - NSDC, 04.08.2014

KYIV, August 4 /Ukrinform/. The authorities are doing everything possible to return to Ukraine a group of Ukrainian servicemen and border guards who, for objective reasons, were forced to move into the territory of the Russian Federation in the area of Gukovo border crossing point.

Ukrainian NSDC information and analytical center spokesman Andriy Lysenko said.

"There is no information about the return of the Ukrainian military to the territory of Ukraine. The Ukrainian authorities are doing everything possible to bring them back home," Lysenko said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/311_ukrainian_military_forced_to_step_back_to_russian_territory_nsdc_324816

ATO forces readying massive assault, 04.08.2014

KYIV, August 4 /Ukrinform/. The anti-terrorist operation (ATO) forces are preparing for a major offensive operation, Ukrainian National Security and Defence Council (NSDC) information and analytical center spokesman Andriy Lysenko said at a briefing in Kyiv on Monday. However, he refused to show the deployment of Ukrainian forces on the map.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/ato_forces_readying_massive_assault_324818

Pilot of downed Su-25 alive and free - NSDC, 04.08.2014

KYIV, August 4 /Ukrinform/. The pilot of the Su-25 aircraft shot down on July 23 is alive and is not held captive, Ukrainian National Security and Defence Council (NSDC) information and analytical center spokesman Andriy Lysenko said at a briefing in Kyiv on Monday.

"He is not held captive and is alive," Lysenko said.

However he declined to specify the location of the pilot.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/pilot_of_downed_su_25_alive_and_free_nsd_324820

Terrorists open fire at unarmed 72nd Brigade on its way back from Russia, 05.08.2014

KYIV, August 5 /Ukrinform/. Terrorists fired at the unarmed Ukrainian military convoy of the 72nd Brigade on its way back from Russia, the press center of the anti-terrorist operation (ATO) wrote on its Facebook page on Tuesday.

"The terrorists have resorted to a new meanness. They fired on the convoy of unarmed Ukrainian servicemen of the 72nd Brigade (195 people), who were returning from the territory of the Russian Federation," the report reads.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/terrorists_open_fire_at_unarmed_72nd_brigade_on_its_way_back_from_russia_324822

Eight separatists injured in Donetsk blast - mayor's office, 05.08.2014

Eight representatives of the self-proclaimed Donetsk People's Republic" (DPR) were injured when an explosive device was detonated in Donetsk on Monday evening, the Web site of the city's mayor and administration reports.

"An explosive device was detonated at an intersection of Myru Avenue and Universytetska Street at 2216 on August 5 when a group of armed representatives of the DPR was passing by," according to the report.

<http://en.interfax.com.ua/news/general/216924.html>

More than half Luhansk residents leave city, 05.08.2014

KYIV, August 5 /Ukrinform/. "As of today, out of 464,070 of the city population, about 250,000 persons stay in Luhansk. These are the people, who due to these or other reasons could not leave the city and remain there in conditions of the humanitarian disaster," Deputy Director of the Luhansk city council department Oleksandr Savenko said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/more_than_half_luhansk_residents_leave_city_324843

ATO forces hold 26 battles over past day, 05.08.2014

KYIV, August 5 /Ukrinform/. The Armed Forces of Ukraine hold offensive operations on the territory, temporary occupied by Russian mercenaries. The enforcers held 26 battles over a day. Spokesman of the NSDC Information-Analytical Center Andriy Lysenko told a briefing.

"Over a day, the ATO forces 26 times came into a fire contact with terrorists in the area of settlements of Amvrosiyivka, Mayorske, Sabivka, Berezovy, Olenivka, Maryinka, Diakove, Shumy, Rozkishne, Kamianka, Makarove, Volnukhine, Olkhuvatka, Shakhtarsk, Dmytrivka, Savur-Mohyla and the Luhansk aerodrome," he specified.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/ato_forces_hold_26_battles_over_past_day_324847

Three Ukrainian military killed over past day, 05.08.2014

KYIV, August 5 /Ukrinform/. Over the past day, three Ukrainian military were killed in the ATO zone, another 46 got injuries, NSDC spokesman Andriy Lysenko told a briefing.

Over the past day, we lost three military, 46 received injuries," Lysenko said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/three_ukrainian_military_killed_over_past_day_324855

Russia still holds over 100 Ukrainian military - NSDC, 05.08.2014

KYIV, August 5 /Ukrinform/. Russia still does not allow 116 Ukrainian soldiers and border guards, who on Monday were forced to step back into its territory, to return to Ukraine, National Security and Defence Council of Ukraine (NSDC) information and analytical center spokesman Andriy Lysenko said at a briefing in Kyiv on Tuesday.

"Out of 311 people, who were forced to cross the border, the first part, namely 195 military, had already gone to Ukraine. Concerning the second part negotiations are still underway, the military are not released and are in the territory of the Russian Federation," Lysenko said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/russia_still_holds_over_100_ukrainian_military_nsd_324857

In cities occupied by militants problems with food, fuel and medicine, 05.08.2014

KYIV, August 5 /Ukrinform/. In cities, occupied by terrorists, such as Luhansk, Rovenky, Sverdlovsk, Krasny Luch, Antratsit and Perevalsk problems exacerbated with food, fuel and medicines. Banks are not working, due to which there is a lack of cash.

Spokesman of the NSDC Information-Analytical Center Andriy Lysenko said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/in_cities_occupied_by_militants_problems_with_food_fuel_and_medicine_324877

Ukrainian forces leave Yasynuvata, 05.08.2014

KYIV, August 5 /Ukrinform/. The Ukrainian forces left Yasynuvata for the sake of preservation of lives of peaceful citizens.

Spokesman of the NSDC Information-Analytical Center Andriy Lysenko told a briefing.

"Two days ago, the Ukrainian military entered this settlement, but the situation has formed, which threatened a great number of peaceful population, therefore the ATO headquarters took a decision to remove to the city suburbs," Lysenko said.

According to him, now evacuation of the population is going on in the city. "Currently, work is underway so that people could leave the city and then the city will be completely liberated," the Spokesman noted.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/ukrainian_forces_leave_yasynuvata_324879

Terrorists trying to recruit Donetsk policemen under threat of death, 05.08.2014

KYIV, August 5 /Ukrinform/. Terrorists from the self-proclaimed "Donetsk People's Republic" demanded under the threat of death from police officers of the Donetsk Railway to take an oath of allegiance to the "DPR".

Spokesman of the NSDC Information-Analytical Center Andriy Lysenko told a press briefing on Tuesday, Ukrinform reports.

"Today, the security service head of the so-called "DPR" demanded that the deputy chief of the public security police of the Interior Ministry Department of the Donetsk Railway jointly with the staff took an oath of allegiance to the self-proclaimed "DPR," Lysenko said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/terrorists_trying_to_recruit_donetsk_policemen_under_threat_of_death_324881

Terrorists bombard bridge: Luhansk regional TPP remains without coal, 05.08.2014

KYIV, August 5 /Ukrinform/. Terrorists deliberately destroy civilian and industrial objects of Luhansk districts - Zhovtnevy, Leninsky, Kamianobrodsky and Artemovsky.

Spokesman of the NSDC Information-Analytical Center Andriy Lysenko told a briefing.

"As a result of a mortar attack, the railway bridge was damaged between the villages of Nyzhneteply and Ohorodne. Due to this, supply of coal was suspended to the Luhansk regional thermal power plant of the city of Shchastia, generating electricity for 70% of the settlements in the region," he said.

Now, according to Lysenko, the bridge repair is carried out under constant shelling of terrorists.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/terrorists_bombard_bridge_luhansk_regional_tpp_remains_without_coal_324885

ATO forces control border sector earlier controlled by 72nd brigade, 05.08.2014

KYIV, August 5 /Ukrinform/. The Ukrainian military continue controlling the position that was earlier left by the soldiers of the 72nd Brigade.

Spokesman of the NSDC Information-Analytical Center Andriy Lysenko said, Ukrinform reports. "The 72nd Brigade is not in the place where it used to be stationed, and the military units that duplicate its functions are at a larger distance, but this area certainly is under control. If even anyone goes, it will certainly be discovered," Lysenko said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/ato_forces_control_border_sector_earlier_controlled_by_72nd_brigade_324887

Russian artillery continues to shell ATO positions, 06.08.2014

KYIV, August 6 /Ukrinform/. In the early hours of August 6, the positions of the Ukrainian military were again shelled from the Russian Federation, ATO press center reported on Wednesday. "At 21.20 the artillery shelled fortifications of the ATO forces near the settlement of Diakovo," the report reads.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/russian_artillery_continues_to_shell_ato_positions_324894

Luhansk remains without electricity, water, food, fuel and communications, 06.08.2014

KYIV, August 6 /Ukrinform/. The situation in Luhansk is tense as the city remains with electricity, water supply and communications and there are difficulties with food supply and garbage removal, the press service of the Luhansk City Council has reported.

"The situation remained critical in Luhansk as of the morning of August 6 - there is no power, water supply, mobile and landline communications," reads the statement.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/luhansk_remains_without_electricity_water_food_fuel_and_communications_324910

18 soldiers killed in ATO area over past 24 hours, 06.08.2014

KYIV, August 6 /Ukrinform/. Over the past 24 hours 18 Ukrainian soldiers have been killed, 54 injured in the ATO area, NSDC infocenter spokesman Andriy Lysenko said.

He added that during the day ATO forces 25 times entered into the fire contact with terrorists.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/18_soldiers_killed_in_ato_area_over_past_24_hours_324915

Klitschko brothers buy \$200,000 worth of medicines for Ukrainian servicemen, 06.08.2014

Kyiv Mayor Vitali Klitschko and his brother, world boxing champion Vladimir, have purchased 2,000 military first aid kits for Ukrainian government forces engaged in the anti-terrorist operation (ATO) in the Donbas, and they will be delivered to Ukraine from the United States.

"Wladimir and I bought \$200,000 worth of emergency medicines for the guys in the ATO area. A total of 2,000 military first aid kits are on their way [to Ukraine] from the United States," the mayor wrote on his Twitter page on Wednesday.

<http://en.interfax.com.ua/news/general/217122.html>

Saboteurs leave some towns in Donetsk region without communications - NSDC, 06.08.2014

Several towns in Donetsk region have been left without communications, NSDC information and analytical center spokesman Andriy Lysenko has said.

"Yesterday saboteurs damaged a trunk cable line on the Yasynuvata-Krasny Lyman section in Donetsk region. Debaltseve, Dzerzhynsk, Artemivsk, Horlivka, Kramatorsk, Druzhkivka, Kostiantynivka and Sloviansk remained without communications," he said.

<http://en.interfax.com.ua/news/general/217152.html>

Shooting, explosions cease in Donetsk, utility workers restore gas, water supplies - city council, 06.08.2014

The situation in Donetsk remained tense at 1300 local time on Wednesday but no more shooting can be heard and critical public services are running as usual, the city council said. Specialists from Donetskmyskgaz are repairing gas pipelines "damaged as a result of artillery fire in the Petrovsky and Kirovsky districts and an air strike in the Kalyninsky district," the statement said.

Earlier, another 130 private-sector residents and 309 tower-block residents were cut off from gas supplies in addition to the 133 private-sector residents already without gas.

<http://en.interfax.com.ua/news/general/217170.html>

Militants capture Red Cross team – Security & Defense Council, 06.08.2014

The militants who are operating on the east of Ukraine have captured three employees of the Red Cross, National Security and Defense Council reported.

Spokesman of the NSDC information-analytical center Andriy Lysenko demonstrated a wire tapping between the militants during which one of them reported that Red Cross driver, interpreter and organization's employee had been captured.

<http://en.interfax.com.ua/news/general/217188.html>

Soldiers of 72nd Brigade refuse to go to Chernihiv, 07.08.2014

KYIV, August 7 /Ukrinform/. Soldiers of the 72nd Brigade, who under shelling crossed the Russian border, were sent to a place of their permanent dislocation - to Bila Tserkva, following their return to Ukraine.

Hromadske TV informs.

“The command wanted to send soldiers to the military unit in Chernihiv. But during the change of the locomotive at one of technical stations in Kyiv the soldiers refused to go further and left the railway cars,” a statement reads.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/soldiers_of_72nd_brigade_refuse_to_go_to_chernihiv_324949

Terrorists continue shelling Luhansk, 07.08.2014

KYIV, August 7 /Ukrinform/. Due to continuous shelling of terrorists in Luhansk there is no electricity, mobile communication and water supply is actually absent.

The Eastern Variant informs.

“Terrorists continue shelling the regional center. In Luhansk, as before, there is no electricity, mobile communication and actually there is no water supply. Large queues are for water, bread, medicaments and cigarettes in the city,” the publication writes.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/terrorists_continue_shelling_luhansk_324963

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/terrorists_shell_luhansk_setting_ukrainian_troops_up_nsd_324967

79th airmobile brigade escapes from encirclement, volunteer says, 07.08.2014

KYIV, August 7 /Ukrinform/. Paratroopers of the 79th Mykolaiv Separate Airmobile Brigade broke out of the encirclement where they remained for three weeks, renowned volunteer Yuriy Biriukov, who helped remove the wounded from the encirclement, wrote on his Facebook page.

"My [guys - ed.] have escaped. 3 weeks. They didn't give up, didn't lay down. Proudly. As airborne forces should do ... Everyone is alive on the way out... I'm running to meet them," the volunteer wrote.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/79th_airmobile_brigade_escapes_from_encirclement_volunteer_says_324965

Three killed, five injured in overnight artillery strikes against Donetsk - authorities, 07.08.2014

The Budionivsky and Petrovsky districts of Donetsk, eastern Ukraine, came under artillery strikes last night, the city administration reported on its Web site on Thursday.

Three civilians were killed and another five were injured in the Budionivsky district as a result of the shelling. Eight privately owned houses, several sheds and one garage were destroyed.

<http://en.interfax.com.ua/news/general/217260.html>

Shell hits Donetsk hospital, one killed, two injured – regional administration, 07.08.2014

One person has been killed and two more have been injured after a shell hit the third orthopedic unit of Donetsk City Hospital No. 1 on Thursday, the press service of the Donetsk Regional State Administration has reported.

In addition, a shell hit a house located near the Kupechesky shop on Panfilova Street.

Ambulances have arrived at the scene. Data on the number of victims are being specified.

Data on those injured and killed in Donetsk region last night are also being specified.

<http://en.interfax.com.ua/news/general/217299.html>

Tyres on fire on Maidan square. Photo, 07.08.2014

KYIV, August 7 /Ukrinform/. Tyres are burning on the Independence Square (Maidan) in Kyiv as public utilities began to dismantle the barricades, using heavy equipment.

The Ukrainian Interior Ministry reports that some members of police and security units were injured in a standoff in the center of Kyiv on Thursday.

"Special unit members and policemen suffered injuries, mainly from being hit by pavement," the ministry said, without giving the exact figures.

Members of the Kyiv-1 special battalion seized firearms, grenades, knives, and Molotov cocktails from people offering resistance to police in the central part of Kyiv, it said.

A law enforcement source told Interfax-Ukraine that four members of the Kyiv-1 volunteer special battalion suffered serious injuries in the Thursday events on Independence Square (Maidan).

Two people were detained in the clash, the source said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/tyres_on_fire_on_maidan_square_photo_324957

<http://en.interfax.com.ua/news/general/217262.html>

<http://en.interfax.com.ua/news/general/217293.html>

<http://en.interfax.com.ua/news/general/217342.html>

ATO forces advancing on outskirts of Donetsk and Luhansk, 07.08.2014

KYIV, August 7 /Ukrinform/. There are fights in the vicinity of Donetsk and Luhansk, the Ukrainian military are advancing.

Spokesman of the NSDC Information-Analytical Center Andriy Lysenko told, Ukrinform reports. "Currently, the fights are really held on the outskirts of Luhansk and Donetsk. Ukrainian military conduct offensive operations," he said.

The Spokesman once again reminded that the Ukrainian Army is not shelling the cities with heavy artillery and from the air.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/ato_forces_advancing_on_outskirts_of_donetsk_and_luhansk_324975

7 Ukrainian military killed in ATO area over past 24 hours, 07.08.2014

KYIV, August 7 /Ukrinform/. Over the past 24 hours seven Ukrainian servicemen have been killed in the battles, 19 more injured.

Ukrainian National Security and Defense Council (NSDC) information and analytical center spokesman Andriy Lysenko said this at a briefing on Thursday.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/7_ukrainian_military_killed_in_ato_area_over_past_24_hours_324977

At least five die as shell explodes near bus stop in east Ukraine city, 07.08.2014

A least five people were killed and another 10 injured as a shell exploded near a bus stop in Horlivka, eastern Ukraine, the city council said.

Part of the city center was left without electricity as a power substation was destroyed in the attack, the council said in a statement.

<http://en.interfax.com.ua/news/general/217363.html>

One person killed in artillery attack in central Donetsk - Donetsk authorities, 07.08.2014

A massive artillery attack carried out in Donetsk on Thursday morning has caused damage in the central part of the city and killed at least one person, Donetsk city council reported.

"Shells fired from heavy weapons hit buildings № 72, 75 and 86 in Rosa Luxemburg Street and partially damaged a shop on the same street. There is currently no precise information on the victims and the scale of damage," the report says.

<http://en.interfax.com.ua/news/general/217371.html>

Fire put out, road cleared in Khreschatyk, Independence Square in Kyiv, 07.08.2014

The fires on the barricade in Independence Square in central Kyiv have been put out; utility teams have removed barricades and tents from fairly large parts of the area adjacent to the square.

When the fire had already started to die down, firefighters accessed the barricades from the side of the Central Department Store in Khreschatyk Street and from European Square and started putting out the remainder of the blaze, an Interfax correspondent said. There is no sign of either utility workers or police in Maidan near European Square and the Liadski Gate. At the same time, both utility workers and law enforcement officers can be seen standing outside the Central Department Store.
<http://en.interfax.com.ua/news/general/217392.html>

Ukraine PM's office hit by cyber attack linked to Russia, 07.08.2014

By Sam Jones, Defence and Security Editor

Dozens of computers in the Ukrainian prime minister's office and at least 10 of Ukraine's embassies abroad have been infected with a virulent cyber espionage weapon linked to Russia. The cyber attack has also affected embassies in eastern Europe of at least nine countries including Germany, China, Poland and Belgium. Sensitive diplomatic information has been made available to the perpetrators of the attack as a result.

News of the aggressive campaign comes as tensions between Russia and the west over Ukraine are running high: punitive economic sanctions enacted against Moscow by US and EU officials in recent days have been met with reprisals from the Kremlin. A Russian troop build-up on the Ukrainian border has continued apace.

<http://www.ft.com/intl/cms/s/0/2352681e-1e55-11e4-9513-00144feabdc0.html#axzz39mfhs8j>

ATO positions shelled from Russian territory, 08.08.2014

KYIV, August 8 /Ukrinform/. The positions of Ukrainian troops near the village of Blahodatne have been shelled from the Russian territory, director of the Center for Military-Political Studies, co-ordinator of the Information Resistance Group Dmytro Tymchuk wrote on his Facebook page.

"From the Russian territory the positions of the Ukrainian security forces have been shelled near the settlement of Blahodatne," he said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/ato_positions_shelled_from_russian_territory_325017

Three pilots from downed Mi-8 helicopter in hospitals, 08.08.2014

KYIV, August 8 /Ukrinform/. Three pilots of a Ukrainian sanitary Mi-8 helicopter that shot down by terrorists are wounded and are in health facilities in the territory controlled by the anti-terrorist forces (ATO).

The ATO press center wrote on its Facebook page on Friday.

"The crew made ??an emergency landing. Three pilots are wounded, now all are in health care facilities in the territory controlled by the ATO," the report reads.

As reported, on Thursday near ??Savur Mohyla pro-Russian terrorists shot down a medical Mi-8 helicopter. The helicopter made ??an emergency landing.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/three_pilots_from_downed_mi_8_helicopter_in_hospitals_325029

Detained Luhansk mayor tells on Yefremov first, 08.08.2014

KYIV, August 8 /Ukrinform/. Luhansk mayor Serhiy Kravchenko, detained on August 7, when trying to exit from Luhansk, began to testify.

Journalist Vsevolod Filimonenko wrote on his Facebook page.

"The Luhansk mayor rats out all! Currently the mayor of Luhansk continues to testify, he has already written 40 sheets, basically he tells on Yefremov," says Filimonenko.

According to him, the arrested mayor pointed out to organizers of his departure from Luhansk, among them - leader of the self-proclaimed LPR Bolotov.

"During the interrogation, the mayor said that he was heading to Kyiv, ostensibly to negotiate something with the President and the Verkhovna Rada Chairman," the journalist said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/detained_luhansk_mayor_tells_on_yefremov_first_325034

Local authorities report overnight gunfire in Donetsk, 08.08.2014

Gunfire, explosions and salvos fired from heavy weapons were heard in all parts of Donetsk, eastern Ukraine, last night, the city administration's press service said on Friday morning. The situation in Donetsk remained tense on Friday morning, the city authorities said, declining to say whether any people were killed or injured in overnight strikes.

Specialists of Donetskmiskgaz have already restored gas supplies to 1,099 households in the Kirovsky district of Donetsk, where local gas mains were damaged as a result of artillery strikes. They are now preparing to resume gas supplies to 13 high-rise apartment buildings in the Tekstylschyk district.

Twenty-eight electrical substations, 17 in the Tekstylschyk district and 11 in the Petrovsky district, have been put back into operation as well.

<http://en.interfax.com.ua/news/general/217490.html>

ATO troops lose 15 soldiers over past 24 hours, 08.08.2014

KYIV, August 8 /Ukrinform/. Over the past 24 hours in the area of the anti-terrorist operation (ATO) the Ukrainian security forces have lost 15 military, and 79 injured, Ukrainian National Security and Defense Council (NSDC) information and analytical center spokesman Andriy Lysenko said this at a briefing on Friday.

"Over the past 24 hours seven Armed Forces servicemen and eight border guards have been killed, 79 more soldiers wounded," Lysenko said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/ato_troops_lose_15_soldiers_over_past_24_hours_325044

Ukraine troops guarding border in Luhansk region rejoin army after heavy fighting - NSDC, 08.08.2014

Ukrainian soldiers guarding the country's border in the southeast of the Luhansk region reunited with the main forces of the anti-terrorist operation near Savur-Mohyla and the town of Amvrosiyivka after three days of fighting, Ukraine's NSDC has confirmed.

Social networking Web sites and local media reported earlier that servicemen of the 24th-51st and 72nd mechanized infantry divisions, 79th airborne division, the 3rd special operations regiment and the State Border Guard Service had managed to break through the encirclement and had reunited with the Ukrainian army after three days of fighting near Chervonopartyzansk, Diakove and Dovzhansky in the Luhansk region.

<http://en.interfax.com.ua/news/general/217526.html>

Consul admitted to Ukrainian officers earlier detained in Russia, 08.08.2014

KYIV, August 8 /Ukrinform/. Five Ukrainian officers whom Russia wrongly accuses of deliberate shelling of its territory have been finally allowed to meet a consul, who, contrary to international rules, for a few days has not been allowed to talk to the detainees.

Ukrainian National Security and Defense Council (NSDC) information and analytical center spokesman Andriy Lysenko said this at a briefing on Friday.

"At the insistence of the Ukrainian side the Consul General of Ukraine in Rostov-on-Don was admitted to the detainees yesterday. The situation is under his personal control. Ukraine is doing everything possible to protect its citizens," Lysenko said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/consul_admitted_to_ukrainian_officers_earlier_detained_in_russia_325058

People in Donbas die in own houses, bombarded by terrorists, 08.08.2014

KYIV, August 8 /Ukrinform/. Terrorists do not stop to cynically shell the living quarters of settlements, controlled by them, spokesman of the NSDC Andriy Lysenko told a briefing.

"On the outskirts of the village of Marianivka, Starobeshevsky district, during the shelling of the terrorists a shell hit in the cafe. The explosion killed a resident of Donetsk, a worker of this cafe. In the villages of Vasylivka, Yasynovatsky district and Snizhne, as a result of the militants' gunfire, homes were hit by explosions. As a result, the explosion killed the residents of these houses," Lysenko said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/people_in_donbas_die_in_own_houses_bombarded_by_terrorists_325068

ATO: Airborne troopers liberate Kruhlyk, Luhansk region, 08.08.2014

KYIV, August 8 /Ukrinform/. Airborne troopers liberated the settlement of Kruhlyk, Luhansk region during the ATO.

Spokesman of the NSDC Information-Analytical Center Andriy Lysenko told a briefing. "Today, airborne paratroopers during fulfillment of a task for the search, disarmament and destruction of illegal armed groups liberated another settlement. This is Kruhlyk, Luhansk region," Lysenko said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/ato_airborne_troopers_liberate_kruhlyk_luhansk_region_325078

Terrorists torture Sverdlovsk prosecutor, 08.08.2014

KYIV, August 8 /Ukrinform/. In the Luhansk morgue, the body of the city prosecutor of Sverdlovsk, Luhansk region, was found.

Spokesman of the NSDC Information-Analytical Center Andriy Lysenko said, Ukrinform reports. "According to latest information, he has long been tortured by terrorists, demanding to take the side of the so-called "LPR." Having not received his consent, the militants hanged the Ukrainian policeman," Lysenko said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/terrorists_torture_sverdlovsk_prosecutor_325080

Grad shelling from Russia in direction of Amvrosiyivka for almost half an hour, 08.08.2014

KYIV, August 8 /Ukrinform/. August 8, Grad rocket launchers fired from the territory of Russia on the area near the settlement of Amvrosiyivka, Donetsk region, for twenty minutes.

Spokesman of the NSDC Information-Analytical Center Andriy Lysenko told a briefing, a Ukrinform correspondent reports.

"The fire was from mortars and installations Grad at roadblocks of the Ukrainian security forces," Lysenko said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/grad_shelling_from_russia_in_direction_of_amvrosiyivka_for_almost_half_an_hour_325084

Fighting continues near Krasny Luch, 08.08.2014

KYIV, August 8 /Ukrinform/. Ukrainian troops are fighting in Krasny Luch, Luhansk region.

Spokesman of the NSDC Information-Analytical Center Andriy Lysenko said.

"Fighting continues near Krasny Luch now," Lysenko said.

He refused to give more information, saying only that "the situation is constantly changing."

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/fighting_continues_near_krasny_luch_325086

Nearly 76,000 people leave ATO area, 08.08.2014

KYIV, August 8 /Ukrinform/. Almost 76,000 people left the ATO area for other regions of Ukraine, one third of them – children, NSDC Spokesman Andriy Lysenko said.

"Overall, 75,951 persons were relocated from the ATO area to other regions today, including 26,000 children," Lysenko said.

According to him, only during the recent day, 3,188 persons escaped from terrorists.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/nearly_76000_people_leave_ato_area_325088

Body armor provided to 86% of ATO military, 08.08.2014

KYIV, August 8 /Ukrinform/. Level of provision of soldiers, involved in the antiterrorist operation in Eastern Ukraine, with protective equipment is 86%, NSDC Spokesman Andriy Lysenko said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/body_armor_provided_to_86_of_ato_military_325090

ATO forces shelled by Grad rocket launchers, mortars, 09.08.2014

KYIV, August 9 /Ukrinform/. In the early hours of August 9, the terrorists continued shelling of Ukrainian troops, press officer for the anti-terrorist operation (ATO) Oleksiy Dmytrashkivsky has said, according to Channel 5.

As a result of the attacks no Ukrainian soldier has been killed.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/ato_forces_shelled_by_grad_rocket_launchers_mortars_325100

16,000 people flee from occupied Crimea - NSDC, 09.08.2014

KYIV, August 9 /Ukrinform/. The total number of internally displaced persons (IDP) from the occupied by Russian Crimea now is 16,284 people (including 4,502 children), NSDC information and analytical center spokesman Andriy Lysenko said this at a briefing on Friday. In addition, he said, in the area of the anti-terrorist operation (ATO) 75,951 people, including 26,000 children have been displaced to other regions so far. In recent days 3,188 people have left their homes.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/16000_people_flee_from_occupied_crimea_nsd_325104

Situation in Luhansk critical: city without electricity, water, telephony, 09.08.2014

KYIV, August 9 /Ukrinform/. As of the morning August 9, in Luhansk the situation has not changed and remains critical: for the seventh day the city has been without electricity, water, mobile telephony and fixed communication, Luhansk City Council said in a statement.

"Most of the shops are closed, only a few pharmacies are open. Despite the absence of electricity Luhansk bakeries continue to work. Fuel reserves have been exhausted, there are no new supplies," the report reads.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/situation_in_luhansk_critical_city_without_electricity_water_telephony_325108

Ukrainian aircraft destroy terrorists' convoys near Horlivka, Antratsyt, 09.08.2014

KYIV, August 9 /Ukrinform/. Ukrainian warplanes destroyed a convoy of terrorists' military vehicles near Antratsyt, as well as 10 armored vehicles with their crews near Horlivka, Ukrainian National Security and Defence Council (NSDC) information and analytical center spokesman Andriy Lysenko said this at a briefing on Saturday.

"The ATO forces acted in coordination with precision strikes of aircraft on the basis and strongholds of terrorists. In particular, near Horlivka in Donetsk region 10 armored vehicles with their crews were destroyed. Another convoy of military equipment with terrorists was destroyed by Ukrainian pilots near Antratsyt in Luhansk region," he said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/ukrainian_aircraft_destroy_terrorists_convoys_near_horlivka_antratsyt_325113

Militants attack Donetsk-Rostov passenger bus, 09.08.2014

KYIV, August 9 /Ukrinform/. Pro-Russian terrorists near Ilovaisk in Donetsk region attacked a passenger bus traveling from Donetsk to Rostov-on-Don, Ukrainian National Security and Defence Council (NSDC) information and analytical center spokesman Andriy Lysenko said this. "Russian mercenaries continue to commit crimes against civilians in the temporarily occupied territories. Thus, at a checkpoint near Ilovaisk in Donetsk region the terrorists fired at a passenger bus traveling from Donetsk to Rostov," he said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/militants_attack_donetsk_rostov_passenger_bus_325118

Ukrainian troops attack terrorists in 12 localities, 09.08.2014

KYIV, August 9 /Ukrinform/. Over the past 24 hours the Ukrainian troops were fighting against terrorists in 11 localities in Donbas and near Luhansk airport, Ukrainian National Security and Defence Council (NSDC) information and analytical center spokesman Andriy Lysenko said this. "Over the past 24 hours units of the Armed Forces of Ukraine were fighting against the terrorists in the settlements of Mnohopillia, Stepanivka, Hryhorivka, Krasny Yar, Peremoha, Shyshkovo, Kamyshne, Novohannivka, Krasna Talivka, Dmytrivka, Sabivka and Luhansk airport," he said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/ukrainian_troops_attack_terrorists_in_12_localities_325119

ATO headquarters: Militants escaping massively, 11.08.2014

KYIV, August 11 /Ukrinform/. Terrorists in the east of Ukraine are escaping with their detachments from strikes of the ATO forces, the press center for the anti-terrorist operation (ATO) wrote on its Facebook page on Monday.

"Intelligence established the fact of desertion of numerous militants' detachments, who, saving their lives, are trying to flee from the strikes of the ATO forces," the ATO headquarters said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/ato_headquarters_militants_escaping_massively_325122

Terrorists bringing forces to Sverdlovsk, 11.08.2014

KYIV, August 11 /Ukrinform/. Militants are bringing forces to Sverdlovsk for their further transfer to Snizhne, Torez and Rovenky, the press center for the anti-terrorist operation (ATO) has reported on Facebook.

"Terrorists are making every effort to stop the offensive of the ATO forces, accumulating forces and means in the town of Sverdlovsk for their further transfer towards the towns of Snizhne, Torez and Rovenky," the ATO headquarters said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/terrorists_bringing_forces_to_sverdlovsk_325127

Residents of Luhansk say terrorists fleeing city, 11.08.2014

KYIV, August 11 /Ukrinform/. Terrorists are beginning to leave the city of Luhansk, dressing into civilian clothes right on the street, eyewitnesses report, according to the website of the 0642.ua.

"There were witnesses when, after a shell hit a site next to the tax police building, some [militants] dressed into civilian clothes and abruptly ran away," residents of Luhansk wrote on social networking sites.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/residents_of_luhansk_say_terrorists_fleeing_city_325133

Shell hits Donetsk high-security prison; one killed, 18 injured, 11.08.2014

A shell hit the living section of the high-security correctional facility N124 as a result of artillery fire in Donetsk late on August 10, the Donetsk City Council said on its official website.

As a result, one inmate has been killed, three severely injured and another 15 sustained minor injuries. Shells also hit the main office, a substation and the industrial zone.

"A riot broke out in the prison and 106 people left the facility. By this morning some of them have returned to the correctional institution. The exact figures will be clear closer to the evening," the city council said in a statement issued on Monday morning.

<http://en.interfax.com.ua/news/general/217737.html>

DTEK reports power outage in 75 populated localities in Donetsk region, 11.08.2014

Power supply to almost 1,000 private homes has been restored in the village of Avdotyino in the Budionivsky district in Donetsk, the DTEK regional energy holding reported.

Power supply has been mostly resumed to the village of Maryinka.

Repairs continue in Sloviansk. Power supply had been resumed to 99.5% of residents as of August 10.

According to DTEK, the hostilities in the Donetsk region had cut power to 75 populated localities both completely and partially.

<http://en.interfax.com.ua/news/general/217745.html>

Ukrainian troops fought in 17 localities over past 24 hours, 11.08.2014

KYIV, August 11 /Ukrinform/. During the last 24 hours the anti-terrorist operation (ATO) forces 26 times took up the battles with the terrorists in 17 towns of Donbas, Ukrainian National Security and Defence Council (NSDC) spokesman Andriy Lysenko told reporters on Monday.

"Overall, during last 24 hours the ATO forces 26 times entered into the fire contact with terrorists in the areas of the settlements Horlivka, Stepanivka, Amvrosiyivka, Heorhiyivka Novosvetlivka, Krasny Luch, Stukalova Balka, Ilyinka, Vesela Tarasivka, Zhovte, Sabivka, Cheliuskinets, Kamyshne, Pisky, Makarovo, Miusinsk and Luhansk airport," Lysenko said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/ukrainian_troops_fought_in_17_localities_over_past_24_hours_325155

Russia reduces arms supplies for terrorists - NSDC, 11.08.2014

KYIV, August 11 /Ukrinform/. Russia supplies terrorists in Ukraine with much less military equipment than they did before, Ukrainian National Security and Defence Council (NSDC) information and analytical center spokesman Andriy Lysenko told reporters on Monday.

"In those areas that are traditionally used, the movements of military equipment are recorded, but not as much as it was before," Lysenko said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/russia_reduces_arms_supplies_for_terrorists_nsd_325159

Residents of Donetsk and Luhansk advised to leave cities, assault being prepared, 11.08.2014

KYIV, August 11 /Ukrinform/. The Ukrainian National Security and Defense Council (NSDC) has asked residents of terrorist-seized Donetsk and Luhansk to leave the cities through the corridors arranged by Ukrainian government troops, because an assault is currently being prepared. NSDC information and analytical center spokesman Andriy Lysenko said this at a briefing in Kyiv on Monday, a Ukrinform correspondent reported.

"We ask civilians to temporarily leave these cities, because an operation on their release and the destruction of terrorists will be held there," Lysenko said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/residents_of_donetsk_and_luhansk_advised_to_leave_cities_assault_being_prepared_325163

Militants offer information to keep their lives - NSDC, 11.08.2014

KYIV, August 11 /Ukrinform/. The anti-terrorist operation (ATO) forces carry out a successful attack forcing terrorists to look for ways how to save their lives, Ukrainian National Security and Defence Council (NSDC) information and analytical center spokesman Andriy Lysenko told reporters on Monday.

"Many of them are already phoning and offering their terms: for the preservation of their lives, they agree to provide information about the location of the militants, military equipment, and other," Lysenko said.

He called on the terrorists, who have information that could mitigate their sentence, to actively cooperate with investigators. "Anyone who was involved in some crimes, but met half-way and has information that will mitigate the guilt, we will certainly take into this account," he said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/militants_offer_information_to_keep_their_lives_nsd_325168

Ukrainian border guards still come under fire from Russia, 11.08.2014

KYIV, August 11 /Ukrinform/. The positions of the Ukrainian government forces still come under fire from Russian territory and attempts are being made by Russian mercenaries to illegally enter Ukraine.

Ukrainian National Security and Defense Council (NSDC) information and analytical center spokesman Andriy Lysenko said this at a briefing in Kyiv on Monday.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/ukrainian_border_guards_still_come_under_fire_from_russia_325169

SBU again proves Russia sends mercenaries to Ukraine. Photo, 11.08.2014

KYIV, August 11 /Ukrinform/. The Security Service of Ukraine (SBU) has received another evidence of the involvement of Russian servicemen in the fighting on the territory of Ukraine, the SBU press center reported on Monday.

"As part of counter-intelligence measures the SBU received another evidence of the active participation of Russian servicemen in illegal paramilitary and armed groups on the territory of Ukraine, who oppose the legitimate authorities and forces involved in the ATO," the report reads.

In Luhansk region the SBU agents obtained documentaries about the participation in the activities of the terrorist organization "Luhansk People's Republic" of Russian military Grigorov.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/sbu_again_proves_russia_sends_mercenaries_to_ukraine_photo_325183

Terrorists use civilians as human shield - NSDC, 11.08.2014

KYIV, August 11 /Ukrinform/. Terrorists do not let the locals out of the captured localities to use unarmed people as a human shield, Ukrainian National Security and Defence Council (NSDC) information and analytical center spokesman Andriy Lysenko told reporters on Monday.

"In the town of Krasny Luch terrorists do not let civilians out of the town, making a human shield of them and hoping thereby to escape," Lysenko said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/terrorists_use_civilians_as_human_shield_nsd_325184

1,135 people flee from Donbas via 'green corridor' over past 24 hours - NSDC, 11.08.2014

KYIV, August 11 /Ukrinform/. Over the past 24 hours 1,135 residents of Donbas used all transport corridors to leave the region, Ukrainian National Security and Defence Council (NSDC) information and analytical center spokesman Andriy Lysenko told reporters on Monday. "752 people used additional corridors in the town of Shchastia in Luhansk region and the village of Dachne in Donetsk region over the past 24 hours," he added.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/1135_people_flee_from_donbas_via_green_corridor_over_past_24_hours_nsd325185

Terrorists continue to destroy Donetsk, 11.08.2014

KYIV, August 11 /Ukrinform/. As a result of the fighting in Donetsk a city hospital and a Ukrtelecom office have been damaged, Ukrainian National Security and Defence Council (NSDC) Information and Analysis Center spokesman Andriy Lysenko said.

"As a result of hostilities, Donetsk City Hospital No.18 and a Ukrtelecom office have been damaged," he said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/terrorists_continue_to_destroy_donetsk_325187

About 120 orphaned children, disabled prepared for evacuation from ATO area, 11.08.2014

KYIV, August 11 /Ukrinform/. 119 pupils of Krasnodon Orphanage and children's department of Rovenky home for the elderly and disabled in Donetsk region, which are directly in the area of active hostilities, are being prepared for the evacuation from the ATO area.

Ukrainian NSDC Information and Analysis Center spokesman Andriy Lysenko said this at a press briefing in Kyiv on Monday citing the Ministry of Labor and Social Policy.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/about_120_orphaned_children_disabled_prepared_for_evacuation_from_ato_area_325189

Militants mine bridges in two districts of Donetsk - NSDC, 11.08.2014

KYIV, August 11 /Ukrinform/. Terrorists have mined bridges in two districts of Donetsk, Ukrainian National Security and Defence Council (NSDC) Information and Analysis Center spokesman Andriy Lysenko said at a press briefing in Kyiv on Monday.

"The militants have mined bridges in the neighborhoods Prydorozhny and Larino in Donetsk," he said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/militants_mine_bridges_in_two_districts_of_donetsk_nsd325190

Donetsk authorities reports three deaths on August 9-10, 11.08.2014

Three people died and 16 were injured in artillery strikes in Donetsk last weekend, the city council said in a statement posted on its Web site on Monday.

"During the weekend, on August 9-10, three civilians died in Donetsk - two people in the Kyivsky district and one in the Kirov district. Sixteen citizens sustained injuries of varying degrees," the document said.

<http://en.interfax.com.ua/news/general/217865.html>

Russia shells ATO positions from Grad five times, 12.08.2014

KYIV, August 12 /Ukrinform/. Over the previous evening and this night, shelling of the ATO positions, including from Russia, continued.

Head of the Center of Military and Political Studies and coordinator of the Information Resistance group Dmytro Tymchuk said on his Facebook page.

"The ATO positions were shelled several times from Russia. In particular, from the artillery - a roadblock near the settlement of Illinka, from the artillery - positions in the area of the settlement of Semenivka, from BM-21 Grad -positions near the settlement of Stepanivka, twice from the artillery - the ATO positions in the area of Savur-Mohyla," the expert noted.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/russia_shells_ato_positions_from_grad_five_times_325194

Militants in turmoil: rears are empty, no support of people, 12.08.2014

KYIV, August 12 /Ukrinform/. The terrorists have lost support of ordinary people in Donbas. Mobilization resources of bandits are completely exhausted after a raid on identification and elimination of militants in the ATO area ?? by the units of the 95th Airmobile Brigade. The ATO press center reported with reference to a source, close to the bandit with the callsign "Chechen."

According to the militants, their rears are empty.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/militants_in_turmoil_rears_are_empty_no_support_of_people_325197

Bosnians want to judge Girkin for war crimes, 12.08.2014

KYIV, August 12 /Ukrinform/. Bosnians want to try one of the leaders of militants from the so-called "Donetsk People's Republic" Igor Girkin ("Strelok") for war crimes he committed in this country, if the "Ukrainian war" is not his last one.

Historian of the Bosnian war Aziz Tafro said in an interview, media reported.

"Igor Girkin arrived in Bosnia with the Cossacks as member of the Cossack unit. He was 23 years old when he appeared in Visegrad. His commander was Alexander Zagreb, whose name was also Alexander As. His unit committed different war crimes, crimes against humanity, including ethnic cleansing in Visegrad, Foka, Ruda, and in Saraj. Girkin must be brought to justice for the crimes he committed, along with the people who ordered them. He then fought throughout of Bosnia. After the war he left, and now is fighting in Ukraine," the Bosnian researcher said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/bosnians_want_to_judge_girkin_for_war_crimes_325202

Luhansk battalion captures seven terrorists near Severodonetsk, 12.08.2014

KYIV, August 12 /Ukrinform/. The Luhansk battalion detained and neutralized seven terrorists in the village of Voronove near Severodonetsk last night, Informator has reported.

Territorial defense battalion fighters also found a militant warehouse of explosives and ammunition.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/luhansk_battalion_captures_seven_terrorists_near_severodonetsk_325213

Terrorists' armored unit destroyed near Horlivka, 12.08.2014

KYIV, August 12 /Ukrinform/. An armored unit with terrorists has been destroyed by the anti-terrorist operation (ATO) forces near Horlivka, Ukrainian National Security and Defence Council (NSDC) Information and Analysis Center spokesman Andriy Lysenko said.

"According to intelligence information from paratroopers, part of the terrorists' armored unit, which was retreating from Horlivka, has been destroyed" Lysenko said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/terrorists_armored_unit_destroyed_near_horlivka_325216

6 Ukrainian servicemen killed in Donbas over past 24 hours, 12.08.2014

KYIV, August 12 /Ukrinform/. Over the past 24 hours 6 Ukrainian servicemen have been killed, 31 more wounded in the area of ??the anti-terrorist operation (ATO), Ukrainian National Security and Defence Council (NSDC) Information and Analysis Center spokesman Andriy Lysenko said at a press briefing in Kyiv on Tuesday.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/6_ukrainian_servicemen_killed_in_donbas_over_past_24_hours_325218

Donetsk City Hall reports injury of seven civilians, 12.08.2014

Seven civilians sustained fragmentation wounds in Donetsk in the early morning hours on Tuesday, the City Hall Web site reports.

"Tensions remained high in Donetsk as of this noon. Residents reported hearing far away explosions but it was impossible to locate them. The Ukrainian Emergency Situations Ministry department in the Donetsk region said seven civilians were hurt in Donetsk early in the August 12 morning; they suffered fragmentation and gunfire wounds. All the victims were taken to a hospital," says the report released on Tuesday.

<http://en.interfax.com.ua/news/general/217970.html>

Safe corridors created for civilians in Donbas - NSDC, 12.08.2014

KYIV, August 12 /Ukrinform/. Humanitarian corridors have been created for civilians to leave the areas temporarily controlled by terrorists, Ukrainian National Security and Defence Council (NSDC) Information and Analysis Center spokesman Andriy Lysenko said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/safe_corridors_created_for_civilians_in_donbas_nscd_325236

Terrorists demand money for bodies of killed Ukrainian soldiers, 12.08.2014

KYIV, August 12 /Ukrinform/. Militants demand up to \$70,000 for the bodies of killed Ukrainian servicemen, National Guard Commander Stepan Poltorak has said, according to NBN.

"Terrorists are demanding money for the bodies of dead servicemen - from \$15,000 to \$70,000," Poltorak said.

He said that international rules envisage the unhindered provision of the bodies of servicemen for burial.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/terrorists_demand_money_for_bodies_of_killed_ukrainian_soldiers_325243

Aidar detains Artemivsk mayor for separatism, 12.08.2014

KYIV, August 12 /Ukrinform/. Aidar battalion fighters have detained the mayor of Artemivsk in Donetsk region who actively collaborated with terrorists.

Ukrainian National Security and Defense Council (NSDC) information and analytical center spokesman Andriy Lysenko said this at a briefing on Tuesday

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/aidar_detains_artemivsk_mayor_for_separatism_325246

Ukrainian aircraft and artillery destroy reserves of terrorists near Shakhtarsk, 12.08.2014

KYIV, August 12 /Ukrinform/. The Ukrainian Armed Forces have neutralized terrorists that were sent to help armed groups near the town of Shakhtarsk in Donetsk region.

Ukrainian National Security and Defense Council (NSDC) information and analytical center spokesman Andriy Lysenko said this at a briefing on Tuesday.

"Aircraft and artillery forces neutralized groups of terrorists that were put forward to strengthen the defense of militants near Shakhtarsk, Torez and Snizhne," Lysenko said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/ukrainian_aircraft_and_artillery_destroy_reserves_of_terrorists_near_shakhtarsk_325248

Ukrainian army blocking terrorists in Horlivka, Luhansk, 13.08.2014

KYIV, August 13 /Ukrinform/. The anti-terrorist operation (ATO) forces got the opportunity to completely block the terrorists in Horlivka, Luhansk and two strongholds of militants, head of the Center for Military-Political Studies Dmytro Tymchuk wrote on his Facebook page.

"Yesterday's liberation of Vuhlehirsk allows the Ukrainian army, building on the success, to finally block the enemy's forces in Horlivka. Further advancement of the ATO forces to the south-west from Lutuhine and the opposite - from Ivanivka to the south of the village of Petrivske, allows to block a group of terrorists near the settlements of Alchevsk and Stakhanov, which are strongholds of militants (this task is also being now performed)," he said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/ukrainian_army_blocking_terrorists_in_horlivka_luhansk_325254

Government forces block channel of supplies of arms and mercenaries from Russia to Donetsk, 13.08.2014

KYIV, August 13 /Ukrinform/. The anti-terrorist operation (ATO) forces have blocked Russian supplies of arms and mercenaries to Donetsk through the H21 highway.

Head of the Center for Military and Political Studies Dmytro Tymchuk reported on Facebook.

"The lack of resources for the organization of defense in the Shakhtarsk-Torez-Snizhne area became critical for DPR, which helps the ATO forces block a group of militants in these areas (this task is currently being fulfilled, and attempts by militants to bring reinforcements to the area were blocked). And most importantly, this allowed the ATO forces to cut the H21 highway, through the enemy's group near Donetsk had a link with LPR and through which arms and mercenaries were supplied from Russia," he said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/government_forces_block_channel_of_supplies_of_arms_and_mercenaries_from_russia_to_donetsk_325256

Right Sector confirms death of 12 fighters, 13.08.2014

KYIV, August 13 /Ukrinform/. Right Sector spokesman Boryslav Bereza has confirmed the death of 12 soldiers on his Facebook page on Wednesday.

"The celestial army has been replenished by souls of twelve warriors. For us, it is a tragedy. For Ukraine the death of the patriots - it is a disaster. The best sons of the Fatherland are being killed. These bastards like to make a video of our fallen soldiers. For them, it is a fetish. We promise that we will do everything possible to ensure that each of these fetishists get their personal coffin," he said.

Bereza believes that Ukrainians will defeat Russian mercenaries

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/right_sector_confirms_death_of_12_fighters_325267

Luhansk has no power, water, telephone service for 11 days - city council, 13.08.2014

Luhansk has no power, water and telephone service for 11 days already and the city is under constant strikes, the Luhansk City Council press office said in a statement on Wednesday.

"As of August 13, the situation in Luhansk remains critical: the city has no power or water, cellular and landline service is off. Gas was cut off in the region's center but it was restored later," the document said.

<http://en.interfax.com.ua/news/general/218162.html>

Five civilians injured in gunfire in Donetsk - city council, 13.08.2014

On Wednesday fighting took place in Donetsk's Petrovsky district and explosions were heard around the city, the Donetsk City Council has said in a statement.

"Five civilians were injured in the Petrovsky district," the document said.

<http://en.interfax.com.ua/news/general/218145.html>

Combat actions leave Yasynuvata without railway communications, 13.08.2014

KYIV, August 13 /Ukrinform/. Movement of trains via the Yasynuvata station of the Donetsk Railway was suspended due to combat actions. The press service of the railway informs.

"August 12, combat operations continued on the stations of Yasynuvata, Donetsk-Pivnichna and Krynychna - all workers of stations' structural subdivisions were evacuated," a statement reads.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/combat_actions_leave_yasynuvata_without_railway_communications_325272

11 Ukrainian servicemen killed in Donbas over past 24 hours, 13.08.2014

KYIV, August 13 /Ukrinform/. In the area of the anti-terrorist operation (ATO) 11 servicemen have been killed over the past 24 hours, 41 more wounded, Ukrainian National Security and Defence Council (NSDC) Information and Analysis Center spokesman Andriy Lysenko said.

"Over the past 24 hours 11 Ukrainian servicemen have been killed, 41 wounded," Lysenko said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/11_ukrainian_servicemen_killed_in_donbas_over_past_24_hours_325275

Over 6,000 Luhansk residents escape from terrorists via humanitarian corridor, 13.08.2014

KYIV, August 13 /Ukrinform/. More than 6,000 people flee from the temporarily controlled by terrorists Luhansk through a humanitarian corridor, Ukrainian National Security and Defence Council (NSDC) Information and Analysis Center spokesman Andriy Lysenko said.

"More than 6,000 residents of Luhansk have used the corridor," Lysenko said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/over_6000_luhansk_residents_escape_from_terrorists_via_humanitarian_corridor_325281

Almost 500 families in Donetsk region left without homes after shelling - NSDC, 13.08.2014

KYIV, August 13 /Ukrinform/. As a result of terrorist attacks in Donetsk region, more than a thousand people have been left homeless, NSDC spokesman Andriy Lysenko said.

"According to latest reports, in Donetsk region 300 homes are completely destroyed: 42 were in municipal ownership, the remaining 258 were private homes. 480 families have been left homeless, representing more than a thousand people," Lysenko said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/almost_500_families_in_donetsk_region_left_without_homes_after_shelling_nsdcc_325298

Terrorists are retreating - NSDC, 13.08.2014

KYIV, August 13 /Ukrinform/. Under the pressure from the Armed Forces of Ukraine, terrorists are retreating, firing positions of the ATO forces, spokesman of the NSDC Andriy Lysenko told.
http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/terrorists_are_retreating_nsdc_325301

Law enforcers take over 1,000 fosterlings from Donetsk region, 13.08.2014

KYIV, August 13 /Ukrinform/. Within Donetsk region, from areas temporarily controlled by terrorists, or in which combat operations are going on, 1,122 persons were temporarily relocated to boarding institutions in the territories, controlled by the security forces.
"Work continues on resettlement of children from boarding institutions of Donetsk and Luhansk regions to residential care facilities in other regions of Ukraine. Also, 100 wards of the Donetsk residential care facility for the elderly were taken to residential care facilities of Kharkiv region," spokesman of the NSDC Information-Analytical Center Andriy Lysenko told.
http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/law_enforcers_take_over_1000_fosterlings_from_donetsk_region_325306

ATO forces cutting Luhansk militants off border with Russia, 14.08.2014

KYIV, August 14 /Ukrinform/. "The ATO forces continue to actively to block Luhansk. Specifically, they are performing tasks near the villages of Khriashchivate and Novosvitlivka through which the M04 highway runs, connecting Luhansk with the rest of the territory controlled by the "LPC" and border crossing point Izvaryno on the border with Russia," Head of the Center for Military and Political Studies Dmytro Tymchuk wrote on his Facebook page.
http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/ato_forces_cutting_luhansk_militants_off_border_with_russia_325311

Militants, Russians shell ATO forces minimum six times, 14.08.2014

KYIV, August 14 /Ukrinform/. The ATO continue fulfilling combat tasks under the shelling of both by militants and the Russians, Head of the Center of Military and Political Studies and coordinator of the Information Resistance group Dmytro Tymchuk informs on Facebook.
http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/militants_russians_shell_ato_forces_minimum_six_times_325312

ATO forces already near Luhansk: battle for Khriashchivate in progress, 14.08.2014

KYIV, August 14 /Ukrinform/. The anti-terrorist operation (ATO) forces have liberated from terrorists the village of Novosvitlivka in Krasnodon district of Luhansk region, the Informator online edition reported, citing a source with the Armed Forces of Ukraine.
According to the source, the Ukrainian troops blocked off the traffic between Krasnodon and Luhansk.
At the moment, a fierce battle is underway in the village of Khriashchivate near Luhansk. The source added that here the terrorists have built powerful
http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/ato_forces_already_near_luhansk_battle_for_khriashchivate_in_progress_325326

Russia constantly violates Ukraine's airspace - NSDC, 14.08.2014

KYIV, August 14 /Ukrinform/. Over the past 24 hours violations of Ukraine's air space by Russian aircraft have been recorded several times, Ukrainian National Security and Defence Council (NSDC) Information and Analysis Center spokesman Andriy Lysenko told.
"Yesterday, at 11.40 a border patrol in Milove checkpoint in Luhansk region recorded a flight over Ukraine of two Mi-24 helicopters. Also, there have been four cases of using drones for aerial reconnaissance," Lysenko said.
http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/russia_constantly_violates_ukraines_airspace_nsd_325329

9 Ukrainian servicemen killed in Donbas over past 24 hours, 14.08.2014

KYIV, August 14 /Ukrinform/. Over the past 24 hours in the area of the anti-terrorist operation (ATO) nine Ukrainian servicemen have been killed, and another 18 wounded, Ukrainian NSDC spokesman Andriy Lysenko told this to reporters in Kyiv on Thursday.
"Over the past 24 hours we have lost 9 servicemen, 18 have been wounded," Lysenko said.
http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/9_ukrainian_servicemen_killed_in_donbas_over_past_24_hours_325333

Leader of Luhansk terrorists leaves his 'republic', 14.08.2014

KYIV, August 14 /Ukrinform/. The head of the so-called "Luhansk People's Republic", Valery Bolotov has resigned supposedly because of his wound.

He announced this on Thursday.

"Soberly assessing my strength, I have decided to temporarily leave the post of the head of the Luhansk People's Republic. The consequences of the wound do not allow me to work with total efficiency for the benefit of Luhansk in a difficult time of war," the leader of Luhansk militants lamented.

Now the "great honor" to lead the Luhansk terrorists, he said, is proposed to "LPR defence minister" Igor Plotnitsky.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/leader_of_luhansk_terrorists_leaves_his_republic_325337

Militants use prohibited mines in Donbas - NSDC, 14.08.2014

KYIV, August 14 /Ukrinform/. The Ukrainian National Security and Defence Council (NSDC) urges people living in the area of the anti-terrorist operation (ATO) not to pick up anything from the ground, as militants used illegal mines, and carry out explanatory work with children.

Ukrainian National Security and Defence Council (NSDC) Information and Analysis Center spokesman Andriy Lysenko told this to reporters in Kyiv on Thursday.

"We are appealing to parents and citizens who yet remain in the ATO area: terrorists started to use mines prohibited by international conventions. Therefore we urge you not to pick up suspicious items, including children's toys, lighters, mini radio receivers, and even attractive things. They can be mined," Lysenko said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/militants_use_prohibited_mines_in_donbas_nsd_325344

ATO forces destroy column of terrorists in Popasna, 14.08.2014

KYIV, August 14 /Ukrinform/. The ATO forces defeated the column of terrorists in Popasna, Luhansk region.

Soldier of the Donbas Battalion Yevhen Shevchenko announced on his Facebook page.

According to the soldier, "a large group of terrorists around 600 people from Pervomaisk, which attacked the ATO forces in Popasna, was completely shot."

He also said that 46 persons of Caucasian nationality voluntarily surrendered today.

Preliminarily - all representatives of the Chechen Republic.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/ato_forces_destroy_column_of_terrorists_in_popasne_325350

Luhansk completely besieged - NSDC, 14.08.2014

KYIV, August 14 /Ukrinform/. The anti-terrorist operation (ATO) forces have liberated the village of Novosvitlivka, cutting off the last highway connecting Luhansk with the remaining areas currently controlled by Russian mercenaries.

Ukrainian National Security and Defence Council (NSDC) Information and Analysis Center spokesman Andriy Lysenko told this to reporters in Kyiv on Thursday.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/luhansk_completely_besieged_nsd_325355

Russia supplying terrorists with satellite stations - NSDC, 14.08.2014

KYIV, August 14 /Ukrinform/. Russia is supplying terrorists with satellite communication stations, Ukrainian National Security and Defence Council (NSDC) Information and Analysis Center spokesman Andriy Lysenko told reporters in Kyiv on Thursday.

"Russia is delivering to Ukraine modern small satellite communication stations R-438M, produced in Russia, capable to quickly and flexibly communicate over long distances using appropriate satellites," Lysenko said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/russia_supplying_terrorists_with_satellite_stations_nsd_325357

NSDC says ATO major task is to cut terrorists off supply routes, 14.08.2014

KYIV, August 14 /Ukrinform/. At this stage, the main task of the anti-terrorist operation (ATO) forces is to cut terrorist groups off supply routes and the mission is being successfully

performed, Ukrainian National Security and Defence Council (NSDC) Information and Analysis Center spokesman Andriy Lysenko told reporters in Kyiv on Thursday.

"The offensive action by the Armed Forces and formations as part of the ATO is progressing according to plan. The main purpose is to cut off the main cluster of terrorists, their base camps and supply routes, and the Ukrainian military are performing the operation well," Lysenko said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/nsdc_says_ato_major_task_is_to_cut_terrorists_off_supply_routes_325358

Russian fighter planes cruising around Ukrainian border, 14.08.2014

KYIV, August 14 /Ukrinform/. Feeling the criticality of the situation, the Russians stepped up provocations on the border with Ukraine, periodically ordering their fighter planes off ground, Ukrainian National Security and Defence Council (NSDC) Information and Analysis Center spokesman Andriy Lysenko told reporters in Kyiv on Thursday.

"Two fighters of the Russian Armed Forces periodically take off from a military airfield in Valuyki, Belgorod region. One of the aircraft runs in a westerly direction along the border with Ukraine, the other - in the east, there are cases of crossing Ukraine's airspace," Lysenko said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/russian_fighter_planes_cruising_around_ukrainian_border_325359

Terrorists retreat preparing to form "last bulwark" - Tymchuk, 15.08.2014

KYIV, August 15 /Ukrinform/. Militants in eastern Ukraine withdraw forces closer to the border with Russia - to be closer to flee.

Head of the Center of Military and Political Studies Dmytro Tymchuk wrote on Facebook.

"Simultaneously with strengthening defensive pivots near the settlement of Snizhne, Stakhanov, Alchevsk, terrorists begin withdrawing a part of manpower and equipment closer to the border with Russia, to the area of Sverdlovsk-Rovenky-Molodohvardiysk-Izvarino. Obviously, it is here that the "last bulwark" of militants will be formed, with access to the border with the Russian Federation, which allows to obtain help, and then retreat to the territory of Russia," he said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/terrorists_retreat_preparing_to_form_last_bulwark_tymchuk_325362

ATO forces block route for delivery of Putin's "aid" to Luhansk, 15.08.2014

KYIV, August 15 /Ukrinform/. Ukrainian military "hold at gunpoint" the highway M-04, which makes it impossible to deliver "humanitarian aid" from Russia to Luhansk.

Head of the Center of Military and Political Studies Dmytro Tymchuk wrote on Facebook.

"Firing control of the ATO forces over a section of the highway M-04 near Luhansk makes it impossible to deliver the "humanitarian aid" from Russia to this city, in the case that the Russian Federation will decide to deliver it illegally via the territory, controlled by militants, having roughly ignored the requirements of the Red Cross, Ukraine and the international community," he said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/ato_forces_block_route_for_delivery_of_putins_aid_to_luhansk_325366

Militants set mortar on playground, 15.08.2014

KYIV, August 15 /Ukrinform/. In eastern Ukraine, fierce battles continue for the maintenance of positions, militants continue to resist ATO forces, which aim at completely surrounding Luhansk. ATO Spokesman Leonid Matiuhin says.

"Near the settlement of Miusinsk, a mortar detachment was found, set directly on a playground of a kindergarten. Cynicism consisted in the fact that when the terrorists fired children were in the kindergarten," Matiuhin said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/militants_set_mortar_on_playground_325370

ATO headquarters confirms invasion of Russian technology in Ukraine, 15.08.2014

KYIV, August 15 /Ukrinform/. A column, consisting of APCs (armored personnel carriers) and military trucks crossed the border of Ukraine via the checkpoint of Izvaryne, captured by separatists.

According to available data, military equipment is moving towards Molodohvardiysk, Luhansk region, the headquarters of the Antiterrorist Center informs.

"The intelligence has confirmed that a column of APCs and military Urals crossed the border and through the temporarily closed Ukrainian checkpoint of Izvaryne entered the territory of our country. The intelligence also confirms that license plates and markings on the technique were Russian," a statement says.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/ato_headquarters_confirms_invasion_of_russian_technology_in_ukraine_325374

5 military killed in Donbas over 24 hours, 15.08.2014

KYIV, August 15 /Ukrinform/. Over recent 24 hours, five soldiers were killed in the area of the antiterrorist operation.

"Over recent 24 hours, five soldiers were killed. Information is now being specified on the wounded," spokesman of the NSDC Information-Analytical Center Andriy Lysenko said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/5_military_killed_in_donbas_over_24_hours_325377

Eleven civilians killed in Donetsk strikes over past 24 hours - city authorities, 15.08.2014

Eleven civilians have been killed and another eight have been injured in Donetsk as a result of strikes over the past 24 hours, the city administration said on its Web site on Friday.

"In the past 24 hours, eight civilians have sustained injuries and 11 civilians have died in Donetsk," it said.

<http://en.interfax.com.ua/news/general/218503.html>

Terrorists shelling Khartsyzsk from Grad rocket launchers, 15.08.2014

KYIV, August 15 /Ukrinform/. Militants are firing Khartsyzsk from MLRS Grad.

Spokesman of the NSDC Information-Analytical Center Andriy Lysenko told a briefing.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/terrorists_shelling_khartsyzsk_from_grad_rocket_launchers_325397

65 military wounded during this day - NSDC, 15.08.2014

KYIV, August 15 /Ukrinform/. In the ATO area 65 military were injured during the day.

"For the last 24 hours, as of 12:00, we had five persons killed and 65 wounded. Very active hostilities are underway," NSDC spokesman Andriy Lysenko said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/65_military_wounded_during_this_day_nscd_325403

Most terrorists planning to leave Donetsk region by August 18 - NSDC, 16.08.2014

KYIV, August 16 /Ukrinform/. Most militants'll try to leave Donetsk region by August 18.

National Security and Defense Council (NSDC) information and analytical center spokesman Andriy Lysenko said this at a briefing in Kyiv on Saturday.

"Representatives of the DPR terrorist group produce false documents on blank passports of Ukrainian citizens in order to freely leave the ATO zone under the guise of refugees. According to the latest information, a major part of militants plan to leave Donetsk region by August 18," Lysenko said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/most_terrorists_planning_to_leave_donetsk_region_by_august_18_nscd_325414

Ukraine separatist leader says rebels getting tanks and reinforcements, 16.08.2014

(Reuters) - Ukrainian rebels are receiving new armoured vehicles and fighters trained in Russia, with which they plan to launch a major counter-offensive against government forces, a separatist leader said in a video released on Saturday.

The four-month conflict in eastern Ukraine has reached a critical phase, with Kiev and Western governments watching nervously to see if Russia will intervene in support of the increasingly besieged rebels - an intention Moscow denies.

Alexander Zakharchenko, prime minister of the self-proclaimed Donetsk People's Republic, said the rebels were in the process of receiving some 150 armoured vehicles, including 30 tanks, and 1,200 fighters who he said had spent four months training in Russia.

"They are joining at the most crucial moment," he said in a video recorded on Friday. He did not specify where the vehicles would come from.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/08/16/us-ukraine-crisis-idUSKBN0GF13120140816>

ATO forces break through to Luhansk airport, 18.08.2014

KYIV, August 18 /Ukrinform/. The Ukrainian Army completed the encirclement of Horlivka and cut the highway M-04, providing access to the locked units at the airport in Luhansk. Director of the Center of Military and Political Studies, coordinator of the Information Resistance group Dmytro Tymchuk writes on his Facebook page.

"Finally, Horlivka was encircled. Success was developed near towns of Novosvitlivka-Khriaschuvate with cutting Luhansk from another territory, controlled by the "LPR"(in towns Khriaschuvate there is a mopping up operation against terrorists), thus bringing under complete control a sector of the M-04 highway and providing access to the locked units of the Ukrainian army at the airport in Luhansk, " a statement reads.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/ato_forces_break_through_to_luhansk_airport_325418

Humanitarian aid delivered to ten towns in Donbas, 18.08.2014

KYIV, August 18 /Ukrinform/. The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) has said that the humanitarian aid sent by the Ukrainian government has already been delivered to ten towns in the Donbas, according to the official Twitter page of the ICRC.

"Since yesterday, w/ #Ukrainian #Red Cross we've delivered 100 tonnes of Ukrainian-donated aid to 10 towns in east," reads the report.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/humanitarian_aid_delivered_to_ten_towns_in_donbas_325420

Militants using new weapon: Uragan 9P 140, 18.08.2014

KYIV, August 18 /Ukrinform/. Terrorists with the new weapon tonight fired the ATO positions in the area of settlement of Novokaterynivka, Donetsk region. Perhaps, it was the installation 9P 140 Uragan (Hurricane). The ATO press center informs.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/militants_using_new_weapon_uragan_9p_140_325421

Overall National Guard and Interior Ministry grouping in ATO area reaches 10,000 persons, 18.08.2014

KYIV, August 18 /Ukrinform/. Overall grouping of the National Guard and the Interior Ministry in the ATO area reached 10,000 persons.

Interior Minister Arsen Avakov wrote on his Facebook page.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/overall_national_guard_and_interior_ministry_grouping_in_ato_area_reaches_10000_persons_325428

Terrorists shell column of refugees in Luhansk region, 18.08.2014

KYIV, August 18 /Ukrinform/. Terrorists have shelled a column of displaced persons with mortars and Grad multiple rocket launchers in Luhansk region, the Ukrainska Pravda online newspaper has reported, quoting the head of the press center of the North operational command, Anatoliy Proshyn.

"At about 09.40, during the evacuation of refugees from the settlements of Hriashchuvate and Novosvitlivka, militants delivered a massive fire strike against this column with mortars and Grad rocket launchers. As a result, there are many victims. People burned right in the cars in which they were being evacuated," Proshyn said.

This information was confirmed by NSDC.

At least 15 people have been killed as a result of shelling by terrorists of a column of internally displaced persons who were traveling under white flags from Luhansk.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/terrorists_shell_column_of_refugees_in_luhansk_region_325435

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/terrorists_shot_women_and_children_near_luhansk_national_security_and_defense_council_325442

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/at_least_15_civilians_killed_in_attack_on_refugee_convoy_in_luhansk_region_nsd_325459

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/08/19/us-ukraine-crisis-idUSKBN0GIOYK20140819>

Three trucks with Russian humanitarian aid likely to arrive in Donetsk, 18.08.2014

KYIV, August 18 /Ukrinform/. "Today (August 17 - Ed.) late at night, three trucks with humanitarian aid from Russia arrived in Donetsk, which was accepted by the state commission of the DPR," a statement reads.

"The aid" was met by representative of terrorists Aleksandr Karaman and Denis Pushilin.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/three_trucks_with_russian_humanitarian_aid_likely_to_arrive_in_donetsk_325436

"DPR" decides to "protect people" by death penalty, 18.08.2014

KYIV, August 18 /Ukrinform/. The so-called Donetsk People's Republic introduced the death penalty and military tribunals.

According to the Ostrov with reference to the "DPR" press-center, August 17, the first meeting "of the Presidium of the Council of Ministers of the Donetsk People's Republic" was held, which approved the "Regulations on Military Courts of the Donetsk People's Republic" and "The Criminal Code of the Donetsk People's Republic," developed within the regulatory framework of the Russian Federation.

As specified, the death penalty is provided for the most serious crimes. Moreover, "the First Deputy Prime Minister of the DPR" Vladimir Antyufeyev said that introduction of the death penalty is "not a revenge, but the highest degree of social protection."

"We must be on the side of the victim, on the side of his family. We must protect the people," the Deputy Chairman of the Council Of Ministers" said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/dpr_decides_to_protect_people_by_death_penalty_325438

Water supplies stoppage menaces Donetsk, 18.08.2014

The Donetsk water and draining system authorities have urged residents to stock up on water. "The city's water supply system will be shut down in Donetsk after 2100. The damaged electric power line has paralyzed supplies from the city's main source of fresh water – Verkhniokalmiuska filtering station," the Donetsk City Council said on its Web site.

<http://en.interfax.com.ua/news/general/218795.html>

Nine Ukrainian servicemen killed in past 24 hours, 18.08.2014

KYIV, August 18 /Ukrinform/. Nine Ukrainian servicemen have been killed and 20 more injured during the anti-terrorist operation (ATO) in eastern Ukraine in the past 24 hours.

NSDC information and analytical center spokesman Andriy Lysenko said this at a briefing.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/nine_ukrainian_servicemen_killed_in_past_24_hours_325441

Some 26,000 citizens of Ukraine arrived in Belarus in past few months – ambassador, 18.08.2014

Some 26,000 citizens of Ukraine arrived in Belarus in the past two months, Belarusian Ambassador to Ukraine Valentin Velichko said.

"Around 26,000 residents of Ukraine left for Belarus in June-July. These are people. We need to think how to occupy them and where they will work," the diplomat told.

<http://en.interfax.com.ua/news/general/218881.html>

Ukrainian tanks enter Stanytsia Luhanska - media, 18.08.2014

KYIV, August 18 /Ukrinform/. Ukrainian government forces have entered the terrorist-occupied urban village of Stanytsia Luhanska in Luhansk region, Informator has reported.

According to the report, eyewitnesses saw Ukrainian tanks in the village.

"Fighters who fortified their positions on Zmiyina Hill (a monument to Prince Ihor) started shelling them. A kindergarten located next to the village council, as well as several houses in the center of the village, caught fire due to the shelling," reads the report.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/ukrainian_tanks_enter_stanytsia_luhanska_media_325447

Yasynuvata, Zhdanivka being cleared of militants, 19.08.2014

KYIV, August 19 /Ukrinform/. The anti-terrorist operation (ATO) forces are conducting an operation to clear Yasynuvata and Zhdanivka in Donetsk region and Chornukhyne in Luhansk region of terrorists.

The leader of the Information Resistance group, Dmytro Tymchuk, reported this on Facebook.

"The ATO forces (mechanized and airborne units in interaction with the National Guard) are conducting actions on clearing the settlement of Yasynuvata," Tymchuk wrote.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/yasynuvata_zhdanivka_being_cleared_of_militants_325451

Donbas battalion commander Semenchenko injured in battle for Ilovaisk, 19.08.2014

KYIV, August 19 /Ukrinform/. Donbas battalion commander Semon Semenchenko has sustained fragmentation wounds in the battle for the town of Ilovaisk in Donetsk region. Ukrainian Interior Minister Arsen Avakov reported this on his Facebook page.

"The advance attack team that clears Ilovaisk of terrorists came under mortar fire. The attack was not stopped. One of our soldiers was killed, and four were wounded. Semen was also wounded. He sustained numerous fragmentation wounds," the minister wrote.

He added that all those wounded had been transported from the battlefield to hospitals and that their lives were not in danger.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/donbas_battalion_commander_semenchenko_injured_in_battle_for_ilovaisk_325458

Ukraine loses one more serviceman, 19.08.2014

KYIV, August 19 /Ukrinform/. One Ukrainian serviceman has been killed and 28 more have been wounded during the anti-terrorist operation in eastern Ukraine in the past 24 hours, NSDC information and analytical center spokesman Andriy Lysenko said this at a press conference in Kyiv on Tuesday.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/ukraine_loses_one_more_serviceman_325460

Terrorists mine two hospitals, school and cemetery, 19.08.2014

KYIV, August 19 /Ukrinform/. "The occupants mined a central district hospital and a railroad hospital in Yasynuvata, approaches to school No. 19 in Shakhtarsk and even a cemetery in the village of Pervomaiske, Shakhtarsk district," , NSDC information and analytical center spokesman Andriy Lysenko said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/terrorists_mine_two_hospitals_school_and_cemetery_325461

Ukrainian ATO fighters capture EU citizen who fought for terrorists in Donbas, 19.08.2014

KYIV, August 19 /Ukrinform/. During the liberation of Ilovaisk, a town located 30 kilometers east of Donetsk, the ATO (anti-terrorist operation) forces have arrested a citizen of Slovakia of Serbian descent, Anton Herashchenko, an advisor to the Ukrainian interior minister, has reported on his Facebook account.

Ukrainian police forces arrested the EU citizen during the clearing of the town near a locomotive depot. The man had a Slovakian passport with him. He served as a mortar gunner for terrorists, Herashchenko wrote. The man claimed that he had arrived in Ukraine according to his convictions, not as a mercenary. He also said he knew other Serbians fighting for terrorists. This is the first time the detention of a citizen of an EU country fighting on the side of the terrorists has been confirmed by documents, Herashchenko said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/ukrainian_ato_fighters_capture_eu_citizen_who_fought_for_terrorists_in_donbas_325470

Government forces clearing Ilovaisk of snipers, 19.08.2014

KYIV, August 19 /Ukrinform/. Ukrainian troops are continuing to clear the town of Ilovaisk of terrorists, and the fighting does not stop.

An adviser to the Ukrainian interior minister, Zorian Shkiriak, said this at a briefing on Tuesday.

"Ukrainian military are actively clearing Ilovaisk of militants. They are working out the administrative part of the town with high-rise buildings, where sniper teams may stay," he said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/government_forces_clearing_ilovaisk_of_snipers_325474

Security forces control Ilovaisk, counter attacks of terrorists continue - National Guard, 20.08.2014

KYIV, August 20 /Ukrinform/. Ilovaisk is fully controlled by the ATO forces, but the fighting continues in the city.

"Currently, the Ukrainian law enforcers control the town of Ilovaisk, although counter attacks of terrorists continue," the military of the press service of the National Guard of Ukraine informed.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/security_forces_control_ilovaisk_counter_attacks_of_terrorists_continue_national_guard_325483

Militants attack stronghold of security forces near Ilovaik, 20.08.2014

KYIV, August 20 /Ukrinform/. Terrorists not only continue firing positions of the ATO forces, but attack them with support of the tanks.

Coordinator of the Information Resistance group Dmytro Tymchuk told on his Facebook page. "The militants supported by two tanks and infantry fighting vehicles attacked the stronghold near Ilovaik. The attack was repelled," the expert said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/militants_attack_stronghold_of_security_forces_near_ilovaik_325475

Battalion Donbas never left battlefield near Ilovaik - National Guard of Ukraine, 20.08.2014

KYIV, August 20 /Ukrinform/. The Donbas Battalion soldiers never stopped fighting for Ilovaik. The press service of the National Guard of Ukraine told Ukrinform.

"We officially deny information posted on the website of the Donbas Battalion on the termination of combat missions by the unit in Ilovaik," the press service informs.

The National Guard said that soldiers of the battalion continue to participate in battles for the liberation of the city, "heroically repel counter attacks of terrorists and carry out the offensive."

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/battalion_donbas_never_left_battlefield_near_ilovaik_national_guard_of_ukraine_325477

Militants destroy gas pipeline through shelling in Donetsk, 20.08.2014

KYIV, August 20 /Ukrinform/. On the night of August 19-20, volleys of heavy guns were heard around Donetsk, and in the morning, a house and a pipeline were destroyed by a shell. The Donetsk City Council informs.

"A morning in the city commenced with shelling. From the direct hit of a projectile, house No.36 was destroyed and a gas pipeline in Arhunovy Street at the intersection with Partisan Avenue. The emergency crew of the PJSC Donetskmyskgas went to the site. As of 10.00 a.m., the situation in the city remained tense," a statement reads.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/militants_destroy_gas_pipeline_through_shelling_in_donetsk_325487

9 military killed in ATO area over past day, 20.08.2014

KYIV, August 20 /Ukrinform/. "Over the past day, nine military were killed, 22 - wounded," NSDC Information-Analytical Center representative Andriy Lysenko noted.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/9_military_killed_in_ato_area_over_past_day_325492

Security forces repel all attacks at Ilovaik, 20.08.2014

KYIV, August 20 /Ukrinform/. The National Guard jointly with the Armed Forces units repelled three counter attacks of terrorists, who tried to capture Ilovaik, Donetsk region.

Spokesman of the NSDC Information-Analytical Center Andriy Lysenko told a briefing.

According to him, terrorists use heavy military equipment and artillery.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/security_forces_repel_all_attacks_at_ilovaik_325494

NSDC can't confirm yet that Russian armored vehicle convoy entered Luhansk, 20.08.2014

National Security and Defense Council of Ukraine has no confirmation of reports that a Russian convoy of armored vehicles has entered Luhansk.

"For the given moment we have no official confirmation from the reconnaissance service that this column exists," NSDC speaker Andriy Lysenko said.

<http://en.interfax.com.ua/news/general/219236.html>

Terrorists shell village in Donetsk region from Russian Grad, 20.08.2014

KYIV, August 20 /Ukrinform/. "The terrorists continue to fire on civilians in their temporarily controlled areas. From Grad rocket launchers, sent from Russia, they made eight bursts at the village of Olenivka, Donetsk region. The explosion destroyed several houses and farm buildings," NSDC speaker Andriy Lysenko said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/terrorists_shell_village_in_donetsk_region_from_russian_grad_325498

Terrorists' fire on residential areas of Makiyivka leads to civilian casualties, 20.08.2014

KYIV, August 20 /Ukrinform/. Shelling of residential areas of Makiyivka by terrorists led to civilian casualties.

"In Makiyivka, Donetsk region, terrorists shelled residential areas and industrial facilities, there are casualties among the civilian population," NSDC spokesman Andriy Lysenko said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/terrorists_fire_on_residential_areas_of_makiyivka_leads_to_civilian_casualties_325500

Donetsk terrorists kidnap 22 persons, 20.08.2014

KYIV, August 20 /Ukrinform/. "In Donetsk region, over the previous day, terrorists kidnapped 22 persons," NSDC spokesman Andriy Lysenko said.

According to Lysenko, in total, since April, Russian mercenaries kidnapped 1,026 persons. Out of these, 558 people were liberated, the fate of another 468 persons is unknown.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/donetsk_terrorists_kidnap_22_persons_325512

Terrorists shot down Ukrainian Su-25 fighter in Luhansk region - Lysenko, 21.08.2014

KYIV, August 21 /Ukrinform/. A Su-25 fighter aircraft involved in the anti-terrorist operation (ATO) was shot down in Luhansk region on Wednesday, National Security and Defense Council (NSDC) spokesman Andriy Lysenko has said, according to ZN.ua.

"A Su-25 aircraft was really hit today during a combat mission. It crashed. The fate of the pilot is still unknown, but there is hope that everything will be fine with him," he told.

Terrorists shot down a Ukrainian Su-24M military aircraft in Luhansk region on Wednesday not Su-25 as it was stated previously.

"Near the village of Novosvitlivka in Luhansk region terrorists shot down an Ukrainian Air Force Su-24M plane that was returning after the fulfillment of a task. Both pilots ejected," he added.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/terrorists_shot_down_ukrainian_su_25_fighter_in_luhansk_region_lysenko_325520

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/militants_shot_down_ukrainian_su_24m_aircraft_pilots_eject_325546

Security forces destroy two Russian Grad launchers and three tanks in Donbas, 21.08.2014

KYIV, August 21 /Ukrinform/. Ukrainian security forces have killed a significant number of terrorists in the Donbas in the past 24 hours and destroyed two Grad multiple rocket launchers and three tanks that were earlier sent from Russia, the coordinator of the Information Resistance group, Dmytro Tymchuk, has said.

"The ATO forces killed a significant number of militants, and two BM-21 Grad launchers, three tanks and two airborne assault vehicles were destroyed and two tanks and two airborne assault vehicles of the enemy were captured," he wrote.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/security_forces_destroy_two_russian_grad_launchers_and_three_tanks_in_donbas_325521

Ukraine was nine times shelled from Russia, 21.08.2014

KYIV, August 21 /Ukrinform/. "Firing of the ATO positions continues, including from Russia. In particular, mortar-artillery shelling was conducted nine times from the Russian Federation," coordinator of the Information Resistance group Dmytro Tymchuk wrote on Facebook.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/ukraine_was_nine_times_shelled_from_russia_325522

Ukrainian soldiers to be reinforced in Ilovaisk, 21.08.2014

KYIV, August 21/Ukrinform/. Reinforcements and heavy weapons are arriving to help soldiers of the Donbas battalion, leading the fighting in Ilovaisk.

The press service of the National Guard of Ukraine (NGU) told Ukrinform.

"Reinforcements from other regions of Ukraine are coming to the soldiers of the battalion of quick response Donbas of the National Guard of Ukraine and volunteer battalions, involved in a special operation (in Ilovaisk)," the press service informed.

As specified in the National Guard, on the way to the venue of fighting there are heavy weapons, including mortar, grenade and anti-tank installations, anti-aircraft complexes.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/ukrainian_soldiers_to_be_reinforced_in_ilovaisk_325527

Shells hit Donetsk Local History Museum, 21.08.2014

An artillery attack devastated the roof and walls of the Donetsk Regional Museum of Local History in the Voroshylovsky district, the City Council said in a report posted on its Web site. The online publication OstroV confirmed the extensive damage. "There was a direct hit. The roof and two stairwells are destroyed and windows are smashed. The nature hall, the small exhibition hall and the ethnography hall are damaged," eyewitnesses told the edition. The museum personnel are trying to clean up the mess.

<http://en.interfax.com.ua/news/general/219326.html>

Makiyivka colony shelled by militants, four dead, 21.08.2014

KYIV, August 21 /Ukrinform/. As a result of shelling of the Makiyivka Penitentiary No.32, four prisoners were killed. According to her, the terrorists fired two shells at the colony and one of them hit the second floor of a residential building.

Spokesperson of the State Penitentiary Service of Ukraine Kateryna Denysiuk told.

"During the firing with artillery shells of the territory of the Makiyivka Penitentiary, two prisoners were killed, eight were wounded. Two of them were in serious condition and died in the hospital today," Denysiuk said.

There are no data on victims among workers of the penitentiary institution.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/makiyivka_colony_shelled_by_militants_four_dead_325537

14 terrorists of "DPR" arrested in Donetsk region, 21.08.2014

KYIV, August 21 /Ukrinform/. The Security Service bodies detained 14 people in Donetsk, suspected of terrorism and belonging to the so-called "DPR" - "Donetsk People's Republic." The press service of the Public Prosecutor's Office of Donetsk region informs.

"This August, the Security Service had arrested 14 people, who were notified of suspicion of committing crimes under Article 111 (high treason), Article 258-3 (creation of a terrorist group or terrorist organization), Article 263 (illegal handling of weapons, ammunition or explosives) of the Criminal Code of Ukraine," a statement reads.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/14_terrorists_of_dpr_arrested_in_donetsk_region_325540

Five Ukrainian servicemen killed, 21 wounded in east Ukraine fighting over past 24 hours, 21.08.2014

KYIV, August 21 /Ukrinform/. "Five Ukrainian military have been killed and 21 have been wounded over the past 24 hours," NSDC spokesman Andriy Lysenko said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/five_ukrainian_servicemen_killed_21_wounded_in_east_ukraine_fighting_over_past_24_hours_325547

NSDC confirms shooting of refugee family by militants, 21.08.2014

KYIV, August 21 /Ukrinform/. Terrorists have shot another car with refugees in Luhansk region. Ukrainian National Security and Defense Council (NSDC) information and analytical center spokesman Andriy Lysenko said this at a briefing on Thursday.

"The tragedy occurred on August 20, again near the village of Khriashchuvate. According to witnesses, the car was traveling with a large white flag, but that did not stop the bandits.

Militants fired from the village of Samsonivske, Krasnodon district. There was a family with a 5-year-old child in the car," he said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/nsdc_confirms_shooting_of_refugee_family_by_militants_325548

NSDC confirms seizure of two BMD-2s belonging to Russia's Pskov Airborne Division, 21.08.2014

The anti-terrorist operation (ATO) forces have seized two BMD-2 airborne fighting vehicles of the Pskov Airborne Division (Russia) in a battle near Luhansk, NSDC spokesman Andriy Lysenko said.

He said at a briefing on Thursday that documents found in the vehicles confirmed that they belonged to the said division, and a tablet discovered there helped identify the platoon commander as a Russian military officer.

<http://en.interfax.com.ua/news/general/219371.html>

Terrorists leave Shchastia without power, 21.08.2014

KYIV, August 21 /Ukrinform/. The town of Shchastia in Luhansk region has remained without power as a result of firing by terrorists.

"A power line in Shchastia, which has long been under the control of the Ukrainian military, was damaged as a result of shelling by terrorists from the direction of Luhansk. This led to the shutdown of the 13th block of a thermal power plant," NSDC spokesman Andriy Lysenko said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/terrorists_leave_shchastia_without_power_325549

Two civilians killed in artillery fire in Donetsk suburb, 21.08.2014

Two civilians have been killed in artillery fire in the town of Mospyne just outside the city of Donetsk, the Donetsk City Council said on Thursday.

"Artillery fire was resumed in the town of Mospyne at around midday. Reports about damage to infrastructure and residential buildings are being verified. There have been reports about two killed civilians," the statement said.

<http://en.interfax.com.ua/news/general/219385.html>

Ukrainian Interior Ministry, National Guard lose 16 servicemen in Ilovaisk battle, 21.08.2014

Anton Heraschenko, an advisor of the Ukrainian interior minister, has reported the death of 16 servicemen of the Interior Ministry and the National Guard in the battle of Ilovaisk in Donetsk region.

"So, 16 out of 64 soldiers or 25% of all soldiers of special battalions of the Interior Ministry and the National Guard who had died in the entire ATO period were killed near Ilovaisk. This is a proof of how fierce that fighting is," Heraschenko wrote on Facebook on Thursday.

He said the Ukrainian battalions had had big losses: Donbas had lost eight men killed and twelve wounded, Azov had two killed and seven wounded or five dead and eleven wounded since the beginning of the fight for Ilovaisk, Shakhtarsk had four killed and 16 wounded, including two severely, and Dnipro had two killed and seven wounded.

<http://en.interfax.com.ua/news/general/219399.html>

Ukrainian military in Ilovaisk receive reinforcement, 21.08.2014

Ukrainian military men are continuing to fight in some districts of Ilovaisk and are receiving reinforcements.

Combat actions continue in certain districts of Ilovaisk – the militants are attempting to recover territory that has come under the control of Ukrainian troops, but the Ukrainian military are repelling the counter-attacks, the Ukrainian National Guard press office said.

"As of now, servicemen of the Ukrainian National Guard rapid response battalion Donbas and volunteer battalions involved in the special operation are receiving reinforcements from other Ukrainian regions. Heavy arms – mortar, grenade and anti-tank vehicles, air-defense systems – are on the way to the battle site. The forces and means should be sufficient," the press office said.

<http://en.interfax.com.ua/news/general/219414.html>

Vacations prolonged for Donetsk schoolchildren, 22.08.2014

KYIV, August 22 /Ukrinform/. The start of classes at educational institutions of Donetsk was postponed.

This was reported by the press service of the Donetsk City Council.

"Due to the difficult situation in the territory of the city, the Executive Committee of the Donetsk City Council decided to postpone the start of studies at educational establishments of communal property. A date of start of the school year will be determined taking into account the changes in the current situation in the city," a statement reads.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/vacations_prolonged_for_donetsk_schoolchildren_325574

Government forces destroy group of mercenaries and armored vehicles near Snizhne, 22.08.2014

KYIV, August 22 /Ukrinform/. The Ukrainian Armed Forces have destroyed 11 BM-21 Grad multiple rocket launchers, three tanks and five infantry fighting vehicles of terrorists near Snizhne, Donetsk region, the ATO press center has reported on its Facebook page.

"The ATO forces continue the attack. The enemy sustained considerable losses. In particular, the Ukrainian Armed Forces destroyed 11 BM-21 Grads, three tanks and five infantry fighting vehicles of terrorists near Snizhne," reads the report.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/government_forces_destroy_group_of_mercenaries_and_armored_vehicles_near_snizhne_325557

Sixty-four police officers killed in east Ukraine conflict - Interior Ministry, 22.08.2014

KYIV, August 22 /Ukrinform/. Sixty-four police officers have been killed in the armed conflict in eastern Ukraine.

Interior Minister Arsen Avakov said this at a ceremony to honor the deceased police officers in Kyiv on Friday, a Ukrinform correspondent reported.

"Sixty-four brave warriors of the National Guard, special Interior Ministry battalions and regular police units have been killed in the conflict in the east," he said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/sixty_four_police_officers_killed_in_east_ukraine_conflict_interior_ministry_325566

ATO soldiers cleaning six settlements of terrorists, 22.08.2014

KYIV, August 22 /Ukrinform/. The ATO forces are cleaning settlements of terrorist groups, which left in a panic.

The ATO press center reported on its Facebook page.

"Mopping up of settlements continues in Illiria, Malomykolayivka, Ilovaisk, Stanytsia Luhanska, Uspenka, Lysyche," a statement reads.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/ato_soldiers_cleaning_six_settlements_of_terrorists_325567

Artillery strikes damage apartment buildings, disrupt power to households in Donetsk, 22.08.2014

Overnight artillery strikes caused damage to buildings in the center of Donetsk and residential areas in some of its neighborhoods, the city administration said in a press release on Friday.

"The Petrovsky, Kyivsky and Leninsky districts came under artillery fire. House No. 13 on Rynkova Street, House No. 58 on Aleutska Street and House No. 7 on Respublikanska Street were hit by shells. The Shyroky farm in the Leninsky district, as well as Pasha Anhelina Street and Prymorska Street were damaged as well," it said.

<http://en.interfax.com.ua/news/general/219512.html>

Terrorists shot down Mi-24 helicopter, crew dies, 22.08.2014

KYIV, August 22 /Ukrinform/. Terrorist have shot down a Ukrainian helicopter in Luhansk region that carried out a combat operation, the crew has died.

Ukrainian National Security and Defense Council (NSDC) information and analytical center spokesman Andriy Lysenko said this at a briefing on Friday.

"On August 20, near the village of Heorhiyivka, Lutuhyne district, Luhansk region, terrorists shot down a Mi-24 helicopter that fulfilled a combat task. The crewmembers were killed," he said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/terrorists_shot_down_mi_24_helicopter_crew_dies_325583

Four servicemen killed, 23 wounded in east Ukraine conflict over past 24 hours, 22.08.2014

KYIV, August 22 /Ukrinform/. Four Ukrainian servicemen have been killed and 23 more injured in the area of the ATO in eastern Ukraine over the past 24 hours.

Ukrainian National Security and Defense Council (NSDC) information and analytical center spokesman Andriy Lysenko said this at a briefing on Friday.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/four_servicemen_killed_23_wounded_in_east_ukraine_conflict_over_past_24_hours_325586

Terrorists do not allow Ukrainian side to help injured - NSDC, 23.08.2014

KYIV, August 23 /Ukrinform/. Many wounded are still under the debris in Donbas cities, whom terrorists do not help themselves and do not allow the Ukrainian side doing this.

Spokesman of the NSDC Information-Analytical Center Andriy Lysenko said at the Shuster LIVE program, UNN reports.

"The terrorists have repeatedly shot a column of refugees, and they shelled with Grad rocket launchers even those cities, where there were no military. "Thousands of tons of iron were falling on people's heads, broke roofs. Now we cannot go to those places and get those, who remained there, as terrorists continue to fire," Lysenko said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/terrorists_do_not_allow_ukrainian_side_to_help_injured_nsd_325595

Uragan shells ATO positions from territory of Russia, 23.08.2014

KYIV, August 23 /Ukrinform/. Positions of Ukrainian law enforcers were fired from the territory of Russia from MLRS rocket launchers Uragan (Hurricane).

"Positions of Ukrainian law enforcers were shelled from the side of Russia with MLRS rocket launchers BM-27 Uragan in the area of the settlement of Kuteynkove," coordinator of the Information Support group Dmytro Tymchuk wrote on Facebook.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/uragan_shells_ato_positions_from_territory_of_russia_325605

Militants leave Alchevsk without gas, 23.08.2014

KYIV, August 23 /Ukrinform/. "In Alchevsk, terrorists shelled the gas distribution station, causing suspension of gas supply to Alchevsk, Perevalsk and Alchevsk Iron and Steel Works," Spokesman of the NSDC Information-Analytical Center Andriy Lysenko said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/militants_leave_alchevsk_without_gas_325611

NSDC reports 27 fights per night, 23.08.2014

KYIV, August 23 /Ukrinform/. "During the day, the ATO forces 27 times joined the fire contact with the terrorists in the area of Saur-Mohyla, settlements of Petrovske, Verhunsky Crossing, Blahodatne, Maryinka, Vesela Tarasivka, Krasna Poliana, Cherevkivka, Vasylivka, Kuteynkove, Trudovske, Cheliushkinets, Malomykolaivka, Avdiyivka, Krynychna," spokesman of the NSDC Information-Analytical Center Andriy Lysenko said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/nsdc_reports_27_fights_per_night_325615

Putin's KamAZ trucks loaded with loot from Ukrainian defense plants, 23.08.2014

KYIV, August 23 /Ukrinform/. Russian KamAZ trucks that invaded the territory of Ukraine under the guise of a "humanitarian convoy," are loaded with loot of Ukrainian defense plants.

"According to current information, the trucks that enter the territory under the guise of humanitarian convoys, are loaded by Russians with equipment of the production association Topaz, which produces the most advanced radars such as Kolchuga and equipment of the Luhansk plant, producing ammunition for small arms," spokesman of the NSDC Information-Analytical Center Andriy Lysenko said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/putins_kamaz_trucks_loaded_with_loot_from_ukrainian_defense_plants_325616

Donbas says it destroyed large group of militants near Ilovaik, 25.08.2014

KYIV, August 25 /Ukrinform/. The Donbas battalion has said that it destroyed a large group of terrorists near Ilovaik, the battalion's press service has reported on Facebook.

"The battle for Ilovaik does not stop! Following the [Sunday] morning's battle the Donbas and the mechanized infantry company of the 17th and 93rd brigades of the Ukrainian Armed Forces destroyed a southern group of terrorists. The Donbas battalion and the Ukrainian Armed Forces destroyed four fire points of terrorists and over 50 militants," reads the statement.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/donbas_says_it_destroyed_large_group_of_militants_near_iloivaik_325619

Russian tanks invade Ukraine - Azov battalion deputy commander, 25.08.2014

KYIV, August 25 /Ukrinform/. Azov battalion deputy commander Ihor Mosiychuk has reported an invasion of a large number of tanks, Grad multiple rocket launchers and howitzers through the Ukrainian-Russian border.

"A full-scale invasion! This information has been fully confirmed by border guards and volunteers. Near the settlements of Marchenko and Shcherbak, not far from Novoazovsk, about 30 tanks with sketched Russian labels and under the symbols of the so-called DPR broke through the Ukrainian-Russian border. This convoy of armored vehicles is moving toward Telmanove and Amvrosiyivka," Mosiychuk wrote on FB.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/russian_tanks_invalidate_ukraine_azov_battalion_deputy_commander_325620

Major part of Russian tanks stopped on border - Tymchuk, 25.08.2014

KYIV, August 25 /Ukrinform/. This morning a convoy of Russian military vehicles tried to make a breakthrough from Russia into Ukraine near Novoazovsk, where it met the resistance of Ukrainian troops.

"Due to the rapid actions of Ukrainian units, the convoy was divided. The major part of the convoy was stopped with the fire of our forces," the coordinator of the Information Resistance group, Dmytro Tymchuk, reported on his Facebook.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/major_part_of_russian_tanks_stopped_on_border_tymchuk_325621

Russia masses 47,000 military on border with Ukraine, 25.08.2014

KYIV, August 25 /Ukrinform/. Russia continues to amass troops in the border areas near Ukraine.

"Up to 22,500 Russian military were deployed in Russia and Transdnistria near the state border with Ukraine as of the morning of August 25. In general, given the occupying troops in Crimea, the number of Russian groups is up to 47,000 people," the coordinator of the Information Resistance group, Dmytro Tymchuk, reported on FB.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/russia_masses_47000_military_on_border_with_ukraine_325623

Three dead after terrorists fire at church, 25.08.2014

KYIV, August 25 /Ukrinform/. Militants again cynically shell Ukrainian sanctuaries. Now Church of St. John of Kronstadt came under fire, and there are victims.

National Security and Defense Council (NSDC) information and analytical center spokesman Andriy Lysenko said this at a briefing in Kyiv on Monday.

"Many civilians were injured, and now the number is being specified. In Kirovske, Donetsk region, an artillery shell fired by terrorists hit Church of St. John of Kronstadt, killing three people," NSDC spokesman Andriy Lysenko said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/three_dead_after_terrorists_fire_at_church_325624

Ukraine loses four servicemen over past 24 hours, 25.08.2014

KYIV, August 25 /Ukrinform/. Four Ukrainian servicemen have been killed and 31 have sustained injuries over the past 24 hours as a result of fighting with pro-Russian terrorists in eastern Ukraine, NSDC spokesman Andriy Lysenko said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/ukraine_loses_four_servicemen_over_past_24_hours_325626

Terrorists retreating from Novoazovsk to border, 25.08.2014

KYIV, August 25 /Ukrinform/. The Dnipro-1 and Donbas battalions have repulsed an attack by terrorists on Markine and Novoazovsk in Donetsk region.

Militants are retreating towards the border with Russia, according to Mariupol city website 0629.com.ua.

"Ukrainian fighters have managed to destroy ten APCs of the enemy. Now the terrorists are retreating to the Russian border, and Dnipro-1 fighters are following them," security forces told reporters.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/terrorists_retreating_from_novoazovsk_to_border_325628

Government forces destroy separatist battalion, 26.08.2014

KYIV, August 26 /Ukrinform/. The anti-terrorist operation (ATO) forces have destroyed 250 militants and about 20 pieces of their military equipment and weapons over the past 24 hours, the ATO press center has reported on Facebook.

"Over the past 24 hours the losses of the enemy are 247 people, two tanks, eight armored combat vehicles, two BM-21 Grad launchers, four vehicles and a gun," reads the report.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/government_forces_destroy_separatist_battalion_325630

ATO forces clear Rodakove and chase terrorists near Alchevsk, 26.08.2014

KYIV, August 26 /Ukrinform/. The Armed Forces of Ukraine in cooperation with the special forces of the Interior Ministry and the National Guard of Ukraine perform tasks of search, disarmament, and in case of resistance, elimination of illegal armed groups and sabotage enemy intelligence groups in the settlement of Rodakove. Ukrainian soldiers conduct search and attack actions towards Komisarivka - Alchevsk.

The ATO press center informs on its Facebook page.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/ato_forces_clear_rodakove_and_chase_terrorists_near_alchevsk_325631

Large column of Russian military equipment enters Sukhodolsk in Luhansk region, 26.08.2014

KYIV, August 26 /Ukrinform/. A large column of Russian military equipment entered Sukhodolsk in Luhansk.

A large column of military equipment entered the city of Sukhodolsk, Luhansk region from Russia on Monday, August 25, at 22:00.

Head of the non-governmental organization Right Cause Dmytro Snehiriov said.

"A column of military vehicles entered Sukhodolsk via Sverdlovsk, Luhansk region, from Russia, consisting of 21 tanks, six Grad rocket launchers, 12 APCs, 18 KamAZ trucks and two SAMs Osa," Snehiriov said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/large_column_of_russian_military_equipment_enters_sukhodolsk_in_luhansk_region_325633

Grouping of Armed Forces surrounded, but holds Ilovaisk, 26.08.2014

KYIV, August 26 /Ukrinform/. According to the commander of the battalion Donbas, the artillery of the Armed Forces was broken by the enemy Grad rocket launchers.

Starobesheve and Kuteinykove are blocked, all the penetrating force of the Ukrainian security forces is in the operational encirclement, but holds Ilovaisk.

Donbas battalion commander Semen Semenchenko wrote on his Facebook page.

Describing the situation in Ilovaisk, he reported that on August 26, after a morning breakout from Novoazovsk, the situation was completely under control.

"Anxiety symptoms began later. First, a unit of the Armed Forces has willfully left the position, which was to provide for defense of the rear of the group, which liberated Ilovaisk. The artillery was broken by Grad rocket launchers and the rest departed, leaving some mortars. Then, the enemy made another blow with tanks from the area of Mospino. They went through Starobesheve and were stopped after 15 km by a barrier of the artillery and tanks of the Armed Forces. A blow was also inflicted in the area of Olenivka," he writes.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/grouping_of_armed_forces_surrounded_but_holds_ilovaisk_325639

Dnipro-1 says about two dead and two wounded soldiers near Ilovaisk today, 26.08.2014

KYIV, August 26 /Ukrinform/. The territorial defense battalion Dnipro-1 declares two dead and two wounded soldiers on August 26 in the area of the antiterrorist operation near Ilovaisk.

This was reported at the national defense headquarters of Dnipropetrovsk region.

"Recently, as a result of a mortar attack in Ilovaisk, two soldiers were killed of the Dnipro battalion and two wounded. They stood all night, awaiting reinforcements and heavy machinery from Kyiv. And they died in the morning having not received it," statement said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/dnipro_1_says_about_two_dead_and_two_wounded_soldiers_near_ilovaisk_today_325643

Government forces detain ten Russian paratroopers near Ilovaisk - media, 26.08.2014

KYIV, August 26 /Ukrinform/. Ukrainian military have detained an infantry fighting vehicle with ten Russian paratroopers near Ilovaisk, UNN reported on August 25, citing spokesman for the anti-terrorist operation (ATO) Oleksiy Dmytrashkivsky.

"These ten Russian paratroopers are currently being questioned," he said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/government_forces_detain_ten_russian_paratroopers_near_ilovaisk_media_325645

Ukrainian military block road to Mariupol, 26.08.2014

KYIV, August 26 /Ukrinform/. After repulsing an attack on the Novoazovsk-Mariupol route, Ukrainian government troops hit two tanks and blocked a road to Mariupol.

Ukrainian NSDC information and analytical center spokesman Andriy Lysenko said.

"The remains of the columns that this morning [on August 25] tried to drive out to the road leading to Mariupol were stopped and attacked by a combat group of the ATO forces," he said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/ukrainian_military_block_road_to_mariupol_325646

Donetsk City Council says three civilians die last night, 26.08.2014

The Donetsk Petrovsky and Kyivsky districts came under fire last night and three civilians died, the City Council press service said on Tuesday.

"The hostilities in the Petrovsky district razed houses Nos. 14 and 16 and auxiliary structures on Kurortna Street and damaged house No. 30 on Lt. Nikolenko Street and the coal loading workshop of the Trudivska mine. Hladkivsky, Vuhlehirsk, Radyscheva and Kirovohradka streets were also bombarded. Unfortunately, three civilians died," says the report.

A number of houses were damaged by shells on Orbity and Velozavodska Streets in the Kyivsky district.

Tensions remained in Donetsk as of 1000 on Tuesday but public transport and utility services were operating normally.

<http://en.interfax.com.ua/news/general/219882.html>

Twelve Ukrainian servicemen killed in east Ukraine over past 24 hours - NSDC, 26.08.2014

KYIV, August 26 /Ukrinform/. Twelve Ukrainian servicemen have been killed and another 19 have been injured as a result of fighting in Ukraine's eastern regions over the past 24 hours, Ukrainian NSDC spokesman Andriy Lysenko said this at a briefing in Kyiv on Tuesday.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/twelve_ukrainian_servicemen_killed_in_east_ukraine_over_past_24_hours_nsd_325655

Ukrainian border guards attacked from Russian Mi-24s, four dead, 26.08.2014

KYIV, August 26 /Ukrinform/. The Russian Armed Forces have for the first time shelled Ukrainian border guards with unguided missiles from helicopters.

"Ukrainian border guards were shelled with unguided rockets from two Mi-24 combat helicopters of the Russian Armed Forces," NSDC spokesman Andriy Lysenko said.

He said that four border guards had been killed and three wounded in the attack.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/ukrainian_border_guards_attacked_from_russian_mi_24s_four_dead_325656

Tensions running high near Ilovaisk, fighting underway near Donetsk, 26.08.2014

KYIV, August 26 /Ukrinform/. "Active fighting continues in the suburbs of Donetsk, Luhansk and Ilovaisk in Donetsk region. Our military are directing efforts to block all roads and approaches to Donetsk and Horlivka to fully block them. The fiercest fighting is going on near Ilovaisk and Khriashchuvate," NSDC spokesman Andriy Lysenko said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/tensions_running_high_near_ilovaisk_fighting_underway_near_donetsk_325658

Artillery destroy 225 terrorists near Ilovaisk, Horlivka, Donetsk region, 27.08.2014

KYIV, August 27 /Ukrinform/. The ATO forces destroyed 225 terrorists and defeated three of their tanks, two Grad rocket launchers and other heavy weapons per day near Ilovaisk and Horlivka, Donetsk region.

"The loss of the enemy is three tanks, one armored fighting vehicle, two BM 21 Grad rocket launchers, four mortars, one automobile and one 9A52 Smerch unit. Also, 225 terrorists were killed," the ATO press center writes on its Facebook page.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/artillery_destroy_225_terrorists_near_ilovaisk_horlivka_donetsk_region_325668

Militants shell Donetsk airport with Grad rocket launchers twice, 27.08.2014

KYIV, August 27 /Ukrinform/. Terrorists shelled the Donetsk airport of Grad rocket launchers twice on Wednesday night, the ATO press center wrote on its Facebook page.

In addition, positions and roadblocks of the ATO forces were attacked by militants near the settlements and Novosvitlivka and Verhunsky Crossroad in Luhansk region.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/militants_shell_donetsk_airport_with_grad_rocket_launchers_twice_325670

Number of Russian military increases in Donbas - ATO headquarters, 27.08.2014

KYIV, August 27 /Ukrinform/. Russia continues to deploy its forces in Ukraine. The ever increasing number of Russian military equipment and troops was recorded in Donbas.

The ATO press center wrote on its Facebook page.

"We obtain data the movement of military equipment of up to 100 units (tanks, armored personnel carriers, Grad rocket launchers, infantry combat vehicles) on the road of Starobesheve-Telmanove towards the settlement of Telmanove. The presence of markings is noted on the technique: white circles or triangles," a report reads.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/number_of_russian_military_increases_in_donbas_ato_headquarters_325672

Russian helicopters invade Kherson region, 27.08.2014

KYIV, August 27 /Ukrinform/. "Yesterday, violation of the airspace of Ukraine was recorded by the army aviation of the Armed Forces of the Russian Federation in the area of the settlement of Chervony Chaban, Kherson region, where three helicopters of the Russian Federation flew up to 500 meters from the territory of Crimea to the mainland of Ukraine," NSDC spokesman Andriy Lysenko said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/russian_helicopters_invade_kherson_region_325686

NSDC: Reinforcements already near Ilovaik, wounded evacuated, 27.08.2014

KYIV, August 27 /Ukrinform/. "Help is delivered for the forces in Ilovaik. Part of the wounded was evacuated," spokesman of NSDC the Information-Analytical Center Andriy Lysenko said.

Active fighting continues at Ilovaik, so the operation on sending additional forces continues.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/nsdc_reinforcements_already_near_ilovaisk_wounded_evacuated_325688

Former State Property Fund head Semeniuk-Samsonenko found dead - Interior Ministry, 28.08.2014

KYIV, August 28 /Ukrinform/. Former Head of the State Property Fund of Ukraine Valentyna Semeniuk-Samsonenko was found dead in her home in the village of Chaiky near Kyiv, for the Ukrainian Interior Ministry's main office in Kyiv region spokesman Mykola Zhukovych said.

"A report came at 19.00 that Samsonenko had shot herself," he said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/former_state_property_fund_head_semeniuk_samsonenko_found_dead_interior_ministry_325708

300 miners trapped at Zasiadko mine due to fighting in Donetsk, 28.08.2014

KYIV, August 28 /Ukrinform/. Three hundred miners have been trapped at the Zasiadko coalmine in Donetsk due to cuts to power supply triggered by the ongoing fighting in the city, the press service of DTEK Donetskbloenergo has reported.

"DTEK Donetskbloenergo power engineering experts are currently trying to restore power supply to the Zasiadko mine in Donetsk. The mine was left without power at 07.35 because of the fighting and damage to a power line. There were 300 miners underground at the time of power outage. A DTEK Donetskbloenergo team is currently conducting the temporary connection of the mine from another substation so that the miners could rise to the surface," reads the report.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/300_miners_trapped_at_zasiadko_mine_due_to_fighting_in_donetsk_325715

Eleven civilians killed in Donetsk strikes over past 24 hours, 28.08.2014

Eleven civilians have been killed and another 22 have been injured in Donetsk, eastern Ukraine, as a result of artillery strikes over the past 24 hours, the city administration said on its Web site. The situation remains extremely tense in Donetsk on Thursday morning, it said.

<http://en.interfax.com.ua/news/general/220366.html>

Place of militants in Luhansk region taken by Russian army units - NSDC, 28.08.2014

The fighting near Luhansk and Ilovaisk continues, and the place of militants in Luhansk region has been taken by the Russian army, reads a report by the information and analytical center of the Ukrainian NSDC posted on the National Guard's Web site.

"Active position battles continue on the outskirts of Luhansk, near Novosvitlivka and Khriashchuvate, Donetsk and Ilovaisk, Maryinka, Starobesheve and Olenivka in Volnovakha district, Donetsk region. During the last week in the towns of Luhansk region, controlled by Russian mercenaries (Luhansk, Krasnodon, Antratsyt), units of local 'militiamen' and Cossacks, unable to resist the ATO forces, as well as involved in looting and banditry, were replaced by regular units of the Russian army," reads the statement.

<http://en.interfax.com.ua/news/general/220445.html>

Terrorists get reinforcement, strengthen their positions around Alchevsk, 28.08.2014

KYIV, August 28 /Ukrinform/. Militants near Alchevsk have received reinforcements, and they are preparing for a long defense, NSDC information and analytical center spokesman Andriy Lysenko said this on Thursday.

"The arrival of reinforcements for terrorists in Perevalsk, Zorynsk, Maloivanivka, Mala Fashchivka, Verhuliyivka and Rozsypne and the equipment of these towns for a long-term defense were recorded," Lysenko said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/terrorists_get_reinforcement_strengthen_their_positions_around_alchevsk_325720

Ukrainian army still controls Ilovaisk – NSDC, 28.08.2014

Soldiers fighting in Ilovaisk of Donetsk region received reinforcements and control the town, Ukrainian NSDC spokesman Andriy Lysenko has said.

"Ilovaisk is under the control of the Ukrainian military," he said at a briefing on Thursday.

<http://en.interfax.com.ua/news/general/220545.html>

Shelling of Donetsk claims another 15 civilian lives – council, 28.08.2014

Artillery fire claimed another 15 civilian lives in Donetsk on Thursday, the City Council said.

<http://en.interfax.com.ua/news/general/220549.html>

Government forces mine approach roads to Mariupol, 29.08.2014

KYIV, August 29 /Ukrinform/. "Near Mariupol, the ATO forces are carrying out the engineering development of the area and the mining of tank dangerous routes," the Information Resistance group, Dmytro Tymchuk said on his Facebook page.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/government_forces_mine_approach_roads_to_mariupol_325725

Security forces ambushed near Ilovaisk - Semenchenko, 29.08.2014

KYIV, August 29 /Ukrinform/. The Ukrainian military column was ambushed near Ilovaisk, when trying to get out of the encirclement independently. Now, the troops occupied the defense perimeter and are fighting.

Commander of the Donbas battalion Semen Semenchenko wrote on his Facebook page.

"Trying to independently get out of the encirclement, not waiting for help, a column of our brothers was ambushed. Now, they took the defense perimeter and are fighting. They need urgent help," Semenchenko emphasizes.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/security_forces_ambushed_near_ilovaisk_semenchenko_325728

Luhansk-1 battalion kills 40 terrorists, 29.08.2014

KYIV, August 29 /Ukrinform/. The Luhansk-1 volunteer battalion, the Omega and Jaguar interior forces units have conducted a cleansing of a number of settlements in the Slovianoserbsk district, Luhansk region, as well as the villages of Krymske and Sokilnyky, according to the official Facebook page of the battalion.

"There was fighting between Krymske and Sokilnyky and near the Siversky Donets River. One enemy mortar was destroyed and one more seized during the battle. Up to 40 militants were killed with the support of BTR-3 and BTR-4 armored personnel carriers," reads the statement.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/luhansk_1_battalion_kills_40_terrorists_325730

ATO forces take control of Komsomolske - National Guard, 29.08.2014

KYIV, August 29 /Ukrinform/. During the fighting, soldiers of the National Guard of Ukraine took control of the settlement of Komsomolske, Donetsk region.

"The first operational brigade of the National Guard of Ukraine has successfully marched and strengthened fortifications and defense of Mariupol. During the fighting, the brigade units took control over Komsomolske, Donetsk region," the press-service of the National Guard informs.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/ato_forces_take_control_of_komsomolske_national_guard_325732

Internally displaced persons prepared to be evacuated from Novoazovsk, 29.08.2014

KYIV, August 29 /Ukrinform/. Novoazovsk authorities are engaged in evacuation of refugees, Novoazovsk district state administration head Oleh Sydorenko said.

"Today, we will make arrangements for organization of green corridors for internally displaced persons, we will hoist white flags, in order to calmly evacuate people," he notes.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/internally_displaced_persons_prepared_to_be_evacuated_from_novoazovsk_325738

All miners lifted from Zasiadko mine, 29.08.2014

KYIV, August 29 /Ukrinform/. "All miners from the Zasiadko mine in Donetsk were able to rise to the surface due to the company's own diesel generator. According to specified information, there were 168 miners," DTEK's press service has reported.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/all_miners_lifted_from_zasiadko_mine_325740

Government troops rebuff tank attack near Ilovaisk, capture 12 militants, 29.08.2014

KYIV, August 29 /Ukrinform/. "I have little information as nobody will say such things by phone. The commander one of their groups that broke out of the town phoned me. They were attacked by seven Russian tanks and an infantry battalion. They were attacked when moving. The attack was repulsed, and 12 prisoners were taken. I did all I could for them. Now it all depends on their stability and your prayers," Donbas battalion commander Semen Semenchenko wrote this on his Facebook page.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/government_troops_rebuff_tank_attack_near_ilovaisk_capture_12_militants_325756

Ten Ukrainian soldiers killed, 30 injured in eastern Ukraine over past 24 hours - Lysenko, 29.08.2014

A total of 789 Ukrainian servicemen have been killed in the ATO area in eastern Ukraine, including ten killed in the last 24 hours, NSDC spokesman Andriy Lysenko has said.

"30 Ukrainian soldiers have been injured over the past 24 hours," he said.

<http://en.interfax.com.ua/news/general/220717.html>

NSDC: Militants created no 'humanitarian corridors' for surrounded Ukrainian troops, 29.08.2014

Ukrainian Armed Forces servicemen do not trust claims by militants about the creation of corridors for allegedly leaving the encircled area and are not going to lay down their arms.

"No matter how iridescently these humanitarian corridors referred to by the Russian Federation and the information resources of terrorist groups were described, they do not really exist," NSDC spokesman Andriy Lysenko said at a briefing on Friday.

<http://en.interfax.com.ua/news/general/220754.html>

First 28 soldiers of Ilovaisk group go out of encirclement, 30.08.2014

KYIV, August 30 /Ukrinform/. "First soldiers of the Ilovaisk group went out of the encirclement to a strong point of the National Guard brigade in Komsomolske - 28 people from the Interior Ministry battalions Peacemaker (14), Kherson (3), and Dnipro-1 (11). With them, a few people from the Defense Ministry's territorial defense battalions," Interior Minister Avakov wrote on FB.
http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/first_28_soldiers_of_ilovaisk_group_go_out_of_encirclement_325765

Ukrainian army launches offensive in Luhansk region, 30.08.2014

KYIV, August 30 /Ukrinform/. "The Ukrainian army launched an offensive in Luhansk region. The troops destroyed more than 40 terrorists," NSDC spokesman Andriy Lysenko said.
http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/ukrainian_army_launches_offensive_in_luhansk_region_325773

54 border guards killed in battle in eastern Ukraine, 30.08.2014

KYIV, August 30 /Ukrinform/. "As a result of military clashes in eastern Ukraine, 54 border guards were killed (as of August 28)," the State Border Guard Service informs on its website.
http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/54_border_guards_killed_in_battle_in_eastern_ukraine_325775

Security forces from Khriashchuvate and Novosvitlivka move to Luhansk, 30.08.2014

KYIV, August 30 /Ukrinform/. "The regular units of the Ukrainian Armed Forces were ordered to leave the villages of Khriashchuvate and Novosvitlivka, Krasnodon district, and they took up defensive positions near Luhansk," NSDC spokesman Andriy Lysenko said.
http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/security_forces_from_khriashchuvate_and_novosvitlivka_move_to_luhansk_325777

MH17 crash in Ukraine

International experts begin work at Boeing crash site, 01.08.2014

KYIV, August 1 /Ukrinform/. A team of international OSCE observers jointly with Dutch and Australian experts has arrived at the Boeing crash site in Donetsk region and started to work, according to the Twitter page of the OSCE special monitoring mission. The OSCE group and a large group of Dutch and Australian experts arrived at the crash site of Malaysia Airlines Flight MH17 and immediately begin to work, the organization said. Over 60 experts are working at the scene. They will look for the remains and personal belongings.
http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/international_experts_begin_work_at_boeing_crash_site_324718

MH17: Site search resumes, Obama chides Putin over rebel support, 02.08.2014

GRABOVE, Ukraine: International experts pushed today with their painstaking probe at the crash site of downed flight MH17 in east Ukraine after US President Barack Obama called on Russia to heed international pressure to defuse the civil war tearing apart its neighbour. Some 70 Dutch and Australian police experts were back for a second day scouring the vast scene with sniffer dogs for more human remains, while those leading the investigation have warned the grim task could take some three weeks to complete. Washington accuses insurgents of blowing the airliner out of the sky with a surface-to-air missile likely supplied by Russia, while Moscow and the rebels pointed at the Ukrainian military. In a telephone call with Russian leader Vladimir Putin, Obama expressed his "deep concerns" about Moscow's increased support for separatists rebels waging a brutal conflict against Kiev that has claimed more than 1,150 lives.

"Right now what we've done is impose sufficient costs on Russia that, objectively speaking... President Putin should want to resolve this diplomatically, to get these sanctions lifted, get their economy growing again, and have good relations with Ukraine," Obama told an impromptu news conference.

"But sometimes people don't always act rationally," he added.

<http://www.nst.com.my/node/19485>

MH17: 15 more remains found, 03.08.2014

AMSTERDAM: Experts at the MH17 crash site have recovered more human remains and items belonging to passengers of the Malaysia Airlines flight.

Recovery mission Head Pieter-Jaap Aalbersberg said the team of investigators on their second outing since Friday, for the first time used sniffer dogs at the wreckage site, in eastern Ukraine. In a statement, Aalbersberg said the investigators combed through the same chicken farm they were at on Friday as clashes were heard between pro-Russia separatists nearby.

It is however not established if what the investigators retrieved from the site were decomposing bodies or fragments of the passengers' remains.

A total of 298 people died when the aircraft was blown out of the sky on July 17.

<http://www.nst.com.my/node/19709>

US military experts arrive in Ukraine to help investigate plane crash, 06.08.2014

A small team of U.S. military experts has arrived in Kyiv to help investigate the downing of Malaysia Airlines Flight MH17, Pentagon Press Secretary John Kirby has said.

A team of 12 people will provide support, in particular, in the areas of logistics and communications. They will also consult the U.S. Embassy in Ukraine on what kind of assistance the United States can render to Dutch, Malaysian and Australian experts in investigating the crash and collecting the remains.

The team will operate from Kyiv, Kirby said.

<http://en.interfax.com.ua/news/general/217117.html>

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/us_experts_to_help_investigate_boeing_crash_without_leaving_kyiv_324917

International experts find no remains of MH17 passengers at crash site in past three days – mission head, 06.08.2014

The work of the international expert mission at the crash site of the Malaysian Boeing 777 in Donetsk region, will last until the remains of all the crash victims and their belongings are found, the head of the mission, Peter-Jap Albersberg, has said.

"Despite the fact that many people are currently working at the site, certain time is needed to collect the bodies and remains of the victims and their personal belongings. The mission has still not been completed," he said at a briefing in crisis media center in Kyiv on Wednesday.

<http://en.interfax.com.ua/news/general/217221.html>

Terrorists wanted to shot down Aeroflot plane instead of Boeing - Nalyvaichenko, 07.08.2014

KYIV, August 7 /Ukrinform/. Terrorists planned to shoot down a Russian Aeroflot aircraft instead of the Malaysia Airlines Boeing jet.

Ukrainian Security Service (SBU) Chief Valentyn Nalyvaichenko said this at a briefing in Kyiv on Thursday, Ukrinform reported.

"It has been established during the investigation into the downing of the Malaysia Airlines Boeing 777 passenger plane that terrorists and military mercenaries cynically planned a terrorist attack against a civilian aircraft of Aeroflot, Flight AFL2074, en route from Moscow to Larnaca, which was flying over Ukrainian territory at the same time," Nalyvaichenko said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/terrorists_wanted_to_shot_down_aeroflot_plane_instead_of_boeing_nalyvaichenko_324990

Most intl experts to leave Ukraine before start of 2nd phase of search at Boeing crash site - Ukrainian ministry, 07.08.2014

A group of international experts has finished the first phase of a search for the wreckage of the Malaysia Airlines Boeing 777 and the victims' remains for security reasons, the Ukrainian Regional Development, Construction, Housing and Utilities Ministry reported on Thursday.

"A group of international experts reported the termination of the first phase of a search for the plane's wreckage and the bodies of the dead passengers of the Boeing 777 because of the

situation related to terrorists' provocations and threats to the lives of the group members who worked at the crash scene," the ministry said on Thursday.

<http://en.interfax.com.ua/news/general/217391.html>

Dutch experts identify 65 victims of Boeing disaster, 11.08.2014

Experts from the Netherlands have identified the bodies of 65 persons who were on board the Malaysian Boeing Flight MH17 that was shot down over Donetsk region in Ukraine, the press service of the Dutch government has reported.

Experts continue to engage in the identification of bodies, but warned that the process could be quite lengthy.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/dutch_experts_identify_65_victims_of_boeing_disaster_325174

Pilot Savchenko

Feygin: Russian side doesn't have evidence against Savchenko, 08.08.2014

KYIV, August 7 /Ukrinform/. The Russian side has no evidence against Ukrainian pilot Nadia Savchenko, lawyer Mark Feygin told reporters in Kyiv on Thursday.

"For today there is no evidence against Savchenko ... Most of the proceedings can't be implemented. She was caught in Luhansk region. This is the territory of Ukraine, and the proceedings need to be conducted there," the lawyer said.

He also said that Russia would not be able to obtain evidence legally.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/feygin_russian_side_doesnt_have_evidence_against_savchenko_325009

National Minorities & Religions

Metropolitan Onufriy elected head of Ukrainian Orthodox Church (Moscow Patriarchate)

KYIV, August 13 /Ukrinform/. Metropolitan Onufriy of Chernivtsi and Bukovyna has been elected new head of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the Moscow Patriarchate (UOC-MP).

Such a decision was taken following a vote of church hierarchs, which was held on Wednesday at a meeting of the UOC-MP

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/metropolitan_onufriy_elected_head_of_ukrainian_orthodox_church_moscow_patriarchate_325289

Mass Media

Ukrainian journalists burst from encirclement near Ilovaisk. Photos, 29.08.2014

KYIV, August 29 /Ukrinform/. "We cannot believe we're alive. Today I (LB.ua), Markiyan Lyseiko (Ukrinform), Ivan Liubysch-Kirdey, Heorhiy Tykhy (German TV ARD) burst from the encirclement in Ilovaisk and experienced the second birthday. Once, during the first fire and an ambush, we broke a little forward. Got in two another ambushes, our tank was hit in front of us - now we were born for the second time. A driver got a minor wound (I-ML.), a window was broken - hit by about three bullets. One flew across the entire interior. We were not hit by several missiles by a miracle," Maksym Levin reports on his Facebook page, a columnist of the LB.ua.

Levin also points out that Ukrainian security forces are still fighting out there.

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

Ukraine Worldwide

Germany suspends military exports to Russia, 04.08.2014

KYIV, August 4 /Ukrinform/. Because of the conflict in Ukraine, the German government finally stopped the military exports to Russia, revoking the permission for the implementation of agreements between the German company Rheinmetall and the Russian Defence Ministry on the construction of a combat training center for Russian soldiers in the village of Mulino. The German newspaper Sueddeutsche cited Economic Affairs and Energy Federal Ministry. "The Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy has revoked the permission issued by the previous government for the construction by the Rheinmetall concern of a combat training center in Mulino, Russia," the newspaper writes.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/germany_suspends_military_exports_to_russia_324778

U.S. freezes nuclear deal with Russia - media, 04.08.2014

KYIV, August 4 /Ukrinform/. The growing confrontation between Washington and Moscow over Ukraine has derailed a recent accord that promised one of the most expansive collaborations ever between the countries' nuclear scientists, the New York Times has reported.

"It was only 11 months ago that the American energy secretary - Ernest J. Moniz, a former M.I.T. professor who has championed scientific programs that would bury the Cold War competitions between the United States and Russia - went to Vienna to sign the agreement, an indication of how recently the Obama administration believed it had a chance of building on a quarter-century of gradual integration of Russia with the West," the newspaper wrote.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/us_freezes_nuclear_deal_with_russia_media_324805

MTS-Ukraine no longer available in Crimea, 05.08.2014

KYIV, August 5 /Ukrinform/. On Tuesday morning, MTS-Ukraine subscribers in Crimea were left without mobile telephony. The mobile provider without any explanation disabled its network in the occupied peninsula.

There is no explanation for what has happened on the MTS official website.

Meanwhile, mobile operators Kyivstar and Life continue to work in Crimea.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/mts_ukraine_no_longer_available_in_crimea_324833

Japanese government approves sanctions against Russia, 05.08.2014

The Japanese Cabinet of Ministers on Tuesday formally endorsed the sanctions list against Russia in connection with the situation in Ukraine, local media reported.

The Japanese government announced the sanctions last week.

The list includes 40 people who, according to the ministers, "were directly involved in the annexation of Crimea and the destabilization of the situation in Ukraine," including former president of Ukraine Viktor Yanukovich and senior Crimean officials.

In the list also includes two Crimean companies - Chornomornaftogaz and Feodosia.

<http://en.interfax.com.ua/news/general/216906.html>

Buildup Makes Russia Battle-Ready for Ukraine, 05.08.2014

By MICHAEL R. GORDON and ERIC SCHMITTAUG. 4, 2014

WASHINGTON — Russia has roughly doubled the number of its battalions near the Ukrainian border, Western officials said Monday, and could respond to the Kiev government's gains there by launching a cross-border incursion with little or no warning.

Over the past several weeks, Russia has built up 17 battalions — totaling 19,000 to 21,000 troops, according to one Western estimate — into a battle-ready force of infantry, armor, artillery and air defense within a few miles of the border. In addition, it has vastly expanded its firepower, increasing the number of advanced surface-to-air missile units to 14 from eight, and deploying more than 30 artillery batteries, according to the officials.

The Kremlin's intentions in increasing its military abilities remain unclear.

http://www.nytimes.com/2014/08/05/world/europe/buildup-makes-russia-battle-ready-for-ukraine.html?_r=0

Putin, Medvedev, State Duma going to occupied Crimea - media, 05.08.2014

KYIV, August 5 /Ukrinform/. President of Russia Vladimir Putin next week is going to visit Crimea, annexed by the Russian Federation.

Several sources, close to the leadership of the State Duma and the Russian government, told the rbc.ua.

According to them, in the middle of next week, Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev, Russian government officials and the State Duma deputies will visit occupied by Russia Crimea.

As the sources inform, State Duma deputies will start coming to Crimea on August 12 in order to communicate with residents of this region.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/putin_medvedev_state_duma_going_to_occupied_crimea_media_324839

UNHCR office opens in Mariupol, 06.08.2014

KYIV, August 6 /Ukrinform/. A representative office of the UN mission opened in Mariupol, Donetsk region, deputy chairman of Donetsk Regional State Administration Ivan Shevliak told reporters on Wednesday.

"It was a logical continuation of a memorandum of cooperation signed between Donetsk Regional State Administration and the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees. In furtherance of the memorandum the necessary coordination of all stakeholders (including government) responsible for the settlement of social problems of displaced persons will be provided," Shevliak said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/unhcr_office_opens_in_mariupol_324919

Ukrainian film director Sentsov to remain in custody - Moscow City Court, 08.08.2014

The Moscow City Court has upheld a lower court's decision to prolong the custodial term of Ukrainian film director Oleh Sentsov, who was detained in Crimea on suspicion of plotting terrorist attacks, until October 11, an Interfax correspondent has reported.

"The ruling issued by the Kyivsky Court of Simferopol to remand Sentsov into custody was illegal. It was handed down by an illegitimate judge in the presence of an illegitimate prosecutor and lawyer. The Lefortovsky District Court of Moscow, for its part, illegally prolonged this custodial term," Sentsov's defense lawyer said at a Moscow City Court session on Friday.

<http://en.interfax.com.ua/news/general/217461.html>

UN offers Donbas humanitarian aid, 09.08.2014

KYIV, August 9 /Ukrinform/. UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon in a statement issued by his spokesperson in New York, expressed deep concern about the deteriorating humanitarian situation in parts of eastern Ukraine, according to the UN News Center <

http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=48445#.U-XktuN_vTw>.

"Innocent civilians trapped in the fighting continue to lose their lives. The number of those who are fleeing the area continues to grow. Restoring vital infrastructure, not least for water and sanitation, is essential for a return to normal life," said the statement.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/un_offers_donbas_humanitarian_aid_325098

MFA urges Russia 'to refrain from humanitarian convoys' to Ukraine, 09.08.2014

KYIV, August 9 /Ukrinform/. The Ukrainian Ministry of Foreign Affairs made a statement regarding Russia's attempts to organize so called humanitarian convoy to Ukraine.

"Bearing in mind numerous violations by the Russian Federation of the state border regime of Ukraine and continued illegal supply of weapons, armored vehicles and mercenaries from Russia, Ukraine has solid grounds for concerns that the convoy may trigger further escalation and lead to deterioration of the situation for the people in Donbas," the document reads.

"We would like to remind the Russian side that under the international law a request from Ukraine as the host state is needed for humanitarian aid to be provided. The list of humanitarian aid items needs to be agreed with the Ukrainian authorities, and their delivery to Ukraine must be arranged via the channels of the United Nations or International Committee of the Red

Cross. Besides, any delivery of humanitarian aid to the areas that are under temporary control of terrorists would be possible only if agreed by the Tripartite Contact Group with the actors on the ground. This position is fully shared by the international community and was re-confirmed at today's meeting of the UN Security Council," the statement reads.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/mfa_urges_russia_to_refrain_from_humanitarian_convoy_to_ukraine_325115

Kyivstar suspends work in Crimea, 11.08.2014

KYIV, August 11 /Ukrinform/. On Monday, armed people broke into the Kyivstar office in Simferopol and started installing their own equipment.

Urgent information of the company reads on its Facebook page.

"They asked Kyivstar workers to remain in the premises and, according to our personnel, started to install their own equipment on the telecommunication equipment of the company. Therefore, Kyivstar, acting in the interests of information security of its subscribers, physical security of the personnel, and the network operation entirety, had to temporarily suspend rendering of communication services in Crimea, excluding by this any unlawful actions, which may have an impact on the network and its security," a statement reads.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/kyivstar_suspends_work_in_crimea_325172

Guardian: Russian 'convoy' to cross Ukraine border within hours, 13.08.2014

KYIV, August 13 /Ukrinform/. Britain's Guardian newspaper has published an article entitled "280-truck Russian aid convoy set to reach Ukraine border within hours."

The author of the article writes that the arrival of a convoy of Russian trucks with allegedly humanitarian aid is expected in the next few hours.

"A huge Russian convoy allegedly carrying humanitarian aid was expected to reach the Ukrainian border on Wednesday afternoon," reads the article.

The west fears this may be a prelude to a Russian invasion, but Moscow insists it is designed to relieve the suffering of besieged residents trapped by conflict.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/guardian_russian_convoy_to_cross_ukraine_border_within_hours_325283

Switzerland imposes additional limitations on arms exports to Russia, Ukraine, 14.08.2014

The Swiss Federal Council has imposed additional limitations on military exports to Russia, the Swiss government said in a communique.

The communique said it had been decided to expand the ban on exports of military hardware to Russia and Ukraine but did not specify the hardware types.

The Swiss authorities also decided to prevent the evasion of EU sectoral sanctions against Russia via Switzerland.

<http://en.interfax.com.ua/news/general/218323.html>

Red Cross sends envoy to Moscow, Kyiv to discuss 'Putin's convoy', 14.08.2014

KYIV, August 14 /Ukrinform/. Laurent Corbaz, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) head of operations for Europe and Central Asia, is heading to Moscow and Kyiv to negotiate the delivery to Ukraine of the Russian humanitarian convoy, Reuters reported citing Deutsche Welle.

"A senior representative of the International Committee of the Red Cross is going to Moscow and Kyiv to negotiate the delivery of the Russian humanitarian aid to Ukraine," the report reads. It is expected that Corbaz will leave Geneva on Thursday.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/red_cross_sends_envoy_to_moscow_kyiv_to_discuss_putins_convoy_325352

Security fencing of Ukraine border, 14.08.2014

This order is for the delivery of 2,500 spools of Concertina wire for the State Border Guard Service of Ukraine referenced in the Office of the Vice President's Fact Sheet entitled "U.S. Crisis Support Package for Ukraine" dated 22 April 2014. This Fact Sheet includes Security Assistance in which the Office of the Vice President announced the provision of urgently

needed non-lethal assistance to the State Border Guard Service of Ukraine to fulfill its core security mission.

Concertina (Razor Wire) is necessary for the State Border Guard Service to defend the newly imposed borders between Ukraine's mainland and the Crimean peninsula and to strengthen Ukraine's eastern border.

<https://www.fbo.gov/index?s=opportunity&mode=form&id=70ceab44b6baff257b238d99cc13006f&tab=core&tabmode=list&=>

Putin's "convoy" sets camp near Ukraine - media, 15.08.2014

KYIV, August 15 /Ukrinform/. The Russian "humanitarian convoy," which moved in the direction of the town of Donetsk in Rostov region, turned off the federal highway "Don" and stopped in a field about 35 kilometers from the Russian-Ukrainian border.

As of Friday morning, the column was still in the field, BBC Ukraine writes with reference to Tweeter journalist of the BBC Russian Service Yuri Vendik.

According to the correspondent, "a camp is set in the field near the convoy." And he said that the stay may be prolonged.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/putins_convoy_sets_camp_near_ukraine_media_325360

OSCE observers arrive in Mariupol, 29.08.2014

KYIV, August 29 /Ukrinform/. The OSCE Special Monitoring Mission (SMM) to Ukraine has sent a team of two observers to Mariupol, who have already started working in the town, the press service of the OSCE SMM to Ukraine has reported.

A mission representative said that two observers had been in Mariupol since yesterday night. He also said that another group of observers was also being sent to help them.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/osce_observers_arrive_in_mariupol_325757

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