



Monitoring of Xenophobia and Extremism in Ukraine August 2015

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Introduction

Based on the current information vibe in Moscow, the Kremlin is not going to return the occupied Donbas, at least in the near future. Recent months events also prove this point. In Moscow, they like to talk of Ukraine abusing Minsk agreements, but they forget about the issue of restoring control over parts of Russian-Ukrainian border. Meanwhile, there is an ongoing integration of the occupied areas of Donetsk and Luhansk regions in the Russian political space. The clones of Yedinaya Rossiya, the country's prime political party, have been established. Russian generals are in control of the Russian officers deployed in Donbas, who, in turn, are commanders over Russian citizens with Russian weapons and Russian tanks. Meanwhile, the Russian propaganda keeps branding this as "civil war" in Ukraine. As a new political season starts, we can expect on new horror stories about slaves and crucified boys. The latest developments push to the disappointing conclusion - Donetsk and Luhansk regions will embrace a gray zone status for a long period time. When the attacks on the positions of the Ukrainian military and relevant counteractions cease, people will gradually start returning to the region, but not for long. Unemployment, lack of political rights, destroyed infrastructure will force people to make a choice: to move to Russia, which is closing the "iron curtain," for good, or choose another destination – the free Ukraine. Ceasefire has been constantly violated. Ukraine was receiving new refugees and new losses. On August 31 the draft bill on decentralization amendments to the Constitution had been passed. Clashes outside the Ukrainian Verkhovna Rada in Kyiv started shortly after the parliament had voted on decentralization-related amendments to the Constitution on Monday. Protesters (lead by Svoboda & Radical Parties) disagreeing with the amendments started throwing bottles, smoke bombs and paving stones at law enforcement officers. Also, a grenade was thrown at them. 122 people have been wounded in clashes, 10 of them - seriously. Three policemen died due to wounds.

Prognosis

Poll: More than 60% of Ukrainians want NATO membership, 03.08.2015

"We can see significant changes now. If a referendum were to be held today, it would certainly be won. However, this is still an issue that divides Ukraine," she said.

According to the survey, 28.5% of respondents would vote against Ukraine's joining NATO, while 7.6% of respondents could not answer. "In June 2010, only 25% of respondents would have voted for Ukraine's joining NATO on the alleged referendum on Ukraine's accession to NATO, while 68% of respondents would have voted "against" it. In June 2014, the situation has changed: 45% of respondents would have voted for NATO membership, while 36% of respondents would have voted against it," Bekeshkina said.

<http://www.unian.info/society/1107537-poll-more-than-60-of-ukrainians-want-nato-membership.html>

IMF worsens forecast for hryvnia rate in late 2015 from Hr 22/\$1 to Hr 23.5/\$1, 04.08.2015

The hryvnia to U.S. dollar exchange rate by the end of 2015 will come to Hr 23.5 per \$1, while by late 2016 - Hr 24.4/\$1, according to a report by the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

<http://www.kyivpost.com/content/ukraine/imf-worsens-forecast-for-hryvnia-rate-in-late-2015-from-hr-221-to-hr-2351-394991.html>

Slowdown in industrial contraction gives hope for Ukraine recovery: Reuters poll, 05.08.2015

Ukraine's economy may start recovering in the coming months as a contraction in output - battered by a separatist conflict in the industrial east - slows, as shown by a Reuters poll on Wednesday. Analysts at 13 Ukrainian banks and brokerages expect industrial output to have shrunk 17% in July year-on-year versus 18.1% in June, 20.7 percent in May and 21.7% in April. "Ukraine has been suffering from the loss of the industrial Donbass region since last year. But it looks like the country has managed to adjust to it. Soon the double-digit fall in production output will be left behind," Dmytro Boyarchuk of the economic research organization CASE Ukraine, said. Ukrainian industry was already shrinking before the conflict. In June 2012 output fell by 1.4% due to poor external demand for steel, one of Ukraine's key exports. The military conflict with Russian-backed separatists in Donetsk and Luhansk regions – the location of the majority of coal mines and metals plants - worsened the situation last summer. In July 2014 industry shrank by 12.1% year-on-year and in August the contraction deepened to 21.4%. Kiev says it has lost about 20% of its industrial capacity due to regular shelling in the east. A ceasefire, agreed in February, has given a fragile hope for the peaceful solution of the conflict, despite almost daily violations.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2015/08/05/us-ukraine-economy-reuterspoll-idUSKCN0QA1W120150805>

Russia, Putin Held in Low Regard around the World, 06.08.2015

Opinions of Russia are more unfavorable than favorable in 26 nations. The strongest negative sentiment is in Poland and Jordan (both 80%). The former is a legacy of a long history of bilateral tensions. Public opinion in Jordan may be influenced by Moscow's current support for the regime of President Bashar al-Assad in Syria, Jordan's neighbor and the source of hundreds of thousands of refugees in Jordan. Anti-Russian sentiment is also particularly strong in Israel (74%), Japan (73%), Germany (70%) and France (70%). These are among the main findings of a Pew Research Center survey, conducted in 40 nations among 45,435 respondents from March 25 to May 27, 2015. Russia's greatest support is in Vietnam (75%). But in only two other nations do about half or more of the public have a positive view of Russia: Ghana (56%) and China (51%). In a number of countries, large segments of the public express no opinion about Russia.

<http://www.pewglobal.org/2015/08/05/russia-putin-held-in-low-regard-around-the-world/>

Over 60% of Ukrainians support Ukraine's NATO bid, 14.08.2015

35.7% of respondents in 2015 cited joining NATO as the best security option for Ukraine. 28.8% said they supported the country's non-aligned status. 22.9% of the respondents could not make up their mind on the issue. Besides, 7.8% back the military alliance with Russia, while 3.2% - with the United States. Other alliances are considered by another 1.6%. It

should be emphasized that for a long time, the majority of Ukrainians believed that neutral status is Ukraine's security guarantee (42% in April 2012). A substantial part of the population saw the military alliance with Russia as the security solution (in 2012 - 26%). It is reported that had a referendum on joining NATO been scheduled for this year, the idea would gain support of 64% of Ukrainians. In turn, 28.5% would vote against the move, and 7.5% would remain undecided.

<http://www.unian.info/society/1111847-over-60-of-ukrainians-support-ukraines-nato-bid.html>

Over 40% of Russians support embargoed food destruction, 38% against, 21.08.2015

Russians have mixed feelings about the Russian authorities' decision to destroy embargoed food smuggled into Russia from the European Union, the United States, Australia, Canada and Norway: 42% believe the embargoed food needs to be destroyed, while 38% disagree, according to business daily Vedomosti, which cites the findings of the Public Opinion Foundation's poll. The poll confirms that most of Russians, or 83%, know about such a decision. Those WHO support the Destruction of foods embargoed Claim That such foods fail to meet biosecurity Requirements, They are of power quality, out-of-date and Harmful (17%), and that domestic production should be developed and domestic producers should get support (8%). Their opponents propose the distribution of the food among the needy (18%), orphanages or homes for elderly people (5%). All in all, 70% of the polled agree with the Russian authorities' decision to ban imports of certain products from the European Union, the United States, Australia, Canada, and Norway. At the same time, those who call this decision erroneous account for 11%, while 19% are undecided.

<http://ukraine-english-news.forumotion.com/t1075-over-40-of-russians-support-embargoed-food-destruction-38-against>

Poll: Ukrainians dissatisfied with ATO pace in Donbas, 28.08.2015

Most Ukrainians believe the situation in the east of Ukraine is volatile and express their dissatisfaction with the pace of the anti-terrorist operation in Donbas, according to the results of a survey carried out by TNS market research company. According to the survey, the percentage of those who consider the situation in Donbas extremely tense and volatile decreased in July, but the number of such Ukrainians is still very high, keeping at 76%. The number of Ukrainians, who believe that the situation in Donbas tense, but stable, and not volatile, has also increased. Among other things, the survey showed that the evaluation index of the Anti-Terrorist Operation (ATO) had gradually decreased towards absolutely negative since March, which indicated that the society was dissatisfied with the course of the ATO.

<http://ukrainianwall.com/english-news/poll-ukrainians-dissatisfied-with-ato-pace-in-donbas/>

Over 50% of Ukrainians see Donbas conflict as Russia's aggressive war – poll, 28.08.2015

Over 50% of respondents believe the conflict in eastern Ukraine covering parts of Luhansk and Donetsk regions is in fact Russia's aggressive war. 25.6% of respondents call it a fight between the U.S. and Russia over influence on Ukraine. 13.6% think it is a civil conflict. In turn, 8.7% of respondents believe Russia not involved in the Donbas hostilities and is not a party to the conflict. 64.9% of respondents named the "DPR" and "LPR" terrorist organizations that have no right to represent the local population of the named regions. 16.3% believe that they actually can represent the occupied territories.

At the same time 34.5% of Ukrainians say that Ukraine should continue the Anti-Terrorist Operation until full restoration of control over the occupied territories.

28.5% think that these territories should be granted special status, while 19.9% advocate the idea of separating the occupied areas of Donbas from Ukraine. 36.5% of respondents supported Constitutional amendments on the special status of Donbas, while 39.2% are against such option. 44% of Ukrainians negatively assess current results of the Minsk agreements, 12% praise them, while almost 23% remain neutral.

<http://www.unian.info/society/1116514-over-50-of-ukrainians-see-donbas-conflict-as-russias-aggressive-war-poll.html>

Statements of officials

UKRAINE'S FOREIGN MINISTRY: RUSSIA VIOLATES MOST OF OSCE PRINCIPLES, 01.08.2015

The ministry said that the leaders of 35 countries in Europe and North America signed the Final Act of the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe in Helsinki, Finland, on August 1, 1975. Despite ideological differences, the states participating in the conference agreed on ten fundamental principles of cooperation to ensure peace and security in Europe. In furtherance of these commitments the leaders of the member states agreed at the OSCE summit in Astana in 2010 to work towards building a common Euro-Atlantic and Eurasian security community.

"Unfortunately, Russian aggression against Ukraine thwarted these ambitious plans and marred the celebration of the 40th anniversary of the Helsinki Final Act. Having illegally occupied and annexed Crimea with the city of Sevastopol, having invaded Donbas and kidnapped citizens, Russia has violated most of the principles and obligations that lay the OSCE's grounds. Among them are sovereign equality, respect for the rights inherent in sovereignty, territorial integrity, inviolability of frontiers, refraining from the threat or use of force, as well as fulfillment in good faith of obligations under international law," the statement said.

<http://x-news.com.ua/ukraines-foreign-ministry-russia-violates-most-of-osce-principles-53578/>

Dzhemilev doesn't rule out Crimean Tatar military formation in Kherson, 01.08.2015

"We plan to be based in Kherson, together with a representation of other [ethnic] minorities. It's possible we may participate in a military formation to be created for the struggle. After the peninsula has been liberated from the occupiers, such formations are most likely to be used to maintain security on the peninsula, Dzhemilev said at the second World Congress of Crimean Tatars in Ankara on August 1. In his words, the Crimean Tatars who were forced to leave Crimea as internally displaced people due to the pressure of the Russian occupying authorities will be settled in Kherson region.

<http://www.unian.info/politics/1107172-dzhemilev-doesnt-rule-out-crimean-tatar-military-formation-in-kherson.html>

POROSHENKO: CRIMEA TO HAVE STATUS OF NATIONAL-TERRITORIAL AUTONOMY WITHIN UKRAINE, 01.08.2015

"I'd like to assure you that Ukraine will never, under any circumstances, put up with the violation of the rights of its citizens, human rights, the rights of the Crimean Tatar people to live freely on their land. Ukraine, together with its international partners, will do its best to restore the rule of law on the peninsula and the return of Crimea under Ukrainian jurisdiction. We have established government institutions that are engaged in the pursuit of the state policy in relation to Crimea. Representatives of the Crimean Tatars, including national leaders, Members of Parliament Mustafa Dzhemilev and Refat Chubarov, enjoy a worthy place among the Ukrainian authorities," Poroshenko said in a statement addressing the second World Congress of the Crimean Tatars, which is being held in Ankara July 31 through August 2. "I sincerely welcome representatives of the courageous and freedom-loving Crimean Tatar people, who came to participate in the second World Congress of the Crimean Tatars. The whole world is with you now. A considerable number of participants in the forum from different countries is proof of this," the president said in the statement.

<http://x-news.com.ua/poroshenko-crimea-to-have-status-of-national-territorial-autonomy-within-ukraine-53688/>

<http://www.kyivpost.com/content/ukraine/unian-poroshenko-promises-crimea-status-of-national-territorial-autonomy-within-ukraine-394856.html>

Ukraine calls on Russia to negotiate end to war in east, 02.08.2015

Ukraine's foreign minister is calling on Russia to come to "real negotiations" about a cease-fire and stabilization in Ukraine's war-torn east which will require fair elections that are internationally monitored. Pavlo Klimkin said in an interview with The Associated Press that Russian military and special forces are "in full command" in the rebel-controlled eastern regions of Donetsk and Luhansk. He cited Ukraine's capture a few days ago of a large Russian truck filled with weapons that was driven by a Russian special forces officer as one of many examples of Russia's presence.

<http://bigstory.ap.org/article/e1f7a265e0ba4afcb51fc53cd0f30af/ukraine-calls-russia-negotiate-end-war-east>

DZHEMILEV: 10,000 CRIMEAN TATARS FLEE CRIMEA SINCE RUSSIAN ANNEXATION, 02.08.2015

"Tough discrimination and lawlessness against the Crimean Tatars, especially the kidnapping and murder of young people; forced recruitment of young people into the army with a view to sending them to war with their brothers, the Ukrainians; the complete absence of democratic freedoms and the lack of any prospects for young people in occupied Crimea are forcing many to leave their homeland again and move to the Ukrainian mainland," Dzhemilev said at the second World Congress of Crimean Tatars in Ankara. He noted that after the so-called "Crimean Spring" 76 families attempted to return to the peninsula from places of deportation, but none of them were allowed to settle in Crimea, as "the annual quota" had been reached, so they all had had to go back. According to Dzhemilev, up to 2,000 people per year used to resettle in Crimea in recent years. Read also Crimean Tatar leader calls on Turkey to join sanctions against Russia over Crimea. "One gets a clear and rightly impression that the iniquity against Crimean Tatars takes place, including with the purpose to drive them beyond Crimea", said Dzhemilev.

<http://x-news.com.ua/dzhemilev-10000-crimean-tatars-flee-crimea-since-russian-annexation-53826/>

<http://x-news.com.ua/crimean-tatars-ask-global-community-to-recognize-russian-policy-as-genocide-53964/>

POROSHENKO NAMES RUSSIA'S POTENTIAL TARGETS, 03.08.2015

"Putin will be going on an offensive as far as we – Ukraine and the whole world – let him. It is possible that he invades Finland? Yes, it is possible. Can he attack the Baltic States? Yes. The States of the Black Sea region? Yes. In the east [of Ukraine], we are fighting not just for our country's independence, but for the democracy, freedom and security of Europe," said Poroshenko.

<http://x-news.com.ua/poroshenko-names-russias-potential-targets-54091/>

Belarus on higher alert at Ukraine border, 03.08.2015

"The border with Ukraine is 1,084 km long. So it happened, that it is less equipped. In addition, we take into account the events that take place in Ukraine – the spread of weapons and ammunition, including in areas that border with Belarus," Zas said.

"Belarus is closely monitoring the events in the territory of Ukraine. Unfortunately, there is a negative trend there. In this situation, we must pay particular attention to our southern border," he said. At the same time, Zas said that in general, such measures are not extraordinary. Last year, same measures were taken at the north-western borders.

<http://www.unian.info/world/1107422-belarus-on-higher-alert-at-ukraine-border.html>

EX-RUSSIAN PRIME MINISTER: PUTIN NEEDS WAR TO MAINTAIN POWER, 03.08.2015

"Putin has a dilemma — on the one hand, he does not need war and the problems in the economy, he does not want to respond to sanctions, while on the other hand, he needs war to maintain his power. How? By the effect of the mobilization," Kasyanov said.

This allows keeping the people under control. "Therefore, all explanations are reduced to an external enemy. The external enemy is the United States and the European Union. And the enemy, according to Putin, has lost its way and does not know where to find its happiness, while it is here, in Russia... A set of explanations for the population is rather simple: "We are defending ourselves, we are all in the trenches, side by side, we are under attack, they want to deprive us of our oil and gas, sovereignty, to enslave us," he said.

<http://x-news.com.ua/ex-russian-prime-minister-putin-needs-war-to-maintain-power-54235/>

Poroshenko: Elections in Donbas not possible in case of further escalation, 03.08.2015

Local elections in free areas of Donbas can be held only if safety of citizens is ensured. President of Ukraine Petro Poroshenko said this during his visit to Donetsk region "This issue is a joint decision of Kyiv and the military and civil administration. If it is possible to ensure the free expression of the will of citizens, there will be elections. If there is an escalation of hostilities as we saw it during the past two days, then the elections cannot be carried out," he said. The President assured that the Ukrainian government would do everything to implement the Minsk agreements and the withdrawal of heavy weapons and artillery.

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

Kremlin claims non-involvement in Azarov's Committee of Ukraine's Salvation, 03.08.2015

"The Kremlin has nothing to do with this initiative," RF President's press secretary Peskov said: "Of course, the Russian authorities could not and cannot be involved in coordination of this initiative, and especially in agreeing of Oliynyk's candidacy," he said. "With regard to supporting or not supporting this initiative, certainly we will have to get acquainted with the statements, to study them and analyze the situation," he added.

<http://www.unian.info/politics/1107589-kremlin-claims-non-involvement-in-azarovs-committee-of-ukraines-salvation.html>

AMBASSADOR: CANADA HELPS UKRAINE TO PREVENT RUSSIAN MILITANTS' SPREAD INTO ITS TERRITORY, 03.08.2015

"Our Prime Minister Stephen Harper and Canadian Defense Minister Jason Kenney have repeatedly said that we take into account all variants, and all of them are available in case of escalation of the conflict, including the supply of lethal weapons," he said.

According to Vashchuk, everything that has been done and planned has a positive impact on Ukraine's defense capability. "Some forms of the Canadian assistance contributed to the success of the Ukrainian armed forces during the militant offensive in the town of Maryinka in early June," he said. Read also Ukraine, Canada sign historic trade deal. He also said that the drills, which the two countries were going to stage, would be aimed at increasing the autonomy and mobility of various units of the Ukrainian armed forces. "Ukraine itself started to produce and supply modern weapons, which had been previously intended for exports. In general, these factors contribute that the conflict continues in the form of a glow in order not to let the opposite side, the separatists and their Russian command forge ahead into the territory of Ukraine," Vashchuk said.

<http://x-news.com.ua/ambassador-canada-helps-ukraine-to-prevent-russian-militants-spread-into-its-territory-54233/>

Poroshenko: Ukraine not to withdraw troops from Mariupol's heights, 03.08.2015

"The drawback of hefty tools as well as weapons issues the concurred locations. These are the locations of Mariupol. We are discussing the drawback of pressures from the town of Shyrokyne, however we maintain our system on the powerful heights in the town of Berdianske. We will certainly not accept any type of provocation. The safety of Mariupol is currently much enhanced as we have actually sent out there extra systems of the Ukrainian Army. This likewise puts on various other locations— near the community of Avdiyivka, the Bakhmutka freeway, as well as the community of Schastia," Poroshenko stated.

<http://journalfocus.com/2015/08/poroshenko-ukraine-not-to-withdraw-troops-from-mariupols-heights/>

Media: German MPs want to visit annexed Crimea, 03.08.2015

"A trip of the French parliamentarians to Russia's annexed Crimea became exponential step for many European politicians and, as soon as the summer holidays end in the Bundestag, German lawmakers will discuss such an idea," Nue said. "I believe French parliamentarians visit to Crimea was the right decision. As elected by people, they had to show and tell the official French authorities, politicians and the community about what was happening in reality there. This is the right and exponential decision. The left-wing Die Linke party has differing views on politics than the other parties in the Bundestag, so the possibility of a visit to Crimea is more acceptable to us," Nue said.

<http://www.unian.info/world/1107430-media-german-mps-want-to-visit-annexed-crimea.html>

Kremlin: OSCE Mission lies about Russian military in Donbas, 04.08.2015

The spokesman for the Russian President states that the accuracy of data provided by the OSCE Monitoring Mission in Ukraine is not verified. Dmitry Peskov claims that all accusations against Russia are unfounded. "I also read these messages, and of course, the accuracy of these reports should be verified," said the representative of the Kremlin. In addition, he noted that this issue was more related to the Ministry of Defense. Also, Peskov stressed that the main thing was to understand what the OSCE Mission meant. "We know that a number of times various official sources reported some allegations about this, and in fact each time it turned out that nothing specific was told," Peskov recalls.

http://joinfo.com/world/1007098_kremlin-osce-mission-lies-russian-military-donbas.html

RUSSIA HOLDS CAPTIVE 11 UKRAINIAN POLITICAL PRISONERS — KLIMKIN, 04.08.2015

"Today, there are those in Russian prisons, whom we consider to be political prisoners. They are eleven of them," said the foreign minister. "To some of them we still have no consular access, despite all international legal norms... to Karpyuk, to Klikh," Klimkin said. He noted that the Foreign Ministry is making efforts to provide for the release not only of a well-known Nadia Savchenko and Oleh Sentsov, but also of other Ukrainian citizens, who are prisoners in Russia.

<http://x-news.com.ua/russia-holds-captive-11-ukrainian-political-prisoners-klimkin-54569/>

Klimkin: Crimea to return earlier than expected, 04.08.2015

"The annexation of Crimea violated international principles, so the "sanctions against Russia for the annexation of Crimea will never be lifted," he said. "No one will ever invest in Crimea, and no one will come to Crimea... Therefore, Crimea will return to Ukraine. And I'm sure that it will happen much sooner than many expect," Klimkin said. The minister believes that the lack of any investment, along with corruption, banditry and economic difficulties will deprive Russia of supporters among the Ukrainians. "Sooner or later, Russia will be forced to sit at the negotiating table. And it's not just about sanctions, which will never be lifted. It is the economic situation, when any development is impossible. That is what is happening there. Even against the background of the whole situation in Russia, the wave of corruption and crimes in Crimea will have a sobering effect on those who are influenced with Russian propaganda," he said.

<http://www.unian.info/politics/1107834-klimkin-crimea-to-return-earlier-than-expected.html>

Lukashenko: No intervention in Ukraine from Belarusian territory, 04.08.2015

"When I met with [Secretary of NSDC of Ukraine Oleksandr] Turchynov, I assured him that this would never ever happen. Nobody will attack Ukraine from our territory unless our interests have been infringed or Ukraine has been first to attack. But this will never happen," Lukashenko told non-governmental Belarusian media. "There will be no intervention in Ukraine from Belarus," he promised.

In his words, there are "two absolutely peaceful" Russian military bases in territory of Belarus. "[There is] a base in Baranovichi – probably three-quarters of our people serve there. [There is] a base in Gantsevichi – one can describe it as a high-tech engineering station that monitors rocket launches. Can they attack Ukraine? No, they can't. We've got a small group of customs officers and several Russian border guards, as there is no actual border between Russia and Belarus. I have given permission for their observers to monitor when we know this. There are ten of them," he said.

<http://www.unian.info/politics/1108109-lukashenko-no-intervention-in-ukraine-from-belarusian-territory.html>

POROSHENKO: PSEUDO-ELECTIONS IN DONBAS CAN DISRUPT MINSK ACCORDS, 04.08.2015

The presidential press service reports that the participants are discussing the situation in Donbas and coordination of further action at the War Cabinet. According to Poroshenko, taking into account the growing number of militant attacks on the Ukrainian army positions in the Anti-Terrorist Operation area, it is necessary to define a strategy, to agree and coordinate further actions. "We need to clearly define a plan to strengthen defense in case of escalation of the conflict," the president said. Poroshenko also drew attention to the need to strengthen interaction with the OSCE Special Monitoring Mission (SMM) to Ukraine and the effective operation of the Joint Center for Control and Coordination (JCCC) in order to create the conditions for uninterrupted monitoring of the ceasefire and prevent cases of non-admission of the OSCE monitors to the areas where heavy weaponry and artillery are located after withdrawal from the contact line. The head of state also reminded that the talks of the Tripartite Liaison Group ended in Minsk on Monday, August 3, where Ukraine was proposed a plan to withdraw 100mm caliber artillery systems, tanks and rocket-propelled grenades at a distance of 15 km.

<http://x-news.com.ua/poroshenko-pseudo-elections-in-donbas-can-disrupt-minsk-accords-54781/>

Russia mulling ban on food imports from more countries, including Ukraine, 04.08.2015

"The Russian federal government is presently functioning to clarify propositions associated with 7 countries, a draft resolution is currently in the pipe," the ministry's press solution. Nevertheless, the day when the paper will certainly prepare is unknown yet, the resource stated. Previously, Russia's Alliance Council revealed that a feasible growth of the listing of the countries based on a ban on food imports may likewise issue Ukraine. On Tuesday, Russian Head of state Dmitry Medvedev stated that the Russian federal government may ask Head of state Vladimir Putin to prolong the black listing.

<http://journalfocus.com/2015/08/russia-mulling-ban-on-food-imports-from-more-countries-including-ukraine/>

Stratfor: Rumors of escalating conflict abound in eastern Ukraine, 05.08.2015

According to Stratfor, there are two indicators we are watching that could provoke responses by both sides: newly trained pro-Russian separatists rotating in, and NATO finally installing Force Integration Units into Eastern European countries along Russia's periphery. February's agreement to halt hostilities between Ukraine and the Russian proxies has proved to be a cease-fire in name only. Meanwhile, the political dimension of the conflict has so far barred any definite resolution, and as long as a deep gulf separates Kyiv and its Western backers from Moscow and the militants over the future of Ukraine, the potential for further escalation on the battlefield remains. To basic issues divide the two sides. The first is the political status of the separatist regions. Ukraine wants to see separatists implement the Minsk agreements and lay down their arms before officials amend the Ukrainian Constitution to grant the eastern territories more autonomy. The separatists want constitutional changes first, and they want a role in determining those changes.

<http://www.unian.info/politics/1108222-stratfor-rumors-of-escalating-conflict-abound-in-eastern-ukraine.html>

Matios: Russian invasion in Ukraine planned since 2013, 05.08.2015

"In July 2013, Gerasimov initiated the extension of powers of the General Staff for the coordination of all federal executive bodies," Matios said. "From December 2013 to February 2014, using all kinds of media resources, the Russian Federation organized and launched information and propaganda subversion and a negative distortion of events during the Euromaidan," he said. In addition, according to Matios, in March-April 2014, Russia organized training, financing, and also the supply of weapons, ammunition and military equipment to criminal groups who, under the direct supervision of reconnaissance and sabotage groups of the Main Intelligence Directorate, along with the units of the Russian Cossacks and the Russian Vostok volunteer battalion established the Donetsk and Luhansk People's Republic terrorist organizations, having seized the administrative buildings and key facilities of military and civilian infrastructure.

<http://www.unian.info/war/1108350-matios-russian-invasion-in-ukraine-planned-since-2013.html>

<http://www.unian.info/war/1108341-russia-resorts-to-war-in-donbas-to-prevent-encirclement-of-donetsk-by-ato-forces-in-2014.html>

<http://www.charter97.org/en/news/2015/8/6/163343/>

POROSHENKO: DIALOGUE POSSIBLE WITH DONBAS AFTER LEGITIMATE ELECTION, 05.08.2015

If local elections in the districts in Donetsk and Luhansk regions that are not controlled by Kyiv are held in October under Ukrainian laws, Poroshenko is ready to hold a dialogue with their representatives. If separatists hold their own local elections, as they plan now, this will only escalate the situation, the Ukrainian president said. "I hate the idea of talking about the future of my country with representatives of another country who are not my countrymen," Poroshenko said. In his words, these are "Russian puppets" who have taken control of occupied territories. However, the president stressed that making a lasting peace requires the withdrawal of Russia's weapons from Donbas. What is more, the border between Ukraine and Russia needs to be sealed in order to prevent further arms supplies from Russia. "Once weapons, ammunition and soldiers stop flowing into the country, peace will be restored immediately," Poroshenko added.

<http://x-news.com.ua/poroshenko-dialogue-possible-with-donbas-after-legitimate-election-55251/>

New data on victims near Ilovaisk: 366 Ukrainian soldiers killed, 05.08.2015

"A total of 366 fighters of the Ukrainian armed forces were killed, and another 429 were wounded during the events in Ilovaisk," Chief military prosecutor of Ukraine Anatoliy Matios said. As reported earlier, a fierce fighting took place near Ilovaisk in the second half of August 2014. Ukrainian troops were surrounded by the enemy.

<http://www.unian.info/war/1108315-new-data-on-victims-near-ilovaisk-366-ukrainian-soldiers-killed.html>

Concessions By The West Are Wins For Putin, 06.08.2015

America and Europe are making choices that empower Putin and his Russia. Rather than isolating Putin as he acts like a 19th century despot bent on territorial expansion (rather than economic or cultural growth, the path toward power most developed countries now embrace), July's events signal that Putin's actions are just fine by the Obama administration. If the world spirals into another broad conflict—featuring first-world countries with nuclear weapons—nobody's legacy is going to matter much. There won't be anyone left to appreciate its magnificence. These thoughts were expressed on the pages of Forbes by Mr. Bonenberger who was an infantry officer in the U.S. Army from 2005-2012 and served twice in Afghanistan. He is now a freelance journalist.

<http://www.forbes.com/sites/realspin/2015/08/04/western-concessions-are-wins-for-putin/>

Georgia not planning to join new sanctions on Russia, 06.08.2015

Garibashvili said it while commenting on a decision by Russia's consumer protection bureau, Rospotrebnadzor, to deny several brands of Georgian wines and spirits entry to the Russian market due to "systematic violation of technological standards." "We cherish the achievements we have made in the form of restoring trade relations between Russia and Georgia," Garibashvili said. The PM said that Georgia joined only one of the 15 sanctions imposed by the EU against Russia; the one which prohibits importing products manufactured in Crimea.

<http://dfwatch.net/georgia-not-planning-to-join-new-sanctions-on-russia-37660>

Tuka: Russia's FSB uses smuggling as bait to recruit Ukrainian soldiers, 06.08.2015

Russia's FSB Federal Security Service uses smuggling in the Donbas conflict zone as bait to recruit Ukrainian soldiers, employing the same methods as during the Chechen wars, which may turn into mass treason, Chairman of Luhansk Regional Military and Civil Administration Heorhiy Tuka said.

"Highly professional FSB officers are working there. They have experienced the same tricks during the two Chechen wars. Chechens used these methods against them, when the poor officers were bribed, and ended up blatantly betraying troops, when the commanders deliberately sent whole battalions under artillery fire," Tuka told Ukrainska Pravda.

Tuka described the model in the following way: at first, a person is allowed to earn some money, after that he is squeezed for handing over secret information, after that he is under control.

"It comes to such ridiculous things that our boneheaded officers do not even realize what risk they are at when they get some money for their services in cash and the rest is transferred onto their bank cards with their names on them," he said.

In the end, they are blackmailed into agreeing to cooperation with the Russian security service.

<http://www.unian.info/war/1108931-tuka-russias-fsb-uses-smuggling-as-bait-to-recruit-ukrainian-soldiers.html>

Klimkin: Ukraine needs to win Donbas residents, 07.08.2015

"Donbas is not only a spot on the map. Donbas is, in fact, people. Who, unfortunately, are under strong influence of Russian propaganda and who need to be told that the way lying ahead of them is Ukraine, and it's a European-oriented Ukraine," According to him, recent developments in Russia, in particular, when they started burning embargoed food there looks like a "parallel universe." "And the people [in Donbas] live in that parallel universe round the clock. 24/7. Therefore it's us who should explain them how they will move together with us. Move as one Ukraine, move towards Europe. If we do not explain this, we won't win them. If we do not win these people, we won't be able to say that Donbas feels like joining the rest of Ukraine. And this is [our] task," he said.

<http://www.unian.info/politics/1109013-klimkin-ukraine-needs-to-win-donbas-residents.html>

<http://ukrainiancrisis.net/news/12741>

Large Russian military offensive in Ukraine possible within weeks: US analyst, 07.08.2015

Russian troops in east Ukraine are preparing to fight - and could launch a major offensive within weeks. That's the view of American military analyst Phillip Karber, who recently spent time embedded with government troops in the combat zone. He argued that Russia's military leadership were restructuring their forces, in a formation not usually made if they expect the Minsk ceasefire agreement to last.

<http://uatoday.tv/politics/large-russian-military-offensive-in-ukraine-possible-in-weeks-us-analyst-470066.html>

Yatsenyuk pledges to name new Cabinet in September, 09.08.2015

"Drastic changes should be taken by central authorities to make all the [deregulation] mechanisms work. I have heard reports by all ministries and set clear tasks to each minister in the sector he or she is responsible for. In September we'll see what has or hasn't been done," Yatsenyuk said during the "10 Minutes with the Prime Minister" weekly program broadcast by major TV channels on Sunday evening. According to the prime minister, following the assessment of performance by each of the ministers, he'll offer a new Cabinet and a "new, effective structure of the Ukrainian government" to the parliamentary coalition. "This should be quality rather than quantity," he added.

<http://www.unian.info/politics/1109611-yatsenyuk-pledges-to-name-new-cabinet-in-september.html>

Chubarov: Retaking Crimea imminent, 10.08.2015

"Imminent de-occupation of Crimea will be effected through the forced return of Russia within the framework of international law where indigenous peoples' rights occupy a central place," Chubarov wrote on Facebook. "Having occupied Crimea, Russia neglected, in the most disparaging and aggressive forms, absolutely every norm of international law you can think of, including the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples adopted by the UN General Assembly on September 13, 2007," he wrote.

<http://www.unian.info/society/1109746-chubarov-retaking-crimea-imminent.html>

In the State Duma of the Russian Federation made a forecast for autumn: Prepared aggravation, 10.08.2015

"Augustus just begun, but the event is not in vain with the smell of deep political fall. Apparently, the aggravation of being prepared," - said Naryshkin, adding that sharpening is - "not the first of a series that has already occurred". Naryshkin gave examples from history when in August, "the invasion occurred, armed conflicts at the borders and other" man-made "event". State Duma Speaker recalled the beginning of the First World War that began "with the assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand and initially local conflict between Serbia and Austria-Hungary," Soviet-Japanese conflict in 1938, the nuclear bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, and the armed conflict in Dagestan, South Ossetia and Abkhazia in 2008.

<http://ukrainiancrisis.net/news/12810>

CONSTITUTIONAL COURT JUDGE: AMENDMENTS ON DONBAS JEOPARDIZE UKRAINE'S UNITARY STATUS, 10.08.2015

Four judges of the Constitutional Court of Ukraine – Serhiy Sas, Mykola Melnyk, Mykhailo Hultai and Ihor Slidenko – issued separate opinions to the CC conclusion on the amendments to the Constitution regarding decentralization, including regulations on special order of the local government in certain areas of Donetsk and Luhansk regions.

Judge Melnyk notes that the bill proposes to supplement the Article 18 of the Transitional Provisions of the Constitution as follows: "Features of the local self-government in parts of Donetsk and Luhansk regions shall be determined by a separate law". Read also Putting Ukraine in an untenable position According to Melnyk, this creates constitutional preconditions for the existence of "permanent characteristics of the local self-government in parts of Donetsk and Luhansk regions". He notes that, therefore, the wording of the proposed amendment may form a constitutional basis for conservation, or foresight, of these and other provisions in an ordinary law, which go beyond the implementation of local self-government in parts of Donetsk and Luhansk regions.

<http://x-news.com.ua/constitutional-court-judge-amendments-on-donbas-jeopardize-ukraines-unitary-status-57475/>

Defense ministry: Up to 65 Ukrainian POWs kept hostage in Donbas, 10.08.2015

About 60-65 prisoners of war (POWs) are being kept hostage in Donetsk region; of them, 37 Ukrainian soldiers are held captive in the former building of the SBU in the city of Donetsk, according to Vasyl Budyk, an adviser to the Ukrainian Deputy Defense Minister.

"Zakharchenko has indeed announced about 40 people [in militant captivity]. We've taken three away, 37 more soldiers are remaining there – all of them are kept in the former building of the SBU Security Service of Ukraine. We've got access to it; we constantly hand over food and water there. Volunteers actively assist us in this," Budyk said on hromadske.tv.

"Unfortunately, there is no good contact who would provide information about all our guys who are held captive," he added.

<http://www.unian.info/war/1109659-defense-ministry-up-to-65-ukrainian-pows-kept-hostage-in-donbas.html>

Defense Ministry: Up to 43,000 militants and Russian soldiers in Donbas, 11.08.2015

The number of the combined Russian-separatist forces in the east of Ukraine is estimated at 42,000-43,000 men, Director of the Ukrainian Defense Ministry's Department for Social and Humanitarian Policy Valentyn Fedychev said during ICTV's Svoboda Slova (Freedom of Speech) program on August 10.

Fedychev estimates that the number of the Russian regular troops in Donbas alone ranges from 8,000 to 13,000 men, while the number of militants of the Donetsk and Luhansk People's Republic terrorist organizations is between 32,000 and 34,000 men.

"The combined strength of the Russian-separatist forces is about 42,000-43,000 men," he said.

<http://www.unian.info/war/1110158-defense-ministry-up-to-43000-militants-and-russian-soldiers-in-donbas.html>

Russian political skilled: "Self-sanctions" hit Moscow residents' wallets, 11.08.2015

Russian political scientist and journalist Andrey Piontkovsky stated throughout a telethon "Ukraine is Above All". "The Kremlin temper is near panic, as a result of the brand new Western sanctions relate primarily to the Russian elite. As for abnormal individuals, they're affected by the self-sanction as meals costs are on the rise. The reason being that eighty% of the merchandise in Moscow are imports," he stated.

"Even the propaganda has not too actively supported this measure – the destruction of meals. The nation that has skilled a number of famines and the siege of Leningrad [during World War II] will understand it as an indiscriminate step," he stated.

<http://journalfocus.com/2015/08/russian-political-expert-self-sanctions-hit-moscow-residents-wallets/>

Russia and NATO training for war with each other, say analysts, 11.08.2015

Russia and NATO are training for a full-blown confrontation, an influential group has warned, as the war of words between Moscow and the west translates into military planning. The warning comes from the European Leadership Network, which comprises former military figures, politicians and policymakers. On Wednesday, it will present an analysis of recent military exercises by the two blocs that indicates each is "preparing for the worst".

<http://www.ft.com/intl/cms/s/0/3ee91730-403c-11e5-b98b-87c7270955cf.html#axzz3iqRFCU5D>

<http://www.unian.info/world/1110827-european-analysts-russia-and-nato-preparing-for-possible-confrontation.html>

Crimean Tatars persecution is 'Kremlin's sentence', 11.08.2015

Prime Minister of Ukraine Arseniy Yatsenyuk referred to systematic persecution of Crimean Tatars as "Kremlin's sentence". On the occasion of the International Day of Indigenous Peoples he reiterated on his Facebook page to support for the Crimean Tatar people, who "don't submit to the occupation authorities and fight for the right of self-determination in their very own land." "I would also like to reassure Crimean Karaites and Krymchaks that our state guarantees the preservation and development of their identity as indigenous peoples of Ukraine, whose historical homeland is Crimea," said Yatsenyuk.

<http://www.worldbulletin.net/todays-news/163004/ukraine-pm-crimean-tatars-persecution-is-kremlins-sentence>

Kerry: U.S. may lose European support in Ukraine conflict due to Iran deal, 12.08.2015

If the U.S. Congress rejects the Iran nuclear deal, that could destabilize the country's relations with allies on other crucial issues, including the Ukrainian conflict, U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry warned.

<http://www.newsreality.com/post/kerry-us-may-lose-european-support-in-ukraine-conflict-due-to-iran-deal.html>

<http://uatoday.tv/politics/kerry-us-may-lose-european-support-in-ukraine-conflict-due-to-iran-deal-473689.html>

EU, OSCE declare escalation of situation in Donbas, 12.08.2015

The EU notes that the sharp deterioration of the situation in Donbass, which is connected with the attacks of pro-Russian separatists on the positions of Ukrainian militaries, contradicts the Minsk agreements. "The Minsk agreements must be fully implemented, starting with full observation of the ceasefire regime and real withdrawal of heavy weapons. Further impetus must be given to talks within the Trilateral Contact Group, allowing for complete implementation of the Minsk agreements within the agreed timeframe by the end of the year," the statement said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/eu_osce_declare_escalation_of_situation_in_donbas_333561
<http://www.unian.info/world/1110605-eu-new-escalation-in-donbas-violates-minsk-agreements.html>

Ukraine Submits Fourth Application Against Russia To ECHR – Ministry Of Justice, 12.08.2015

"I want to announce that Ukraine files its fourth interstate application against Russia to the European Court of Human Rights. In general, during the history of the European Court Ukraine filed 16 applications," - Justice Minister Pavlo Petrenko said. As known, over the last year, the European Court accepted 3 applications concerning the events that took place in Ukraine with regard to Crimea annexation and situation in Donbas.

<http://ukraineunderattack.org/en/27674-ukraine-submits-fourth-application-against-russia-to-echr-ministry-of-justice.html>

Top US general: Russia is most dangerous threat, 12.08.2015

Gen. Ray Odierno, the outgoing Army chief of staff, said Wednesday that Russia is the top military threat to the U.S. "I believe Russia is the most dangerous," he said at a Pentagon briefing. "First, they are more mature than some of our other potential adversaries, and I think they have stated some intents that concern me, in terms of how the Cold War ended. "And they have shown some significant ability in Ukraine to do operations that are fairly sophisticated, and so for me, I think we should pay a lot of attention to that," he added. Odierno's comments come as defense officials suspect that Russia is behind last month's cyber attack of the Joint Chief of Staff's unclassified email server. They also come as the U.S. is continuing to support Ukrainian forces as they battle Russian-backed separatists and Russian forces in Eastern Ukraine. The four-star general said he is also "greatly" concerned by the prospect of Russia violating the sovereignty of Baltic states that are members of NATO, which would require the U.S. military to come to their defense under Article V of the organization's founding treaty.

Russia is "constantly assessing the reaction of NATO to any of their actions," Odierno said.

<http://thehill.com/policy/defense/250962-odierno-russia-is-the-most-dangerous-threat-to-us>

Klimkin says latest escalation in Donbas is well-planned operation, 12.08.2015

The escalation of hostilities in Donbas was a planned operation of the enemy and Russia's attempt to derail the implementation of the Minsk agreement, Foreign Minister of Ukraine Pavlo Klimkin has said.

<http://www.kyivpost.com/content/ukraine/klimkin-says-latest-escalation-in-donbas-is-well-planned-operation-395573.html>
<http://www.unian.info/war/1110773-klimkin-latest-escalation-in-donbas-well-planned-operation.html>

Ukraine military explain delayed response to Russian invasion in 2014, 13.08.2015

The General Staff says, the Ukrainian Armed Forces have only received confirmed intelligence on the invasion of Russian troops in Ukraine on 25 August, 2014, just hours before the actual Russian offensive operation, according to Colonel Viktor Shidliukh, representative of the Central Research Institute of the Armed Forces of Ukraine.

«Information about the invasion is coming all the time, but mostly it is fake. We did not expect that Russia would resort to full-scale invasion, without declaring a war,» said Shidlyukh during a briefing in Kyiv while presenting a report of General Staff of the Defense Ministry on the progress of military operations in the summer of 2014.

According to the General Staff, Russian troops invaded in two directions: toward Mariupol and south of Luhansk. And in each direction «four groups of forces of the Russian Federation were involved.»

<http://hj.com.ua/ukraine-military-explain-delayed-response-to-russian-invasion-in-2014-8600/>

Stratfor: Russia not to go on full-fledged offensive in Ukraine, 14.08.2015

Russia will avoid engaging in a large military operation in Donbas, while localized escalations are possible, as the Russian proxies will attempt to achieve limited objectives in an effort to force the other side into a more accommodating position at the negotiating table, Stratfor, private geopolitical intelligence firm, reports.

Despite communications between Kyiv, its Western backers, separatists and Russia, hostility remains, according to Stratfor. The political status of the separatist regions and Moscow's broader regional imperatives continue to prevent true tactical de-escalation on the battlefield. Although both sides now appear to be increasing their ability to conduct armed operations again, Stratfor still does not foresee Russia engaging in a major offensive. However, the current instability and higher concentration of forces on the demarcation line may rekindle fighting with limited offensive operations in the coming weeks. In case the offensive operations will resume, they have narrowly defined objectives. Localized escalations similar to the Debaltseve standoff, which lasted beyond the cease-fire, could emerge at various points on the front line.

<http://www.charter97.org/en/news/2015/8/14/164520/>

Turchynov: Russia masterminding provocation for Ukraine" s Independence Day, 14.08.2015

"It is not a trick that our independence is Russia's eye sore as well as our Independence Day is a black day for Russia. As a result, all their acts of provocation are being gotten ready for Independence Day or on the eve of it. All their acts of provocation are being prepared for Independence Day or on the eve of it. Consequently, we get on complete sharp to respond to any type of provocation," Turchynov stated at a rundown on Kyiv armored plant's training school.

<http://journalfocus.com/2015/08/turchynov-russia-masterminding-provocation-for-ukraines-independence-day/>

Ukraine Today: Polish President suggests new format of Ukraine peace talks, 15.08.2015

Polish President Andrzej Duda said he had proposed a new format of peace talks on the Donbas conflict in a telephone conversation with his Ukrainian counterpart Petro Poroshenko, Polskie Radio reported referring to an interview with the Polish president.

The new format of peace talks should envisage the participation of the most powerful European states, as well as Ukraine's neighboring countries, including Poland, according to the president. Duda noted that he intends to discuss this issue at the forthcoming meeting of the heads of state.

<http://uatoday.tv/politics/polish-president-suggests-new-format-of-ukraine-peace-talks-475678.html>

UN coordinator elaborates on aid program in Donbas, 16.08.2015

The UN is pursuing two main goals, according to Walker, the first of which is to secure the humanitarian needs of all citizens. The second goal is to give people their jobs back. UN Secretary-General asked Walker to come to Donbas and work in these two directions, the UN representative said during a meeting with the head of Donetsk regional military civil administration Pavlo Zhebrivksyi. He also reported on drafting a program for the restoration of Donbas. According to Neal Walker, the project will include assistance in rebuilding damaged infrastructure, developing social services and creating jobs.

<http://uatoday.tv/news/un-coordinator-elaborates-on-aid-program-in-donbas-475942.html>

U.S. Presidential Hopeful Trump On Ukraine's Possible NATO Entry: 'I Wouldn't Care', 16.08.2015

U.S. presidential candidate Donald Trump, the brash businessman who has upended the field of Republicans vying for their party's 2016 nomination, has responded with blunt indifference to Ukraine's possible membership in NATO. "I wouldn't care. If [Ukraine] goes in, great. If it doesn't go in, great," Trump said in an interview with NBC on August 16.

<http://www.rferl.org/content/trump-ukraine-russia-nato-germany-sanctions/27191920.html>

Steinmeier: Situation in Donbas is explosive, 17.08.2015

German Foreign Minister Frank-Walter Steinmeier considers the situation in the east of Ukraine as explosive and does not rule out the possibility of escalation. "The situation in eastern Ukraine is explosive. A lot is at stake. If the parties do not step on the path of peaceful settlement, we'll get another round of military escalation," the minister said. The head of the German Foreign Ministry called on Ukraine and Russia to hold a meeting as soon as possible between military representatives of the parties to the conflict and members of the OSCE to agree on the withdrawal of weapons.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/steinmeier_situation_in_donbas_is_explosive_333644

CHUBAROV: PUTIN TO VOICE BARGAINING POINTS REGARDING CRIMEA, 17.08.2015

"Experienced criminologists, along with the world-famous Russian writer, argued that the criminals always return to the scene of the crime," said Chubarov. Putin will arrive in Crimea, which has been occupied by Russian military on his direct order, where he will hold a 'meeting of the State Council presidium on the development of tourism in the Russian Federation,' which will be followed by a political dessert: 'an informal meeting of heads of state and representatives of national public associations of the Republic of Crimea'," said the deputy.

<http://x-news.com.ua/chubarov-putin-to-voice-bargaining-points-regarding-crimea-59638/>

SIKORSKI: WHOLE EU MUST RESOLVE UKRAINIAN CONFLICT, NOT INDIVIDUAL COUNTRIES, 17.08.2015

"As the Minsk ceasefire agreement stalls and fighting continues in eastern Ukraine, we are back to where we started a decade ago. The leaders of Russia, China and the U.S. will listen to the leaders of the largest EU states, but are not at all inclined to act on what they hear. And if they want to call "Europe" it is still not clear which number they should ring," he wrote. According to Sikorski, the establishment of the office of EU council president, its highest interlocutor with the rest of the world — now held by Donald Tusk — as well as an office of high representative for foreign policy, are intended to aggregate the interests of the member states, to direct EU diplomacy and to conduct our foreign policy on those issues where we reach consensus. Jointly, they are supposed to represent the interests of the EU as a whole. But more recently, some EU member states have reverted to the status quo ante, and taken center stage in the crises in our southern and eastern neighborhoods. Whether on Syria, the Israel-Palestine conflict, Libya or refugees, member states are more visible than the EU, despite the efforts of Federica Mogherini, the foreign policy chief.

<http://x-news.com.ua/sikorski-whole-eu-must-resolve-ukrainian-conflict-not-individual-countries-59712/>

POROSHENKO SEES PUTIN'S VISIT TO CRIMEA AS CHALLENGE TO CIVILIZED WORLD, 17.08.2015

"Putin's visit to the Ukrainian Crimea without the Ukrainian authorities' consent is a challenge to the civilized world and the continuation of the scenario of the aggravation of the situation that is being played by the Russian troops and their mercenaries in Donbas," Poroshenko wrote. "Such visits mean a further militarization of the occupied Ukrainian peninsula and lead to its greater isolation. Only being part of Ukraine, Crimea has a future, including in the tourist sector," the president wrote. On August 17, Putin was reported to hold a meeting on the "development of tourism in the Russian Federation" in Crimea, which was occupied on his direct order. After the meeting, he is scheduled to meet with representatives of the "national public associations of the Republic of Crimea."

<http://x-news.com.ua/poroshenko-sees-putins-visit-to-crimea-as-challenge-to-civilized-world-59748/>

Putin: Ukraine will build its future together with Russia, 17.08.2015

"Ukraine will rise to its feet and will develop positively, and build its future together with Russia," Putin said at a meeting with representatives of ethnic public associations of Crimea in Yalta. "I am sure that despite all the difficulties of the current period of time, the situation in Ukraine will straighten out, and Ukraine will be developing positively," Putin said.

<http://uatoday.tv/politics/putin-ukraine-will-build-its-future-together-with-russia-476827.html>

Ukraine knows why Russian proxies intensify attacks in Donbas, 17.08.2015

Head of the Ukrainian group of the Joint Centre for Control and Coordination of the Ceasefire and Stabilization of Parties' Demarcation Line in Donbas Maj Gen Borys Kremenetsky says that the goal of Russian-backed separatists now is to demoralize and intimidate civilians and discredit the local authorities and the Ukrainian army. "Militants from illegal armed groups continue shelling and killing civilians, destroying administrative and industrial facilities, buildings of organizations and institutions in the social sector, which provide jobs to locals and meet their social and cultural needs. Russian-backed militants deliberately aim at residential areas where no [Ukrainian] troops are stationed. Will more death and destruction convince the international community that these illegal armed groups are terrorists?" he wondered, according to the press service.

<http://www.unian.info/war/1112595-ukraine-knows-why-russian-proxies-intensify-attacks-in-donbas.html>

Finnish Foreign Minister: Ukraine conflict not to become neglected crisis, 18.08.2015

"The escalation of the crisis in Ukraine would be very dangerous. Unfortunately, the world is facing many other conflicts. The Ukraine crisis must remain on top of the agenda," he said. The minister also expressed concern regarding the development of Russia's domestic policy, which, the minister said, has gone in the wrong direction due to the crisis in Ukraine. The sanctions policy will be costly for both Russia and the countries that are subject to Russia's counter-sanctions. In the current difficult situation, it is necessary to seek and maintain dialogue with Russia, but at the same time, Soini noted, Finland would act within the sanction framework. "There are no other options. We're either in or not. We're obliged to act accordingly," the minister said.

<http://www.unian.info/politics/1112710-finnish-foreign-minister-ukraine-conflict-not-to-become-neglected-crisis.html>

U.S. State Department accuses militants and Russia of Donbas escalation, 18.08.2015

"We are gravely concerned by the sharp increase in attacks by combined Russian-separatist forces across the ceasefire line in eastern Ukraine. These attacks continued this weekend, including to the east and north of Mariupol, apparently in an attempt to threaten that city," U.S. State Department spokesperson John Kirby said at a daily press briefing in Washington, DC. "There can be no mistake about who is responsible: Russia and the separatists are launching these attacks, just as they escalated the conflict last August. OSCE reports show that the majority of ceasefire violations are committed by combined Russian separatist forces in direct violation of the Minsk agreements. We continue to urge an immediate ceasefire and full implementation of the Minsk obligations, and we further remind that efforts by Russia and the separatists to grab more territory will be met with further costs," he said.

<http://www.unian.info/politics/1112734-us-state-department-accuses-militants-and-russia-of-donbas-escalation.html>

Putin: Donbas insurgents not responsible for ongoing escalation, 18.08.2015

"Sadly, we're seeing escalation today, as well as it's not insurgents of Donbas, however the opposite is responsible. These were the insurgents of Donbas that suggested to draw back all armed forces equipment whose quality is smaller sized compared to ONE HUNDRED mm. Sadly, the contrary side did refrain from doing it, the other way around, basending on our offered info, they have actually been massing their soldiers there, consisting of those strengthened with armed forces equipment," Putin informed press reporters in Crimea. The contrary side did not do it, vice versa, according to our offered info, they have actually been massing their soldiers there, consisting of those strengthened with armed forces equipment," Putin said. He anticipates there would certainly be no open massive clashes in Donbas. "I really hope the issue will not reach open as well as direct massive clashes," he stated. "When it comes to the Minsk II contract, I think there is no option to it in dealing with the circumstance, as well as it's specific that peace will eventually accomplishment. Our job is to lessen the losses with which we will certainly concern this peace," he included.

<http://journalfocus.com/2015/08/putin-donbas-insurgents-not-to-blame-for-ongoing-escalation/>

Ex-president Kravchuk advises isolation of occupied areas in Donbas, 18.08.2015

Former Head of state Kravchuk makes sure Crimea will certainly enter into Ukraine eventually. "It's a get in touch with line in between Ukraine as well as militants from DPR as well as LPR instead of the boundary in between Russia as well as Ukraine. We take this line as the status, as a short-term splitting line as well as stop utilizing proficient expressions like 'humanism,' 'it's our individuals that live there,' 'they require assistance,' 'we need to gather tax obligations right here as well as assist them in a predicament there.' We need to briefly eliminate that area up until it has actually been freed," he stated. He emphasizes it's time to allow Kremlin-backed militants "guideline in 'their' areas."

"Allow's see which cash will certainly remain in flow there. We should quit financial, political as well as various connections with them," he stated. "If individuals that remain in area that is not managed by Ukraine wish to live a brand-new life, allow them [the inhabiting authorities] be removed the stand as the management was removed at Kyiv's Maidan," Kravchuk stated.

<http://journalfocus.com/2015/08/ex-president-kravchuk-advises-isolation-of-occupied-areas-in-donbas/>

Statement by acting NATO spokesperson on the situation in eastern Ukraine, 19.08.2015

In the discussions, Allies stressed the need for all parties to de-escalate tensions and exercise restraint. They underlined that the focus must be on pursuing a solution through diplomatic means. The full implementation of the Minsk agreements is the path to peace. Russia has a special responsibility to find a political solution. Any attempt by the Russian-backed separatists to take over more of Ukraine's territory would be unacceptable to the international community. The OSCE monitors must be able to do their job safely and without restrictions. NATO stands firm in our support for Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity. Allies reaffirmed that an independent, sovereign and stable Ukraine, firmly committed to democracy and the rule of law, is key to security in the Euro-Atlantic area. NATO will continue to follow the situation very closely.

http://nato.int/cps/en/natohq/news_122159.htm

Russia says US replacing MH17 inquiry with anti-Russian propaganda, 19.08.2015

In an interview with newspaper Komsomolskaya Pravda, Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Maria Zakharova said: "On the second day after the catastrophe, we already heard from the United States that it knew who had shot down the plane."

"On the eve of the tragedy's anniversary, US ambassador to Russia John Tefft publicly repeated that it was known. If there is a country which knows everything, why is no data being published? Why is no evidence being presented?" Zakharova asked, adding that: "Such special-order propaganda is being conducted against Russia irrespective of what actually happened there." The spokeswoman recalled that Russia was the only country that blocked the idea of creating an international tribunal to prosecute those suspected of having shot down the airliner. She said Russia had prevented "catastrophic politicisation of the tragedy at the UN Security Council".

<http://tass.ru/en/russia/815144>

Stratfor Chief: Russia much weaker than imagined, 20.08.2015

"In fact, Russia is much weaker than we used to imagine," said Friedman.

He added that Moscow did not send large-scale military forces and numerous divisions deep into the territory. Instead, it took the established front line and operated on its basis.

Friedman also noted that the Russian Federal Security Service (FSB) had failed to predict the levels of a pro-Russian attitude across Ukraine. The invasion of Russia in the east of Ukraine stipulated that the number of pro-Russian sentiment would begin to grow steadily. They failed to predict that things would change, according to Friedman.

The expert said, the main task of violations of NATO airspace by the Russian aircraft is the dissemination of this information in the media.

<http://www.unian.info/politics/1113593-stratfor-chief-russia-much-weaker-than-imagined.html>

U.S. Told Ukraine to Stand Down as Putin Invaded, 21.08.2015

The White House's message to Kiev was advice, not an order, U.S. and Ukrainian officials have recently told us, and was based on a variety of factors. There was a lack of clarity about what Russia was really doing on the ground. The Ukrainian military was in no shape to confront the Russian Spetsnaz (special operations) forces that were swarming on the Crimean peninsula. Moreover, the Ukrainian government in Kiev was only an interim administration until the country would vote in elections a few months later. Ukrainian officials told us that other European governments sent Kiev a similar message. But the main concern was Russian President Vladimir Putin. As U.S. officials told us recently, the White House feared that if the Ukrainian military fought in Crimea, it would give Putin justification to launch greater military intervention in Ukraine, using similar logic to what Moscow employed in 2008 when Putin invaded large parts of Georgia in response to a pre-emptive attack by the Tbilisi government. Russian forces occupy two Georgian provinces to this day.

<http://www.bloombergtv.com/articles/2015-08-21/u-s-told-ukraine-to-stand-down-as-putin-invaded>

Poroshenko: Russia planned to annex another eight Ukrainian regions, 22.08.2015

Ukraine's President Petro Poroshenko has said Ukrainian troops prevented Russia from annexing another eight Ukrainian regions in addition to those in the Crimean peninsula. The Ukrainian leader was speaking in the region of Kharkiv. He presented some 170 pieces of military equipment to Ukrainian troops during his visit, including tanks, GRAD rocket launchers and Hummers. Here is what the president had to say to the servicemen: "You freed the most part of the Ukrainian Donbas region from invaders and localized militants in southern-eastern parts of these two regions (Donetsk and Luhansk). It is you, who tightly closed your fighting ranks and hold the defense, like an impregnable fortress, against the aggressor. Due to your effort, the price of the possible Russian invasion has become so high that the most 'dreamy' Russian officials have to become more sober. However it does not guarantee that there will be no massive escalation of fighting in east Ukraine, which is highly possible in connection with Ukraine's Independence Day". The president added that the latest Minsk agreement had given time for Ukrainian forces to strengthen their defences.

<http://uatoday.tv/politics/poroshenko-russia-planned-to-annex-another-eight-ukrainian-regions-479917.html>

World leaders congratulate Ukraine on its National Day, 24.08.2015

USA President Barack Obama praised Head of state of Ukraine Petro Poroshenko as well as individuals of Ukraine on the 24th wedding anniversary of Self-reliance. "The USA has actually been a steadfast companion as well as buddy of Ukraine considering that your Parliament authorized the Act of Self-reliance on this day in 1991. For 24 years, we have actually sustained the initiatives of your residents to develop a solid, steady, as well as autonomous nation," checks out US Assistant of State John Kerry's declaration in behalf of Head of state Obama as well as the American individuals. "In spite of massive difficulties, you have actually made amazing strides towards this objective. You have actually withstood a despotic program, a corrupt administration, as well as a hostile next-door neighbor— done in the name of a totally free, autonomous, as well as thriving future," the declaration stated. "Your durability has actually won you pals as well as admirers all over the world, consisting of the USA. The USA is especially encouraging of Ukraine's company dedication to interior reform," it stated.

<http://journalfocus.com/2015/08/world-leaders-congratulate-ukraine-on-its-national-day/>

Two EU states left to ratify Association Agreement with Ukraine, 24.08.2015

"We have managed to defend [our] European choice, and soon the Association Agreement with the EU, which is to be ratified by only two more EU member states, will enter into force despite obstruction by Moscow and will be fully implemented," Poroshenko said in his official speech at the March of Independence on Kyiv's Khreschatyk Street on Monday. Poroshenko announced that Russia was unable to break the unity of the international coalition, while Western sanctions had influenced and continued influencing the Russian economy. "Ukraine and Ukrainians have withstood. We existed, we exist and we will exist," he said.

<http://www.unian.info/politics/1114812-two-eu-states-left-to-ratify-association-agreement-with-ukraine.html>

POROSHENKO: NOVOROSSIYA THE SAME MYTH AS TOLKIEN'S MORDOR, 24.08.2015

"Ukraine existed, exists and will exist. But Novorossiya is the same myth as famous writer Tolkien's Mordor," Poroshenko said in his official speech at the March of Independence on Kyiv's Khreschatyk Street on Monday. Ukraine still continues fighting for its independence in Donbas, he said. The president said he did not rule out further direct invasion of Ukraine. "The Russian armed groups near our eastern borders today exceed 50,000 men, while there are over 40,000 troops in occupied territories. Of them, there are 9,000 officers of Russia's regular armed forces who thus form units of the Russian army in our territory," Poroshenko said. "Independence Day almost coincides with the one-year anniversary of the Ilovaik tragedy, which followed the direct invasion of Russian troops in Ukraine's territory. A year has passed, but the deep wound is still unhealed and hurts," he said.

<http://x-news.com.ua/poroshenko-novorossiya-the-same-myth-as-tolkiens-mordor-62012/>

Merkel with Poroshenko: No new format of talks on Ukraine needed, 24.08.2015

"We have actually collected to go over the support of the Normandy format as well as important problems. All 3 people are positive that the Minsk contracts ought to be structure for bring back peace," Merkel stated.

In her words, the sides concurred they would certainly operate in the Normandy format rather than producing a new one. At the exact same time, Merkel stated that the ceasefire in Donbas had actually not been noted, which brings both private as well as armed forces casualties. "Every little thing that was concurred in Minsk ought to be satisfied, tools with caliber smaller sized compared to 100mm must be taken out," she stated. Poroshenko guaranteed that Ukraine prepared to do this, she included.

<http://journalfocus.com/2015/08/merkel-with-poroshenko-no-new-format-of-talks-on-ukraine-needed/>

'Fake' elections in Donbas pose threat to Minsk agreements – President, 25.08.2015

President Petro Poroshenko said this after talks with German Chancellor Angela Merkel and French President Francois Hollande, the press service of the Head of State reported. "We discussed the extreme danger of fake elections of October 18 and November 1 that do not comply with the Ukrainian legislation. It is a serious threat to the entire Minsk process," he said.

<http://uazmi.com/en/news/post/gLSVyaKcDtQHxFnrNPVQ7G>

US firmly rejects Russia's efforts to point to Ukraine as aggressor, 25.08.2015

The U.S. leaderships has no evidence to support Russian accusations that the Ukrainian military is preparing for an offensive in Donbas, U.S. Department of State spokesperson John Kirby said.

<http://www.kyivpost.com/content/ukraine/us-firmly-rejects-russias-efforts-to-point-to-ukraine-as-aggressor-396482.html>

Steinmeier: Sanctions against Russia cannot be "final say", 25.08.2015

Sanctions against Russia cannot be the "Final Say," German Foreign Minister Frank-Walter Steinmeier wrote on Twitter on Tuesday.

<http://ukrainianwall.com/english-news/steinmeier-sanctions-against-russia-cannot-be-final-say/>

Yeliseyev: EU may extend sanctions against some Russians in September, 25.08.2015

"We have actually concurred that in situation the circumstance stays the like it is today, the EU is to make a decision in September on the expansion of the supposed individual sanctions against specific agents of the Russian Alliance, that are associated with the Donbas destabilization," Yeliseyev stated at a rundown on Tuesday complying with a conference of leaders of Ukraine, Germany as well as France, Petro Poroshenko, Angela Merkel as well as Francois Hollande in Berlin on August 24, an UNIAN reporter records. Baseding on Yeliseyev, Ukraine has actually supplied the German as well as French|French as well as german companions with particular truths verifying existence of Russian militaries in Donbas. Kostyantyn Yeliseyev stated the 3 state leaders had actually concurred that phony regional elections in busy locations of Donbas would certainly be among the those "red lines" which can present a major danger to the Minsk peace procedure.

<http://journalfocus.com/2015/08/yeliseyev-eu-may-extend-sanctions-against-some-russians-in-september/>

<http://www.unian.info/politics/1115262-yeliseyev-ways-are-sought-to-press-on-moscow-to-withdraw-weapons-of-under-100mm-caliber.html>

Turchynov: Signs of planned deployment of more Russian military in Donbas, 25.08.2015

"Military infrastructure is being formed to provide for deployment of additional units of the Russian troops in the occupied territory of Ukraine for their operational use," said Oleksandr Turchynov. According to Turchynov, the Russian military engineers deployed five mobile pontoon bridges near the Siversky Donets river in the area, where the Russian-Ukrainian state border runs across its fairway, "as well as built access roads" to these locations.

<http://www.unian.info/war/1115206-turchynov-signs-of-planned-deployment-of-more-russian-military-in-donbas.html>

Sentence Sentsov and Kolchenko violates international law and standards of justice, EU, 26.08.2015

According to EU High Representative for Foreign and Security Policy Federica Mogherini, the EU closely followed the progress of the case of Ukrainian director Oleg Sentsov and activist Alexander Kolchenko, who were against the illegal annexation of the Crimea and were also detained in May 2014.

"Russian courts do not have jurisdiction judgment on acts committed outside the internationally recognized territory of Russia", - stressed Mogherini.

"The EU considers this case as a violation of international law and basic standards of justice" she said.

In this case, the EU continues to insist on the immediate release of Kolchenko and Sentsov and guarantee their safe return to Ukraine.

<http://en.molbuk.ua/ukraine/97337-vyrok-sencovu-i-kolchenku-porushuye-mizhnarodne-pravo-i-standarty-sudochynstva-yes.html>
http://eeas.europa.eu/statements-eeas/2015/150825_01_en.htm

Switzerland to adopt law to speed return of Yanukovych's assets to Ukraine, 26.08.2015

"Swiss authorities are cooperating with a number of countries, among them [are] Haiti, Egypt, Tunisia and Ukraine, to return stolen assets that have been frozen following changes in power," said Valentin Zellweger, the head of the foreign ministry's federal department of international law. "The two houses of the Swiss parliament still need to reconcile their versions of the new draft law, including the issue of a statute of limitations," Zellweger said. "I guess that we will only have the statute by the end of the year," he said. "It will be the most comprehensive act worldwide... it is the right thing to do," he said.

<http://www.unian.info/economics/1115402-switzerland-to-adopt-law-to-speed-return-of-yanukovychs-assets-to-ukraine.html>

Polish FM slams president for statement on change of Ukraine talks format, 26.08.2015

"We should support the Normandy format. This formula is not perfect, but there is no alternative to it at present," he said. The Normandy format involves discussions between Russia, Ukraine, Germany and France. These countries would be represented respectively by Russian President Vladimir Putin, Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko, German Chancellor Angela Merkel, and French President Francois Hollande. On Sunday, Polish President Andrzej Duda said that he would like to discuss the merits of the Normandy format during an upcoming official visit to Berlin.

<http://www.unian.info/world/1115408-polish-fm-slams-president-for-statement-on-change-of-ukraine-talks-format.html>

<http://www.unian.info/world/1115523-duda-to-discuss-tougher-measures-against-putin-at-meeting-with-merkel.html>

<http://www.unian.info/world/1115523-duda-to-discuss-tougher-measures-against-putin-at-meeting-with-merkel.html>

Russia, NATO need new rules to cut risk of war, ex-ministers say, 27.08.2015

Russia and NATO must agree common rules to handle unexpected military encounters to reduce the risk of inadvertently triggering a war between Moscow and the West, a group of former foreign and defence ministers said on Wednesday. With both Russia and NATO intensifying military exercises because of the crisis in Ukraine, incidents such as mid-air face-offs between rival military jets are on the increase. Calling for a high-level NATO-Russia meeting, the group of 14 -- including former Russian foreign minister Igor Ivanov, ex-German defence minister Volker Ruehe and colleagues from Britain, France, Spain and Turkey -- said rules for communication at sea and in the air were paramount. "The situation is ripe with potential for either dangerous miscalculation or an accident that could trigger a worsening of the crisis or even a direct military confrontation," they said in a report published by the European Leadership Network.

<http://uk.reuters.com/article/2015/08/26/uk-ukraine-crisis-russia-nato-idUKKCN0QV00120150826>

Poroshenko says there will be no Minsk 3, 27.08.2015

"I would like to stress: there have been and will be no Minsk III agreements. We have a whole set of the Minsk agreements... And everyone should implement them," Poroshenko said at a joint press conference with President of the European Commission Jean-Claude Juncker during a working visit to Belgium.

<http://www.unian.info/politics/1115975-poroshenko-no-minsk-iii.html>

Russian Finance Minister Says Will Demand Full Debt Repayment From Ukraine, 27.08.2015

"We have always insisted and will continue to demand from Ukraine a full implementation of the (Eurobond) terms," Siluanov said. "We insist on a full repayment in December of this year of \$3 billion, including interest payments." He added that Ukraine's debt to Russia is not a commercial debt. "The question of managing debt of official creditors, of countries such as Russia, should be considered completely separately (from commercial debt)," Siluanov said.

<http://www.themoscowtimes.com/business/article/russian-finance-minister-says-will-demand-full-debt-repayment-from-ukraine-state-tv/528854.html>

Russia sacks Ukraine agreement on direct communication via annexed Crimea, 29.08.2015

Russia is terminating the agreement with Ukraine on the direct railway and ferry communications, according to the document drafted by Russian government, "Russian Transport Ministry is to notify the Ukrainian side of the decision taken in accordance with this decree," reads the Russian government's decree. The said agreement between Ukraine and Russia was signed on November 12, 2004.

<http://www.unian.info/economics/1116636-russia-sacks-ukraine-agreement-on-direct-communication-via-annexed-crimea.html>

Amendments to Constitution provide for no Donbas special status- Poroshenko, 29.08.2015

President of Ukraine Petro Poroshenko during the meeting with representatives of the territorial communities once again assures that the amendments to the Constitution provide for no special status of Donbas.

"Some argue that there is currently a threat of granting a special status. There is no status there. It is very difficult to look for a black cat in a dark room, especially when it's not there," Poroshenko said. The Head of State has reminded that the Constitution states: the status of the Ukrainian capital and other cities shall be determined only by the laws of Ukraine.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/amendments_to_constitution_provide_for_no_donbas_special_status_poroshenko_333951

<http://www.unian.info/politics/1116656-poroshenko-no-special-status-for-donbas.html>

http://rbth.com/news/2015/08/29/poroshenko_ukrainian_constitution_wont_envison_special_status_for_donba_48841.html

<http://journalfocus.com/2015/08/poroshenko-elections-in-mariupol-a-must/>

Hollande, Merkel, Putin back ceasefire plan for eastern Ukraine-France, 29.08.2015

France, Germany and Russia back plans for a complete ceasefire in eastern Ukraine from Sept. 1, the French presidency said after their respective leaders spoke by telephone on Saturday. Ukraine and pro-Russian separatists, in a gesture to shore up a tenuous ceasefire, agreed on Aug. 26 to strive for an end to all truce violations from next Tuesday, the OSCE and rebel representatives have said. In a statement, French President Francois Hollande's office said he also agreed with German Chancellor Angela Merkel and Russian President Vladimir Putin that it would be useful to hold a summit with Ukraine's Petro Poroshenko in the coming weeks. "They strongly backed the call for a complete ceasefire from Sept. 1," Hollande's office said. "They underlined that the respect of a lasting ceasefire was a necessity given the situation of civilians in eastern Ukraine."

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2015/08/29/ukraine-crisis-ceasefire-idUSL5N1140DY20150829>

Klimkin: MH17 tribunal may be set up by agreement among five states, 31.08.2015

Five countries investigating the MH17 crash will try again to get UN Security Council's approval for the international tribunal to prosecute the alleged perpetrators, the report says. "A key Russian argument for vetoing the resolution to establish a tribunal on Wednesday was that it was premature and "untimely," because the results of the investigation aren't expected until October. So the five nations will try again for a tribunal then," he said. The Russian mission to UN had no immediate comment on Klimkin's remarks.

<http://uazmi.com/en/news/post/eaRh9w37thXKwmyUeRSw9o>

Actions of Ukrainian Authorities

AZAROV JR.'S PROPERTY ARRESTED IN SARDINIA, 03.08.2015

Pre-trial investigation has been initiated against the son of Ukraine's fugitive ex-prime minister Mykola Azarov on suspicion of illicit enrichment. It was found out that in 2012-2014 Oleksiy Azarov, serving as an MP, received EUR 7.7 million, CHF 600,000 and \$500,000 from unidentified sources. Later, those funds were transferred to banks in Switzerland, Italy and the Principality of Liechtenstein. At the same time, Oleksiy Azarov declared significantly lower revenues in 2012-2014 in amount of just UAH 19.65 million in order to conceal his real income.

<http://x-news.com.ua/azarov-jr-s-property-arrested-in-sardinia-54231/>

European leaders continue Ukraine peace talks, 04.08.2015

The leaders of France, Germany, Russia and Ukraine were locked in peace talks late into the night in Belarus, even as pro-Russian separatists launched some of the Ukraine conflict's worst fighting. The Ukrainian army said 19 of its soldiers were killed at a single location near the railway hub of Debaltseve, some of the worst losses it has reported in nine months of war. Rebels are trying to encircle government forces in Debaltseve, a strategic location that would let them link up their main strongholds.

<http://www.rte.ie/news/2015/0211/679289-ukraine/>

PGO SUSPECTS EX-MINISTER OF INTERIOR ZAKHARCHENKO OF GRAND BRIBERY, 04.08.2015

The suspicion notice has been drafted today against Zakharchenko who is accused of allegedly receiving a bribe "for facilitating unobstructed illegal operations by fictitious businesses, created for the purpose of tax evasion... and for non-cash resources conversion services aimed at further legalization of proceeds from criminal activities."

The PGO noted that Zakharchenko's actions fall under part 5 of Article 368 (Acceptance of an offer or a promise of, or obtaining improper benefit by an official) of the Criminal Code of Ukraine. Read also PGO requests arrest of ex-minister of justice

Further investigation is underway, the origin of Zakcharchenko's property and assets, and also that of his family, is being checked.

<http://x-news.com.ua/pgo-suspects-ex-minister-of-interior-zakharchenko-of-grand-bribery-54807/>

Poroshenko signs law on national police, 04.08.2015

The Verkhovna Rada adopted a bill defining the legal basis for the creation and functioning of the National Police of Ukraine and the status of police officers on July 2.

The law becomes effective three months after the date of its publication, except for certain provisions. In particular, the provisions concerning Kyiv patrol police shall come into effect immediately after publication. The provisions concerning the Odesa and Lviv patrol police forces shall come into force as of August 20, 2015.

<http://en.interfax.com.ua/news/general/281960.html>

SBU confirms detention of Kyiv city council deputy who extorted bribe from entrepreneurs, 06.08.2015

Officers of the Security Service of Ukraine and the General Prosecutor's Office arrested one of the deputies of the Kyiv City Council, head of a temporary supervisory committee, together with his accomplices during receiving a bribe. The MP extorted a bribe from entrepreneurs for non-interference in their business activities. Over 4 million hryvnia (about \$174,000) in cash was seized from persons involved in the crime during searches conducted as part of the investigation. Investigative actions are underway.

http://en.censor.net.ua/photo_news/346633/sbu_confirms_detention_of_kyiv_city_council_deputy_who_extorted_bribe_from_entrepreneurs_photos

Matios: Kyiv court rules to arrest in absentia Russia's top military official, 06.08.2015

"Shevchenko district court of Kyiv satisfied the request of the investigator and head of the criminal procedure, issuing a ruling on the delivery to court and arrest – as a restrictive measure – of all individuals, whose names were announced at a[n earlier] briefing. That is, the chief of the General Staff of the Russian Armed Forces, and also the identified and interrogated servicemen of the 98th Airborne Division of the Armed Forces of the Russian Federation," said Anatoliy Matios, Ukraine's chief military prosecutor in an interview.

<http://www.unian.info/politics/1108596-matios-kyiv-court-rules-to-arrest-in-absentia-russias-top-military-official.html>

US Congress delegation visits Kyiv, meets top officials, 06.08.2015

"During the meeting [of Arseniy Yatsenyuk with the delegation], the parties talked about the most pressing challenges and problems on the agenda of Ukraine: from the protection of the independence and territorial integrity from the Russian aggression to the current issues of internal reforms," the Department of Information and Communication of the Secretariat of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine reported

According to U.S. congressmen, the challenges that Ukraine is facing are impressive, but the dedication of the Ukrainian government and its practical actions that provide answers to most security, economic, social and humanitarian problems are amazing.

<http://www.unian.info/politics/1108624-us-congress-delegation-visits-kyiv-meets-top-officials.html>

<http://www.kyivpost.com/content/ukraine/poroshenko-us-congressmen-discuss-measures-on-de-escalation-of-conflict-in-donbas-military-cooperation-395139.html>

SBU Chief reports to Poroshenko on confiscation of illegal trafficking of nuclear materials in Ivano-Frankivsk region, 06.08.2015

SBU Vasyl Hrytsak has reported to the President Petro Poroshenko on the realization of SBU's counter-intelligence mission in Ivano-Frankivsk to confiscate the illegal trafficking of nuclear material and radioactive agents. "Thus, on August 5, 2015, a special group of SBU Central office in cooperation with SBU office in Ivano-Frankivsk region detained four members of a criminal group red handed, when trying to realize the nuclear material.

According to the preliminary information, the radioactive agent is most likely to be Uranium 238," reads the statement posted by SBU press service.

<http://en.interfax.com.ua/news/general/282310.html>

PGO officially summons Yanukovych for interrogation on August 11, 06.08.2015

Yanukovych must report to the office of the head of the PGO's department Yuriy Bezshasniy for investigative and legal proceedings in the criminal case at 11:00 Kyiv time on August 11.

<http://uazmi.com/en/news/post/ejN82RhoTnOojxJP16lwvs>

Large scale abuse of power unveiled in Odesa port, high-rank officials being involved, 07.08.2015

"The SBU investigation department in the Odessa region received evidence of abuse of power by officials of Odessa Commercial Sea Port SE, the Ministry of Infrastructure of Ukraine, the State Property Fund of Ukraine and some private port operators while concluding and implementing state property lease agreements. As established, the actions of certain officials caused more than 1 billion hryvnia (about \$46.5 million) loss to the state," the SBU statement reads.

<http://uazmi.com/en/news/post/fMj1WNriSeY18i1S47kWB8>

Arms smugglers detained in Kyiv region, weapons worth 100,000 UAH seized. - Prosecutor's Office, 07.08.2015

Within a criminal proceeding Kyiv- Sviatoshynskiy district Prosecutor's Office and the SBU detained three men while trading a massive party of weapons. As reported by Kyiv region Prosecutor's Office press service, three AKM's with eight magazines, 11 grenades "F-1", three grenades "RKG-3E", a variety of ammunition exceeding one thousand items.

The cost of the weapons is nearly 100,000 UAH (about \$4,655). A criminal proceeding has been started under Part 1 of Article 263 of the Criminal Code of Ukraine (illegal handling of weapons). The offenders may be sentenced to a 7-year imprisonment. A remand in custody is currently being considered.

http://en.censor.net.ua/photo_news/346850/arms_smugglers_detained_in_kyiv_region_weapons_worth_100000_uah_seized_prosecutors_office_photos

Ukraine's law on local elections comes into force, 07.08.2015

The law on local elections has been published in the Holos Ukrayiny (Voice of Ukraine) parliamentary newspaper, and the election campaign in the country is due to begin on September 5. Under the new law, a first-past-the-post system will be used to elect members of village and township legislatures in single-seat electoral districts, which make up the territory of the appropriate administrative entities. Meanwhile, members of regional, city and district legislatures will be elected based on the 'one person, one vote' rule with open election tickets. The electoral threshold for parties has been increased to 5%, as compared with the 3%-threshold used at the 2010 elections. Political parties registered before the publication of the new law will be able to run in local elections. The transitional points of the document also say that elections to the local legislatures of Crimea and certain districts of the Donetsk and Luhansk regions will not be held.

<http://en.interfax.com.ua/news/general/282567.html>

<http://journalfocus.com/2015/08/poroshenko-no-local-elections-in-annexed-crimea-and-occupied-donbas/>

<http://www.unian.info/politics/1108776-poroshenko-signs-law-on-local-elections.html>

Electronic registry for enlisted persons to be created by end of 2015, - Defense Ministry, 07.08.2015

The Defense Ministry of Ukraine intends to complete creation of a state register for enlisted persons. This was reported by the Head of the Defense Ministry Department for PR and Media Oksana Havryliuk. "In the near future the bill will be sent to the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine. We expect the creation of such a state register to be completed by the end of this year," she said at a briefing on Friday morning in Kyiv. Havryliuk also explained the data of fiscal, border guard and migration services, as well as of the Ukraine's voter database will be used to replenish the register. "Such a registry for enlisted persons will allow the Ministry of Defense to effectively prevent the attempts of citizens to evade military service," she added.

http://en.censor.net.ua/news/346825/electronic_registry_for_enlisted_persons_to_be_created_by_end_of_2015_defense_ministry

Jaresko to meet with Ukraine's creditors in San Mateo on Aug 12, 07.08.2015

Ukrainian Finance Minister Natalie Jaresko is meeting with the ad hoc creditors' committee at their request on August 12 in San Mateo, CaliforniaUS. The meeting will take place in the office of the largest holder of Ukrainian bonds, Franklin Templeton.

<http://uazmi.com/en/news/post/dBcFwrCyy89STWp8eH6Yui>

Ministry of Culture called the names of Russians who threaten national security Ukraine, 08.08.2015

Ministry of Culture published the list of individuals who pose a threat to national security, including names Iosif Kobzon, Mikhail Boyarsky, Sergei Bezrukov and Gerard Depardieu. As noted in the Ministry of Culture, August 7, the Ministry of Security has provided a list of artists whose actions pose a threat to national security.

<http://ukrainiancrisis.net/news/12773>

<http://uatoday.tv/society/ministry-of-culture-publishes-list-of-artists-who-pose-threat-to-national-security-of-ukraine-471592.html>

The General Staff initiates introduction of short-term contracts with military, - Muzhenko, 08.08.2015

The General Staff of Armed forces of Ukraine initiates introduction of short-term contracts with the military personnel who are called on mobilization with the subsequent possibility of their prolongation. As Muzhenko notes, it will allow everyone to estimate advantages of passing of military service under the contract and will provide accurate time frames.

<https://news.pn/en/public/140430>

Poroshenko wants OSCE, Russia to know about recent escalation in Donbas, 10.08.2015

Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko has given instructions to inform the OSCE Special Monitoring Mission (SMM) to Ukraine and Russian representatives through the Joint Centre for Control and Co-ordination about recent violations of the Minsk peace agreements by Russian-backed militants near the village of Starohnativka in Donbas, according to the press service of the General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine.

<http://www.unian.info/war/1109759-poroshenko-wants-osce-russia-to-know-about-recent-escalation-in-donbas.html>

President appoints 9 heads of district administrations in Zakarpattia, 10.08.2015

President of Ukraine Petro Poroshenko appointed nine new heads of district state administrations in Zakarpattia region. The press service of the Head of State informed this. Ishtvan Petrushka was appointed Berehove DSA Head, Anatoliy Synyshyn - Uzhhorod DSA Head, Vasyl Symochko - Velykyi Bereznyi DSA Head, Mykhailo Rusaniuk - Vynohradiv DSA Head, Valentyna Rohova - Volovets DSA Head, Viktor Olefir - Perechyn DSA Head, Pavlo Basaraba - Rakhiv DSA Head, Oleksandr Didovych - Svaliava DSA Head, Vasyl Demyanchuk - Tiachiv DSA Head.

Respective instructions have been published on the official website of the Ukrainian President.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/president_appoints_9_heads_of_district_administrations_in_zakarpattia_333520

Ukraine may see three more waves of partial mobilization, 11.08.2015

Another three waves of partial military draft may be carried out in Ukraine, depending on the situation in the Donbas conflict zone, Deputy Defense Minister Petro Mekhed.

<http://www.digitalnewsworld.com/news/ukraine-may-see-three-more-waves-of-partial-mobilization.html>

Interpol Detains Pro-Russian Ex-Deputy Markov At A Resort In Italy, 12.08.2015

Markov is suspected of committing a crime under Part 4 Article 296 of the Criminal Code of Ukraine (disorderly conduct causing bodily harm). After Ukraine's ousted ex-president Viktor Yanukovich fled Ukraine, Markov also decided to hide on the territory of the Russian Federation. A representative of a "pro-Russian political wing" and head of the Rodina Party, Markov has been criticizing Ukraine's intention to sign an Association Agreement with the European Union and campaigned for closer relations with Russia and the Customs Union. Recently, Markov was frequently welcomed on Russian television, where he criticized the current Ukrainian authorities. As is known, Markov after the change of power in Ukraine was hiding on the territory of the Russian Federation.

<http://x-news.com.ua/interpol-detains-pro-russian-ex-deputy-markov-at-a-resort-in-italy-media-58234/>

SBU SPOTS CHANNEL USED TO SYPHON YANUKOVYCH JUNIOR'S FUNDS TO RUSSIA, 12.08.2015

To syphon the funds abroad in the foreign currency equivalent, a company incorporated into MAKO Holding, which is associated with Oleksandr Yanukovich, fictitiously bought equipment in the Russian Federation. The equipment was supposedly to be imported to territory that was not controlled by the Ukrainian authorities at the moment of the transaction. The SBU reported about the facts to the Prosecutor General's Office (PGO) of Ukraine so that it could use these materials in a pre-trial investigation into criminal proceedings against Yanukovich with further arrest of the bank accounts of the companies involved in the illegal scheme.

<http://x-news.com.ua/sbu-spots-channel-used-to-syphon-yanukovich-juniors-funds-to-russia-58484/>

Poroshenko enacted July's decision of NSDC to neutralize security threats, 14.08.2015

The text of the decree reads: "To enact the decision of the National Security and Defense Council of July 20, 2015 "On urgent measures to neutralize threats to national security" (the classified document is attached). To impose the task to control fulfillment of the National Security and Defense Council of Ukraine decision enacted by the decree on the secretary of the National Security and Defense Council of Ukraine."

http://en.censor.net.ua/news/347707/poroshenko_enacted_julys_decision_of_nsdcto_neutralize_security_threats

Fake "mobilization", 14.08.2015

In different regions, the mobilization is carried out in different ways. In the Lviv region traffic police patrols were looking for draft dodgers among motorists. In Zakarpattia region, after the Mukachevo shootout, the conscription papers were handed to smugglers. In Ukraine's capital Kyiv, the military came up with mail notifications. It is also stressed in such letters that the copies have also been sent to the District Prosecutor's Office and the Interior Ministry. So, the military commissioners demand to "report immediately" to the local conscription office to explain "the reasons for non-arrival."

<http://www.unian.info/politics/111730-fake-mobilization.html>

Ukraine Accuses Russian Secret Service of Seeking to Influence Local Elections, 14.08.2015

SBU has accused Russia of trying to influence local elections in the west of Ukraine by funding left-wing activists through secret channels.

The SBU issued a statement on Thursday warning Ukraine's western most Zakarpattia region, which borders four EU member countries, of alleged attempts by a Russian state proxy to make a deal with an unnamed left-wing party. The SBU website appeared to be down on Friday morning. "Russian Federation special services, under the guise of a private Moscow organization, have attempted to prop up local 'lefties' with the aim of exerting influence on the situation in the region. In return the Moscow backers promised they would finance their electoral campaign," the statement read.

<http://europe.newsweek.com/ukraine-warns-russian-secret-service-influence-local-elections-331578>

Police claim being forced to falsify investigation into Mukacheve incident, 17.08.2015

Among the sites has actually released an open letter of the policemen of the criminal investigation system of Zakarpattia local department of the Inside Ministry, dealt with to MP, participant of the short-term query compensation of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine established to check out into the Mukacheve incident on July 11, 2015, Ihor Mosiychuk; US Emissary to Ukraine Geoffrey R. Pyatt; in addition to the media; concerning the instant participation of the Inside Ministry authorities as well as management in Zakarpattia area in the incident; cover-up as well as damage of proof of their participation. Leader of the United Facility Celebration as well as MP Viktor Baloha has actually currently asked for the District attorney General of Ukraine Viktor Shokin to pay suitable focus on the released info. The law enforcement officer associate the typical aversion to accept various other participants of the Query Board stemming from Zakarpattia to shut connections of the principal of Mukacheve police Vitaliy Shymoniak as well as MP Valeriy Patskan that are stated to be pals, in addition to MP Valeriy Lunchenko with formerly founded guilty leader of Khust criminal team Shymoni (also known as Nika), that is straight associated with contraband of levy products to Romania.

<http://journalfocus.com/2015/08/police-claim-being-forced-to-falsify-investigation-into-mukacheve-incident/>

On August 17 Ukraine finishes sixth wave of mobilization, 18.08.2015

In Ukraine ends with the sixth wave of mobilization. According to the presidential decree on carrying out mobilization, the sixth wave should be the last in 2015. But in case of escalation of the conflict in the east of the country, the possibility of an appeal and subsequent bursts. According to the press service of the General Staff of the Ministry of Defense of Ukraine, the call for mobilization will be completed today at 24.00.

According to the decree of President of Ukraine Petro Poroshenko, this year it was planned only three waves of mobilization. The last of them, six in total, should be the last this year. But according to Deputy Defense Minister of Ukraine Petro Meheldi, escalation of the situation in the east of the country may lead to the seventh, eighth and ninth wave of mobilization.

<http://slavpeople.com/en/news/show/1331>

SBU: Militant "Ninja" detained, terrorist acts in Kramatorsk prevented, 18.08.2015

The militant from the self-styled Interior Ministry of the DPR (Donetsk People's Republic terrorist organization) sought out the separatist supporters from among the residents of Kramatorsk and Slavyansk district, according to the SBU. The Security Service of Ukraine together with the Military Prosecutor's Office detained a militant from the so-called DPR, who has been plotting terrorist acts in eastern Ukrainian town of Kramatorsk. As reported at the SBU, the terrorist with nom de guerre "Ninja" took part in seizing the premises of local authorities in April-July 2014. Also, the arrested militant was a member of a terrorist group, a self-styled "Interior Ministry of the DPR," and participated in armed confrontations with the Ukrainian forces in Donbas. By order of the "DPR" leaders, he arrived in Kramatorsk in July, 2015, attempting to create a terrorist sabotage network, seeking for the separatist sympathizers from among the residents of Kramatorsk and Slavyansk district, observing the locations of deployment of the Ukrainian troops, and infrastructure objects across the region.

http://www.fm-tv.kiev.ua/main_news/64313/view/

Leader of Zakarpattia Right Sector battalion Roman Stoika wanted by Interior Ministry, 18.08.2015

Commander of the Zakarpattia Right Sector Volunteer Ukrainian Corps (VUK) Roman Stoika has been put on the Interior Ministry's wanted list. Stoika, born in 1983, is reported to be absconding from prosecution authorities. He is suspected of creation a terrorist group or organization (part 3 art. 258 of the Criminal Code of Ukraine).

The Ministry also reports that Stoika disappeared on Aug. 17.

http://en.censor.net.ua/news/348165/leader_of_zakarpattia_right_sector_battalion_roman_stoika_wanted_by_interior_ministry_photo

Ukraine publishes list of KIAs in Ilovaik tragedy, 20.08.2015

Principal armed forces district attorney of Ukraine Anatolii Matios has actually released on the list of Ukrainian armed forces workers as well as policemen that had actually been eliminated at work in the fight near the community of Ilovaik in Donetsk area in 2013. "The remembrance days are coming, the moms as well as family members will certainly drop splits for their kids, father and mothers as well as siblings, since it was the genuine heroes that craved Ukraine near Ilovaik. They were our elite, the spirit of our country. Sit in peace, as well as allow the everlasting memory remainder in our hearts. One more 156 of these heroes have actually not yet been identified (although the paramedics have actually protected their DNA examples), while one more 158 are thought about missing out on at work (we do not release the list of MIAs, provided they might stay in militant bondage). These are the completely dry numbers of examination, the sea of human splits, the timeless sorrow of the Homeland," Matios stated.

<http://journalfocus.com/2015/08/ukraine-publishes-list-of-kias-in-ilovaik-tragedy/>

Poroshenko to meet with top European officials, Belgium leaders in Brussels, 21.08.2015

"My visit to Brussels will be held on August 26 and 27. There will be meetings with European Council President Donald Tusk and European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker. Bilateral negotiations will be held with Belgium leaders, with the emphasis also put on the visa-free regime issues and security coordination," said Poroshenko.

<http://www.unian.info/politics/1114001-poroshenko-to-meet-top-european-officials-belgium-leaders-in-brussels.html>

Brand new police start work in Lviv, 23.08.2015

The official oath-taking ceremony was attended by Ukrainian Prime Minister Arseniy Yatsenyuk, Interior Minister Arsen Avakov, First Deputy Interior Minister Eka Zguladze-Gluksmann, senior officers of the Interior Ministry's main department in Lviv region, and senior local authorities. Having sworn the oath, 406 police officers started patrolling Lviv. The official ceremony, which took place near Lviv's Town Hall, was observed by several hundred residents of Lviv, who came to Market Square with national flags of Ukraine.

<http://www.unian.info/society/1114628-brand-new-police-start-work-in-lviv.html>

Ukrainian Foreign Ministry demands release of Sentsov, Kolchenko, 25.08.2015

The Ukrainian Foreign Ministry has expressed its protest over a Russian court verdict against Ukrainian citizens Oleh Sentsov and Oleksandr Kolchenko. "Sentsov, Kolchenko, as well as other Ukrainian citizens who are currently being held illegally in Russian territory, are political hostages and innocent victims of Russian aggression against Ukraine," the ministry said in a statement released in Kyiv on Tuesday. The court verdict is "an unlawful decision based on investigators' fabricated evidence extracted partly as a result of psychological pressure and torture used against Ukrainian citizens," the ministry said. "The court flouted the law, having ignored, in particular, the evidence provided by the Ukrainian citizens' defense of their non-involvement in the alleged crimes," the ministry said. "The verdict attests to Russia's abandonment of the principle of the impartiality of an investigative process and respect for the universal norms in the field of human rights," the ministry said. It is necessary to "stop the judicial farce" and "immediately release Sentsov and Kolchenko, as well as all other political hostages," the ministry said.

<http://en.interfax.com.ua/news/general/285878.html>

<http://www.unian.info/society/1115119-sentsov-sentenced-to-20-years-kolchenko-to-10-years-in-prison-for-terrorism.html>

<http://www.unian.info/society/1115119-sentsov-sentenced-to-20-years-kolchenko-to-10-years-in-prison-for-terrorism.html>

<http://europe.newsweek.com/ukraine-pushes-new-sanctions-retaliation-russian-detentions-332058>

Matios: Investigation into two captive Russian soldiers' case over, 26.08.2015

"We are planning to submit the indictment to the court in the next 10 days," he said. According to Matios, both Russian servicemen were provided with Ukrainian lawyers. In addition, Matios said that the prosecution would ask the court to impose the maximum penalties for two Russian GRU officers Aleksandr Aleksandrov and Yevgeniy Yerofeyev.
<http://www.unian.info/society/1115478-matios-investigation-into-two-captive-russian-soldiers-case-over.html>

Losses of Ukrainian Army in Ilovaik entrapment may amount up to 1,000 people, - Investigatory Commission Head Senchenko, 26.08.2015

It will be possible to conscientiously announce the total losses after each law enforcement agency, which took part in these events at different stages, provides the following information: the losses inflicted directly during all engagements; the number of servicemen, who died including in hospitals from injuries received during all engagements near Ilovaik; and those military listed as missing. Our commission could only indirectly estimate that losses in all episodes (of Ilovaik events - Ed.) amount up to 1,000 people," Senchenko said.
http://en.censor.net.ua/news/349167/losses_of_ukrainian_army_in_iloivsk_entrapment_may_amount_up_to_1000_people_investigatory_commission

Head of Odesa city police arrested when taking bribe, 27.08.2015

Investigators of the Military Prosecutor's Office and employees of the Security Service of Ukraine (SBU) in Odesa Oblast have detained the Head of Odesa department of the Interior Ministry of Ukraine in the moment he was taking a bribe of \$20,000, Anatoliy Matios, the Chief Military Prosecutor of Ukraine.
<https://www.kyivpost.com/content/ukraine/head-of-odesa-city-police-arrested-when-taking-bribe-396653.html>

The CEC of Ukraine has announced its decision not to hold local elections in Mariupol, 28.08.2015

In Mariupol and other cities of the Donbas local elections decided not to perform, said a source in the CEC of Ukraine. "Already now we can say that in Mariupol elections will not. The main reason is the presence of a hazard for the personal safety of members of election commissions and voters," - said the source " the Apostrophe ". According to his statement, the head of the Donetsk and Luhansk regional military-civilian administrations Pavel Zhebrivsky and Georgy Tuka clarify the lists of localities where they have the opportunity to cancel the elections.
<http://news.rin.ru/eng/news///126699/>

Ukraine, Europe agree on joint, systematic anti-Russian propaganda, 28.08.2015

"One of Poroshenko's agreements in Brussels – Ukraine and the EU will work jointly and systematically to counter Russian propaganda," Klimkin said. "Two signals from the EU: full support of the [Ukrainian] constitutional reform and firmness in safeguarding values and unity. I see no chances that the Russian Federation will break the unbreakable unity," he added.
<http://www.unian.info/politics/1116258-ukraine-europe-agree-on-joint-systematic-anti-russian-propaganda.html>

Poroshenko announces another local election after constitution amended, 28.08.2015

"Following the voting for the amendments to the Constitution, another local elections will be held in two years after we form the regulatory framework for decentralization," he said at the second round of the 12th extraordinary Congress of the "Solidarity" - Bloc of Petro Poroshenko (BPP)" party on Friday.

"I ask you to elaborate amendments to the law that will make it impossible to bribe voters, and responsibility for the use of such schemes should be toughened. I am sure that candidates who buy votes should never take part in Ukrainian elections again," he said.

<http://www.unian.info/politics/1116391-poroshenko-announces-another-local-election-after-constitution-amended.html>
<http://www.rt.com/news/313810-ukraine-elections-constitution-changes/>

Two dozens of prisoners exchanged in east Ukraine, 28.08.2015

Ukrainian government forces and Russian-led militants have exchanged two dozens of prisoners in east Ukraine. Footage released by the Ministry of Defense showed twelve militant prisoners arriving at unknown location in a bus at night, escorted by Ukrainian servicemen. They were met by officials from the self-proclaimed Donetsk People's Republic.
<http://uatoday.tv/politics/ukraine-pow-swap-483017.html>

SBU names Russian generals leading militants in Donbas, 29.08.2015

Lentsov was previously implicated by Ukraine authorities of Donbas dispute acceleration/
Ministry of Protection of the Russian Alliance web site

Based on the SBU, synchronisation of Russia's First as well as Second as well as First Military Corps in Donbas is managed by Colonel-General Aleksandr Lents, General of the Military of the Russian Alliance Valery Gerasimov, Colonel-General Aleksandr Galkin, Colonel-General Andrei Serdyukov, Lieutenant-General Andrey Gurulyov, Lieutenant-General Sergei Solomatin as well as Major-General Sergei Yudin.

Likewise, SBU authorities revealed the business framework of the Russian-terrorist pressures as well as articulated information regarding the battle as well as mathematical stamina of the very first as well as 2nd as well as very first corps of the safe-proclaimed DPR as well as LPR, in addition to of the Russian soldiers.

<http://journalfocus.com/2015/08/sbu-names-russian-generals-leading-militants-in-donbas/>

Decentralization to be considered in Parliament today, 31.08.2015

The Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine is holding an extraordinary session today to consider the issue of preliminary approval of the Constitutional amendments regarding decentralization of power, session opening delayed to 12:00 Kyiv time due to blockage of Rada rostrum by Radical Party, which leader Oleh Lyashko previously said his faction would not vote for decentralization amendments and it was preparing a plan of action for today's Parliament session.

<http://www.unian.info/politics/1116945-decentralization-to-be-considered-in-parliament-today.html>

<http://hj.com.ua/decentralization-to-be-considered-in-ukraine-parliament-today-13366/>

Rada paves way for decentralization, 31.08.2015

Members of Parliament gathered for an extraordinary meeting to consider the draft law on amendments to the Constitution regarding decentralization of power. The Verkhovna Rada has approved in first reading the president-proposed Constitutional amendments regarding decentralization of power on August 31.

265 of the 320 MPs registered in the session hall supported bill No.2217a.

<http://www.unian.info/politics/1117057-rada-paves-way-for-decentralization.html>

Kyiv has evidence of Russian troops breaking heavy arms withdrawal agreements – SBU chief, 31.08.2015

SBU Head Vasyl Hrytsak has said that the SBU has evidence which confirms that Russian soldiers have violated the principal provisions of the Minsk agreements regarding the withdrawal of heavy weapons by Russian troops.

"Space imagery shows 100 mm caliber artillery systems in firing positions along the contact line," Hrytsak said that up to 20 Russian artillery batteries with more than 120 guns and howitzers of prohibited calibers have been used to attack the ATO forces positions. He noted that ATO positions are usually shelled around 90 times a day.

<http://en.interfax.com.ua/news/general/287015.html>

<http://www.unian.info/economics/1117043-sbu-slams-terrorism-financing-scheme-in-kharkiv.html>

Terrorism / Separatism

Ukraine rebels 'building dirty bomb' with Russian scientists, 01.08.2015

Rebels in Ukraine are working to develop a radioactive dirty bomb with the help of Russian nuclear scientists, according to a Ukrainian security service dossier obtained by The Times. The report draws on hacked emails between rebels and intercepted radio communications, as well as a field agent's findings. It claims that Russian specialists have withdrawn radioactive industrial waste from a secure bunker at the Donetsk state chemical plant and moved it to a rebel military base, where it can be combined with explosives to create a devastatingly effective weapon.

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/to/news/world/europe/article4514313.ece>

<http://www.newsweek.com/ukraine-says-rebels-are-building-dirty-bomb-358885>

Two Ukrainian soldiers killed, 14 injured in Donbas in past 24 hours, 01.08.2015

Two Ukrainian servicemen have been killed and another 14 have been injured in the ATO zone in the country's eastern regions over the past 24 hours, Ukrainian presidential administration spokesman Andriy Lysenko has said.

<http://www.kyivpost.com/content/ukraine/two-ukrainian-soldiers-injured-in-luhansk-region-394819.html>

Situation in ATO tense as militants attack 51 times in 24 Hr, 02.08.2015

"On August 01, from 18:00 Kyiv time up until twelve o'clock at night, the opponent discharged 120mm mortar coverings 3 times on Ukrainian placements near Pisky. Avdiyivka, Opytne as well as Krasnohorivka likewise came under mortar fire". These towns have for the previous couple of days remained in the eye of intense combating along the separation line. The ATO head office kept in mind that the militants have actually been shooting weapons, mortars as well as little arms essentially all the time, ignoring the Minsk ceasefire contracts.

<http://journalfocus.com/2015/08/situation-in-ato-tense-as-militants-attack-51-times-in-24-hours/>

Militants shelled Kuralhove, wounding one civilian, - State Administration, 03.08.2015

"According to data received from hospitals in the Donetsk region, one civilian was wounded in the anti-terrorist operation (ATO) area on Aug. 2. The resident of Kurakhove city was admitted to city central hospital with a gunshot wound," the message reads.

<http://uazmi.com/en/news/post/cIBOYcVL0hif6uR7NdhGAi>

<http://uazmi.com/en/news/post/eHGZrIBRjCJliT9Z3nmLQ2>

Russian proxies attack Ukrainian troops 99 times overnight, 03.08.2015

The confrontation between the ATO forces and the occupiers is continuing. The Russian-terrorist groups concentrate their fire activity in the area of Donetsk. From 18:00 on August 2 to midnight on August 3, the enemy fired 120mm mortars twice on the villages of Pisky and Opytne, and the town of Avdiyivka. In addition, at 20:20 Kyiv time and 21:50 Kyiv time, the mercenaries fired tank shells on the village of Pisky.

"In the last day, there has been a certain intensification of the enemy attacks in the direction of Mariupol, where a lull had been observed for the last few days," the headquarters said.

<http://www.unian.info/war/1107383-russian-proxies-attack-ukrainian-troops-99-times-overnight.html>

Unrest in Kharkiv as Opposition Bloc holds rally, 03.08.2015

According to local media and witnesses, the office staff said that a few pops were heard, which they believed were shots, then they locked the office from the inside and have been staying inside. As the Kharkiv local information resource Dozor reported, nearly 30 young people in balaclavas had damaged the minivan of Dobkin's guards and were chunking pavement stones in front of the office. They throw stones at the former office of the Party of Regions. In turn, the police blocked out Skrypnyk Street where the office is located. Several fire trucks were spotted on Skrypnyk Street but no fire or smoke was witnessed. engines, although no smoke no fire was observed. After the fire trucks left, smoke was spotted near the office of the former Party of Regions.

<http://www.unian.info/politics/1107529-unrest-in-kharkiv-as-opposition-bloc-holds-rally.html>

Four Ukrainian soldiers killed, 15 wounded in Donbas in last day, 03.08.2015

Four Ukrainian soldiers were killed and another 15 were wounded in the Donbas conflict zone in the last 24 hours, presidential administration spokesman Colonel Andriy Lysenko said.

<http://uazmi.com/en/news/post/ef8u1HxHffEOHYhW96yvp7K>

Russian proxies violate Donbas truce 46 times on Monday, 03.08.2015

"Altogether, the opponent broke the ceasefire 46 times from twelve o'clock at night to 18:00 regional time on Monday. Weapons systems were utilized 4 times, mortars 15 times, little arms as well as grenade launchers 13 times, as well as opponent storage tanks introduced assaults 3 times. The ATO pressures terminated back, utilizing the tools that are not prohibited under the Minsk contract." The opponent was most energetic from twelve o'clock at night to 06:00 regional time, journalism facility stated.

<http://journalfocus.com/2015/08/russian-proxies-violate-donbas-truce-46-times-on-monday/>

OSCE SPOTS RUSSIAN TROOPS FROM ORENBURG IN DONBAS, 04.08.2015

"An armed man guarding the facility at one of the sites claimed that he and those present at the site were part of the 16th airborne brigade from Orenburg, Russian Federation. They did not wear identifying insignia," the OSCE SMM reported in an update based on information received as of 19:30 Kyiv time on August 2, 2015, which was released on August 3. At the same time, according to open sources, there is no 16th airborne brigade in the structure of the Armed Forces of Russia. There is only the 16th separate brigade of special purpose of the Main Intelligence Directorate of the General Staff of the Russian Federation.

<http://x-news.com.ua/osce-spots-russian-troops-from-orenburg-in-donbas-54615/>

<http://www.osce.org/ukraine-smm/175736>

Militants attack Ukrainian troops 109 times overnight, 04.08.2015

KYIV, August 4 /Ukrinform/. The combined Russian-separatist forces continued attacking Ukrainian army positions and residential areas in eastern Ukraine.

The press center of the ATO reported. "From 18:00 Kyiv time on August 3 to midnight, the militants continued to fire banned weapons on ATO forces. Like in the previous days, the situation was most tense near Donetsk.

<http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/333423>

Militants continue attacking Ukrainian army positions, 05.08.2015

The combined Russian-separatist forces attacked Ukrainian army positions in eastern Ukraine 81 times overnight, using banned artillery systems five times, mortars 25 times, small arms and rocket-propelled grenade launchers 56 times, and tanks five times.

The press center of the Anti-Terrorist Operation (ATO) informed this on Wednesday.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/militants_continue_attacking_ukrainian_army_positions_333438

Militants venture to gain control over whole Donbas with local elections – source, 05.08.2015

"Despite [opposite] claims, the leaders of DPR and LPR want to hold [local] elections at the same time with the rest of Ukraine, that is on October 25, in order to obtain legitimate authority over the whole of Donbas, not just a small part of it, which is now under their control, - in case of reintegration [of the temporarily occupied areas of Donetsk and Luhansk regions]," - the source has told the publication. In addition, according to the source, this is the reason why the draft law on local elections adopted by Verkhovna Rada on July 17 has not yet been signed by the President.

<http://www.unian.info/politics/1108256-militants-venture-to-gain-control-over-whole-donbas-with-local-elections-source.html>

Russian-separatist forces upgrade equipment during ceasefire: Ukrainian officer, 05.08.2015

Reoccurring explosions in the distance near militant-held Debaltseve in the Donetsk region are a constant reminder of the ongoing fighting between Russian-backed militants and Ukrainian troops. In the morning residents of nearby village of Svitlodarsk found out that a fire had started just outside the settlement. A Ukrainian commanding officer said that Russian-backed militants had been shelling the area for several hours: "Firing started last night at 9 pm and continued until 1 am. Artillery and tanks were firing."

<http://uatoday.tv/politics/russian-separatist-forces-upgrade-equipment-during-ceasefire-ukrainian-officer-468929.html>

926 people missing in anti-terrorist operation, 204 of them kidnapped by terrorists, - Interior Ministry, 05.08.2015

As reported, from the beginning of the ATO in the Donetsk region, 1,381 people hit the missing in action list, with location of 455 of them being known. The search for the remaining 926 residents of the region is underway. As of today, the Ministry of Internal Affairs Main Directorate in the Donetsk region has registered 564 missing and 362 abducted (data from the start of the ATO).

http://en.censor.net.ua/news/346514/926_people_missing_in_antiterrorist_operation_204_of_them_kidnapped_by_terrorists_interior_ministry

Militants attack Ukrainian army positions 65 times overnight, 06.08.2015

The combined Russian-separatist forces attacked Ukrainian army positions in eastern Ukraine 65 times overnight, using banned artillery systems one time, mortars 26 times, rocket-propelled grenade launchers and small arms 108 times, and tank shells three times, the press center of the Anti-Terrorist Operation (ATO) wrote on its Facebook page.

<http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/333456>

SBU: Three Ukrainian troops freed from militant captivity, 07.08.2015

"Three Ukrainian soldiers have just been released from the DPR captivity. In particular, the military from the 80th and 81st brigades of the Ukrainian Armed Forces, as well as the fighter from the 25th Kyiv Rus Battalion were released," the report says.

<http://www.unian.info/war/1109051-sbu-three-ukrainian-troops-freed-from-militant-captivity.html>

Russian proxies attack Ukrainian troops 106 times overnight, 07.08.2015

"Over the last day, the situation in the Donbas conflict zone has deteriorated significantly. On August 6 from 18:00 Kyiv time to midnight, the Russian-terrorist troops were continuously firing on ATO forces in the area of Donetsk," the report says.

<http://www.unian.info/politics/1109053-russian-proxies-attack-ukrainian-troops-106-times-overnight.html>

http://en.censor.net.ua/news/346807/roitske_shelled_with_grad_rocket_systems_as_clash_occurred_near_krasnohorivka_ato_press_center

Groups of special "experts" arrive in Luhansk and Donetsk from Russia – Information Resistance, 07.08.2015

"A special group of "experts from Russia" has been spotted in Luhansk, who are dealing with setting up a smuggling channel of foodstuffs from the government-controlled territory," said Tymchuk. The MP claims that the group consists of 16 people, of whom there are three women. The major part of the group is comprised of the employees from the FSB [Russia's Federal Security Service] and other Russian law enforcement agencies. This group has no permanent place of stay, tries not to draw unnecessary attention (the group members sport the same uniform as the "local militants"), and has two Volkswagen T4 minivans at their disposal, with tinted windows and no registration tags; two "Tigr" (GAZ-2330) armored combat vehicles and a civilian SUV.

<http://www.unian.info/politics/1109102-groups-of-special-experts-arrive-in-luhansk-and-donetsk-from-russia-information-resistance.html>

Two Ukrainian soldiers killed, seven wounded in Donbas in last day, 07.08.2015

"In the last day, we lost two Ukrainian soldiers, and another seven were injured as a result of military clashes," presidential administration spokesman Colonel Andriy Lysenko said.

<https://www.kyivpost.com/content/ukraine-abroad/ukraine-today-two-ukrainian-soldiers-killed-seven-wounded-395273.html>

Luhansk militants to arrange local election irrespective of Kyiv's position, 07.08.2015

"We have actually revealed them [local elections] as well as we will certainly hold them irrespective of whether Ukraine desires it or otherwise," Plotnitsky stated at a conference with competitors from the LPR's militia, an LPR web site claimed. "As well as they do not desire. They're attempting to enforce their legislations on us, to ensure that we do exactly what they desire us to do. This will certainly never ever occur," he included.

<http://journalfocus.com/2015/08/luhansk-militants-to-arrange-local-election-irrespective-of-kyivs-position/>

Three Ukrainian Soldiers Freed From Militants' Captivity, 07.08.2015

This was reported in the press center of the SSU. "In particular, soldiers of the 80th Brigade, and 81st Brigade of the Armed Forces, as well as fighter from the 25th "Kyiv Rus" battalion were delivered from captivity" – noted by the special service. Advisor to the head of the SSU Yuriy Tandit said that these soldiers were Oleksandr Mashonkin, Yuriy Tserelenko and Paplinskyi Stanislav. For your information, SSU submitted a list of prisoners in Minsk, consisting of 183 people.

<http://ukraineunderattack.org/en/28253-three-ukrainian-soldiers-freed-from-militants-captivity.html>

Militants attack Ukrainian army positions 101 times in past 24 hours, 08.08.2015

"On August 7 from 18:00 Kyiv time to midnight, the Russian-terrorist troops were most active in the area of Donetsk," the report says. The Kremlin mercenaries fired 120mm mortars on ATO forces in the town of Krasnohorivka. In addition, they fired mortars, tank shells and 122mm artillery on the town of Avdiyivka. "In the direction of Artemivsk, the militants were most active near the village of Troitske. At about 22:00 and 23:00 Kyiv time, they fired 120mm mortars and 122mm artillery on ATO forces there," the headquarters said.

<http://uazmi.com/en/news/post/cdTCsATI3Wn1yZ8GY5LWtg>

One Ukrainian soldier killed, nine wounded in Donbas in last day, 08.08.2015

"In the last day, we lost one Ukrainian soldier, and another nine were injured as a result of military clashes," Presidential administration spokesman for ATO Colonel Andriy Lysenko said.

<http://uatoday.tv/news/one-ukrainian-soldier-killed-nine-wounded-in-donbas-in-last-day-471421.html>

One Ukrainian soldier killed, 10 wounded in Donbas in last day, 09.08.2015

One Ukrainian soldier was killed and 10 were wounded in the Donbas conflict zone in the past day, according to presidential administration speaker for ATO issues Oleksandr Motuzianyk.

<http://www.kyivpost.com/content/ukraine/ukraine-today-one-ukrainian-soldier-killed-10-wounded-in-donbas-in-last-day-395365.html>

Russian-backed militants fire 50 mortar shells on Maryinka checkpoint, 09.08.2015

The combined Russian-militant forces fired 50 mortar shells on the Ukrainian 'Maryinka' checkpoint in Donetsk region in the last day, the press service of the State Border Guard Service of Ukraine has reported.

<http://www.kyivpost.com/content/ukraine/unian-russian-backed-militants-fire-50-mortar-shells-on-maryinka-checkpoint-395339.html>

Four OSCE cars destroyed in arson attack in Donetsk overnight, 09.08.2015

The OSCE Special Monitoring Mission (SMM) to Ukraine has reported about an apparent arson attack on its cars in the militant-controlled city of Donetsk.

<https://www.kyivpost.com/content/ukraine/unian-four-osce-cars-destroyed-in-arson-attack-in-donetsk-overnight-395358.html>

<http://uatoday.tv/crime/four-osce-cars-destroyed-in-arson-attack-in-donetsk-overnight-471658.html>

JCCC observers record damage done by Russian proxies' attack on Hranitne, 09.08.2015

The observers of the Joint Centre for Control and Coordination (JCCC) of the Ceasefire and Stabilization of Parties' Demarcation Line in Donbas have recorded the damage done by Russian proxies' attack on the village of Hranitne with the use of heavy weapons, according to the Anti-Terrorist Operation (ATO) press center.

In particular, the JCCC emphasizes that the cynical destruction of privately owned buildings and property of civilians goes on.

<http://www.unian.info/war/1109582-jccc-observers-record-damage-done-by-russian-proxies-attack-on-hranitne.html#ad-image-0>

Donbas escalates with hot spots near Donetsk, Artemivsk, Mariupol, 09.08.2015

Enemy tanks attacked ATO positions in the village of Opytne near Donetsk twice and Russian-backed militants fired 120mm-caliber mortars on them three times at about 01:00 local time on Sunday. In the morning, Russian proxies started firing 122mm-caliber artillery systems and large-caliber mortars on the village of Verkhniotoretske. At almost 10:00 local time they started shelling ATO forces in the town of Krasnohorivka from guns of infantry combat vehicles, anti-aircraft systems, and small arms. The town of Avdiyivka came under fire of 120mm-caliber mortars four times. The Artemivsk sector was also under fire. At about 11:00 local time on Sunday, an enemy tank attacked the village of Travneve; illegal armed forces also used large-caliber mortars to shell the village. From 13:00 to almost 14:00, the enemy used 122mm-caliber artillery systems and mortars to shell the village of Zaitseve.

<http://www.unian.info/war/1109603-donbas-escalates-with-hot-spots-near-donetsk-artemivsk-mariupol.html>

<http://uatoday.tv/politics/frontline-report-ukrainian-army-checkpoints-come-under-fire-471614.html>

OSCE says no plans to withdraw from Donetsk, 10.08.2015

The OSCE Special Monitoring Mission (SMM) to Ukraine says it is not going to cease its mission in eastern Ukraine after an arson attack on its cars in Donetsk in the early hours of Aug. 9.

<https://www.kyivpost.com/content/ukraine-abroad/unian-osce-says-no-plans-to-withdraw-from-donetsk-395387.html>

Militants attack Ukrainian army positions 127 times overnight, 10.08.2015

"The last day in the Donbas conflict zone differed from the previous days of the past weeks by the largest number of militant attacks on our positions. From 18:00 Kyiv time to midnight on August 10, the enemy was intensifying fire along the demarcation line. At about 18:00 Kyiv time on August 9, the occupiers fired mortars and small arms on our fortified position near the village of Novhorodske not far from the militant-held city of Donetsk," the report says. The situation in the Artemivsk sector is also tense. From 21:40 to 22:00, the militants fired Grad multiple rocket launchers from the village of Kalynove on ATO forces in the village of Troitske. At 21:45 Kyiv time, they also were firing Grad rockets on the Ukrainian troops in the village of Rozsadky.

<http://uazmi.com/en/news/post/e3BA4zvA72Cu7zatWgQmsQ>

One Ukrainian servicemen killed, 16 injured in eastern Ukraine in past 24, 10.08.2015

Militants have significantly increased shelling using heavy artillery and multiple launch rocket systems in the past 24 hours, as the result of which Ukrainian military suffered losses, Secretary of NSDC of Ukraine Oleksandr Turchynov has said.

<http://uazmi.com/en/news/post/erE01MsVSRQCq1Y46JrWKI>

<http://www.kyivpost.com/content/ukraine/one-ukrainian-servicemen-killed-16-injured-in-eastern-ukraine-in-past-24-395393.html>

Near Starohnativka ATO Forces Rebuffed Enemy's Attack And Seized Its High Grounds, 10.08.2015

Today, 10 August, around 03.25 a.m. after a massive artillery preparation terrorist groups of up to battalion tactical group supported by 10 tanks, 10 infantry fighting vehicles and other equipment went on the attack on a stronghold of the 72-th separate mechanized brigade near Starohnativka (Donetsk region). According to the press service of the Defense Ministry of Ukraine, Minister of Defense of Ukraine and the Chief of General Staff – Chief of the Armed Forces of Ukraine immediately reported this to the President of Ukraine and informed the OSCE representatives, after which it was decided to deploy Ukrainian artillery on designated positions. Through organized measures, determined and professional actions of the servicemen of 72th separate mechanized brigade the enemy was stopped and rebuffed to 2-3 kilometers. Ukrainian units have captured key heights that had been previously controlled by terrorist groups. The enemy suffered heavy losses both in manpower and in military equipment.

<http://hst-ukraine.com/news/4766-near-starohnativka-ato-forces-rebuffed-enemys-attack-and-seized-its-high-grounds>

<http://www.unian.info/war/1109889-right-sector-7-kias-11-wias-in-fighting-near-starohnativka.html#ad-image-0>

<http://www.unian.info/war/1109968-update-on-todays-fighting-near-starohnativka.html#ad-image-0>

Russian proxies attack Ukrainian troops 95 times overnight, 11.08.2015

"From 18:00 Kyiv time to midnight on August 11, illegal armed groups continued to fire on ATO forces. The situation near the militant-controlled city of Donetsk was traditionally tense. From 22:00 to midnight, the occupiers fired 120mm mortars three times and 152mm artillery systems twice on our positions in the town of Avdiyivka. The militants used 152mm artillery systems three times to shell the village of Verkhniotoretske at about 20:00 Kyiv time and the village of Vodiane at about 22:00 Kyiv time," the press center said. At 22:15 Kyiv time on Monday, the Russian proxies fired Grad multiple rocket launchers on ATO forces in the village of Troitske in the Artemivsk sector. The village of Stanytsia Luhanska in Luhansk region was under mortar and grenade fire from 22:00 to 02:00 local time. "At about 21:00 Kyiv time, the enemy fired 120mm mortars and 152mm artillery systems on the village of Starohnativka near the Ukrainian-controlled city of Mariupol," the report says.

<http://www.unian.info/war/1110112-russian-proxies-attack-ukrainian-troops-95-times-overnight.html>

<http://www.newsreality.com/post/mariupols-defense-staff-its-getting-worse.html>

National Guard, battalions won't be returned to front line, 11.08.2015

Press secretary of the Ukrainian General Staff Vladyslav Selezniiov told Ukrainian online newspaper Ukrainska Pravda. "The task of the Ukrainian armed forces is to deter aggression of the enemy. The National Guard and the Ministry of Interior have their own tasks, which they perform on the second and third lines of defense," he said. "At the moment, the Ukrainian armed forces are located along the entire line of defense," Selezniiov said.

<http://www.unian.info/war/1110302-national-guard-battalions-wont-be-returned-to-front-line.html>

Russian troops desert army over Ukraine conflict, 11.08.2015

Stories of deserters contradict Kremlin's assertion that no government soldiers have been sent to the conflict zone. Some Russian soldiers are deserting the army because of the conflict in Ukraine, Aljazeera's Rory Challands reports from Maikop, southern Russia. Their stories contradict the Kremlin's assertion that no government soldiers have been sent there.
http://en.censor.net.ua/video_news/347298/russian_troops_desert_army_over_ukraine_conflict_aljazeera_video

Ukrainian troops attacked 87 times overnight, five times with Grad, 12.08.2015

The combined Russian-separatist forces attacked Ukrainian army positions in eastern Ukraine 87 times overnight, using banned artillery systems 12 times, mortars 21 times, Grad multiple rocket launchers five times, and rocket-propelled grenade launchers and small arms 65 times, the press center of the Anti-Terrorist Operation (ATO) wrote on its Facebook page
<http://www.unian.info/war/1110576-ukrainian-troops-attacked-87-times-overnight-five-times-with-grad.html>

Tymchuk: Militants redeploy artillery to Starohnativka and Novolaspa, 12.08.2015

"According to our preliminary data, there are two units equipped with 152mm artillery systems, and the unit of the Donetsk People's Republic militant organization equipped with 122mm artillery systems, which is now occupying and organizing its positions near the village of Telmanove," the report says. In addition, the Ukrainian army spotted the relocation of six Grad multiple rocket launchers from the village of Starobesheve, the report said.
<http://uazmi.com/en/news/post/g20DsoT5rbRPi9jUKKg8A>

OSCE mission visits Kyiv-controlled Donbas communities shelled by militants, 12.08.2015

Monitors from the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine (OSCE SMM) visited a number of communities in Donetsk and Luhansk regions controlled by Kyiv on Monday to assess the aftermath of shelling with the use of heavy weapons, which were to be pulled back in line with the Minsk agreements. "In government-controlled Dzerzhynsk (58km north of Donetsk) the SMM visited three sites shelled on August 8, based on a report from a Ukrainian Armed Forces representative at the JCCC [Joint Ceasefire Control Center] in Dzerzhynsk. The SMM conducted crater analysis and concluded that they had been caused by 152mm caliber artillery from a south-south-easterly direction," the SMM said in a report as of August 10, published on Tuesday evening.
<http://en.interfax.com.ua/news/general/283319.html>

Kyiv says one serviceman killed, three wounded in Donbas over past day, 12.08.2015

One serviceman of the Ukrainian Armed Forces was killed and another three were wounded in the ATO zone in Donbas in the past 24 hours, Ukrainian military spokesman Andriy Lysenko has said.
<http://www.kyivpost.com/content/ukraine/kyiv-says-one-serviceman-killed-three-wounded-in-donbas-over-past-day-395567.html>

Weekly Update from the OSCE Observer Mission at Russian Checkpoints Gukovo and Donetsk, 12.08.2015

The OM is currently operating with 18 staff members, consisting of 17 permanent international observers (incl. the Chief Observer) and one first-responder (an OSCE staff or mission member deployed to another mission for a short period of time), who is performing the duties of an administrative assistant. Nine staff members are currently on leave. Compared to last week, the average number of entries/exits slightly increased overall from 10,509 to 10,531 per day for both BCPs; the average net flow went from minus 276 (i.e. more exits from the Russian Federation) to plus 29 (i.e. more entries into the Russian Federation). The Donetsk BCP continued to experience more traffic than the Gukovo BCP. The cross-border movements registered at both BCPs accounted for just under thirty-three per cent of all entries/exits in the Rostov region. The majority of the vehicles crossing the border have number plates issued in the Luhansk region, including a number of articulated trucks and long-distance coaches commuting between the Luhansk region and cities in the Russian Federation.
<http://www.osce.org/om/176816>

Donbas sees peak of 152 attacks by Russian proxies in last weeks, 13.08.2015

The combined Russian-militant forces intensified their attacks over the last few weeks and fired almost all types of weapons on Ukrainian army positions in eastern Ukraine 152 times.
<http://uatoday.tv/news/donbas-sees-peak-of-152-attacks-by-russian-proxies-in-last-weeks-474295.html>

Two Ukrainian soldiers killed, 10 wounded in Donbas in last day, 13.08.2015

Two Ukrainian soldiers were killed and another 10 were wounded in the Donbas conflict zone in the last 24 hours, presidential administration spokesman, Colonel Oleksandr Motuzianyk said.
<http://www.unian.info/war/1111225-two-ukrainian-soldiers-killed-10-wounded-in-donbas-in-last-day.html>

OSCE observes use of large-caliber weapons by both conflicting sides in Donbass, 13.08.2015

The OSCE Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine is observing the use of weapons with calibers larger than 120mm by both conflicting sides in Donbass although these armaments shall be withdrawn from the contact line, OSCE SMM Deputy Chief Monitor Alexander Hug said on Aug. 13. He said at a press briefing in Kiev that the mission had reported the use of heavy weapons with 122mm and 152mm calibers by both sides.

He also said that the fighting in the Donetsk region was concentrated on Horlivka, the remains of the Donetsk airport, Maryinka, Krasnohorivka and Avdiivka. In addition, monitors have been observing an increase in civilian casualties and damages done to residential buildings and infrastructure during shelling in the Donetsk and Luhansk regions, Hug said. Meanwhile, the DNR Defense Ministry has reported, that ceasefire has been violated 59 times on the territory of the self-proclaimed Donetsk People's Republic in the past 24 hours. "The number of ceasefire breaches by the Ukrainian side has more than doubled and has amounted to 59 instances in the past 24 hours,"

http://rbth.co.uk/news/2015/08/13/osce_observes_use_of_large-caliber_weapons_by_both_conflicting_sides_in_48490.html

Militants prepare armed provocations, evacuate families, 13.08.2015

Rumors about the upcoming offensive of the Ukrainian Armed Forces are being spread in the militant-occupied territories, according to a source. Against the background of such gossip, the Russian proxies are preparing an armed provocation against the Ukrainian military while evacuating their families from the areas where fighting may erupt. Such processes are already being witnessed in the militant stronghold of Donetsk, a source said. The militants admitted the loss of 136 people during an unsuccessful attack in the area of the village of Starohnativka.

<http://www.unian.info/war/1111288-militants-prepare-armed-provocations-evacuate-families.html>

Militants attack Ukrainian army positions 95 times overnight, 14.08.2015

The combined Russian-separatist forces shelled Ukrainian army positions in eastern Ukraine 95 times on August 13. The ATO press center wrote on Facebook

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/militants_attack_ukrainian_army_positions_95_times_overnight_333604

Militants block removal of Ukrainian soldiers' ' bodies from Donbas, 14.08.2015

Kremlin-backed militants do not enable a passage for the Ukrainian 'Black Tulip' volunteer company to eliminate Ukrainian soldiers' corps from the Donbas dispute area.

Zhylkin stated it was not a common circumstance for volunteers. "It has actually seldom occurred to us. Also throughout the siege of the Donetsk flight terminal as well as the community of Debaltseve, we had the ability to arrive," he stated.

<http://journalfocus.com/2015/08/militants-block-removal-of-ukrainian-soldiers-bodies-from-donbas/>

Massive enemy attack causes major destruction in Artemove, 14.08.2015

"In the early hours of August 13, residential areas in the village of Artemove near the town of Dzerzhynsk in Donetsk region came under massive militant attack. The shelling was carried out with the use of 122mm and 152mm artillery systems located at Gagarin coalmine, not far from the militant-occupied town of Horlivka. From 23:00 to 02:30, the militants were firing about 50 shells on Artemove. As a result of the shelling a house consisting of four apartments at 15 Dzerzhynskoho Street was burnt down leaving all residents homeless. In addition, the militants fired 122mm shells on Artem freight railway station, having damaged its

facade, windows with doors, as well as rails, auxiliary facilities and the fence". Multiple cases of destruction caused by explosions of large-caliber shells were reported at Dzerzhynskoho, Engelsa, Chapayeva, and Pershotravneva Streets, and Pioneriv Lane in the village. There were also reports about wounded civilians and killed pets.

<http://ukrainianwall.com/english-news/massive-enemy-attack-causes-major-destruction-in-artemove/>

One Ukrainian soldier killed, six wounded in Donbas in last day, 14.08.2015

One Ukrainian soldier was killed and another six were wounded in the Donbas conflict zone in the last 24 hours, presidential administration spokesman Colonel Andriy Lysenko said.

<http://www.unian.info/war/1111648-one-ukrainian-soldier-killed-six-wounded-in-donbas-in-last-day.html>

Ukrainian artillery destroys terrorist warehouse with ammunition and fuel, 14.08.2015

"It is simply enough to inform the JCCC [the Joint Centre for Control and Coordination of the Ceasefire and Stabilization of Parties' Demarcation Line in Donbas] that we've been under fire and are forced to return our artillery systems back [to the contact line], and then to inform the OSCE and... Here goes the interception of the separatist radio: Ukrainian artillery systems fired back to hit a garage on the northeastern outskirts with a warehouse storing fuel and cannon artillery ammunition," Biryukov wrote, not specifying the location of the militant base. According to him, the Ukrainian armed forces also destroyed three D-30 howitzers and 120mm mortars. Some of the shells hit the fuel depot that caused fire, which spread to a neighboring facility where the militants were storing 120mm, 122mm, and 152mm shells and cannon artillery. In addition, Biryukov said, 15-20 minutes after the rocket multiple launchers stopped working, Gvozdika self-propelled artillery systems were used from another position on the same targets in order to "teach the enemy a lesson."

<http://uatoday.tv/news/ukrainian-artillery-destroys-terrorist-warehouse-with-ammunition-and-fuel-475207.html>

Ukraine reports casualty of government forces near Ilovaisk in 2014, 14.08.2015

Throughout the Ilovaisk standoff in August of in 2013, 366 soldiers were eliminated, one more 249 injured, basending on Matios. 128 POWs as well as 158 MIAs have actually been formally reported, stated the primary armed forces district attorney.

<http://journalfocus.com/2015/08/ukraine-reports-death-toll-of-government-forces-near-ilovaisk-in-2014/>

Friday becomes "hottest" day in ATO area in recent months, 15.08.2015

Friday, August 14, saw the most severe upsurge of militant activity in the ATO area in recent months, the ATO press center reported on Facebook.

<http://journalfocus.com/2015/08/friday-becomes-hottest-day-in-ato-area-in-recent-months/>

Over 100 suicides among Ukrainian soldiers reported since beginning of ATO, 15.08.2015

At the exact same time, volunteer services, presently taking care of soldiers, seem the alarm system, due to the fact that no appropriate task on mental diagnostics as well as rehab of the soldiers has actually been adequately accomplished. Much more, Ukraine does not have a well-established system of mental support arrangement, so this problem is usually dealt with by volunteers. In many nations, soldiers are not sent out house straight after their return from battle zone. For instance, the armed forces in France are sent out to Cyprus on vacation.[The armed forces in France are sent out to Cyprus on vacation. While in Ukraine, such individuals are commonly left alone to take care of psychological results of battle. Svitlana Kaminska, the psycho therapist at Mental Dilemma Solution, provides suggestions to households when solution participants return house. "Firstly, it is to be near them. To take a seat as well as pay attention to he or she. Welcome a clergyman, when he [serviceman] returns house as well as he is a spiritual individual. A great deal of info is offered online," she stated.

<http://journalfocus.com/2015/08/over-100-suicides-among-ukrainian-soldiers-reported-since-beginning-of-ato/>

Militants thwart long-awaited prisoner swap at the last minute, 16.08.2015

Russian-backed militants have prevented a long-awaited prisoner of war swap from going ahead at the last minute. Moments before the deal was planned to go ahead which would have seen 13 Ukrainian POWs exchanged for 13 detained militants, the so-called DPR put forward demands which the Ukrainian negotiators could not to agree to due to security

reasons. After three months of negotiations, the two sides had finally seemed to reach an agreement late last week. Mariupol Court agreed to downgrade the restrictive measure against thirteen militants accused of banditry, robberies and murders from holding in custody to house arrest. This legal technicality allowed the criminals to be taken to the demarcation line where the swap would take place. However, at the last moment, the militants suddenly changed their demands, pushing for the swap to be carried out in the territory controlled by Russian-backed militants instead of in a neutral zone. As a result the swap did not go ahead. <http://uatoday.tv/society/militants-thwart-long-awaited-prisoner-swap-at-the-last-minute-475902.html>

Militants shell two villages near Mariupol, leaving two civilians dead, another six wounded, 17.08.2015

Russian proxies have shelled the villages of Lebedinske and Sartana with self-propelled artillery, press officer of the sector "M" of the government forces Yaroslav Chepurniy has told the 0629 online news resource. One of the shells hit the stadium according to preliminary reports. "A child with a ripped off foot was taken by an ambulance to a town hospital No.3. Two other residents, one missing an arm, another one missing a leg, were admitted to a town hospital No.4. Several civilians managed to walk to hospitals on their own and requested medical assistance," reads the statement.

<http://www.unian.info/war/1112199-militants-shell-two-villages-near-mariupol-civilian-casualties-reported.html>

Sartana attacked from militant-controlled villages, 17.08.2015

The shelling of the village of Sartana near the strategic government-controlled port city of Mariupol was carried out by the Russian military and pro-Russian militants from the villages of Sakhanka and Kominternove, deputy commander of the sector "M" ATO headquarters Valeriy Vodolazkiy said on Monday, Mariupol's city online news. According to Vodolazkiy, the militants fired 152mm self-propelled artillery and 120mm mortars. Exploded shells are scattered across the village. "At the moment, the whole village has been checked. There are no [discovered] unexploded shells," Mariupol's Mayor Yuriy Khotlubey said.

<http://arab.com.ua/en/sartana-attacked-from-militant-controlled-villages>

Death toll in Donbas reaches nearly 7,000, - UN, 17.08.2015

Nearly 7,000 people have been killed, more than 17,000 have been wounded since the beginning of the military Russia-Ukraine conflict in the east of Ukraine. This was announced by the spokesperson for the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Cécile Pouilly. "Since mid-April, 2014 until June 27, 2015, at least 6,832 people have been killed (both civilians and military) and at least 17,087 people have been injured in the conflict zone in eastern Ukraine," she said. The figures include the 298 victims of the Malaysian Boeing tragedy.

http://en.censor.net.ua/news/345639/death_toll_in_donbas_reaches_nearly_7000_un

http://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/ocha_ukraine_situation_update_number_7_14_august_2015.pdf

Ukraine fears 'big war' as Russia sends in more troops, 17.08.2015

Military authorities in Ukraine believe the number of Russian troops within and close to its borders has risen to more than 50,000, raising fears of a substantial escalation in the conflict raging in Ukraine's eastern regions. Almost 9,000 Russian Federation Armed Forces personnel are believed to be based inside Ukraine, according to reports from the country's National Security and Defense Council (NSDC) seen by The Independent on Sunday. The rest are based in the neighbouring Rostov region of Russia, including mechanised assault units and communications command systems. This is in addition to 33,400 so-called "illegal armed formations" of Russian-backed separatist soldiers inside eastern Ukraine, with 400 main battle tanks and close to 2,000 armoured troop carriers reported to be at "full combat readiness". Western countries have repeatedly accused Russia of becoming involved in the conflict, a claim Moscow has denied – despite what Ukraine and other observers see as evidence of troop build-up.

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/europe/ukraine-fears-big-war-as-russia-sends-in-more-troops-10457571.html>

Terrorists fire artillery on Maryinka, five-month baby seriously wounded, 18.08.2015

One of the shells exploded in the residential area on Ordzhonikidze Street, where a family with a five-month baby lived. The girl was injured by shrapnel in the abdomen, while her parents were not wounded. The baby was later admitted to a hospital in Dnipropetrovsk and underwent surgery. Information on casualties or damage is being updated. An investigative team of the Maryinka police department arrived at the scene.

<http://www.unian.info/war/1112771-terrorists-fire-artillery-on-maryinka-five-month-baby-seriously-wounded.html>

Russian proxies attack Ukrainian troops 82 times overnight, 18.08.2015

Ukrainian military spokesmen say combined Russian-militant forces attacked Ukrainian army positions 82 times and civilian areas in eastern Ukraine five times overnight.

<http://uatoday.tv/news/russian-proxies-attack-ukrainian-troops-82-times-overnight-464129.html>

TERRORISTS PROVOKE MAJOR STANDOFF TO REQUEST RUSSIAN HELP, 18.08.2015

Militants are attempting to destroy the Minsk agreements, seeking to request "help" from the Russian Federation, said Anatoliy Stelmakh from the Staff of the ATO. The situation in the ATO zone has remained tense on August 14-17, with the highest number of attacks on military positions of government troops by the Russian-terrorist forces in recent months. "In addition, the invaders hardly conceal the use of rocket artillery and cynically attack residential areas across Donbas," he stressed. Head of the Ukrainian group of the JCCC in Donbas Maj Gen Borys Kremenetsky says that Russian-backed separatists also have another goal: to demoralize and intimidate civilians and discredit the local authorities and the Ukrainian army.

<http://ukrainia.com.au/2015/08/19/terrorists-provoke-major-standoff-to-request-russian-help/>

Russia Has Concentrated On the Border With Ukraine 50,000 Soldiers – General Staff, 18.08.2015

This was announced by the speaker of the General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine Vladyslav Selezniiov. He said that "militants use any means available to escalate the situation." "This happens on the background of the events taking place along the border. As you know, on the state border between Ukraine and the Russian Federation there are about 50,000 personnel of the Armed forces of the Russian Federation", – he said. According to Vladyslav Selezniiov this is Russia's was of "trying to put pressure on the Ukrainian side, which has taken the uncompromising stance during the talks in Minsk." "All actions of militants are aimed at the escalation of the conflict, and this is a further evidence that the representatives of the self-proclaimed "LNR" and "DNR" does not seek for peaceful settlement of the conflict" – said the spokesman for the General Staff.

<http://ukraineunderattack.org/en/30366-russia-has-concentrated-on-the-border-with-ukraine-50-000-soldiers-general-staff.html>

Militants of Donbas preparing referendum "on accession to Russia", 19.08.2015

The leadership of the so-called Donetsk People's Republic terrorist organization (DPR) is preparing the referendum on "accessing the Russian Federation as its separate subject." According to the source, the referendum is expected to be held in two-four weeks after the "local elections," which are scheduled for October 18. It is noted that the questionnaires have already been printed "in the tricolor design." It is expected that the referendum will be carried out with the same electoral commissions, which are now formed for the "local elections."

http://www.fm-tv.kiev.ua/main_news/64356/view/

OSCE Chairman urges DPR militants to stop attacks on monitors, 19.08.2015

Principal Screen of the OSCE Unique Tracking Objective to Ukraine Ertugrul Apakan gets in touch with militants from the Donetsk Individuals' Republic terrorist company to stop attacks on the OSCE onlookers.

<http://journalfocus.com/2015/08/osce-chairman-urges-dpr-militants-to-stop-attacks-on-monitors/>

Russian proxies attack Ukrainian troops 82 times, 19.08.2015

The combined Russian-separatist forces attacked Ukrainian army positions in eastern Ukraine 82 times overnight, using banned artillery systems four times, mortars 32 times, and rocket-propelled grenade launchers and small arms 63 times, the ATO press center wrote on FB.

<http://www.unian.info/war/1113165-russian-proxies-attack-ukrainian-troops-82-times.html>

Four Ukrainian soldiers killed in Donbas in past 24 hours, 20.08.2015

Four Ukrainian servicemen have been killed and another 14 have been injured in the ATO zone over the past 24 hours, the Ukrainian presidential administration's spokesman for the army operation Oleksandr Motuzianyk has said.

<http://uazmi.com/en/news/post/bjUpqwxwOU2tHPRWlltcwm>

Russian proxies attack ATO forces 67 times, 20.08.2015

The combined Russian-separatist forces attacked Ukrainian army positions in eastern Ukraine 67 times overnight, using banned artillery systems twice, mortars 15 times, multiple rocket launchers once, and rocket-propelled grenade launchers and small arms 65 times, the ATO press center wrote on Thursday.

<http://www.newsreality.com/post/russian-proxies-attack-ato-forces-67-times.html>

Monitors have no access to almost half of occupied Donbas – OSCE, 20.08.2015

The OSCE Special Monitoring Mission representatives complain they have no access to 46% of the territory, controlled by the Donbas militants. "The authorities of the certain areas of Donetsk and Luhansk regions completely block the access of monitors to the area of the Russian-Ukrainian border in Luhansk and Donetsk regions, and 46% of the militant-controlled territory are virtually closed for patrolling by the OSCE SMM monitors," the ATO HQ informed following the meeting between the Ukrainian side and the OSCE SMM representatives. At the same time, the international monitors say they have no problems with access of the mission to the territory controlled by the Armed Forces of Ukraine.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/monitors_have_no_access_to_almost_half_of_occupied_donbas_osce_333735

Russian proxies attack Ukrainian positions near Donetsk, 21.08.2015

The combined Russian-separatist forces attacked Ukrainian army positions in eastern Ukraine 67 times overnight, including 51 times in the area of the militant stronghold of Donetsk, the ATO press center wrote on Facebook

<http://www.unian.info/war/1114006-russian-proxies-attack-ukrainian-positions-near-donetsk.html>

<http://www.unian.info/war/1114314-ato-staff-reports-escalation-in-donbas-enemy-attack-near-artemivsk.html>

Russian-backed militants attack Ukrainian forces 102 times overnight, 22.08.2015

The combined Russian-separatist forces attacked Ukrainian army positions in eastern Ukraine 102 times overnight, using banned artillery systems 14 times, mortars 28 times, multiple rocket launchers once, and rocket-propelled grenade launchers and small arms 69 times, the ATO press center wrote.

<http://hj.com.ua/russian-backed-militants-attack-ukrainian-forces-102-times-overnight-11389/>

One Ukrainian soldier killed, four wounded in Donbas in last day, 23.08.2015

"In the last day, we lost one soldier, another four were injured in hostilities," Presidential Administration spokesman for Anti-Terrorist Operation issues Colonel Andriy Lysenko said.

<http://uatoday.tv/news/one-ukrainian-soldier-killed-four-wounded-in-donbas-in-last-day-480220.html>

<http://www.unian.info/war/1114594-russian-proxies-violate-donbas-truce-78-times-on-august-22.html>

Militants continue attacking Ukrainian army positions in Donbas, 24.08.2015

KYIV, August 24 /Ukrinform/. The Ukrainian military said on Sunday that their positions in Donbas continued being shelled, mainly from small arms and weapons with a caliber of over 100 millimeters, throughout the day on Sunday.

The ATO press center wrote on Facebook.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/militants_continue_attacking_ukrainian_army_positions_in_donbas_333801

No servicemen killed in ATO area in past 24 hours, 24.08.2015

KYIV, August 24 /Ukrinform/. "Fortunately, there were no casualties among the Ukrainian servicemen for past 24 hours. One of our soldiers was wounded," spokesman for the Presidential Administration on ATO, Colonel Andriy Lysenko said.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/no_servicemen_killed_in_ato_area_in_past_24_hours_333802

Russian proxies attack ATO forces 77 times overnight, 25.08.2015

The combined Russian-militant forces attacked Ukrainian army positions in eastern Ukraine 77 times overnight, using banned artillery systems three times, mortars 20 times, and rocket-propelled grenade launchers 32 times, the ATO press center wrote.

<http://uatoday.tv/news/russian-proxies-attack-ato-forces-77-times-overnight-481024.html>

<http://www.unian.info/war/1115010-militants-attack-sopyne-near-mariupol-with-self-propelled-artillery.html>

Two Ukrainian soldiers killed, nine wounded in Donbas in last day, 25.08.2015

"In the last day, we lost two Ukrainian soldiers, and another nine were injured as a result of military clashes," Motuzianyuk said. According to him, the Ukrainian soldiers were killed by enemy fire in the "B" sector to the west of the militant-held city of Donetsk. Motuzianyuk also commented on the information spread by Ukrainian volunteers that Ukrainian marines had been killed in the "A" sector, which is the northern area of Luhansk region. "We've got such preliminary information – it happened at around 00:30 local time today. The enemy launched shelling our positions, which are located outside [the Ukrainian-controlled city of] Mariupol, in particular, these are the villages of Lebedynske and Sopyne. According to early reports, two of our soldiers were killed and three were wounded in that shelling. This information is preliminary, details will be announced tomorrow," he said. Earlier, local media reported that Russian proxies had shelled the outskirts of Mariupol from 152mm self-propelled artillery systems, having killed a Ukrainian marine.

<http://www.unian.info/war/1115041-two-ukrainian-soldiers-killed-nine-wounded-in-donbas-in-last-day.html>

Spotter for militant attack in Donetsk region confesses, 25.08.2015

The Security Service of Ukraine has identified the individual who last week directed shelling at civilians living in the village of Sartana near the strategic port city of Mariupol in southeastern Ukraine. Meet Vadym Olkhovsky, who called in the strike for combined Russian-separatist forces deployed southeast of the town. Olkhovsky, a fireman from a local town was apprehended by Ukraine's State Security Service. He said he was paid 30,000 rubles for directing the fire on Sartana, which killed two civilians; severely injuring a 10-year-old girl and destroying dozens of homes.

<http://uatoday.tv/crime/shelling-of-sartana-481054.html>

Militants shell Ukrainian positions 92 times over past 24 hours, 26.08.2015

KYIV, August 26 /Ukrinform/. The situation in the ATO area remained tense from 18:00 till midnight of August 25, the ATO press center reports.

The Russian-terrorist forces violated the ceasefire 92 times over past 24 hours. The artillery was used nine times by the mercenaries, mortars were used 37 times, and grenade launchers were used 19 times.

http://www.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/militants_shell_ukrainian_positions_92_times_over_past_24_hours_333846

<http://www.unian.info/war/1115440-militants-again-attack-stanytsia-luhanska-damage-gas-pipeline-power-lines.html>

Militants continue to waste entire neighborhoods – JCCC, 27.08.2015

"Demonstrative provocative actions of militants caused deep indignation, as they continue to escalate tension across the contact line in the east of Ukraine. They increased their attacks not only on the positions of the Armed Forces, but also on the civilian areas. And all of this is happening against the background of a ceasefire and peace negotiations in Minsk," said major-general Borys Kremenetskiy, Ukraine's chief representative to the Joint Center for coordination and control of the ceasefire, at a meeting with representatives of the OSCE Special Monitoring Mission, according to the Facebook page of the ATO press center.

According to the report, the total number of attacks by illegal armed groups on August 26 has increased by 10%; 90 cases of ceasefire violations were reported. "Heavy weaponry was used 29 times: 152 mm artillery - seven times, 122 mm artillery – seven, 120 mm mortars – 14, MLRS - once. The tanks were used five times. The Armed Forces of Ukraine suffered considerable losses - 7 dead and 13 wounded as a result of shelling," said the statement.

<http://www.unian.info/war/1116149-militants-continue-to-waste-entire-neighborhoods-jccc.html>

Russian proxies attack ATO forces 90 times overnight, 27.08.2015

The combined Russian-separatist forces attacked Ukrainian army positions in eastern Ukraine 90 times overnight, using banned artillery systems 14 times, mortars 31 times, tank shells five times and multiple rocket launchers once, the ATO press center wrote on Facebook.

<http://uazmi.com/en/news/post/dg9XZxMHvXNxPiflogY8ou>

<http://www.unian.info/war/1115690-militants-use-scorched-earth-policy-near-krasnohorivka.html>

Russian proxies attack ATO forces 109 times overnight, use Grads once, 28.08.2015

The combined Russian-separatist forces attacked Ukrainian army positions in eastern Ukraine 109 times overnight, using banned artillery systems 15 times, mortars 34 times, and Grad multiple rocket launchers once, the ATO press center wrote on Facebook.

<http://www.unian.info/war/1116214-russian-proxies-attack-ato-forces-109-times-overnight-use-grads-once.html>

<http://www.unian.info/war/1116291-russian-proxies-losses-in-m-sector-51-wounded-ammunition-destroyed.html>

Russia amasses heavy weapons and troops for Donbas offensive – SBU, 28.08.2015

"A large number of heavy weapons and heavy military equipment has been deployed in the occupied territories of Ukraine. There has been an echelon accumulation of significant amounts of fuel and lubricants, ammunition, personnel, to ensure carrying out active offensive operations. According to the plan of the General Staff [of the Russian Federation], the operations imply invasion of Russia's armed forces," said Hrytsak.

<http://ukrainianwall.com/english-news/russia-amasses-heavy-weapons-and-troops-for-donbas-offensive-sbu/>

Russia's eye on Kharkiv – SBU, 29.08.2015

In recent days, the media and the Internet have been distributing information intended to discredit the government and law enforcement agencies, incite the popular discontent with the authorities ahead of local elections, create bias against the current head of the region and future candidates," says Vladyslav Abdul, head of the press center of the SBU in the Kharkiv region. Russia has chosen Kharkiv for its next attack, "because the region is one of the key outposts of preserving the country's unity," says Abdul.

<http://ukrainianwall.com/english-news/russias-eye-on-kharkiv-sbu/>

Militants intensify shelling near Trokhizbenka, destroy resident areas, 29.08.2015

Shelling comes from the direction of Slovianoserbsk. Just six months ago people could freely commute between Trokhizbenka and Slovianoserbsk, crossing the river of Siversky Donets. Now the bridge is broken, and the passage is strictly forbidden. The place is dangerous, because the militant positions are less than 100 meters away, even the Ukrainian soldiers choose not to go there alone. Ukrainian servicemen in the village have taken casualties and some have lost their lives. Three soldiers were taken prisoner close to the Ukrainian checkpoint. Sniper Oleh Chepilenko was led by militants through the minefield, and knowing what militant captivity looks like, he purposely detonated a mine. Two Ukrainian fighters were blown up by a mine together with the militants who captivated them. One of the soldiers is still imprisoned.

<http://uatoday.tv/society/trokhizbenka-483871.html>

Russian proxies attack ATO forces 19 times overnight, 30.08.2015

The combined Russian-separatist forces attacked Ukrainian army positions in eastern Ukraine 19 times overnight, using a mortar once, and grenade launchers 10 times, the ATO press center wrote on Facebook. The situation in the Donbas conflict zone was stable, with no tendency to aggravation.

<http://www.unian.info/war/1116777-russian-proxies-attack-ato-forces-19-times-overnight.html>

<http://www.unian.info/war/1116837-one-ukrainian-soldier-wounded-in-donbas-in-last-day.html>

DPR militants want to attack schools on September 1 to call for Russian "peacekeepers", 30.08.2015

"According to Ukrainian security services, the DPR militants have developed a plan of provocative actions by September 1. This is a cynical crime - the shelling of schools and other educational institutions in the region and the Ukrainian armed forces will be accused of it," he said. "The Kremlin-backed mercenaries are planning to use this provocation as a pretext for request to Russia to officially introduce the so-called "peacekeeping forces." We call on everyone to be vigilant, especially the inhabitants of eastern Ukraine," Lysenko said.

<http://ukrainianwall.com/english-news/dpr-militants-want-to-attack-schools-on-september-1-to-call-for-russian-peacekeepers/>

Mostly calm day in ATO zone, slight escalation at night – Staff, 31.08.2015

On August 30, the Russian proxies have virtually observed the ceasefire in the ATO zone, increasing a number of attacks in the late hours of Sunday, according to the ATO press center.

<http://www.unian.info/war/1116937-mostly-calm-day-in-ato-zone-staff.html>

Chief of General Staff: Shyrokyne has no military value, 31.08.2015

"Possible demilitarization of Shyrokyne has a particular information vibe around it because the winter offensive on this village was rather a PR action than a military operation. It brought more problems than benefits. And we still cannot resolve them. The whole world knows about Shyrokyne, although it has no military value," he said. According to Muzhenko, the Ukrainian Armed Forces hold a defensive line on the heights outside Shyrokyne, while controlling these heights allows them to successfully respond to the threats to Mariupol.

<http://www.unian.info/war/1116976-chief-of-general-staff-shyrokyne-has-no-military-value.html>

Smoke bombs and stones: protesters storm Rada, police trying to push them back, 31.08.2015

The fighting involved the most active protesters with flags of the Svoboda party in their hands. Law enforcement officers with shields were guarding the building of the Verkhovna Rada around the perimeter. Some protesters were seen beating law enforcers with large wooden sticks, and using tear gas. Law enforcement officers were protecting themselves with shields and used tear gas in response. The exits from Parliament building were blocked. In addition, the protesters lit a smoke bomb near the parliament building. The police pushed the protesters back from the building of the Verkhovna Rada. Later, it was reported that the fighting near the Verkhovna Rada ceased but the some participants continued with a peaceful protest against amendments to the Constitution.

<http://www.unian.info/society/1117100-smoke-bombs-and-stones-protesters-storm-rada-police-trying-to-push-them-back.html>

Radicals engage grenade near Rada, several National Guards seriously wounded, 31.08.2015

MP Anton Gerashchenko has confirmed this information, saying several troops are in critical condition. A correspondent reported from the scene that at present the number of wounded has reached 15. Ambulance vehicles were seen rushing to the site. Police officers are providing first aid to their colleagues, while the Ministry of Interior is conducting urgent operative measures to identify the suspect and organize his search.

<http://www.unian.info/society/1117109-radicals-engage-grenade-near-rada-several-national-guards-seriously-wounded.html>

<http://journalfocus.com/2015/08/grenade-near-rada-thrown-by-sich-battalion-fighter-on-leave/>

<http://www.unian.info/politics/1117236-avakov-122-men-incl-deputy-interior-minister-wounded-in-clashes-outside-rada.html#ad-image-0>

<http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/nationworld/ct-ukraine-violence-20150831-story.html>

<http://www.kyivpost.com/content/ukraine-abroad/wall-street-journal-ukrainian-national-guard-officer-killed-dozens-injured-in-protest-blast-396920.html>

http://www.osce.org/ukraine-smm/179251?utm_source=feedblitz&utm_medium=FeedBlitzRss&utm_campaign=oscelatestnews

157 Ukrainians in militant captivity - Ukrainian officials, 31.08.2015

Among the captives there are about a hundred troops and security forces officials, while the rest are civilians, according to a Facebook post by Iryna Gerashchenko, MP, the President's envoy for peaceful settlement of conflict in Donetsk and Luhansk regions, citing the updated information from the Security Service of Ukraine. In addition, she said, as of August 31, 2,903 Ukrainians were released from captivity. "In particular, 1,057 troops from the Ukrainian Army, 64 fighters from volunteer battalions, 101 police officers, 261 troops from the National Guard and about 1,400 civilians," wrote Iryna Gerashchenko.

<http://uatoday.tv/news/157-ukrainians-in-militant-captivity-gerashchenko-484789.html>

Pilot Savchenko

Savchenko's telephone call log confirms her alibi, 03.08.2015

Lawyer of Ukrainian pilot, MP Nadia Savchenko Ilya Novikov has published what he says is proof of his client's innocence on Facebook.

<http://uazmi.com/en/news/post/gEJKoQ7M3FqBrlykpgU9jq>

SBU: RUSSIA ATTEMPTED TO TRADE SAVCHENKO FOR «CRIMEAN ROUTE», 04.08.2015

"People from the neighboring state have also tried to take part in this process [negotiations] – not only officials but also other people tried to get into contact with us, among them were those that are related to different non-governmental organizations and people who introduced themselves as being very close to the circles of the president of Russia. One of them was indeed attempting to start negotiations with us, suggesting he might facilitate within his authority the release of Nadia Savchenko in the following way: "We'll give you Nadia Savchenko back, and you'll let us force a route from Rostov to Crimea," Tandyt said.

<http://x-news.com.ua/sbu-russia-attempted-to-trade-savchenko-for-crimean-route-54878/>

Savchenko's lawyer publishes video expert examination, confirming her alibi, 08.08.2015

"We have an expert examination of video, shot by a separatist Yegor Russkiy throughout a battle near the city of Luhansk in the early morning of June 17, 2014. As you could see, Nadia had actually currently been caught by the competitors of the Luhansk Individuals's Republic militant company. Her alibi began with that minute, confirming that she can not change fire on Russian reporters," Feygin stated, basing on the papers, released on his main web site. "Savchenko was caught at 10:30 Kyiv time. It is clear from the video of Russkiy. Voloshin as well as Kornelyuk were eliminated at 12:00 Kyiv time", "Savchenko's security finished all its step-by-step deal with the situation as well as showed her virtue. However all the same she will certainly be founded guilty as well as punished," Feygin stated. In any type of situation she will certainly be founded guilty as well as punished," Feygin stated.

<http://journalfocus.com/2015/08/savchenkos-lawyer-publishes-video-expert-examination-confirming-her-alibi/>

National Minorities

Restoring justice: Recognizing genocide of Crimean Tatars on global agenda, 07.08.2015

According to the Crimean Tatar leader, Ukrainian presidential envoy for Crimean Tatar People's affairs, and Ukrainian Member of Parliament from the Bloc of Petro Poroshenko Mustafa Dzhemilev, the recognition of the genocide is not an easy job, as it requires years to be implemented. He recalled that even during the presidency of Viktor Yushchenko, the commission was created at the Security Service of Ukraine to investigate into the genocide of the Crimean Tatars in 1944. "But Yanukovich has dissimilated this commission," Dzhemilev said. Today the Commission is working again, quite actively. "We have not yet met with head of the SBU [Vasy] Hrytsak, but we will have a conversation, to speed up the process. On our side, we have been collecting data, and now we have quite a lot of material," said the leader of the Crimean Tatar people.

<http://www.unian.info/politics/1109020-restoring-justice-recognizing-genocide-of-crimean-tatars-on-global-agenda.html>

In Annexed Crimea Three People On Trial For Photos With Ukrainian Flag, 25.08.2015

In Kerch, Crimea, police arrested three people for taking photos with a Ukrainian flag. It was reported by Crimean Human Rights field mission, citing the mother of one of the detainees. Two young men and a woman decided to take a photo with the flag of Ukraine on Mount Mithridates in downtown Kerch on August 24 to celebrate Ukraine's Independence Day. "While they were taking pictures with the flag, police drove by and arrested all three," – said the woman. She said the detainees were accused of allegedly "using obscene language". After being arrested, police brought them to court. According to the arrested, the police told them that the reason for detention – the Ukrainian flag and a shirt with a trident and pro-Ukrainian text. One of the men was sentenced to 15 days in jail the same day, the other – to a 1,000 rubles fine for violation of public order.

<http://ukraineunderattack.org/en/31582-in-annexed-crimea-three-people-on-trial-for-photos-with-ukrainian-flag.html>

Three Crimean Tatars go missing in annexed Crimea, 29.08.2015

“Crimean Tatars vanish once again in Crimea. Over the previous week as well as a fifty percent, three Crimean Tatars went missing in Simferopol area. On August 27, a 45-year-old Mukhtar Arislanov went missing. He resided in Simferopol, in Fontany area,” Dzhelalov composed. Furthermore, he outlined the loss of 2 boys, birthed in 1986 as well as 1988 – Memet Selimov as well as Osman Ibragimov (Mirnovsky town council of Simferopol area). “Baseding on offered info, at around 21:00 on August 21, Memet Selimov visited his buddy Osman Ibragimov, having actually notified his father and mothers. After a long time, the father and mothers were not able to reach him on the phone. The phone was soon turned off. As it ended up, Osman likewise went missing,” composed the replacement head of the Mejlis. “As Memet’s father and mothers state, he functioned as a motorist at a regional center as well as was not participated in any kind of criminal or public task; he constantly corresponded with his household. He was not preparing to transfer to one more home, all his recognition papers were left in your home.”

Baseding on Dzhelalov, the authorities had actually currently gotten info regarding the guys’s loss as well as started the search.

<http://journalfocus.com/2015/08/three-crimean-tatars-go-missing-in-annexed-crimea/>

Mass Media

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

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

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

Crimean Tatar newspaper office in Russian-occupied region ransacked, 05.08.2015

The minority indigenous Muslim population faces persecution from Kremlin-appointed authorities. The offices of a Crimean Tatar newspaper in the Russian-occupied Ukrainian peninsula have been looted and vandalized by unknown assailants.

Computers and hard drives containing editorial documents were stolen and newspaper subscriptions and archives were destroyed over the weekend. Editors have vowed to print the next edition of 'Yani dyunya' on time, despite not yet having the technical means to do so. The culprits have yet to be caught.

<http://uatoday.tv/politics/crimean-tatar-newspaper-office-in-russian-occupied-region-ransacked-468926.html>

How Russian television transformed into a ‘propaganda machine’, 10.08.2015

“We were told a new era was underway that made the 1970s and 1980s look like child’s play,” says Colta’s first subject, a former employee of the All-Russia State Television and Radio Broadcasting Company (VGTRK), reminiscing of the moment when the staff was gathered together at a meeting in February 2014 and informed that a new Cold War had begun. “So anyone who didn’t want to pitch in could find themselves another job outside the news industry,” said the source, according to Meduza. Those who chose to stay had the most banal reasons: “Their families. Their debt. Plus, everyone knew there was nowhere else to go”. According to the former employee, half the staff was “absolutely disgusted” by their own work, while roughly a quarter of the people, he says, simply didn’t care.

<http://www.unian.info/politics/1109958-how-russian-television-transformed-into-a-propaganda-machine.html>

Ukraine Worldwide

PROSECUTOR: MH17 INVESTIGATION GOING WELL, 01.07.2015

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

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

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

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

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

Putin orders to include Crimean Tauric Chersonesos in Russia's heritage list, 01.08.2015

The suitable files are to be sent by the Sevastopol city gov to the Russian federal government by September 1, the Kremlin stated. The Tauric Chersonesos nature protect strike the headings when Sevastopol Guv Sergei Menyailo rejected the nature protect's supervisor Andrei Kulagin as well as selected Archpriest Sergei Khalyuta of the Simferopol diocese of the Russian Orthodox Church to this article. This choice set off unfavorable comments from a variety of galleries, consisting of the personnel of the nature protect, due to the fact that Khalyuta is not a professional in the particular area.

Menyailo stated that Khalyuta's consultation had actually been sustained by the Russian Society Ministry as well as had actually gotten the true blessing of Patriarch Kirill of Moscow as well as All Russia. Head of the Sevastopol Law-makers Alexei Chaly as well as supervisor of the State Hermitage Gallery Mikhail Piotrovsky were amongst those that opposed the clergyman's consultation to this task.

<http://journalfocus.com/2015/08/putin-orders-to-include-crimean-tauric-chersonesos-in-russias-heritage-list/>

Moscow: Committee for the Salvation of Ukraine to nominate opposition activist Oliynyk for president of Ukraine, 03.08.2015

The Committee for the Salvation of Ukraine, whose creation was announced at a press conference in Moscow on Aug. 3, believes Volodymyr Oliynyk, a Verkhovna Rada MP of previous convocations, should be nominated for the post of the country's president.

<http://uazmi.com/en/news/post/cBoAZDnbyxF8fLjknCISi6>

The sculpture of the Holodomor Memorial was installed in Washington, DC, 04.08.2015

The event was attended by Valeriy Chaly, Ambassador of Ukraine to the USA, Larysa Kurylas, Artist, Michael Sawkiw, U.S. Committee for Ukrainian Holodomor Genocide Awareness 1932-1933, Mary Katherine Lanzillotta, Hartman-Cox Architects, as well as representatives of Forrester Construction Company and Laran Bronze Foundry.

In 2006, U.S.Congress authorized the Government of Ukraine to establish a memorial on Federal land in the District of Columbia to honor the victims of the manmade famine that occurred in Ukraine in 1932–1933. Since then the Government of Ukraine, in close cooperation with the Ukrainian community, has worked on the implementation of this project. Dedication of the Holodomor Memorial is scheduled for November 7, 2015.

<http://usa.mfa.gov.ua/en/press-center/news/38790-u-vashingtoni-bula-vstanovlena-skulyptura-pamiatnika-zhertvam-golodomoru-1932-1933-rokiv-v-ukrajini>

Blackout in annexed Crimea, 06.08.2015

"At 12:03 on August 4, Kakhovska-Ostrovka 330 kW transmission line, used to supply power to Crimea, was disabled for repair due to progressive defect of contact connections in current transformer in the cell Ostrovka 330 kW at Kakhovska 330 kW substation," a statement reads. "The blackout in Crimea was neither planned, nor conducted," according to the report.

<http://www.unian.info/economics/1108618-blackout-in-annexed-crimea.html>

U.S. suspects Russia in hack of Pentagon computer network, 07.08.2015

U.S. military officials said Thursday that they suspect Russian hackers infiltrated an unclassified Pentagon e-mail system used by employees of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, the latest in a series of state-sponsored attacks on sensitive U.S. government computer networks. The electronic intrusion was detected about July 25, officials said. The Pentagon immediately disabled the e-mail system, which is used by about 4,000 military and civilian personnel, in an attempt to contain the damage. The network remains offline, although officials said they hoped to restart it in the coming days. U.S. military officials said Thursday that they suspect Russian hackers infiltrated an unclassified Pentagon e-mail system used by employees of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, the latest in a series of state-sponsored attacks on sensitive U.S. government computer networks. The electronic intrusion was detected about July 25, officials said. The Pentagon immediately disabled the e-mail system, which is used by about 4,000 military and civilian personnel, in an attempt to contain the damage. The network remains offline, although officials said they hoped to restart it in the coming days. The Defense Department disclosed the attack shortly after it occurred, but only in recent days have investigators traced it to Russia. Officials said the complexity and advanced nature of the hack strongly suggested that a foreign government was responsible.

“This attack was fairly sophisticated and has the indications . . . of having come from a state actor such as Russia,” said a U.S. official who spoke on the condition of anonymity to discuss details of the investigation.

https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/national-security/us-suspects-russia-in-hack-of-pentagon-computer-network/2015/08/06/b80e1644-3c7a-11e5-9c2d-ed991d848c48_story.html

U.S. further toughens industry sector sanctions against Russia, 07.08.2015

“Particularly, in this policy, the Bureau of Industry as well as Safety and security (BIS) changes the EAR by including a Russian oil as well as gas area, the Yuzhno-Kirinskoye Area situated in the Sea of Okhotsk, to the Company Listing,” the Federal Register claimed. This Russian area is claimed to include significant reserves of oil along with reserves of gas. “The United State Federal government has actually figured out, as a result, that exports, re-exports, as well as transfers exports (in-country) of all products based on the EAR to this Russian area by anyone without very first acquiring a BIS permit provide an inappropriate danger of usage in, or diversion to, the tasks defined in the Russian industry sector sanctions,” the record checks out.

<http://journalfocus.com/2015/08/u-s-further-toughens-industry-sector-sanctions-against-russia/>

US counters ‘Russian messaging’ in the Baltics with \$500k ‘innovative’ journalism program, 10.08.2015

In order to counter what it delicately called “Russian messaging,” the US State Department has announced a \$500,000 grant to a non-profit that offers an “innovative” journalist training program for “credible” news reporting in the Baltic States. Washington has announced, via its embassy in Lithuania, that public and private non-profit organizations have until the end of August to apply for the grant entitled “Investigative Journalism Training to Counter Russian Messaging in the Baltics.” The program offers financial aid for the training of early-career Russian-language journalists in Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia so they can become providers of a “*fact based and credible*” take on world events.

<https://www.rt.com/news/312021-us-journalist-grant-baltics/>

<http://vilnius.usembassy.gov/news-events/notice-of-funding-opportunity.html>

Washington's new anti-Russian sanctions become effective, 11.08.2015

The extended sanctions list includes:

- seven persons and six companies that have shied away from the sanctions imposed (including those associated with G. Timchenko, B. Rotenberg, as well as weapons manufacturer Kalashnikov Concern);
- two Russian companies that are involved in the military industrial complex of the Russian Federation;

- four former Ukrainian officials and their supporters, who are involved in the embezzlement of state assets and abuse of power;
- CJSC MAKO Holding, affiliated with Oleksandr Yanukovych (the elder son of the fourth ex-President of Ukraine Viktor Yanukovych);
- five operators of Crimean ports and one Crimean ferry operator;
- 35 companies controlled by the persons that were previously included into the sanctions list, as well as those companies with more than 50% of capital being controlled by Russian Vnesheconombank and Rosneft.

<http://www.unian.info/economics/1110167-washingtons-new-anti-russian-sanctions-become-effective.html>

Investigation into possible Buk-missile-parts, 11.08.2015

In cooperation with the Dutch Safety Board (DSB) the Joint Investigation Team (JIT) investigates several parts, possibly originating from a Buk surface-air-missile system. These parts have been secured during a previous recovery-mission in Eastern-Ukraine and are in possession of the criminal investigation team MH17 and the Dutch Safety Board.

The parts are of particular interest to the criminal investigation as they can possibly provide more information about who was involved in the crash of MH17. For that reason the JIT further investigates the origin of these parts. The JIT will internationally enlist the help of experts, among others forensic specialists and weapon-experts.

At present the conclusion cannot be drawn that there is a causal connection between the discovered parts and the crash of flight MH17.

The JIT conducts the criminal investigation and the DSB the investigation into the cause of the crash. Both investigations are conducted separately but JIT and DSB occasionally share material. In its final report the Dutch Safety Board will report on the discovered parts.

<http://www.onderzoeksraad.nl/en/onderzoek/2049/investigation-crash-mh17-17-july-2014/onderzoek/1650/investigation-into-possible-buk-missile-parts>

<http://www.unian.info/world/1110959-expert-sees-alternative-to-mh17-tribunal.html>

Putin visits annexed Crimea, warns Tatars on status, 17.08.2015

Russian President Vladimir Putin warned Crimea's minority ethnic Tatars on Monday they should not strive for special status on the Black Sea peninsula Moscow annexed from Ukraine in 2014, stoking Cold War-like tensions between Moscow and the West.

Muslim Tatars comprise more than 10 percent of Crimea's population and largely opposed falling under Russian rule last year, remembering the mass deportations ordered by Moscow during the Soviet era. They have come under pressure to align themselves with the new authorities since the annexation. Putin began a three-day visit to Crimea much to Kiev's anger, with the aim -- according to the Kremlin's website -- to hold meetings on ways to develop the Black Sea peninsula and promote tourism there.

He praised bringing Crimea into Russia as a matter of historic justice. However, sanctions slapped on by the West over the annexation, which followed the fall of a pro-Moscow president in Kiev, have cost the ailing Russian economy dearly.

<http://uk.reuters.com/article/2015/08/17/us-ukraine-crisis-crimea-putin-idUKKCN0QM1Q820150817>

<http://www.rferl.org/content/putin-warns-crimean-tatars-not-see-special-status/27194567.html>

OSCE's Permanent Council to address Donbas conflict on August 19, 17.08.2015

The OSCE's Permanent Council will certainly satisfy on August 19 to go over the Donbas conflict, basing on the OSCE's press solution. Delegates of Serbia, which currently chairs the OSCE Permanent Council, among the primary routine decision-making physical bodies of the Company, have actually started a conference to listen to a record by Principal Screen of the OSCE Unique Tracking Objective to Ukraine Ertugrul Apakan on the circumstance in eastern Ukraine, the OSCE's press solution stated. Apakan is likewise to orient the participants of the Council on steps absorbed an effort to work out the conflict. The conference will certainly likewise talk about brand-new truths of physical violence in Donbas, which, as OSCE keeps track of record, has actually just recently seen much more violations of the truce as well as a boost in private fatalities, the OSCE stated.

<http://journalfocus.com/2015/08/osces-permanent-council-to-address-donbas-conflict-on-august-19/>

NATO launches largest airborne drills in Europe since end of Cold War, 18.08.2015

The US said Tuesday it has launched the biggest allied airborne drills in Europe since the Cold War ended, as fighting involving pro-Russian separatists escalated in eastern Ukraine. Nearly 5,000 soldiers from 11 Nato allies are taking part in four weeks of "simultaneous multinational airborne operations" across Germany, Italy, Bulgaria and Romania that began on Saturday, the US army said in a statement. "Swift Response 15 is the largest Allied airborne training event on the continent since the end of the Cold War," according to the statement from the US army in Grafenwohr in southern Germany.

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/northamerica/usa/11810925/Nato-launches-largest-airborne-drills-in-Europe-since-end-of-Cold-War.html>

The Guardian view on the latest Ukraine ceasefire call: why this could be the one that works, 30.08.2015

The prospects are not good that the new international call for a ceasefire in eastern Ukraine will be heeded any more rigorously than its predecessors were. Yet in the continuing 16-month war on Europe's fringes, some of the dynamics may perhaps be shifting in some important ways. On Saturday the leaders of Germany, France and Russia held a three-way phone conversation in which they backed a joint announcement made by Ukraine and pro-Russian separatists last week, that a ceasefire would be reinstated on 1 September. The weekend initiative is the latest attempt to put some life back into February's Minsk agreement, which has all but fallen apart as the fighting has continued. The agreement remains a fragile plant; both sides came out on Saturday with separate statements with very different emphases. Vladimir Putin laid all the blame on the Ukrainian government, while Kiev has been warning that Russia is readying for new offensives.

<http://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2015/aug/30/the-guardian-view-on-the-latest-ukraine-ceasefire-call-why-this-could-be-the-one-that-works>

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