



Monitoring of Xenophobia and Extremism in Ukraine March 2016

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Introduction

March 2016 could be called the month of Nadezhda Savchenko. Though the whole world urged Russian to release Ukrainian pilot immediately, Donetsk City Court of Rostov Region on March 22, 2016 sentenced the Ukrainian parliament deputy, an officer of the Armed Forces of Ukraine Savchenko to 22 years in a penal colony.

Society was focused on Savchenko while political crisis in Ukraine was increasing.

On March 29 Verkhovna Rada dismissed **Prosecutor General Shokin** with a majority vote of 289. Shokin was criticized for his professional skills since his appointment in February of 2015. For instance, he failed to prosecute the murders of over a hundred protesters in Kyiv in 2014 during the Revolution of Dignity. Along with this Shokin did not manage to prosecute the cronies of Viktor Yanukovich, the ousted Ukrainian president.

However, deputies failed to dismiss Ukrainian Prime Minister. Parliamentary coalition collapsed. According to some deputies Prime Minister Arseniy Yatsenyuk, submitted his resignation himself. Current Parliament Speaker Vladymyr Groisman expressed readiness to lead the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine, if his candidacy is supported by the coalition fractions. Leaders of European countries have confirmed the stability of the EU's policy on the occupation of the Crimea, as well as detail stopped on discussing the situation in the Donbass region. The interlocutors agreed that the elections in the temporarily occupied territory of eastern Ukraine must pass strictly according to Ukrainian law and OSCE principles.

Conflict in the east of the country was in progress. Despite the decrease in the number of attacks at the end of the month, the militants continued practice of provocation, and the situation on the demarcation line remains tense.

Prognosis

Poll: Most Ukrainians oppose referendum on Donbas, 01.03.2016

The sociologists asked respondents whether it was necessary to hold a referendum on amendments to the Constitution of Ukraine in terms of granting a special status to Donbas. A total of 51.2% of respondents voted against the referendum. In particular, 29.6% of respondents said "definitely no," while 21.6% said "rather no." A total of 35.9% of respondents expressed support for such a referendum. In particular, 15.9% of respondents said "definitely yes," while 20% of respondents answered "rather yes." Another 12.9% of respondents could not answer. The poll was conducted on February 8-17, 2016. A total of 2,000 people aged from 18 were questioned in all regions of Ukraine (except for Crimea, Donetsk and Luhansk regions). The poll's margin of error is no more than 2.2%.

<http://www.unian.info/politics/1279436-poll-most-ukrainians-oppose-referendum-on-donbas.html>

<http://www.technewscoverage.com/news/third-of-ukrainians-say-ukraine-offensive-solution-to-situation-in-donbas-poll.html>

Russian-occupied Crimea is one of the worst places for living – research, 01.03.2016

Russians consider Crimea one of the worst places to live in, according to the research by the agency RIA-Rating. Ukraine's Black Sea peninsula, illegally annexed by Russia in 2014, takes the 76th place on the list of 85 locations, in the '2015 Living Standard Rating of Russian Regions'. Sevastopol looks a bit better than the whole peninsula, the city claims 71st spot. According to the statistic the worst places for living are Ingushetia (the North Caucasus region) and Tyva (southern Siberia), which occupy the 84 and 85 places. Moscow, St. Petersburg and the Moscow region boast the highest living standards, analysts say.

<http://uatoday.tv/society/russian-occupied-crimea-is-one-of-the-worst-places-for-living-research-601618.html>

<http://uatoday.tv/politics/waking-up-world-to-russian-persecution-of-crimean-tatars-605803.html>

Ukrainians less support European integration – poll, 11.03.2016

The poll was conducted on February 8-17, 2016. A total of 2,000 people aged from 18 were questioned in all regions of Ukraine (except for Crimea, Donetsk and Luhansk regions). The poll's margin of error is no more than 2.2%. According to the survey, the number of those who oppose the integration of both in the European Union and the Customs Union increased from 14.2% to 23.3%. A total of 12.7% of respondents were in favor of closer cooperation with the Customs Union. According to Gorshenin Institute experts, such tendency could mean not only the disappointment in the idea of EU integration, but the fact that the Ukrainians less believe in the European integration perspective of the country.

http://www.fm-tv.kiev.ua/main_news/72480/view/

Most Russians believe hostilities in Donbas to resume soon: poll, 19.03.2016

12% believe that the truce will lead to a lasting peace. 36% of respondents have found it difficult to predict. According to 37% of Russian residents, the best outcome of the conflict in the certain areas of Donetsk and Luhansk regions would be for these areas to become independent states or one independent state. 20% of the respondents in Russia are positive that Ukraine will remain a single state in its current borders. The opposite opinion is shared by 47%, while 33% are undecided.

<http://uatoday.tv/news/most-russians-believe-hostilities-in-donbas-to-resume-soon-poll-613735.html>

Statements of officials

German foreign minister voices 'deep concern' over Ukraine ceasefire violations, 01.03.2016

Both Ukraine and Russia continue to violate a ceasefire agreement in eastern Ukraine, German Foreign Minister Frank-Walter Steinmeier told the UN Security Council on Monday. He added that Kyiv needs to implement an electoral law allowing limited concessions to rebels in eastern Ukraine in order to reach a political solution to the two-year conflict. The Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) is "deeply concerned over the continuing violations of the ceasefire" in eastern Ukraine, Steinmeier said, "I call on both sides... to live up to their responsibilities." Germany holds the rotating chair of the OSCE, the body monitoring a shaky year-old ceasefire that Steinmeier credited with deescalating tensions.

<http://www.dw.com/en/german-foreign-minister-voices-deep-concern-over-ukraine-ceasefire-violations/a-19083641>

U.S. needs more resources in Europe to counter Russia - NATO commander, 01.03.2016

Air Force General Philip Breedlove, the NATO supreme allied commander and head of U.S. European Command, told lawmakers that "Russia has chosen to be an adversary and poses a long-term existential threat to the United States and our European allies and partners." "Russia is eager to exert unquestioned influence over its neighboring states," Breedlove told members of the Senate Armed Services Committee, pointing to the continuing conflict in Ukraine as well as ongoing tensions in Georgia and Moldova, whose territorial integrity Russian forces have challenged. Breedlove said the Minsk accord that led to a ceasefire in the Donbass region of Ukraine had brought an element of calm to the area, but violence had increased significantly in recent days, with 71 attacks in 24 hours and 450 attacks over the past week. "I believe that Russia will dial up and down the pressure along the line of contact to keep Kiev under pressure to meet their parts of the (Minsk) agreements first," he said.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/usa-defense-europe-idUSL2N1692CB>

<http://www.voanews.com/content/not-giving-up-on-crimea-united-states-defense-official-says/3217506.html>

Lutsenko says Brussels names 6 reasons why Ukraine still far from visa-free regime with EU, 02.03.2016

"Europe is shocked by a million Syrian refugees. In these circumstances, speaking about the visa-free regime for a country at war is unpopular. Dutch politicians demand a halt to all procedures before the completion of the referendum regarding the visa-free regime for Ukraine," he said. Lutsenko also said that European businesses are tired of sanctions against Russia. Amid the economic downturn, they support the slogan launched by Vladimir Putin: "The sanctions don't affect Putin, they hit ordinary people." "Corruption and the oligarchy has not been overcome in Ukraine. It is impossible to agree on a strategy with the country where the government has lost the support of the parliamentary majority," he said in a statement. The politician said that the e-declaration law must cover a broader range of the officials, while the formation of the National Anti-Corruption Agency must be completed.

<http://www.unian.info/politics/1280986-lutsenko-says-brussels-names-6-reasons-why-ukraine-is-far-from-visa-free-regime-with-eu.html>

Pavlo Klimkin: The Russian aggression against Ukraine has led to the death of 9,000 people, 02.03.2016

Foreign Minister of Ukraine Pavlo Klimkin said this while delivering his speech at the 31st session of the UN Human Rights Council in Geneva, the press service of the Ministry reports. "The Russian aggression against Ukraine has led to the death of 9,000 people. Over 20,000 people have been injured and nearly two million people have been displaced. During these two years of aggression in Donbas, the powerful army of 40,000 people has been created, which is funded, equipped and supported by Russia under the command of Russian officers," Klimkin said. According to him, Russia "came to the Ukrainian land with arms and soldiers as it had happened in Georgia in 2008."

<http://en.vnews.agency/news/world/15826-pavlo-klimkin-the-russian-aggression-against-ukraine-has-led-to-the-death-of-9000-people.html>

Visa liberalization for Ukraine and Georgia to be considered separately, 02.03.2016

The issue of the EU visa liberalization for Georgia will be considered separately from Ukraine, MEP and the parliament's rapporteur on the Association Agreement between the EU and Georgia Andrejs Mamikins said in an interview. "I want to congratulate my favorite Georgian people. Issues of a visa-free regime for Georgia and Ukraine have been officially separated, the abolition of visas for your country will be considered separately," he said. Mamikins expressed the hope that sooner or later Ukraine would have a visa-free regime with the EU.

<http://uatoday.tv/news/visa-liberalization-for-ukraine-and-georgia-to-be-considered-separately-602572.html>

Lawyer Says Yanukovich Wants To Return To Ukraine, Serve as President, 02.03.2016

In an interview lawyer Vitaly Sergyuk said Yanukovich intends "to return to Ukraine" from his exile in Russia and that "legal steps will be taken for this." Sergyuk maintains that Yanukovich did not relieve himself of his duties as president and opt out of ruling Ukraine. The lawyer also maintains that the procedure to dismiss Yanukovich from office violated Ukraine's constitution. Yanukovich fled Ukraine in late February after months of protests against his rule turned violent, leaving scores of demonstrators in Kyiv dead.

<http://www.rferl.org/content/ukraine-yanukovich-russia-return/27582910.html>

Polish envoy: EU visas to be lifted for Ukraine in 2016, 02.03.2016

Ambassador of Poland to Ukraine Henryk Litwin is convinced that the positive decision on the EU visa-free regime for Ukrainians will be made in the current year. "I am sure that we will hear the final positive decision in 2016. It is difficult to say how long its implementation will take. But I hope that we will hear the decision in 2016 and we will put it into practice no later than in early 2017," Litwin told the journalists on 2 March in Kharkiv. He also pointed out that Poland is a consistent supporter of the introduction of the EU visa-free regime for Ukrainians. "We, in Poland, have always emphasized that we need open the border and introduce the visa-free regime with Ukraine. We know very well that there are no threats. It's a benefit for both the European and Ukrainian sides," Henryk Litwin said.

http://en.lb.ua/news/2016/03/02/330_polish_envoy_eu_visas_lifted.html

Ukraine will not join EU, NATO for another 20-25 years, Juncker says, 03.03.2016

Top officials in Ukraine have also repeatedly expressed the wish to join the EU. But European Commission Jean-Claude Juncker said during a speech in The Hague on Thursday that "Ukraine will definitely not be able to become a member of the EU in the next 20-25 years, and not of NATO either."

http://en.europeonline-magazine.eu/ukraine-will-not-join-eu-nato-for-another-20-25-years-juncker-says_442069.html

IMF ready to continue cooperation with Ukraine, expects more clarity from Kyiv, 03.03.2016

IMF spokesman Gerry Rice stressed that the reform program that Ukraine has committed to undertake has been outlined in the cooperation program between Ukraine and the IMF, as well as in the draft Memorandum on the second program review, the text of which is being agreed by the Ukrainian government. The Memorandum was originally planned to be signed and submitted to the IMF headquarters after February 16, when the Ukrainian government was scheduled to present its report on performance to the Ukrainian parliament. The second review of the EFF program was conducted in two stages. The IMF mission was operating in Kyiv in September, and on October 2 the talks were suspended due to the local elections in the country, as well as ongoing discussions of the tax reform and the draft state budget for 2016. In November, negotiations between Ukraine and the IMF resumed. At present, Ukraine and the IMF are agreeing a report on the progress of reform implementation and the memorandum on the second program review, while identifying further actions. It is noted that the two sides have been discussing a wide range of issues within the framework of the second program review, which includes various aspects of monetary, banking and anti-corruption policies, the pension reform and the privatization process.

<http://ukrainianwall.com/english-news/imf-ready-to-continue-cooperation-with-ukraine-expects-more-clarity-from-kyiv/>

Obama extends anti-Russia sanctions for another year, 03.03.2016

The decree, published Wednesday on the official White House website, states that economic and financial sanctions imposed on Moscow over its involvement in the Ukrainian crisis will stay in place until March 6, 2017. The decision came as "Russia's actions continue to pose an unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security and foreign policy of the United States," Obama said in the document. "I found that the actions and policies of the Government of the Russian Federation with respect to Ukraine undermine democratic processes and institutions in Ukraine; threaten its peace, security, stability, sovereignty, and territorial integrity; and contribute to the misappropriation of its assets," the president added. The move drew criticism from the Kremlin, with Russian presidential spokesman Dmitry Peskov telling reporters on Thursday that the decision was regrettable.

<http://www.presstv.ir/Detail/2016/03/03/453603/Russia-US-Sanctions-Obama-Putin-Ukraine>

<http://www.therussophile.org/obama-extends-anti-russia-sanctions-for-another-year.html/>

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2016/03/02/notice-continuation-national-emergency-respect-ukraine>

<http://www.wsj.com/articles/eu-to-continue-sanctions-on-some-russians-ukrainians-1456942795>

Russia Threatens Counter-Measures After U.S. Extends Sanctions, 04.03.2016

"It is regrettable that the United States continues to enthusiastically play with sanctions against Russia, which they have used for two years already, trying to deflect responsibility for the coup d'etat in Ukraine, and now for the sad consequences of their ruling Kiev clients," the statement published on the official Russian Foreign Ministry website said. The ministry also said that the extension of U.S. sanctions does not help "the regulation of the Ukrainian crisis, stalled because of the unwillingness of Kiev to fulfill the Minsk agreements. But it has a devastating effect on Russian-American relations." According to Moscow, it's time for Washington to realize the futility of its sanctions policy and the risk of confrontation with Russia. "For our part, we reserve the right to retaliate with such measures as we believe will meet Russia's interests," Foreign Ministry said.

<http://www.themoscowtimes.com/article/561510.html>

Klimkin: Paris talks of Normandy Four FMs "not decisive but just another step", 04.03.2016

Ukrainian Foreign Minister Pavlo Klimkin late Thursday told the journalists after the five-hour talks of the Normandy Four top diplomats that these negotiations on the Ukrainian crisis were not decisive, but only the next step in the settlement.

<http://www.worldwideweb.com/update/1661519/klimkin-paris-talks-of-normandy-four-fms-not-decisive-but-just-another-step.html>

<http://www.unian.info/politics/1282625-hard-talks-in-paris-statements-of-normandy-quartet-fms.html>

U.S. Congress reiterates its support for Ukraine, 04.03.2016

The Ambassador of Ukraine and Deputy Secretary of the NSDC spoke about the situation in Donbas and the state of reforms launched in the Ukrainian security and defense sector to increase the defense capacity and eradicate corruption. They highly estimated a level of cooperation between Ukraine and the US. In this respect, Oleg Gladkovskiy spoke about the bilateral working group established to align on responses to the current security challenges that are posed by the Russian aggression against Ukraine. Valeriy Chaly, in his turn, called for further support to Ukraine from the United States, in particular through continuation and increase of train-and-equip programs as well as providing defense equipment to Ukraine. Adjutant Major General, David S. Baldwin shared his experience obtained from training the Ukrainian National Guard and spoke highly about their professional level and combat spirit. During the discussion the congressional representatives reiterated their continuous support for Ukraine, namely, Congressman Duncan Hunter underscored his effort to assist the Ukrainian armed forces, as embedded in the draft Ukrainian Warfare Assistance Act. The participants also discussed ways to counteract to propaganda and cyber challenges.

<http://usa.mfa.gov.ua/en/press-center/news/45397-posol-ukrajini-v-ssha-valerij-chalij-zastupnik-sekretarya-radi-nacionalnoji-bezpeki-i-oboroni-ukrajini-oleg-gladkovskij-ta-komanduvach-nacqvardiji-shtatu-kalifornija-general-devid-boldvin-proveli-brifing-u-kongresi-ssha>

U.S. urges Russia to pressure Ukraine rebels over attacks, 05.03.2016

Russia needs to use its influence on separatists in eastern Ukraine to halt attacks by pro-Russian rebels, U.S. Deputy Secretary of State Antony Blinken told. The Minsk peace deal, reached in the Belarussian capital in February 2015, has stalled as attacks have increased in the east where Ukrainian government forces face off against the rebels. "What we've seen in the last couple of weeks is an increase in violent attacks along the line of control ... and whether that is being instigated by Russia, or acquiesced to by Russia, doesn't matter," Blinken said in an interview in Paris. "The Russians have tremendous leverage over the separatists. If they want to turn it (the violence) off they can and indeed they must," he added. Blinken said implementing the Minsk peace agreement was the only way forward and was in the interest of all sides, including the Russians who are suffering Western sanctions because of their involvement in the Ukrainian conflict.

<http://uk.reuters.com/article/uk-ukraine-crisis-us-blinken-idUKKCN0W62DM>

The EU's decision to extend sanctions against Yanukovich and his associates entered into force, 05.03.2016

The decision was published in the EU official journal. Penalties extended to persons who are «responsible for the misappropriation of Ukrainian public funds or abused his official position, which led to loss of public funds». As you know, the decision to extend sanctions was made on 2 March at the level of permanent representatives of member countries of the EU. From the list of those subject to restrictive measures, has expelled the ex-Minister of health Raisa Bogatyreva.

<http://en.reporter-ua.ru/the-eus-decision-to-extend-sanctions-against-yanukovich-and-his-associates-entered-into-force.html>

<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=OJ:L:2016:060:FULL&from=EN>

Ukraine calls on EU and US to pressure Russia for Savchenko's release, - Poroshenko, 07.03.2016

Ukraine's President Petro Poroshenko announced. "Consul General of Ukraine in Rostov, tasked by me, visited Nadiia Savchenko and reported about her health. I have ordered him to try and see Nadiia again tomorrow," Poroshenko writes. "Today, Ukraine addressed EU countries and the U.S. with a letter requesting to put more pressure on Russia regarding the release of Nadiia," the head of state added.

http://en.censor.net.ua/news/377944/ukraine_calls_on_eu_and_us_to_pressure_russia_for_savchenkos_release_poroshenko

<http://en.interfax.com.ua/news/general/329430.html>

Continued Detention of Nadiya Savchenko - John Kerry, 07.03.2016

I am deeply concerned about the health and welfare of Ukrainian pilot and Rada Deputy Nadiya Savchenko, who since Friday has refused food and water to protest her continued detention by the Russian Federation. In the 20 months since she was captured in eastern Ukraine and taken to Russia, Ms. Savchenko has reportedly endured interrogations, solitary confinement, and forced "psychiatric evaluation." Her trial and continuing imprisonment demonstrate disregard for international standards, as well as for Russia's commitments under the Minsk agreements. The US once again calls on Russia to immediately release Ms. Savchenko and return her to Ukraine.

<http://www.state.gov/secretary/remarks/2016/03/254054.htm>

<http://ca.reuters.com/article/topNews/idCAKCN0WC11B>

<http://armenpress.am/eng/news/838709/>

Russian politician calls for deployment of special forces in Kyiv, 08.03.2016

Zhirinovskiy urged the Kremlin for a "tough response" to the situation around the Russian Embassy in Ukraine, according to the Russian official's comment on the official website of his party. "In connection with the impossibility of normal operation of the Russian Embassy in Ukraine we consider it appropriate to dramatically reduce our staff in Ukraine and recall the ambassador to Moscow, while deploying in Kyiv a company of special forces to protect the embassy," reads the statement. "We must not allow the violence that takes place in Kyiv these days. We need strict measures to protect the diplomats," Zhirinovskiy said.

<http://www.unian.info/world/1284766-russian-politician-calls-for-deployment-of-special-forces-in-kyiv.html>

NATO Secretary General Says Russia Trying to Split Alliance, 08.03.2016

In a live interview with CNN, Stoltenberg said that despite "numerous attempts by Moscow to intimidate its neighbors and break up NATO, the alliance will respond with strengthened unity and by adapting our military concepts." Stoltenberg emphasized that reinforcing the alliance's eastern borders with NATO troops "makes it possible to keep an assertive Russia under control." He also said that NATO is concerned about the presence of Russian military in Syria and the Mediterranean, stating that in response the alliance was forced to increase military presence in Turkey and the eastern Mediterranean.

<http://www.themoscowtimes.com/news/article/nato-secretary-general-says-russia-trying-to-split-alliance/561905.html>

Poroshenko: We continue to fight for Savchenko's release, 08.03.2016

"Just now, Ukraine's Consul General in Rostov-on-Don Vitaly Moskalenko, who visited Nadia Savchenko on my behalf, reported on the meeting. Nadia is really in a fighting mood. We continue to fight for her release," Poroshenko wrote.

<http://www.unian.info/politics/1285015-poroshenko-we-continue-to-fight-for-savchenkos-release.html>

EU Lawmakers Demand Sanctions On Putin, 28 Others Over Savchenko, 08.03.2016

Members of the European Parliament have urged EU foreign policy chief Federica Mogherini to impose personal sanctions against Russian President Vladimir Putin and 28 other individuals over the "illegal" treatment of Ukrainian pilot Nadia Savchenko.

A March 8 letter signed by 57 European lawmakers names Russian individuals and pro-Russia separatists in eastern Ukraine accused of being "responsible for the political decision to kidnap" Savchenko, to "transport her to the territory of Russia, detain her unlawfully, and fabricate charges against her." In addition to Putin, the letter calls for the blacklisting of FSB director Aleksandr Bortnikov, Russian State Duma foreign affairs committee chief Aleksei Pushkov, senior investigators in Russia, and eastern Ukraine's separatist leader Igor Plotnitsky.

<http://www.rferl.org/content/ukraine-savchenko-eu-letter-sanctions-putin/27598833.html>

Statement by the High Representative/Vice-President Federica Mogherini calling for the release of Nadiya Savchenko, 09.03.2016

I have been following with the utmost personal attention the case of Ukrainian pilot Nadiya Savchenko since the very beginning. This is no longer just a judicial or political case: now it's a matter of human compassion. Her health condition is deteriorating rapidly and we all fear terrible consequences. Her release would be in line with Russia's international human rights commitments as well as with the 'Package of measures for the implementation of the Minsk agreements' and the commitment therein to release all hostages and detained persons related to the conflict in eastern Ukraine. For these reasons, I call on the Russian authorities to immediately and unconditionally release Ms Savchenko on humanitarian grounds.

http://eeas.europa.eu/statements-eeas/2016/160309_01_en.htm

Kremlin reacts to 'Savchenko list' suggested by MEPs, 09.03.2016

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov has sharply criticized calls to introduce sanctions against Russian President Vladimir Putin and other Russian officials over the trial of Ukrainian pilot Nadiya Savchenko. Peskov slammed the initiative, backed by some 57 E.U. lawmakers, as an interference with trial and attempt to put pressure on Russian justice. "We cannot accept attempts of meddling in trials that are held in this country in strict compliance with the current Russian legislation," Putin's spokesman said.

<http://uatoday.tv/politics/kremlin-reacts-to-savchenko-list-suggested-by-meps-606868.html>

<http://tass.ru/en/politics/861154>

Russia's aggression encourages Ukraine-Turkey rapprochement – Chubarov, 09.03.2016

Crimean Tatar Mejlis head and Ukraine's MP Refat Chubarov wrote: "A few years ago, Russian politicians were warning their Ukrainian counterparts that Turkey 'could allegedly pose' a threat to the territorial integrity of Ukraine. So far, Moscow has done everything to get Kyiv and Ankara united against their common aggressor (Russia)."

<http://uatoday.tv/politics/russia-s-aggression-encourages-ukraine-turkey-rapprochement-chubarov-606838.html>

Yatsenyuk says he knows how to end political crisis in Ukraine, 09.03.2016

Prime Minister Arseniy Yatsenyuk has said Ukrainian authorities can get over its current political crisis, in which the battle of corruption is stalled and public trust in government is low, in three ways: renewal of a government coalition in parliament, forming a new Cabinet of Ministers under the personal responsibility of President Petro Poroshenko or early elections. The choice must be made as soon as possible because political uncertainty has stalled political and economic reforms and the process of change in Ukraine two years after the Euro Mайдan Revolution that toppled President Viktor Yanukovich. "We need to renew the coalition and fill the staff of the Cabinet" to replace those who left their job. "Then we need to continue reform's path and work hard. Because we have no alternative," Yatsenyuk told journalists.

<http://www.kyivpost.com/article/content/ukraine-politics/yatsenyuk-says-he-knows-how-to-end-political-crisis-in-ukraine-409616.html>

Lavrov: Savchenko's health "not issue of concern", 09.03.2016

"As for Savchenko's health, which has recently come subject of concern of Ukrainian and Western politicians and journalists, it is not an issue of concern. Savchenko feels fine, she is engaged in physical activity," Lavrov said, according to the website of Russia's Foreign Ministry. The statement also said that Savchenko's defiance of a judge in a courtroom today, her offensive language while addressing the court made the judge reconsider the decision taken earlier to allow the team of Ukrainian doctors to examine the detainee: "The judge decided to cancel all visits to the defendant before the verdict is announced on March 21." According to the official website of the Russian Foreign Ministry, the conversation between the countries' top diplomats was initiated by the Ukrainian side.

<http://www.unian.info/politics/1285983-lavrov-savchenkos-health-not-issue-of-concern.html>

Turkish President slams Russia's military interventions in Ukraine and Syria, 10.03.2016

Turkish President Erdogan has rebuked Russia's military interventions in Ukraine and Syria. Speaking at a news conference in Ankara with his Ukrainian counterpart Petro Poroshenko, Erdogan lashed out at Russia: "Russia says it deployed forces in Syria at the invitation of the Syrian regime. I wonder who invited them to Ukraine so that they went into Ukraine? How can they explain this within international law?"

<http://uatoday.tv/politics/turkish-president-slams-russia-s-military-interventions-in-ukraine-and-syria-607381.html>

<http://uatoday.tv/politics/russia-s-aggression-encourages-ukraine-turkey-rapprochement-chubarov-606838.html>

<http://www.unian.info/politics/1286048-erdogan-reaffirms-support-for-ukraines-territorial-integrity-including-crimea.html>

Poroshenko says he ready to exchange Savchenko though no such kind of proposal made over 2 years, 10.03.2016

"If the question is as follows: whether I am ready to make a decision to exchange [Savchenko] for some other person, today I will say for the first time that yes, I am ready. I, as president of Ukraine, am ready to use my constitutional right and exchange Nadia, [ready] to do everything possible to bring her back home as soon as possible," Poroshenko said at a joint press conference with Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan in Ankara on Wednesday, after talks between the two countries' delegations.

However, "there has not been a single time over these two years or so that a single proposal on exchanging Savchenko has arrived from sources that deserve trust," he added.

<http://en.interfax.com.ua/news/general/329797.html>

<http://www.unian.info/politics/1287124-poroshenko-pledges-peaceful-return-of-donbas-to-ukraine-within-year.html>

Obama: Ukraine 'Vulnerable' To Russian 'Military Domination' No Matter What U.S. Does, 10.03.2016

U.S. President Barack Obama said that Ukraine "is going to be vulnerable to military domination by Russia no matter what" the United States does. In one of a series of interviews published on March 10 that formed the basis of an article in The Atlantic magazine, Obama said that Ukraine was clearly a core interest for Russia but suggested that it may not be one for the United States. Ukraine is "an example of where we have to be very clear about what our core interests are and what we are willing to go to war for," Obama said.

<http://www.rferl.org/content/obama-ukraine-vulnerable-russian-military-domination/27603145.html>

<http://www.rferl.org/content/obama-ukraine-vulnerable-russian-military-domination/27603145.html>

Poroshenko pledges peaceful return of Donbas to Ukraine within year, 10.03.2016

"Ukraine will get Donbas back peacefully within a year," said Poroshenko. The President also noted that Ukraine adheres to its obligations of the first stage of the Minsk agreements. "Stage 1 of Minsk agreements is ceasefire. Ukraine adheres to its obligations. Ukraine has withdrawn heavy weapons, Russia has not," said Poroshenko.

"I hate being at war with Russia, but, as Commander-in-Chief, I must defend Ukraine," added the president. At the same time, he noted that Russia is using its propaganda against Turkey and international community. Poroshenko stressed that "Ukraine seeks to join NATO," and sees this as an instrument guaranteeing eastern European security.

<http://www.unian.info/politics/1287124-poroshenko-pledges-peaceful-return-of-donbas-to-ukraine-within-year.html>

http://www.fm-tv.kiev.ua/main_news/72701/view/

OSCE says Savchenko's release integral part of implementing Minsk deal – Kuchma's spokesperson, 11.03.2016

"The issue of release of our pilot Nadia Savchenko was particularly acute: this is an integral part of the implementation of the Minsk agreements. OSCE Chairperson-in-Office's Special Representative Martin Sajdik also noted this," Olifer wrote: "Once again, the Ukrainian side has raised a question of the release of the Ukrainian hostages and granting access to them of the ICRC experts," Olifer said, adding that the ICRC representatives have not yet gotten to the military and civilians illegally held captive in the militant-controlled areas of Donbas. She also stressed that the OSCE admits the monitors have been recording continued live fire training in the areas of Donbas beyond Ukrainian government's control, which is a direct violation of agreements reached last week regarding a ban on such training along the contact line.

http://www.fm-tv.kiev.ua/main_news/72479/view/

Russians threatened to down aircraft with Turchynov onboard if he dared fly to Crimea in 2014, 13.03.2016

It is reported that with the beginning of Russia's annexation of Crimea back in 2014, Oleksandr Turchynov, who was the acting president at that time, planned to personally come to the peninsula, but representatives of the Russian authorities warned him that "if he crossed the border, [his aircraft] would be shot down." This was stated by Russian presidential envoy to the so-called Crimean district, member of the Russian Security Council Oleg Belaventsev in his interview. He said two Ukrainian aircraft were expected to arrive in Crimea, one carrying Turchynov and another one – Ukrainian special forces team. Turchynov was warned his trip would be unsuccessful, according to Belaventsev. He also accused Turchynov of attempting to start a "civil war in Crimea" saying he allegedly was sending his envoys to the peninsula whose mission was to try "to dissuade Crimean authorities from performing their duties." He also said local authorities received SMS with threats.

<http://www.unian.info/politics/1288790-russians-threatened-to-down-aircraft-with-turchynov-onboard-if-he-dared-fly-to-crimea-in-2014.html>

Ukraine Envoy slams Germany for being "too friendly" to Russia, 11.03.2016

The Ukrainian Ambassador has accused the German government of taking on a "too friendly" course in relations with Russia. The diplomat added that there are attempts to put on Ukraine the blame for the stall in the implementation of Minsk agreements.

When asked whether Berlin is seeking favors from Russia, the ambassador said: "Absolutely." Also, the diplomat has accused the German government, in sending Moscow the "wrong signals." "These signals of reconciliation from Berlin are perceived as weakness. They are not viewed as a concession or negotiation tactics," Melnyk said. The Ambassador believes that it is now important for the Russian president to return to G8. "Perhaps, this is more important for Putin than the lifting of sanctions," said Melnyk, warning the G7 from taking a decision on letting Russia back into the club.

<http://www.unian.info/politics/1287903-ukraine-envoy-slams-germany-for-being-too-friendly-to-russia.html>

Poroshenko assures cooperation with IMF is not halted, 11.03.2016

Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko at a sitting of the Regional Development Council said that yesterday he and IMF Chief Christine Lagarde during a phone conversation discussed further steps of cooperation, the president press service reports: "I would like to tell our enemies and opponents – those, who hope that the financing program and program on our cooperation with the IMF have been halted – this won't happen. On the contrary, we have discussed what should be approved in the near future," Poroshenko said.

http://www.fm-tv.kiev.ua/main_news/71317/view/

No solution to overcome political crisis found after three weeks of talks – Groyzman, 12.03.2016

According to Groyzman, he is planning to appeal to the political forces on Monday to continue the dialogue. "I wish I could start with good political news, but unfortunately, three weeks of consultations of various political forces at different levels don't give me such grounds. Unfortunately, today there is no solution to overcome the political crisis that has emerged," he said: "Today, I will address the political forces to find as soon as possible a solution to this political crisis we have today. At the same time -- to show wisdom that the Parliament should work, should take the necessary decisions," he said.

http://www.fm-tv.kiev.ua/main_news/72530/view/

Yatsenyuk names three conditions for his resignation – presidential envoy, 14.03.2016

"The prime minister said he was ready to resign but his political force [the People's Front Party] demands that they should see the following: firstly, there should be a candidate [for prime minister], secondly, a [new government's action] program, thirdly, the composition [of the new government]," Kubiv said after a meeting of party leaders and party groups with President Petro Poroshenko on Monday evening. "There was a heated debate. Every political force announced its position. Then the president said that the parliament and democratic [parliamentary] factions should take responsibility for forming a new, European-oriented [parliamentary majority] coalition on the basis of the democratic forces," he added.

<http://ukrainianlaw.blogspot.com/2016/03/yatsenyuk-names-three-conditions-for.html>

McCain: I fear bloody spring coming again to Ukraine, 14.03.2016

"The announcement that Russia will begin withdrawing some military forces from Syria signals Vladimir Putin's belief that he has bombed and killed enough of the opponents of the murderous Assad regime to ensure its survival," McCain said in a statement on March 14 on the announcement that the Russian military will begin withdrawing some of its military forces from Syria. According to the U.S. senator, Russia and its proxies have changed the military facts on the ground and created the terms for a political settlement more favorable to their interests. "This likely result is that the Syrian conflict will grind on, ISIL will grow stronger, and the refugees will keep coming. And as Russia turns its resource and attention elsewhere, I fear that a bloody spring is coming again to Ukraine," he said.

<http://www.unian.info/politics/1290869-mccain-i-fear-bloody-spring-coming-again-to-ukraine.html>

<http://www.mccain.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/press-releases?ID=1F6EDC7A-DF17-446C-8229-9D46CFA60C98>

Obama in talk with Putin emphasizes need to observe ceasefire in Ukraine, 15.03.2016

U.S. President Barack Obama in a telephone talk with Russian President Vladimir Putin drew attention to the necessity for self-proclaimed Donetsk/Luhansk People's Republics to observe ceasefire in Ukraine, White House said. "President Obama emphasized the need for combined Russian-separatist forces to implement the ceasefire in eastern Ukraine," according to a readout of the U.S. president's talk with Putin. Moreover, Obama stressed on importance "to provide monitors from the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) with unfettered access to separatist-controlled areas, including the Russia-Ukraine border."

<http://en.interfax.com.ua/news/general/330695.html>

NATO PA PRESIDENT DEPLORES RUSSIA'S ONGOING FAILURE TO IMPLEMENT MINSK AGREEMENTS IN LETTER TO UKRAINIAN FOREIGN MINISTER, 15.03.2016

"I would like to associate myself with the many condemnations that have been voiced about Ms Savchenko's detention", the letter reads. Noting that he "fully shares" the Minister's "outrage and concern" about Ms Savchenko's ongoing detention and deteriorating health, Mr Turner's message notes: "As you know, I have several times before urged Russian authorities to release all the Ukrainian prisoners illegally detained in connection with Russia's military aggression against Ukraine, as required under the Minsk agreements. Sadly, to this day, Russia has failed to implement this and almost all other conditions set forth in the agreement". Following the European Union's decision last week to extend existing sanctions against Russia, the Assembly President stressed the importance for NATO governments and parliaments to maintain a firm line. The NATO PA will "remain firm in our condemnation of Russia's aggression and its illegal occupation of parts of Ukraine's sovereign territory", Mr Turner assures Minister Klimkin. "We will continue to urge Russia to fully abide by its commitments under the Minsk agreements and under international law."

<http://www.nato-pa.int/default.asp?CAT2=0&CAT1=0&CAT0=576&SHORTCUT=4136&SEARCHWORDS=klimkin>

EU allocates additional EUR 20 mln to victims of Russian aggression in Ukraine, 16.03.2016

The decision was made during the visit of European Commissioner for Humanitarian Aid and Crisis Management Christos Stylianides to Ukraine on March 16-18, an Ukrinform correspondent in Brussels reports. "The EU remains committed to support for the Ukrainians. Ukraine should remain a priority on the agenda. We have announced new support for the people affected by the conflict in eastern Ukraine," the Commissioner said. He stressed that the humanitarian assistance should be provided to the most vulnerable categories of residents quickly, safely and impartially.

<http://www.ukrinform.net/rubric-politics/1983165-eu-allocates-additional-eur-20-mln-to-victims-of-russian-aggression-in-ukraine.html>

Nuland: Russia should not expect constitutional changes in Ukraine until Minsk deal implemented, 16.03.2016

"Taking these steps now and releasing hostages will greatly improve the environment for compromise in Kyiv on election modalities and political rights for Donbas.

In the meantime though, neither Moscow, nor self-appointed Donbas authorities should expect the Ukrainian Rada to take up key outstanding political provisions of Minsk, including election modalities and constitutional amendments before the Kremlin and its proxies meet their basic security obligations under Minsk," Nuland said at the meeting of the U.S. Senate Committee on Foreign Relations devoted to the issue of "Ukrainian reforms two years after the Maidan Revolution and the Russian invasion."

<http://uatoday.tv/news/nuland-russia-should-not-expect-constitutional-changes-in-ukraine-until-minsk-deal-implemented-611200.html>

Second Anniversary of Russia's Attempted Annexation of Crimea, 16.03.2016

Today, as Russia's occupation of Crimea enters its third year, we reaffirm our commitment to a united, sovereign Ukraine. The United States does not recognize Russia's "referendum" of March 16, 2014 or its attempted annexation of Crimea, which violates international law. We remain deeply concerned by the situation in Russian-occupied Crimea, where occupation "authorities" suppress dissent and where ethnic and religious minorities -- especially Crimean Tatars and ethnic Ukrainians -- face serious and ongoing repression. Nongovernmental organizations and independent media are still being silenced or driven out, and international observers are still denied access to the peninsula. We will not accept the redrawing of borders by force in the 21st century. Sanctions related to Crimea will remain in place as long as the occupation continues. We again call on Russia to end that occupation and return Crimea to Ukraine.

<http://www.state.gov/r/pa/prs/ps/2016/03/254750.htm>

Ambassador Pyatt explains how U.S. aid spent on prosecutorial reform in Ukraine, 16.03.2016

"More sturm und drang today re: international support for building strong rule of law institutions. Here are the facts. U.S. doesn't provide direct budget support to PGO or *any* UA govt institution/agency; funds go to credible int'l partner orgs. Example: U.S. gave \$200,000 to the OECD (int'l recognized experts) to develop objective test for prosecutorial service," the U.S. ambassador tweeted. In the middle of February 2016, Ukrainian lawmakers wrote a letter to the U.S. Senate and Senator Robert Jones Portman, asking the U.S. side to verify reports that the PGO had not received \$200,000 in U.S. funds for the reform of the prosecutorial service in Ukraine. A month later, the PGO announced it had opened a case on the fact of the embezzlement of \$2.2 million in U.S. and EU aid allocated for the prosecution agencies in Ukraine. "\$2M in further PGO reform assistance is implemented by Int'l Development and Law Organization through @StateINL," Pyatt continued in his tweets.

<http://www.unian.info/politics/1292194-ambassador-pyatt-explains-how-us-aid-spent-on-prosecutorial-reform.html>

EC ready to make proposal for visa liberalization with Ukraine in April, 17.03.2016

"As far as visa liberalization is concerned, we have a shared interest in making it easy for our citizens to travel to each other's countries," Juncker said during a joint press conference with President of the European Council Donald Tusk and Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko in Brussels. "Ukraine in the last days and hours has undertaken huge reforms, mainly as far as the adoption of the e-declarations law is concerned or as far as the appointment of the members of the Anti-Corruption Agency," he said. "These steps taken by Ukraine will allow us as a Commission to make a proposal for visa liberalization in April," Juncker stressed. In turn, Tusk said: "I am happy to know that further steps have been taken on visa liberalization. Following the positive report by the Commission in December, Ukraine has taken the key steps in meeting its outstanding commitments. I trust it will soon be possible to take the next steps to finalizing this process."

http://www.fm-tv.kiev.ua/main_news/72702/view/

Germany's Economy Minister aims to get Russia sanctions lifted, 17.03.2016

Germany's Economy Minister Sigmar Gabriel called on Thursday for the European Union to try to create conditions by this summer to lift sanctions imposed against Russia over the Ukraine crisis. "That must be our common goal," said Gabriel, whose Social Democrats (SDP) share power with Chancellor Angela Merkel's conservatives. The West imposed sanctions on Russia two years ago over its annexation of Crimea and support for separatists in eastern Ukraine. Germany and France have said lifting sanctions are conditional on Russia complying with the terms of the Minsk peace process which has stalled. EU governments have extended asset freezes and travel bans on Russians and Russian companies but there is less consensus on whether to prolong more far-reaching sanctions on Russia's banking, defense and energy sectors from July. "(We should) aim for such a deal with the Russian Federation with all our strength," said Gabriel, adding this was not a short term goal.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/us-ukraine-crisis-sanctions-germany-idUSKCN0WJ2VY>

<http://sputniknews.com/europe/20160119/1033356972/election-law-ukraine-minsk-progress.html>

European Parliament head says EP for visa-free travels for Ukrainians this year, 17.03.2016

President of the European Parliament (EP) Martin Schulz has assured Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko that the EP is ready to support the introduction of visa-free travels for Ukrainians as early as this year. Poroshenko in turn said Ukraine's parliament has a majority of votes for the adoption of European integration bills, the Ukrainian President's press service said. Poroshenko and Schulz also discussed their positions regarding the implementation of the Minsk peace agreements. The two officials met on Thursday as part of the Ukrainian president's two-day visit to Brussels.

<http://en.interfax.com.ua/news/general/331395.html>

<http://www.unian.info/politics/1293362-ep-president-says-putin-unlikely-to-be-persona-non-grata-in-eu.html>

Poroshenko hands over so-called Savchenko list to Tusk, 17.03.2016

"The president have given Tusk sanctions-related proposals against the individuals who have framed the case against Savchenko," Poroshenko's press secretary Sviatoslav Tseholko wrote. Later on the president's press service said that Poroshenko gave European Parliament President Martin Shultz Ukraine's sanction-related proposals along with the names of Russian officials who forged the case against Savchenko. The president asked the EP president to step up pressure on Russia to release Savchenko and other Ukrainian prisoners incarcerated in Russian prisons.

<http://en.interfax.com.ua/news/general/331349.html>

Moscow ready to cooperate with US on all directions — Foreign Ministry, 17.03.2016

Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Maria Zakharova told a briefing on Thursday. "For the Russian side, the number of contacts with the US, including with the head of the foreign policy agency, does not influence the Russian-American dialog. We are open for full-format cooperation," the spokeswoman said. "We are ready to cooperate with the US on all directions of bilateral and international agenda to the amount that is interesting for the two countries," she said, noting that Russia "is not scaling back and has not scaled back the existing earlier formats of a dialog between the countries," she said. "We keep working the way we used to," Zakharova said.

<http://tass.ru/en/politics/863175>

Pentagon: Russia top global threat to U.S, 18.03.2016

The United States is facing five global strategic challenges, while at home sequestration poses a great risk to the funding of critical investments, Defense Secretary Ash Carter told lawmakers here today. "Today's security environment is dramatically different from the last 25 years, requiring new ways of investing and operating," Carter said at a hearing of the Senate Armed Services Committee on the fiscal year 2017 defense budget request. He testified with the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Marine Corps Gen. Joseph F. Dunford Jr., and Defense Department Comptroller Mike McCord. Carter listed Russia, China, North Korea, Iran, and terrorism as the five evolving strategic challenges that are driving the DoD's planning and budgeting, he told the panel. The defense budget request totals \$582.7 billion -- \$523.9 billion in the base budget and \$58.8 billion in the overseas contingency operations fund. The funding request takes the "long view" of current and evolving security threats, Carter said.

<http://www.defense.gov/News-Article-View/Article/696449/carter-outlines-security-challenges-warns-against-sequestration>

Russia's annexation of Crimea direct challenge to international security – Mogherini, 18.03.2016

The European Union has again stated it remains firmly committed to Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity. This is said in the Declaration by EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, Federica Mogherini on behalf of the EU on Crimea, which was published on Friday, March 18. "Two years on from the illegal annexation of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol by the Russian Federation, the European Union remains firmly committed to Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity. The EU reiterates that it does not recognize and continues to condemn this violation of international law. It remains a direct challenge to international security, with grave implications for the international legal order that protects the unity and sovereignty of all states," reads the statement.

<http://www.ukrinform.net/rubric-politics/1984414-russias-annexation-of-crimea-direct-challenge-to-international-security-mogherini.html>

Poroshenko: Total amount of humanitarian aid to Ukraine - more than \$649 million, 18.03.2016

President of Ukraine Petro Poroshenko made a statement at his meeting with the European Commissioner for Humanitarian Aid and Crisis Management Christos Stylianides: "The total amount of aid that Ukraine has obtained for humanitarian needs totals more than \$649 million," said Poroshenko. He noted that most of these funds has been directed to humanitarian mission in the occupied territories. He added that donors were from the EU, the U.S., Canada, Australia, Japan, Switzerland, the International Committee of the Red Cross.

<http://www.ukrinform.net/rubric-politics/1984737-poroshenko-total-amount-of-humanitarian-aid-to-ukraine-more-than-649-million.html>

Ukraine's Yanukovich says assets seizure is attempt to hide Kiev's failings, 18.03.2016

Former Ukrainian president Viktor Yanukovich said on Friday Kiev's new government was trying to obscure its failings by pushing through a law to confiscate his alleged offshore assets. Yanukovich has been living in exile in Russia since he was ousted by mass street protests in Kiev in 2014. His departure lit the fuse for Moscow's annexation of Crimea and a separatist uprising in mainly Russian-speaking eastern Ukraine. Ukraine's parliament provisionally approved on Thursday a law allowing the government to seize what it says are offshore assets of the Kremlin-backed former president without a court order. Yanukovich has largely stayed out of public view since his ouster. "The conversations about the 'mythical billions' of Yanukovich are nothing more than an attempt by the present political losers to distract Ukrainians from the fact they have brought the country to collapse. Politically and economically," Yanukovich said in written comments to Reuters.

http://www.reuters.com/article/us-ukraine-crisis-yanukovich-exclusive-idUSKCN0WK2J1?feedType=RSS&feedName=topNews&utm_source=twitter

Britain signs new defence pact to help Ukraine in Russia confrontation, 18.03.2016

Britain is to sign a new defence pact with Ukraine pledging to help the country with more military training and intelligence amid its confrontation with Russia. Michael Fallon, the Defence Secretary, said the new agreement was a signal Britain would "stand firm" with the beleaguered eastern European nation. The 15-year-long agreement will see British troops take part in more joint exercises and carry out more training with Ukrainian forces who have been battling Russian-backed separatists for two years. Mr Fallon said: "The UK will stand firm with Ukraine as they defend their territorial integrity. This new defence agreement sets out that commitment as we enhance our training of Ukrainian armed forces." The new agreement revives an earlier pact that lapsed in 2006 because of the anti-EU stance of the then pro-Russian Ukrainian president, Viktor Yanukovich, officials said.

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/defence/12197242/Britain-signs-new-defence-pact-to-help-Ukraine-in-Russia-confrontation.html>

Crimea engulfed in mass arrests and repression. Occupants' behavior smacks of Stalin era, - Poroshenko, 18.03.2016

"Over the past two years, Crimea has seen mass arrests and repression. The rights of the Crimean Tatars are cynically violated. Occupants' behavior in Crimea is reminiscent of the Stalin era," the president stressed. Poroshenko also says that both Ukraine and the international community continue to put pressure on the aggressor. "Negotiations on the de-occupation of Crimea are underway based on various international formats, including the Geneva plus format. Russia will pay a due price as an aggressor. The whole world stands by Ukraine! Crimea is Ukraine!" the head of state summed up.

http://en.censor.net.ua/news/379751/crimea_engulfed_in_mass_arrests_and_repression_occupants_behavior_smacks_of_stalin_era_poroshenko
<http://en.interfax.com.ua/news/general/331596.html>

EU rules out automatic extension of anti-Russia sanctions, 20.03.2016

"The duration of economic sanctions will be clearly linked to the full implementation of the Minsk agreement," Tusk told a news conference following the first working session of the summit in Brussels. "We have to maintain our sanctions until the Minsk agreement is fully implemented," he reiterated, hinting that sanctions might be extended until the end of 2015 – a deadline for some of the Ukraine ceasefire agreement provisions. Luxembourg's Prime Minister Xavier Bettel confirmed that any decision on further anti-Russia sanctions depends on the situation in Ukraine, and whether it develops positively or negatively. The Minsk agreement envisaged (among more urgent points on the de-escalation of violence) political reform in Ukraine to ensure decentralization and a special status for its rebel provinces. It requires Ukraine to adopt legislation which would provide permanent privileges to the Lugansk and Donetsk Regions, currently self-declared republics, by the end of 2015.

<https://www.rt.com/news/242397-european-commission-sanctions-russia/>
<http://www.unian.info/politics/1293308-germany-france-confirm-effect-of-anti-russian-sanctions-until-full-minsk-implementation.html>
<http://www.unian.info/politics/1293769-eu-calls-on-all-un-member-states-to-join-sanctions-against-russia.html>

Ukrainian presidential envoy not allowed to enter Russia — Poroshenko's press secretary, 21.03.2016

Russian border control service has not allowed Ukraine's presidential envoy for settlement in Donbass Irina Geraschenko to enter the country, Ukrainian president's press secretary Svyatoslav Tsegolko said on Monday. "Russian border guards have not allowed Irina Geraschenko to enter Russia after keeping her at the border for three hours. A border guard said that Irina was an undesirable individual for entering Russia," Tsegolko wrote on his Facebook page adding that Geraschenko intended to attend the trial of former Ukrainian pilot Nadezhda Savchenko. The press secretary said the incident represents a campaign against the Ukrainian delegation.

<http://tass.ru/en/world/863883>

Damage from annexation of Crimea exceeds UAH 1 trl – Ukraine's chief military prosecutor, 21.03.2016

The damage to Ukraine from the annexation of Crimea by Russia exceeds UAH 1 trillion, Deputy Prosecutor General of Ukraine, Chief Military Prosecutor Anatoliy Matios has stated. "The amount of losses preliminarily proved by expert conclusions as a result of the annexation of Crimea by Russia is more than UAH 1 trillion, excluding the cost of real estate and infrastructure of state enterprises, without taking into account territorial losses and the loss of private property in the peninsula," Matios said at a briefing in Kyiv.

<http://en.interfax.com.ua/news/general/332050.html>

For Ukraine, EU sanctions on Russia hang in balance: Stratfor, 21.03.2016

Today, more than two years after the conflict began, the EU consensus on sanctions that will expire July 31 may be in jeopardy. Countries such as Italy and Hungary — both of which are traditionally moderate on, and have strong economic ties with, Russia — have suggested that an EU extension of sanctions is not guaranteed. According to Stratfor, this prospect is extremely unnerving for the Ukrainian government. Kiyv has relied on the European Union not only to punish Russia for its actions in Ukraine but also to back Ukraine in ongoing Minsk talks on the conflict in Donbas. These negotiations have stalled over disagreements between Russia and Ukraine on implementation. "Until now, the European Union has supported Ukraine's position, pressuring Russia to do more to fulfill the Minsk agreement. But opinion within the bloc on this issue appears to be increasingly divided," say the analysts.

<http://www.unian.info/politics/1295985-for-ukraine-eu-sanctions-on-russia-hang-in-the-balance-stratfor.html>

Trump questions need for NATO, outlines noninterventionist foreign policy, 21.03.2016

"Ukraine is a country that affects us far less than it affects other countries in NATO, and yet we're doing all of the lifting," Trump said. "They're not doing anything. And I say: 'Why is it that Germany's not dealing with NATO on Ukraine? Why is it that other countries that are in the vicinity of Ukraine, why aren't they dealing? Why are we always the one that's leading, potentially the third world war with Russia,'" he said. Trump said that U.S. involvement in NATO may need to be significantly diminished in the coming years, breaking with nearly seven decades of consensus in Washington. "We certainly can't afford to do this anymore," Trump said, adding later, "NATO is costing us a fortune, and yes, we're protecting Europe with NATO, but we're spending a lot of money."

<http://www.unian.info/world/1296611-trump-blames-us-allies-for-not-doing-anything-re-russias-aggression-in-ukraine.html>

https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/post-politics/wp/2016/03/21/donald-trump-reveals-foreign-policy-team-in-meeting-with-the-washington-post/?postshare=1961458585271741&tid=ss_tw

<http://www.nytimes.com/politics/first-draft/2016/03/28/donald-trump-hires-paul-manafort-to-lead-delegate-effort/>

U.S. envoy surprised at Russian OSCE monitors' access to Ukraine after Russian aggression, 23.03.2016

U.S. Ambassador to the OSCE Daniel Baer says he is surprised by Ukraine's position as for Russian OSCE SMM personnel's access to Ukrainian territory after Crimea and Donbas were occupied by Russia. At the same time, he said that the OSCE SMM to Ukraine hires multinational teams whose team leaders should deal with quality control and security reports.

<http://www.unian.info/politics/1298239-us-envoy-surprised-at-russian-osce-monitors-access-to-ukraine-after-russian-aggression.html>

Lavrov: Minsk-2 accords should not be revised, 23.03.2016

Lavrov said that statements by the representatives of Ukraine's political sub-group in the Contact Group, Roman Bessmertny and Vladimir Gorbulin, are an even more interesting signal. "They declare without scruple that Donbass will not get any special status," the minister said - "that Donbass should receive the same status as all other Ukrainian regions that will be (if at all) realized by the decentralization idea. And Mr. Gorbulin wrote a program article, saying that Minsk-2 is last year's snow, and now it is necessary to fulfil the main task Kiev faced during the signing of the Minsk-2 accords, namely to gain time and save its strength. And use the military force after all to solve the problems of Donbass". According to the minister, "The 'Normandy format' should certainly fulfil its function specified in the declaration of its leaders. And the declaration, signed on February 12, says that the 'Normandy format' ensures monitoring of the fulfillment of the Minsk agreements that were signed by both the Ukrainian side and representatives of Donbass," Lavrov said. "So we should strengthen and support in every way this monitoring role so that the Contact Group (on the Ukrainian crisis resolution) with all its subgroups could work rhythmically." It's the venue for the direct dialogue between Kiev and Donbass on which the settlement of all problems and the fulfillment of the accords signed by the sides depend."

<http://tass.ru/en/politics/864584>

Kerry to Lavrov: U.S. firmly committed to Ukraine's territorial integrity, including Crimea, 24.03.2016

"The United States remains firmly committed to Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity, and that includes Crimea," Kerry told Lavrov at a meeting in the Kremlin in Moscow on March 24. "As President Obama reiterated in his recent call with President Putin, and as I underscored in our meeting today, our position is clear and we agree with Sergey Lavrov and Russia that the Minsk agreements must be fully implemented without delay," he said. "We discussed how to get back to a real and comprehensive ceasefire and how to restore unfettered access for OSCE monitors and how to accelerate the process of a negotiated – of negotiating the election modalities for Donbas, which are all critical next steps in this journey," Kerry added.

<http://www.unian.info/politics/1299886-kerry-to-lavrov-us-firmly-committed-to-ukraines-territorial-integrity-including-crimea.html>

<http://www.state.gov/secretary/remarks/2016/03/255138.htm>

Sakvarelidze says prosecutor general has "business ties" with "diamond prosecutors", 24.03.2016

"We investigate about 40 corruption cases, but somehow the focus is now on "diamond prosecutors" case. Why? Because Prosecutor General Viktor Shokin in this case acts as the most outspoken advocate and defender of Korniyets and Shapakin – people close to him," Sakvarelidze said. "There is a term a business manager. Well, Korniyets is in fact Shokin's "business manager." There are also reports that for some time, he was his driver. This has to be proved by the documents seized from Korniyets, which tie in with Shokin," he said. He emphasized that he and his team had been deceived by promising to reorganize the department, but instead trying to discredit and dismiss them all. "They came and they confided in me and the president. According to his decree, this department was established. Seven investigators, four prosecutors and several IT experts posed a serious threat to the system, to Shokina, to his deputy Stolyarchuk, to his deputy Sevruk," Sakvarelidze said. If the system doesn't change drastically then the illegal distribution of wealth will continue in Ukraine, according to Sakvarelidze.

<http://www.unian.info/society/1299458-sakvarelidze-says-prosecutor-general-has-business-ties-with-diamond-prosecutors.html>

Nato says no 'trade-off' with Russia after Brussels attacks, 24.03.2016

Nato Deputy Secretary-General Alexander Vershbow said all allies were willing "to cooperate more with Russia against terrorism" but that would not change plans to deter military resurgent Moscow. Russia proposes "we should cooperate against terrorism and end our measures that have been taken in response to their aggression against Ukraine," Vershbow said.

<http://www.straitstimes.com/world/united-states/nato-says-no-trade-off-with-russia-after-brussels-attacks>

http://www.nato.int/cps/en/natohq/opinions_129570.htm

Nato commander calls for return to service of U-2 spy plane to help conduct surveillance on a resurgent Russia, 27.03.2016

The U-2 spy plane, one of the most emblematic aircraft of the Cold War, should return to Europe to conduct surveillance on a resurgent and aggressive Russia, a top American general has warned. General Philip Breedlove, the head of US forces in Europe and Nato's supreme allied commander, said the iconic jet was among "additional intelligence collection platforms" needed to effectively counter an increased threat posed by Moscow after decades of downgrading of American military assets in the region. The officer, who is due to step down this spring, said Russia poses a "long-term existential threat" to the United States. With sensors that can spot a landmine from a height of 13 miles and scoop up vast amounts of communications data, the U-2 would prove a potent tool in monitoring any build-up or sudden movement of Russian forces on the border of the Baltic states or the Ukraine.

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/politics/nato-commander-calls-for-return-to-service-of-u-2-spy-plane-to-help-conduct-surveillance-on-a-a6954621.html>

Crimean Tatars' Chubarov announces possible changes to Ukrainian Constitution, 28.03.2016

"Two draft laws have already been included in the action plan of a new government, which is to be voted for in Kyiv shortly: the [draft] law on the status of the Crimean Tatar people in Ukraine and [the bill on] the need to amend the 10th section of the Constitution of Ukraine called the "Autonomous Republic of Crimea," where we intend to enshrine the principles of the Crimean Autonomy, which shall be created on the basis of the right of indigenous peoples to self-determination," he told the reporters. According to Chubarov, the Crimean Tatars are preparing for the de-occupation of the peninsula. "For our part, we are preparing for the period of de-occupation of Crimea. But if you ask me: "When will it happen?" – I always answer with confidence: "Much sooner than someone wants in the Kremlin. Much sooner!" Chubarov said.

http://www.fm-tv.kiev.ua/main_news/73143/view/

Kremlin: Some mass media prepare outspoken pre-planned attack against Putin, 28.03.2016

"Another media falsehood disguised as a sample of objectivity is due within days. We have received some very honey-worded queries looking like a questionnaire from an organization calling itself International Consortium of Investigative Journalists," Peskov said. He said that publications on the basis of that query were being prepared within days in Germany, the United States, Britain, France, Switzerland and Russia. "We believe that this is an outspokenly masterminded campaign," Peskov said, adding that the organization he mentioned might involve not only journalists, but representatives of special services and organizations. Peskov said that such media provocations were likely because "special services and some mass media have joined the election campaign in our country." "They keep fanning tensions, trying to put pressures on our country and to shake loose the situation," he warned.

<http://tass.ru/en/politics/865567>

Kerry's suitcase during Moscow visit contained documents for talks — Russian diplomat, 29.03.2016

The suitcase of US Secretary of State John Kerry during his last week's visit to Moscow contained documents for the negotiations, Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Sergey Ryabkov told reporters on Tuesday. "[There were] documents for talks with Putin and Lavrov," the high-ranking diplomat said responding to a question, but refused to give any more details. Ryabkov also said the talks were "serious" and neither side made any attempts "to evade topical issues." Russian President Vladimir Putin started talks with Kerry on March 24 with a joke. "When I saw you going down the airstair and carrying your belongings, I got a bit upset," Putin told Kerry. "On the one hand, it is very democratic, and on the other, I thought that probably there is no one to help the US secretary of state with his suitcase."

<http://tass.ru/en/politics/865766>

Canada Calls for Maintaining, Strengthening Sanctions on Russia, 29.03.2016

The Canadian government should continue to press its allies to maintain or even strengthen sanctions against Russia imposed over the crisis in Ukraine, Canada's Foreign Minister Stephane Dion said at the Canada in Global Affairs Conference on Tuesday. "The sanctions imposed on Russia in retaliation of its aggression against Ukraine, are effective only because they are being imposed by a large number of countries," Dion stated. "Canada must continue to require that these collective sanctions be maintained or even strengthened."

<http://sputniknews.com/politics/20160329/1037148232/canada-russia-sanctions.html>
<http://www.macleans.ca/politics/ottawa/stephane-dion-how-ethics-inspires-liberal-foreign-policy/>

Lukashenko: It is impossible to balance the situation in Ukraine without the USA, 30.03.2016

It is impossible to balance the situation in Ukraine with the USA, Belarus President Alexander Lukashenko said as he met with U.S. Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense Dr Michael Carpenter on 30 March, BelTA has learned. Alexander Lukashenko remarked that sooner or later the threats emerging in Eastern Europe can have a strong impact on the situation in Europe in general. "It is impossible to balance the situation here, I mean the situation in Ukraine and other trends, without the USA," the Belarusian President said. He stressed that he is firmly confident in it and reminded that he had spoken about it in public several times even before the Normandy Four summit took place in Minsk.

<http://eng.belta.by/president/view/lukashenko-it-is-impossible-to-balance-the-situation-in-ukraine-without-the-usa-90098-2016/>

Polish president appeals for NATO consolidation in Washington address, 30.03.2016

His appeal, on the first day of a three-day visit, comes in the lead-up to a NATO summit in Warsaw. "For the first time in Europe since World War II, a change in borders has occurred by force," Duda said, referring to the Russian Federation's annexation of Crimea. "Thus there are serious concerns that the time of peace in our part of Europe is over," he continued. "If we claim that NATO is alive, then NATO must respond to what is happening," he said. "We want the actual military presence of NATO, with soldiers coming to Central and Eastern Europe on a permanent basis."

Duda argued that "we should demand" that Russia withdraws from Crimea. The focus of Duda's visit is the 4th Nuclear Security Summit, which is being attended by representatives of 56 countries. Russia has declined to send a representative.

<http://www.thenews.pl/1/10/Artykul/246707.Polish-president-appeals-for-NATO-consolidation-in-Washington-address>

Poroshenko: Ukrainian army's losses in Donbas exceed U.S. military losses in Afghanistan, 31.03.2016

"Since I visited America last time, Ukraine has effectively stopped the Russian offensive. The price we have paid is striking," Poroshenko said at the forum titled "Ukraine's Battle for Freedom Continues" in Washington on Thursday.

"About 10,000 people have died. Over 2,700 Ukrainian servicemen were killed by fire of the combined Russian-militant forces. This number exceeds the U.S. military losses in Afghanistan for last 15 years," he said.

<http://www.unian.info/politics/1305049-poroshenko-ukrainian-armys-losses-in-donbas-exceed-us-military-losses-in-afghanistan.html>
<http://www.unian.info/politics/1305079-poroshenko-real-chance-for-obama-to-mark-his-term-with-donbas-settlement.html>
<http://www.unian.info/politics/1305118-poroshenko-calls-on-us-eu-join-his-savchenko-sentsov-list-initiative.html>

Dutch PM believes Ukraine-EU Association may win majority in referendum, 31.03.2016

Prime Minister of the Netherlands Mark Rutte believes that most of the Dutch will vote in favor of the Association Agreement between Ukraine and the E.U. "I have great confidence in the wisdom of the Netherlands. I think a majority will vote 'Yes' on April 6, in the interests of employment in the Netherlands, trade and stability in Europe. That is important, we live in uncertain times", Rutte said in his interview with Nieuwsuur. According to the Prime Minister, he is annoyed at all the myths that are proclaimed in the 'No' campaign, reads the report.

<http://uatoday.tv/opinion/dutch-pm-believes-ukraine-eu-association-to-win-majority-in-referendum-621819.html>

Russia seeks to deploy nuclear weapons in Crimea – Poroshenko, 31.03.2016

"Russia heavily militarizes Crimea. It seeks to deploy nuclear weapons there, too. This is Russia's understanding of security in the region," the president said at the 'Ukraine's Battle for Freedom Continues' forum in Washington on Thursday. He said that Ukraine in 1994 abandoned the third largest nuclear weapons arsenal and received guarantees of the signatories to the Budapest Memorandum in response. "We received security assurances under the 1994 Budapest Memorandum about sovereignty, territorial integrity and independence of my country. Very clear. Give up nuclear weapons and receive security guarantee. Sounds good, but what has it turned to be in reality? Russia simply defied its assurances to Ukraine and committed a direct armed aggression against my state," he said. The president also criticized human rights violations in the Russian-occupied Crimea.

<http://en.interfax.com.ua/news/general/334536.html>

<http://uatoday.tv/politics/poroshenko-says-ukrainian-blood-to-cost-nothing-if-anti-russian-sanctions-lifted-621774.html>

http://joinfo.com/us/1015740_ukrainian-president-it-is-high-time-to-boost-ukraine-usa-bilateral-dialogue.html

<http://www.unian.info/politics/1306117-poroshenko-against-severing-diplomatic-ties-with-russia.html>

Actions of Ukrainian Authorities

Rada authorizes arrest of two judges, 01.07.2015

The decision to arrest Medentsev, who is suspected of taking a UAH 570,000 bribe for a decision in favor of a certain company, was supported by 265 out of 324 MPs registered in the session hall. Medentsev is now on the wanted list.

The decision on Chernushenko's arrest was backed by 273 out of 340 MPs registered in the session hall. As reported earlier, on June 24, the Prosecutor General's Office reported Chernushenko was suspected of committing serious criminal offenses.

Prosecutor General Viktor Shokin initiated that he should be removed by the High Qualification Commission of Judges of Ukraine from performing his duties and appealed to the parliament with a request for authorizing the arrest of Chernushenko.

<http://www.unian.info/politics/1095641-rada-authorizes-arrest-of-two-judges.html>

Ukrainian journalist Maria Varfolomeeva freed of militants' captivity, 03.03.2016

Press secretary of the Ukrainian President Svyatoslav Tsegolko and MP Iryna Gerashchenko posted on Facebook the details of the release of Ukrainian journalist. Maria Varfolomeyeva has been held by the militants the so-called "Luhansk People's Republic" for 14 months. Militants postponed exchanged many times or disrupted it deliberately. In order to release Maria, Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko pardoned a Russian citizen, who was transferred today to the occupied territory of eastern Ukraine.

http://joinfo.com/life/1014952_ukrainian-journalist-maria-varfolomeeva-freed-of-militants-captivity.html

Assassination of detained GRU officers plotted: prosecutors, 03.03.2016

Prosecutor Ihor Nimchenko told journalists that the operational units had tipped the military prosecutor's office that a convoy vehicle, which is to bring Yerofeyev and Aleksandrov to court, might be attacked, therefore it was dangerous to transport them to the courtroom as usual. He refused to disclose any details. "If the defendants refuse to participate in court hearing by video conference, special security measures will be taken when transporting Aleksandrov and Yerofeyev," he said. Another prosecutor Oleksandr Klymovych said that, if necessary, or at the request of the court, the prosecutors would be ready to provide evidence that an attack on the convoy was being plotted.

<http://www.unian.info/society/1281743-assassination-of-detained-gru-officers-plotted-prosecutors.html>

Full reset: Yatsenyuk set to go, while Jaresko gathers team, 08.03.2016

March 15 may be the date of reformatting the Ukrainian Cabinet, according to Novoye Vremya magazine citing its sources, as Natalie Jaresko is reported to have agreed to lead a "technocratic government." The information that the Ukrainian government may see drastic changes in a week was provided to Novoye Vremya by one of the MPs from pro-Yatsenyuk's Popular Front faction, close to the National Security Council chief Oleksandr Turchynov, referring to the latter. The source says the agreement has already been reached on the matter. According to an MP from another faction, who recently left the coalition, there the necessary number of votes for Yatsenyuk's resignation has already been secured in the Rada, and now the work is underway to ensure that Natalie Jaresko's nomination will be endorsed. Meanwhile, it is reported that the current head of the Finance Ministry is in a process of selecting her future team members for key positions, such as the post of a State Fiscal Service chief. Given the names of the officials Ms Jaresko is in talks with regarding future positions in the Cabinet, there actually is hope for the real "government reset" in the direction of a technocratic Cabinet.

<http://ukrainianlaw.blogspot.com/2016/03/full-reset-yatsenyuk-set-to-go-while.html>

<http://uatoday.tv/politics/natalie-jaresko-could-become-ukraine-s-new-pm-by-the-end-of-the-week-former-u-s-diplomat-606133.html>

Official under NABU investigation says left Ukraine for treatment, 09.03.2016

Detectives from the National Anti-Corruption Bureau of Ukraine have failed to hand over the suspicion notice personally to Andriy Pasishnyk, executive director of state-owned Naftogaz, in an investigation launched after ex-Economy Minister Aivaras Abromavicius accused the official of interference in his work, according to the NABU's press service.

<http://www.breakingnewspoint.com/story/2700758/official-under-nabu-investigation-says-left-ukraine-for-treatment.html>

Ukrainian president visits Turkey, meets leaders, 09.03.2016

Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko has met with Turkish leaders as part of a visit to Ankara. Poroshenko was greeted by Turkish President Tayyip Erdogan with an official ceremony upon his arrival at the Presidential Palace. The leaders co-chaired a high level strategic council meeting, seeking ways of cementing ties and expanding cooperation between the two countries. They also discussed Russia's occupation and invasion of eastern Ukraine.

<http://uatoday.tv/politics/poroshenko-has-met-with-turkish-leaders-607064.html>

Poroshenko ready for prisoner swap with Moscow to secure release of Savchenko, 10.03.2016

Speaking at a news conference in Ankara with his Turkish counterpart Tayyip Erdogan on March 9, President Petro Poroshenko said a prisoner swap was a realistic possibility. Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko: "If you are asking me whether a swap would be possible, I would like to say for the first time, as the president of Ukraine, using my constitutional rights, yes, it is possible. I am ready to swap so Nadiya Savchenko can come home."

<http://uatoday.tv/politics/poroshenko-ready-for-prisoner-swap-with-moscow-to-secure-release-of-savchenko-607279.html>

Presidents of Ukraine and the European Commission coordinated future steps on the introduction of the visa-free regime for Ukrainians by the European Union, 11.03.2016

Jean-Claude Juncker is hopeful that the Ukrainian Parliament would make a positive decision regarding the legislative settlement of that issue in compliance with the EU standards. It will be a stride towards the implementation of anti-corruption policy and help Ukraine integrate into the EU in a few years. The Head of State praised the decision of the EU Council of March 10 regarding the prolongation of restrictive measures of the EU against 146 individuals and 37 organizations imposed for the disruption of territorial integrity, sovereignty and independence of Ukraine until September 15, 2016. Petro Poroshenko also thanked the EU for supporting Nadiya Savchenko who had been abducted from the territory of Ukraine. The President urged the EU to increase pressure on Russia in order to liberate Nadiya Savchenko and other Ukrainians that had been illegally detained.

<http://www.president.gov.ua/en/news/prezidenti-ukrayini-ta-yevropejskoyi-komisiyi-uzgodili-podal-36840>

Ukrainian civil servants forbidden to go to territories uncontrolled by Kiev, 11.03.2016

Georgy Tuka, the head of the state military and civil administration of the Lugansk region of Ukraine, signed an order prohibiting government employees to visit the territories of Donbass uncontrolled by Kiev. Earlier the same decision was taken by the Governor of the Lugansk region Pavel Zhebrivsky. On Thursday, he signed an executive order that prohibits the regional administration staff to visit the territories that are beyond Kiev's control. He noted that he had to prohibit officials to cross the contact line as the lists of their names are available to the militia.

<https://dninews.com/article/ukrainian-civil-servants-forbidden-go-territories-uncontrolled-kiev>

Poroshenko, Biden discuss cooperation of Ukraine and IMF, pressure on Russia for it to fulfill Minsk agreements, 12.03.2016

"The interlocutors stressed the importance of immediate adoption of anti-corruption laws by the Ukrainian parliament for the continuation of reforms, development of cooperation with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and introduction of the visa-free regime," reads a posting on the presidential website. "The parties also coordinated positions on the continuation of exerting pressure on Russia for it to fulfill the Minsk agreements," according to the report.

<http://en.interfax.com.ua/news/general/324320.html>

The Cabinet of Ministers carries out campaign for discredit of the president and all political system of Ukraine, - Lutsenko, 14.03.2016

«The government with persistence, worthy the best application, continues campaign for discredit of all political system of Ukraine - now through key foreign mass media Arseny Yatsenyuk shifts all responsibility for a state of affairs on the president, on fraction, on anyone, only not on the chief executive» , - Lutsenko said during the Coordination board of leaders of fractions and chairmen of committees of parliament. All the time goes conversation that «ball in the field of the president», but «if to speak football terms, then which - who promised to remove the national team in Euro cup and I have now lowered team to the level of rural games». Lutsenko has emphasized that nobody can tell that the president of Ukraine has prevented someone to carry out reforms, just as BPP fraction in parliament doesn't sabotage reform at all. He has emphasized that the government "directs all the energy to public relations - whistle and service of oligarchical interests during appointments in key state monopolies".

<https://news.pn/en/politics/156561>

<http://www.unian.info/politics/1289357-lutsenko-we-wait-for-yatsenyuk-resignation-ready-to-nominate-successor.html>

Poroshenko considering Jaresko, Sadoviy as PM – spokesman, 14.03.2016

According to Presidential Press Secretary Svyatoslav Tsegolko, Poroshenko met with party faction leaders on Monday, as well as with the leader of Samopomich party Andriy Sadoviy. He noted that there were three possible scenarios. The first one is a technocratic government led by Natalie Jaresko "in case of uniting all pro-European factions" around such a government. The second one is the "political government (for example, headed by Andriy Sadoviy).""The goal of this government, like the previous one, is the acceleration of the pace of reforms". The third scenario is the government led by another person."If the parliamentary forces have other candidates, let them offer and find 226 votes in the Verkhovna Rada. The President is ready to work with any candidate who will be offered by a coalition," Tsegolko said.

<http://uatoday.tv/news/poroshenko-considering-jaresko-sadoviy-as-pm-spokesman-609916.html>

Rada's regulation committee turns down resolution on Yatsenyuk dismissal, 16.03.2016

The Committee notes that on February 16, the Verkhovna Rada considered the draft resolution "On the responsibility of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine (on the adoption of the resolution of no confidence in the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine)," which failed to score the required number of votes of MPs. In addition, the law "On the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine" stipulates that the Prime Minister has the right to announce his resignation to the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine. "As of today, Yatsenyuk has not yet submitted the letter of resignation to the Verkhovna Rada," the committee said.

<http://www.europeanukraine.org/home/2016/03/radas-regulation-committee-turns-down-resolution-on-yatsenyuk-dismissal/>

Poroshenko approves new concept of security, defense sector development: top threat Russia, 16.03.2016

"The development and preservation of possibilities, which will guarantee an appropriate and flexible response to the entire spectrum of threats to Ukraine's national security by rational use of the government's capacities and resources, have been declared as the primary objective of reforming and developing the security and defense sector," says a report published on the Ukrainian presidential website on Wednesday morning.

<http://en.interfax.com.ua/news/general/330969.html>

Poroshenko, Merkel, Hollande and EU leaders to meet in Belgium, 16.03.2016

"The president will hold a trilateral meeting with President of the European Council Donald Tusk and European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker in Brussels March 17. "He will also hold trilateral talks with German Chancellor Angela Merkel and French President Francois Hollande," Tseholko wrote. At the same time, the subject of the meeting has not been specified.

http://en.censor.net.ua/news/379477/poroshenko_merkel_hollande_and_eu_leaders_to_meet_in_belgium_march_17

SBU: Vinnytsia regional police chief accused of separatism caught fleeing to Russia, 17.03.2016

"Policemen of the Safety Solution of Ukraine have actually apprehended the previous head of the police in Vinnytsia area, Anton Shevtsov, that was visiting get away Ukraine," SBU Press Assistant Olena Hitlianska composed. She likewise composed that even more information would certainly be supplied later on. Chief of the National Police of Ukraine Khatia Dekanoidze authorized an order on Shevtsov's suspension on March 14. Ukrainian lobbyists previously declared that Shevtsov apparently sustained separatism and also the addition of Crimea by Russia, particularly, he took part in the Success Day parade in Sevastopol on Might 9, 2014. Later on Shevtsov sent a paper to show he had actually effectively passed a lie detector check by the SBU Safety Solution of Ukraine. | Ukrainian lobbyists previously declared that Shevtsov supposedly sustained separatism and also the addition of Crimea by Russia, in specific, he took part in the Success Day parade in Sevastopol on Might 9, 2014.

<http://journalfocus.com/2016/03/sbu-vinnytsia-regional-police-chief-accused-of-separatism-caught-fleeing-to-russia/>

<http://en.vnews.agency/news/politics/16636-ex-police-top-officer-charged-with-high-treason.html>

<http://www.unian.info/society/1295347-ex-chief-of-vinnytsia-region-police-charged-with-treason-released-by-court.html>

Ukraine Interpol Bureau: Russia blocks Yanukovych extradition, 18.03.2016

Russia does not officially recognize that former Ukrainian President Viktor Yanukovych, who is wanted by Interpol, is in its territory; and is blocking requests for his extradition, head of the National Central Interpol Bureau of Ukraine Vasyl Nevolia said in an interview: "We have repeatedly appealed and reported specific addresses, but there was no reaction from the Russian side," he said. Speaking about the removal of Yanukovych from international search, Nevolia said that all requests from Ukraine and Russia had been thoroughly monitored, as there were many appeals. As of today, Yanukovych's case is being considered by a special committee of Interpol. His card has been removed from the official website of the organization for the period of inquiry.

http://www.fm-tv.kiev.ua/main_news/72761/view/

SBU detained five "LPR" subversives planning terrorist attacks in Odesa, 18.03.2016

The statement reads: "The law enforcers have established that following orders of their Russian overseers, the terrorists planned to commit an armed attack on one of the detention facilities in the region and activate an explosive device during a religious holiday. "By design of the masterminds, these attacks would have destabilized the political situation in the south-eastern regions, in particular, by stirring up an ethnic conflict. "The law enforcers seized over a kilogram of plastic explosives, two anti-personnel mines, four grenade launchers, two grenades, and small arms in rades at saboteurs' homes. "The criminal proceedings have been initiated under Article 258 of the Criminal Code of Ukraine. The urgent investigative actions are taken to establish the saboteurs' accomplices."

http://en.censor.net.ua/photo_news/379854/sbu_detained_five_lpr_subversives_planning_terrorist_attacks_in_odesa_photos

Poroshenko expects visa-free regime with EU by June this year, 18.03.2016

The European Council and the European Parliament in April this year will receive legislative initiatives on granting Ukraine a visa-free regime with EU countries from the middle of this year, President of Ukraine Petro Poroshenko has said. "Agreements have been reached [during a visit to Brussels] for the European Council and the European Parliament in April to submit legislative initiatives on granting Ukraine a visa-free regime with EU countries from the middle of this year," Poroshenko said at a meeting with European Commissioner for Humanitarian Aid and Crisis Management Christos Stylianides in Kyiv.

<http://en.interfax.com.ua/news/general/331713.html>

Yatsenyuk ready to give Groysman premiership under certain conditions, 18.03.2016

At the moment, there is no Yatsenyuk's letter of resignation, and he will not officially say anything until the end of negotiations, the report says. According to the newspaper sources, the People's Front wants to lead the Ministry of Internal Affairs, the Ministry of Justice, as well as to appoint Andriy Parubiy a Speaker. The prime minister's team also wants to lead the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Infrastructure. The sources of the edition point out that serious dispute will arise around the top posts at the Ministry of Justice and the Ministry of Infrastructure because Poroshenko's team has serious ambitions regarding these agencies.

<http://www.unian.info/politics/1294041-yatsenyuk-ready-to-give-groysman-premiership-under-certain-conditions-media.html>

Lozhkin denies appointment of Akhmetov, Boiko as heads in Donbas, 19.03.2016

Head of Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko's administration Boris Lozhkin denies the possibility of appointing Ukrainian businessman Rinat Akhmetov and leader of the Opposition bloc faction in Ukraine's parliament Yuriy Boiko as heads of occupied territories in Donbas, eastern Ukraine.

<http://www.breakingnewspoint.com/story/2760598/lozhkin-denies-appointment-of-akhmetov-boiko-as-heads-in-donbas.html>
<https://news.pn/en/RussiaInvadedUkraine/156988>

Poroshenko to sign decree on demobilization of fourth wave's military, 22.03.2016

About this Poroshenko said at a meeting of the Council of national security and defense of Ukraine, the press service of the President. «I want to start with very good news for 45 thousand troops, which in the complicated conditions of defending our state. We are talking about soldiers of the so-called «fourth wave» mobilization. I signed a decree on the demobilization of servicemen, recruited by the decree of July 21, 2014 and decree dated 14 January 2015», — said Poroshenko. «The decree on demobilization will in no way affect the high level of defense capability of the state, and decreasing the size of the group, which is located in the East of the state and the Crimean isthmus», — said Poroshenko. The President stressed that «the state is making maximum efforts to provide the Armed forces of Ukraine and other security forces».

<http://en.reporter-ua.ru/poroshenko-signed-a-decree-on-the-demobilization-of-military-personnel-of-the-fourth-wave.html>
<http://www.president.gov.ua/en/news/prezident-pidpisav-ukaz-pro-demobilizaciyu-36905>

Poroshenko says how Ukraine to use seized assets of Yanukovych regime, 23.03.2016

Purchase of modern weapons and military equipment for the Ukrainian army will be funded with the seized assets belonging to criminals from the previous government who fled to Russia, according to Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko who spoke at a ceremony of transfer of arms and military equipment to the Ukrainian military in Kharkiv. REUTERS "UAH 11 billion is planned this year for the purchase of modern weaponry. A significant share of that money has a specific source of coverage – the assets confiscated from the criminals of the previous government, the money they had stolen, and now [the money] is under arrest," said the president. "Why should it lay there? Why can't it work for the Ukrainian people and the Ukrainian army? That is why we are waiting for two important decisions of the Verkhovna Rada – regarding justice in absentia against the criminals who escaped to Russia and regarding a special confiscation procedure, to allocate funds for the production of modern weapons."

http://nc4.info/business/31903-Poroshenko_says_how_Ukraine_to_use_seized_assets_of_Yanukovych_regime

Shokin doesn't want to share criminal cases with anti-corruption agencies, 24.03.2016

Ukrainian Prosecutor General Viktor Shokin has officially instructed prosecutors not to transfer criminal cases to the National Anti-Corruption Bureau (NABU) and the Specialized Anti-Corruption Prosecutor's Office, according to head of the board of the Anti-Corruption Action Center (AntAC), a Ukrainian civil society organization, Vitaliy Shabunin.

<http://www.unian.info/politics/1299077-shokin-doesnt-want-to-share-criminal-cases-with-anti-corruption-agencies.html>

Poroshenko Bloc nominates parliament speaker Groysman for premier, 24.03.2016

The Poroshenko Bloc has nominated Parliament Speaker Volodymyr Groysman for prime minister, Viktoria Siumar, the deputy chairperson of the parliamentary faction of the People's Front led by incumbent Prime Minister Arseniy Yatsenyuk, said.

<http://uatoday.tv/news/poroshenko-bloc-nominates-parliament-speaker-groysman-for-premier-617366.html>

<http://www.unian.info/politics/1299544-groysman-says-ready-to-lead-cabinet.html>

Ex-head of Ukraine's investment agency wanted by police – Avakov, 25.03.2016

The Interior Ministry's Department of Economy Protection together with the Prosecutor General's Office have investigated and gathered proof for consideration in the court one of the many illegal episodes of former head of the State Agency for Investment Vladyslav Kaskiv's activity. "Kaskiv is on the wanted list. He is charged under Part 5 Article 191, Part 2 Article 366 of the Criminal Code of Ukraine," minister Avakov wrote: "It is about misuse of public funds in 2012-2013 – UAH 7.5 million – under a contract concluded by Kaskiv with Gloria LLC for advertising services, as it turned out to be a bogus one." Avakov says that Kaskiv, who has been long time hiding abroad, was put on the wanted list in keeping with a court ruling, and his property has been seized.

<http://uatoday.tv/news/ex-head-of-ukraine-s-investment-agency-wanted-by-police-avakov-618266.html>

Second suspect in lawyer Hrabovsky's murder detained in Odesa region, 25.03.2016

"Yesterday morning, as a result of the scrupulous and intense work done by the Security Service of Ukraine (SBU)...together with investigators of the Military Prosecutor's Office and the Odesa branch of the SBU, another person was detained, in addition to the one arrested more than a week ago, one of the men involved in the disappearance of lawyer Hrabovsky," Matios said at a press briefing. The second suspect was detained in Odesa region and told investigators about the site where Hrabovsky was buried, as well as the circumstances of the lawyer's murder, he said. Those suspected of involvement in the lawyer's murder are citizens of Ukraine, and a fake special services officer ID has been confiscated from one of them, he said. "After the site where Hrabovsky was buried in an abandoned collective farm garden, 27 kilometers from the town of Zhashkiv [Cherkasy region], was shown, we immediately found the slain man's body as soon as we began digging at the site pointed to by the criminal at 4:00 a.m.," Matios said.

<http://en.interfax.com.ua/news/general/333256.html>

<http://uatoday.tv/politics/hrabovskiy-promises-his-captors-to-no-longer-defend-russian-gru-officer-aleksandrov-620462.html>

Supreme Economic Court judge Shvets accused of bribery, 25.03.2016

"Indeed, there is a criminal case under Article 368 on obtaining illegal benefits, actually a bribe, with respect to this judge," Tkachuk said, noting that Shvets was detained on Thursday night. However, the SBU official gave no details as to the amount of the bribe, saying that there were a few episodes in the case. He added that a very large sum of money and a passport revealing Shvets's citizenship in another country were seized during a search. Later Tkachuk stated on air of the 112 TV Channel that Shvets was on home arrest for the period of the investigation in his case. Tkachuk said that \$5,000 was seized from the judge at the scene, along with an obligation for \$50,000. Some \$375,000 obligation was found at a different location, and also money in cash. "Some \$200,000, EUR 20,000, and around UAH 1.5 million were seized from him [Shvets] in cash. Besides, an obligation worth \$425, 000 was found," Tkachuk said. At the same time, the press service of the Supreme Economic Court said that Judge Shvets was in the office and his detention hadn't been carried out.

<http://en.interfax.com.ua/news/general/333398.html>

Poroshenko asks Council of Europe for special mission to monitor situation of Ukrainians imprisoned in Russia, 25.03.2016

"Criminal prosecution of Ukrainian citizens illegally detained in Russia is politically motivated and contradicts generally accepted legislative regulations and principles. These cases have similar features that prove the existence of a very dangerous trend," Poroshenko said during the meeting with Muiznieks according to his press service.

The president addressed the Council of Europe with a request to send a special mission to Russia to monitor the situation of Ukrainians imprisoned in Russia. "We must use every opportunity to control the situation of imprisoned Ukrainians and impose other necessary mechanisms, particularly monitoring of Russia by the European Committee for the Prevention of Torture," the president said.

<http://en.interfax.com.ua/news/general/333394.html>

http://en.censor.net.ua/news/381100/nsdc_approved_savchenkosentsov_sanctions_list_tseholko

Prosecutor General Shokin sacked by Ukraine's Parliament, 29.03.2016

The deputies dismissed him with a majority vote of 289. Shokin was criticized for his professional skills since his appointment in February of 2015. For instance, he failed to prosecute the murders of over a hundred protesters in Kyiv in 2014 during the Revolution of Dignity. Also Shokin did not manage to prosecute the cronies of Viktor Yanukovich, the ousted Ukrainian president.

<http://uatoday.tv/politics/prosecutor-general-shokin-sacked-by-rada-620093.html>

Sakvarelidze dismissed from PGO, 29.03.2016

"Deputy Prosecutor General Davit Sakvaralidze has been dismissed from the prosecution bodies. The structure of the Prosecutor General's Office is brought into line with the requirements of the Law of Ukraine "On the Prosecutor's Office." The PGO has repeatedly received collective parliamentary appeals and inquiries regarding non-compliance with Articles 8, 15 of the Law of Ukraine "On Prosecutor's Office" of the position of Deputy Prosecutor General – the prosecutor of Odesa region, which Davit Sakvarelidze occupies. The validity of the decision on the establishment of the post was also the subject of judicial appeal in Kyiv District Administrative Court at the suit of an MP.

<http://www.unian.info/politics/1303119-sakvarelidze-dismissed-from-pgo.html>

<http://www.unian.info/politics/1304117-poroshenko-to-discuss-sakvarelidzes-return-to-pgo-with-new-prosecutor-general.html>

NABU cannot detain bribe-taking judge who flees while shooting, 29.03.2016

"The National Anti-Corruption Bureau's supervisor notified the head of state regarding an unique procedure to detain a judge who has actually been captured taking a perk worth UAH 500,000 (regarding \$19,000)," Presidential Press Assistant Svyatoslav Tsegolko composed. The judge began shooting as well as left, he composed.

In his words, the judge likewise attempted to cover himself by judicial resistance.

"The head of state has actually advised the SBU to take steps to detain him," journalism assistant included. Later on, the NABU published a main declaration on its web site on the procedure carried out by NABU investigators collectively with the nationwide authorities, stating that it was a go by Odesa's Malynovsky area court. The perk was paid to the judge with a liaison for a "best" judgment in a financial obligation healing situation.

<http://journalfocus.com/2016/03/nabu-fails-to-detain-bribe-taking-judge-who-flees-while-shooting/>

<http://www.unian.info/society/1304529-shooter-judge-tried-to-cut-veins-before-being-detained.html>

Poroshenko enacts sanctions against 84 individuals on Sentsov-Savchenko list, 30.03.2016

Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko has enacted a resolution by the National Security and Defense Council of Ukraine concerning the application of individual special economic and other restrictive measures (sanctions) with respect to individuals involved in the cases against Nadia Savchenko, Oleh Sentsov and Oleksandr Kolchenko. The president signed relevant decree No. 121/2016 on Tuesday. The sanctions are imposed on 84 individuals, whose names and positions, along with the justification for the application of sanctions and the type of sanctions, are listed in an enclosed annex.

<http://en.interfax.com.ua/news/general/334390.html>

“Saboteurs” attempted to infiltrate Air Force base in northern Ukraine, 31.03.2016

A group of “saboteurs” tried to infiltrate the base of Ukraine’s Air Force in Chernihiv region, northern Ukraine. It was a simulation of enemy activity, supposed to check the security system and defense efficiency of air force bases. Press service of the Defense Ministry reported this on Thursday. The simulation took place within Spring Thunder 2016 military exercise. The event took place so as to look like real combat situation; neither leadership of the military unit nor its staff was informed of.

http://nc4.info/in_world/65041-%E2%80%9CSaboteurs%E2%80%9D_attempted_to_infiltrate_Air_Force_base_in_northern_Ukraine

UKRAINIAN PRESIDENT OPPOSES CUTTING DIPLOMATIC TIES WITH RUSSIA, 31.03.2016

President Poroshenko is sure the the Verkhovna Rada will not pass the law as it was only initiated by several members of it. He says Ukraine has developed a peace formula to fulfill the Minsk agreements. He also promises to hold free election and restore Ukraine's sovereignty in Donbas. The Kiev authorities decision has already been commented by Moscow. Leonid Slutsky, Chairman of the State Duma Committee for the CIS, considers the actions of Ukrainian deputies to be populist and “not very smart”. Sergey Zheleznyak, the Vice-speaker of the State Duma of the Russian Federation, is sure that the suggestion to break off diplomatic relations with Russia could be evaluated as anti-national and self-destructive.

<http://ruskiymir.ru/en/news/204878/>

Terrorism / Separatism

Russian proxies attack ATO troops 54 times in last day, situation tense, 01.03.2016

Violating the Minsk agreements, the Russian-backed mercenaries started firing mortars on the Ukrainian positions near the village of Hnutove. They also fired heavy machine guns, rocket-propelled grenades and small arms on the Ukrainian fortified positions near the town of Krasnohorivka, the villages of Pisky, Troyitske and Vodiane. "At 18:00 Kyiv time, the militants started firing an 82mm mortar on Krasnohorivka. At 19:00 local time, they started firing a 120mm mortar on the Ukrainian positions near the village of Nevelske. In addition, the terrorists fired rocket-propelled grenades, heavy machine guns and small arms on our positions near the villages of Novhorodske, Troyitske, Novoselivka Druha and Pisky," the press center said. It is noted that the intensity of shelling decreased at midnight.

<http://www.unian.info/war/1279082-russian-proxies-attack-ato-troops-54-times-in-last-day-situation-tense.html>

OSCE reports serious escalation in Donbas pending new talks in Minsk, 01.03.2016

"The SMM observed a significant increase in ceasefire violations in Donetsk region as compared with the previous day," the mission said in its update on Tuesday, which is based on information received as of 19:30 local time on February 29, 2016. "In the evening of February 28 whilst in the Donetsk People's Republic ("DPR")-controlled Donetsk city center, the SMM recorded 95 undetermined explosions west of its position. While positioned at the "DPR"-controlled Donetsk central railway station (6km north-west of Donetsk city center), on February 29 the SMM heard more than 174 explosions assessed as caused by artillery and mortar rounds," the OSCE SMM said. OSCE monitors also reported two undetermined blasts and impacts; 25-35 single shots and hundreds of rounds fired from a range of weapons including small arms, light and heavy machine-guns, 30mm cannons, and automatic grenade launchers from distances of 0.5-10km from the south, west, south-south-west, north, north-north-east, and north-north-west of its position. During the evening and night hours of February 28-29 whilst in government-controlled Svitlodarsk (57km north-east of Donetsk), the SMM recorded 54 undetermined explosions and 50 single shots of small arms 4km south-east of its position.

<http://ukrainianwall.com/english-news/osce-reports-serious-escalation-in-donbas-pending-new-talks-in-minsk/>

Ukraine MFA: Russian aggression continues in Donbas and Crimea, 01.03.2016

"Since the beginning of the aggression over 2,600 Ukrainian servicemen have been killed and more than 9,000 wounded. Only in the two months of 2016 Ukrainian positions have been shelled over 2,500 times, leaving 12 Ukrainian servicemen killed and more than 150 wounded," the statement says. During these years of aggression, a 40,000-strong army has been built up in Donbas financed, equipped and maintained by Russia and commanded by Russian officers. This army has been supplied with sophisticated modern Russian weaponry: heavy artillery and multiple launch rocket systems as BM-21 Grad, Tornado and TOS-1 Buratino, surveillance and secure communication devices (electronic warfare complexes Rtut-BM, Shipovnik-Aero, Leer-2, 1RL257 Krasukha-4), air defense systems Buk (SA-11 Gadget), Strela (SA-13 Gopher), Pantsyr (SA-22 Greyhound).

<http://uatoday.tv/news/ukraine-mfa-russian-aggression-continues-in-donbas-and-crimea-601600.html>

Ukrainian army vehicle hits mine in Luhansk region, three killed, 01.03.2016

A Ukrainian army vehicle hit a mine on the road between Novotoshkivske and Hirske in Luhansk region on Tuesday. According to the preliminary information, three people were killed and two more injured, the Luhansk Regional Military-Civilian Administration has said. "A vehicle carrying servicemen from the 80th brigade was blown up on the road between residential areas of Novotoshkivske and Hirske today, on March 1. According to the preliminary information, three servicemen were killed and two suffered injuries," the administration wrote.

"Circumstances of the tragic incident are being investigated," head of the Luhansk region military-civilian administration Heorhiy Tuka said.

<http://en.interfax.com.ua/news/general/328356.html>

<http://uatoday.tv/news/three-ukrainian-soldiers-killed-14-wounded-in-donbas-in-last-day-602725.html>

ATO HQ: 47 attacks on Ukraine troops in last day, 02.03.2016

Near the Svitlodarsk bridgehead, the enemy fired 82mm mortars on the Ukrainian position in the village of Mayorsk, as well as rocket-propelled grenades and heavy machine guns in the villages of Zaitseve and Novhorodske. Not far from the temporarily occupied Donetsk, the militants fired different types of weapons on the Ukrainian positions in the villages of Opytne, Pisky, and Avdiyivka. The situation was tense near the towns of Maryinka and Krasnohorivka. "Violating the Minsk agreements, the militants fired mortars on our positions in the villages of Talakivka, Chermalyk, Hnutove, Nevelske and the town of Krasnohorivka. During the last 24 hours, the terrorists attacked Ukrainian soldiers eight times there and launched 58 missiles on them," the press center said. The militants decreased the intensity of shelling at midnight.

<http://ukrainianwall.com/english-news/ato-hq-47-attacks-on-ukraine-troops-in-last-day/>

Minsk talks result in agreement to de-mine line of contact in eastern Ukraine, 02.03.2016

Negotiations over fighting in eastern Ukraine have resulted in an agreement to de-mine the line of contact and end military exercises in the conflict zone. That announcement comes after the trilateral group of representatives from Ukraine, Russia and the OSCE held talks in Minsk. But further progress which was expected on freeing Ukrainians held by Russian-backed separatist forces failed to materialize. The talks come ahead of Thursday's meeting of foreign ministers from Ukraine, Russia, France and Germany. The Donbas conflict will dominate their agenda.

<http://uatoday.tv/politics/minsk-talks-result-in-agreement-to-de-mine-line-of-contact-in-eastern-ukraine-602780.html>

Militants attack ATO troops 62 times in last day, use mortars more often, 03.03.2016

"In the Donetsk sector, the terrorists carried out 34 attacks on the Ukrainian fortified positions. The Russian-backed mercenaries fired grenade launchers of different systems and large-caliber machine guns on ATO positions near the villages of Troyitske, Opytne, Pisky, Zaitseve, Luhanske and the town of Krasnohorivka," the report says. In the Mariupol sector, the militants fired 82mm and 120mm mortars on the Ukrainian positions near the villages of Hnutove and Talakivka, as well as infantry fighting vehicles near the villages of Novotroyitske and Hranitne. They also fired grenade launchers of various systems and heavy machine guns on the Ukrainian fortified positions near the town of Maryinka, the press center said.

<http://www.unian.info/war/1281602-militants-attack-ato-troops-62-times-in-last-day-use-mortars-more-often.html>

Militants fire Grads on ATO forces at dawn, 03.03.2016

It is noted that at least 10 missiles were launched on ATO forces in each case. "This morning, the militants used Grad multiple rocket launchers against ATO forces. They fired rocket artillery on the Ukrainian positions in the town of Krasnohorivka from the temporarily occupied city of Donetsk," the report says. According to the Minsk agreements, Grad systems should have been withdrawn for at least 21 km from the demarcation line.

http://www.fm-tv.kiev.ua/main_news/72238/view/

UN Human Rights Monitoring Mission warns of re-escalation of hostilities in Donbas, 03.03.2016

The Mission stresses that the conflict continues to cause civilian casualties. Between November 16, 2015 and February 15, 2016, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) recorded 78 conflict-related civilian casualties in eastern Ukraine: 21 killed (13 men and eight women), and 57 injured (41 men, eight women, six boys and two girls) – compared with 178 civilian casualties recorded (47 killed and 131 injured) during the previous reporting period of August 16 - November 15, 2015. Overall, the average monthly number of civilian casualties during the reporting period was among the lowest since the beginning of the conflict, according to the report. Furthermore, it is reported that people living in the conflict-affected area shared with OHCHR that they feel abandoned, particularly in villages located in the 'grey' or 'buffer' zone.

<http://www.unian.info/war/1282290-un-human-rights-monitoring-mission-warns-of-re-escalation-of-hostilities-in-donbas.html>

http://www.un.org.ua/images/stories/13th_OHCHR_Report_ENG_-_3_March.pdf

Militants attack ATO troops 57 times in last day, 04.03.2016

"The Russian-backed terrorists fired grenade launchers of various calibers and heavy machine guns on our positions. They fired the Zu-23 anti-aircraft gun on the Ukrainian positions near Luhanske," the report says. The militants also fired grenade launchers of various calibers, heavy machine guns, and small arms on the Ukrainian fortified positions near Maryinka.

<http://uatoday.tv/politics/militants-attack-ato-troops-57-times-in-last-day-603929.html>

<http://uatoday.tv/politics/ukraine-accuses-russian-backed-separatist-forces-of-violating-minsk-peace-accords-603301.html>

Russia deploys Grad-K systems near Horlivka – Ukraine intel, 04.03.2016

RF deployed Grad-K multiple rocket launchers near the town of Horlivka; it also continues to supply terrorists in Donbas with fuel and ammunition.

<http://www.fastnewsnation.com/story/1748529/russia-deploys-gradk-systems-near-horlivka-ukraine-intel.html>

<http://www.unian.info/war/1283115-ukraine-intel-says-russia-may-resort-to-amphibious-assault-on-azov-coast.html>

Two Ukrainian soldiers killed in skirmishes with Russian-backed forces, 05.03.2016

Two Ukrainian soldiers were killed in skirmishes with Russian-backed separatist forces near Mariupol. At least 5 servicemen were injured in the past 24 hours.

<http://uatoday.tv/politics/two-ukrainian-soldiers-killed-five-wounded-in-donbas-in-last-day-604688.html>

Militants incur heavy losses near Mariupol – staff, 05.03.2016

Military clashes between the Ukrainian military and the enemy sabotage groups occurred in the Mariupol direction resulting in 30 pro-Russian militants being killed, according to the presidential administration's speaker for ATO, Andriy Lysenko.

<http://www.weeklynewsbrochure.com/news/3457443/militants-incur-heavy-losses-near-mariupol-staff.html>

<http://uatoday.tv/politics/ukraine-says-russian-backed-separatist-forces-suffer-heavy-losses-near-mariupol-604820.html>

52 attacks on Ukraine troops in last day, most in Donetsk sector, 06.03.2016

"The Russian-backed mercenaries fired mortars and large-caliber artillery on ATO forces and launched about 150 missiles and 22 shells. The most difficult situation was near the town of Avdiyivka. The enemy fired grenade launchers of various systems, heavy machine guns and small arms on the Ukrainian fortified positions near the villages of Novhorodske, Troyitske, Luhanske, Shyrokyne, Mayorsk, Zaitseve and Novozvanivka. In addition, the snipers were firing near the villages of Pisky and Starohnativka," the report says.

<http://uatoday.tv/news/52-attacks-on-ukraine-troops-in-last-day-most-in-donetsk-sector-605027.html>

Russian proxies attack Ukrainian troops 43 times in last day, 09.03.2016

The combined Russian-separatist forces attacked Ukrainian army positions in eastern Ukraine 43 times in the past 24 hours, including 37 times in the Donetsk sector and five times in the Mariupol sector, the ATO press center reported. The terrorists fired mortars 12 times on the Ukrainian fortified positions near the villages of Opytne, Luhanske, Zaitseve and the town of Avdiyivka. Ukrainian troops were under mortar fire near Butivka coal mine and the Zenit position.

<http://uatoday.tv/news/russian-proxies-attack-ukrainian-troops-43-times-in-last-day-606592.html>

Militants attack Ukrainian troops 49 times in last day, 10.03.2016

In the Donetsk sector, the terrorists attacked Ukrainian fortified positions 42 times in the last day. "The situation was most tense near the town of Avdiyivka where the enemy fired different types of weapons on our positions. At about 21:00 local time, the militants started firing 122mm self-propelled guns and launched 10 missiles. In addition, they fired 120mm mortars on our troops," the report says.

<http://uatoday.tv/politics/militants-attack-ukrainian-troops-49-times-in-last-day-607321.html>

Ukrainian positions targeted dozens of times with mortars, shelling, sniper fire, 11.03.2016

47 militant attacks were recorded in eastern Ukraine overnight

The combined Russian-separatist forces attacked Ukrainian army positions in eastern Ukraine 47 times in the past 24 hours, using banned tank shells and mortars, the military press center reported. The town of Avdiyivka remains the most hot and dangerous spot in the Donetsk sector. In the last day, the Russian terrorists fired mortars six times on the Ukrainian positions. At 19:30 local time, they fired tank shells thrice on the Ukrainian Army forces. The militants fired grenade launchers and large-caliber machine guns on the Ukrainian fortified positions near the village of Zaitseve. In addition, an enemy sniper was working there.

<http://uatoday.tv/news/militants-fire-tank-shells-and-mortars-on-ato-forces-hot-spot-in-avdiyivka-608047.html>

http://joinfo.com/world/1015202_ato-latest-news-two-ukrainian-soldiers-were-killed-and-one-wounded-in-hostilities-in-eastern-ukraine.html

One serviceman killed, three injured over latest 24 hours in ATO zone, 11.03.2016

Spokesman of the Presidential Administration Oleksandr Motuzyanyk on the ATO issues told journalists: "Over the latest 24 hours because of fighting one Ukrainian soldier was killed and three of our servicemen were wounded. An incident occurred outside the village Kodyma - our one soldier was injured when illegal military groups opened gunfire," he said. According to Motuzyanyk, yesterday outside the town of Avdiyivka, 30 km north of Donetsk city, our three servicemen stepped on a hidden stringed grenade- one soldier was killed, and another two were injured.

http://www.fm-tv.kiev.ua/main_news/71318/view/

Russian proxies attack ATO troops 75 times in last day, 12.03.2016

The terrorists fired mortars 12 times on the Ukrainian positions near the towns of Krasnohorivka and Avdiyivka, the villages of Opytne, Pisky, Zaitseve and Nevelske in the Donetsk sector, as well as the town of Maryinka and the village of Chermalyk in the Mariupol sector. The militants fired tank shells and infantry fighting vehicles twice on ATO forces near Avdiyivka. At about 18:00 local time, they started firing 122mm self-propelled artillery systems on the Ukrainian positions, the press center said. The occupiers also fired infantry fighting vehicles, rocket-propelled grenades and heavy machine guns on the Ukrainian fortified positions near the villages of Novhorodske and Luhanske. The Russian-backed mercenaries fired grenade launchers of various systems, large-caliber machine guns and small arms on ATO forces near the villages of Pisky, Opytne, Zaitseve, and Mayorsk. In the Mariupol sector, the militants fired grenade launchers and machine guns on the Ukrainian positions near the town of Maryinka, the villages of Vodiane and Shyrokyne. Provoking the Ukrainian military to fire back, the invaders shelled toward ATO positions near the town of Krasnohorivka, the villages of Opytne, Troyitske, Hranitne and Novozvanivka.

<http://ukrainianwall.com/english-news/russian-proxies-attack-ato-troops-75-times-in-last-day/>

ATO HQ: 70 attacks on Ukraine troops in last day, 12.03.2016

A record number of attacks in recent weeks has been reported in the Donetsk direction where the combined Russian-separatist forces attacked Ukrainian army positions 62 times, as well as 8 times in the Mariupol sector and one time in the Luhansk sector, ATO press center reported.
<http://www.weeklyreportage.com/bulletin/ato-hq-70-attacks-on-ukraine-troops-in-last-day/1677172.html>

First death sentence pronounced in "DPR", 12.03.2016

"Such decisions are difficult to make. We already have verdicts to capital punishment. To date, there has been only one such verdict," said "acting chairman of the military tribunal" of the "DPR" Lyudmila Strateychuk, according to the report. According to her, "the man sentenced to death has committed crimes against civilians, he was also indicted of covering up crimes, acquisition and possession of weapons and a number of other grand offenses."

http://www.fm-tv.kiev.ua/main_news/71369/view/

Militants attack ATO troops 44 times in last day, situation still tense, 14.03.2016

The combined Russian-separatist forces attacked Ukrainian army positions in eastern Ukraine 44 times in the past 24 hours, including 38 times in the Donetsk sector, five times in the Mariupol sector and once in the Luhansk sector, the ATO press center reported.

<http://www.breakingnewspoint.com/story/2724093/militants-attack-ato-troops-44-times-in-last-day-situation-still-tense.html>
<http://www.ukrinform.net/rubric-defense/1981461-ato-militants-use-heavy-artillery-to-shell-ato-forces-near-avdiivka.html>

Militants launch 42 attacks on Ukrainian troops, 15.03.2016

The militants shelled the ATO troops in eastern Ukraine 42 times over the past day. In particular, 29 attacks were launched in Donetsk direction, 12 attacks were launched in Mariupol direction and one attack was launched in Luhansk direction. This is reported by the ATO press center. "The Ukrainian strongholds In Zaitseve [67km north-north-east of Donetsk] came under fire from 120mm and 82 mm mortars, grenade launchers and machine guns. The terrorists used grenade launchers, heavy machine guns and small arms to shell our positions in Novhorodske [34km north of Donetsk] and Mayorske [45km north of Donetsk]," reads the statement.

<http://www.ukrinform.net/rubric-defense/1982096-militants-launch-42-attacks-on-ukrainian-troops.html>

Ukrainian military says '100 Russian servicemen' spotted near Dokuchaevsk', 15.03.2016

At least one hundred Russian servicemen have been spotted near Dokuchaevsk, according to ATO spokesman. This comes as the OSCE, the EU's watchdog on the ground in eastern Ukraine, plans to inspect a water filtration station on militant-occupied territory in Donetsk. The filtration plant has been coming under fire from Russian-backed separatist forces in recent days. If destroyed it would leave around 400,000 residents without water.

<http://uatoday.tv/news/company-of-russian-commandos-spotted-near-dokuchaevsk-in-donbas-ukraine-intel-610462.html>

Latest from OSCE Special Monitoring Mission (SMM) to Ukraine, 15.03.2016

The SMM observed numerous ceasefire violations in Donetsk region.[1] Positioned in "DPR"-controlled Donetsk city centre during the night of 13 March, between 18:06 and 23:17hrs[2], the SMM heard eight undetermined explosions 7-10km to the north-west. Positioned at "DPR"-controlled Donetsk central railway station (6km north-west of Donetsk city centre) between 07:55 and 10:27hrs the following day, the SMM heard 12 undetermined explosions, nine bursts and 15 single shots of small-arms fire, and one burst of heavy-machine-gun fire at locations 4-8km north-west, north-north-west, north-north-east, north-east and east-north-east. Positioned near government-controlled Mykolaivka (44km north-west of Donetsk) between 11:30 and 11:45hrs, the SMM heard what it assessed as at least eight 152mm artillery round impacts approximately 20km east-south-east. Positioned west of "DPR"-controlled Yasynuvata (16km north-east of Donetsk) between 8:00 and 12:45hrs, the SMM heard 33 undetermined explosions and two bursts of heavy-machine-gun fire 0.8-3km west and south-west. Positioned in nearby government-controlled Avdiivka (17km north of Donetsk) between 11:26 and 13:10hrs, the SMM observed what it assessed as nine 82mm mortar impacts 3-4km east.

<http://www.osce.org/ukraine-smm/227866>

Militants attack ATO troops 42 times in last day, 16.03.2016

"The epicenter of events was near the villages of Novotroyitske, Zaitseve and Troyitske. In breach of the existing Minsk agreements, the Russian-backed mercenaries fired 120mm and 82mm mortars on ATO forces, having launched about 100 mines," the report says. "The militants fired heavy machine guns, rocket-propelled grenades and small arms on the Ukrainian positions near the town of Avdiyivka. In addition to these types of weapons, they fired from infantry fighting vehicles on the Ukrainian fortified positions near the villages of Novhorodske and Luhanske. In the Mariupol direction, the enemy attacked Ukrainian fortified positions near the village of Shyrokyne," the press center said.

<http://www.unian.info/war/1291329-militants-attack-ato-troops-42-times-in-last-day.html>

Train with ammo from Russia arrives in Ilovaysk - Ukraine Intel, 16.03.2016

Railway train carrying ammunition for small arms and artillery systems has arrived in the militant-occupied town of Ilovaysk, according to the Main Intelligence Directorate of the Ukrainian Defense Ministry.

<http://www.technewscoverage.com/news/train-with-ammo-from-russia-arrives-in-ilovaysk-ukraine-intel.html>

Russian troops in Crimea show off near administrative border with Ukraine – border guards, 16.03.2016

On March 16, the Russian occupation forces in Crimea resorted to a demonstrative deployment of military equipment close to the administrative border with Ukraine, State Border Guard Service press secretary Oleh Slobodian said at a briefing in Kyiv.

<http://myinforms.com/en-af/a/27479759-russian-troops-in-crimea-show-off-near-administrative-border-with-ukraine--border-guards/>

Bodies of 60 Russian military shipped from Donbas to Russia in five days – Ukraine intel, 17.03.2016

Ukraine's military intelligence revealed other losses of the 1st Army Corps units (Donetsk) of the Russian armed forces that were participating in military clashes in the Volnovakha and Donetsk sectors. "On March 16, six soldiers of the 11th separate motorized rifle regiment were killed and another seven were wounded. At the same time, eight soldiers of the 3rd separate motorized rifle brigade (Horlivka) were wounded," the report says.

<http://ukrainianwall.com/english-news/bodies-of-60-russian-military-shipped-from-donbas-to-russia-in-five-days-ukraine-intel/>

Militants launch 52 attacks on Ukrainian troops, 17.03.2016

This is reported by the ATO press center. "The tensest situation was observed in Zaitseve [67km north-north-east of Donetsk] and Avdiyivka [18km north of Donetsk], where the Ukrainian positions came under fire from all types of weapons, including 120mm and 82mm mortars banned by the Minsk Agreements," reads the report.

In addition, the militants used grenade launchers and heavy machine guns to shell Ukrainian troops in Novhorodske (34km north of Donetsk) and Mayorske (45km north of Donetsk).

<http://www.ukrinform.net/rubric-defense/1983577-militants-launch-52-attacks-on-ukrainian-troops.html>

Terrorists conducted 42 cases of shelling yesterday; 200 missiles launched by enemy near Luhanske, - Staff, 18.03.2016

"Having decreased its combat activity near Avdiivka and the Donetsk airport, Russian mercenaries increased the volume of shelling upon ATO forces' strong points after 5 p.m. near other villages and towns along the entire demarcation line. The total of 42 cases of fire were recorded, 27 of them at Donetsk direction, and 15 at Mariupol direction," the message reads. According to the staff, militants used mortars of 82-mm caliber to intensively shell positions near Luhanske, having fired about 200 missiles; in between mortar shelling, they were firing from IFVs, an anti-aircraft mount, grenade launchers of various systems, and machine guns of large caliber. Strong points near Zaitseve were sprayed by Russian terrorists from mortars of 120-mm and 82-mm caliber, with subsequent use of machine guns and small arms.

http://en.censor.net.ua/news/379733/terrorists_conducted_42_cases_of_shelling_yesterday_200_missiles_launched_by_enemy_near_luhanske_staff

Militants launch military hospital with Russian doctors in Debaltseve – Intel, 19.03.2016

"Given the substantial death toll and the number of the wounded, the command of Russian occupation forces is strengthening its medical capacities of the 1st and 2nd Army Corps of Russian Armed Forces. A military hospital is launched based at the central city hospital in Debaltseve (Luhanska Street), with most of the medical staff having come from Russia," reads the intelligence statement. The Ukrainian officials added that, in order to prevent or limit the leaks of information about the losses of the Russian troops, the wounded and sick soldiers of the Armed Forces of the Russian Federation are treated at a separate hospital unit occupying the entire second floor of the hospital.

<http://www.unian.info/war/1294821-militants-launch-military-hospital-with-russian-doctors-in-debaltseve-intel.html>

Russian proxies intensify fire on Ukraine after OSCE mission leaves for base, 19.03.2016

After an OSCE Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine completed its work in Donbas and left for the permanent base on Saturday, March 19, Russian proxies started shelling Ukrainian troops at 17:00 local time, having intensified fire, according to the ATO press center.

<http://www.kyivpost.com/article/content/ukraine-politics/ukraine-today-russian-proxies-intensify-fire-on-ukraine-after-osce-mission-leaves-for-base-410383.html>

<http://www.unian.info/war/1295238-ukraine-intel-russias-command-in-donbas-masterminds-campaign-to-discredit-osce.html>

Ukraine intel: Hardware for DDoS attacks on Ukrainian media brought to Donetsk, 19.03.2016

The Ukrainian Defense Ministry's GUR Main Intelligence Department warns against cyber attacks on Ukrainian media websites, as the Russian occupiers have brought a powerful hardware and software complex to the occupied city of Donetsk, which is designed for distributed cyberattacks such as "Denial of Service" (DDoS).

<http://www.onlinenewsplanet.com/news/2083199/ukraine-intel-hardware-for-ddos-attacks-on-ukrainian-media-brought-to-donetsk.html>

Latest daily casualties in ATO: two servicemen killed, another two injured, 21.03.2016

Spokesman of the Presidential Administration of Ukraine for the ATO Col. Andriy Lysenko told a briefing in Kyiv. "Over the past 24-hour period two Ukrainian soldiers were killed and another two were injured in the ATO zone," said Lysenko.

<http://www.ukrinform.net/rubric-defense/1985867-latest-daily-casualties-in-ato-two-servicemen-killed-another-two-injured-one-soldier-died-of-injuries-in-usa.html>

32 attacks on Ukraine troops in last day, 21.03.2016

The combined Russian-separatist forces attacked Ukrainian army positions in eastern Ukraine 32 times in the past 24 hours, including 28 times in the Donetsk sector, twice in the Mariupol sector, and once in the Luhansk sector, according to press center of the Anti-Terrorist Operation (ATO). "At about 20:00 local time, militants' tanks attacked our positions near the town of Avdiyivka and launched 12 shells, then [the enemy] used infantry fighting vehicles, an anti-aircraft gun and rocket-propelled grenades," the ATO HQ said. The Russian-backed terrorists fired 82mm mortars, rocket-propelled grenades and machine guns on the Ukrainian fortified positions near the village of Luhanske, as well as mortars, infantry fighting vehicles' guns and heavy machine guns near the town of Svitlodarsk.

<http://uatoday.tv/news/32-attacks-on-ukraine-troops-in-last-day-614539.html>

Russia sends 50th 'humanitarian convoy' to Donbas, 21.03.2016

According to the report, the trucks have set off from Noginsk rescue center in Moscow region, which will be part of the 50th "humanitarian" batch to Donbas. It is reported that the convoy will deliver more than 1,100 tonnes of humanitarian aid. The cargo reportedly includes food: canned food, flour, sugar, cereals, pasta, butter, puree, juice. The column will also deliver the seeds of crops for the spring sowing campaign. The Ukrainian side has repeatedly stressed that all freight coming from Russia in such convoys, which Moscow calls "humanitarian," entered the territory of Ukraine illegally, without the consent of the government, in violation of national laws and internationally accepted practices.

<http://uatoday.tv/news/russia-sends-50th-humanitarian-convoy-to-donbas-614503.html>

Russian officers in Donbas eliminate deserters – Ukraine intel, 21.03.2016

Seven Russian soldiers stationed in the militant-held town of Avdiyivka have attempted to desert, and one of them has been killed by a Russian officer when the victim was trying to surrender to the Ukrainian armed forces, according to the Ukrainian Defense Ministry's defense intelligence service. Significant losses and the risk of being engaged in an offensive cause the low morale of the Russian soldiers of the 1st Army Corps of the Russian armed forces, who are at the forefront. <http://www.unian.info/war/1295907-russian-officers-in-donbas-eliminate-deserters-ukraine-intel.html>

Militants concentrate fire in Donetsk, Mariupol sectors – ATO HQ, 22.03.2016

"Violating the existing Minsk agreements, the Russian-backed mercenaries fired 82mm mortars on the Ukrainian positions near the village of Luhanske and the Zenit fortified position in the vicinity of the town of Avdiyivka, having launched four mines," the report says. The militants fired heavy machine guns and rocket-propelled grenades on the Ukrainian fortified positions near the villages of Zaitseve and Mayorsk, as well as the town of Avdiyivka. They also opened fire from small arms on ATO forces in the town of Maryinka. "An enemy sniper attacked Ukrainian army positions near Mayorsk and Luhanske," the press center said. http://www.fm-tv.kiev.ua/main_news/72868/view/

Donbas seeing considerable escalation along entire contact line in last day, 23.03.2016

The combined Russian-separatist forces attacked Ukrainian army positions in eastern Ukraine 44 times in the past 24 hours, violating the Minsk agreements and using banned weapons. In addition, the Russian-backed mercenaries fired 82mm mortars on the Ukrainian positions near the villages of Pisky and Opytne, as well as 120mm and 82mm mortars on the Ukrainian troops in the town of Avdiyivka. At about 19:00 local time, a tank was used for an attack, it fired 12 shells. The enemy also used 122mm artillery to shell the Zenit position and launched four shells. The enemy fired grenade launchers of various systems and small arms 38 times on the Ukrainian fortified positions in the Donetsk sector. http://www.fm-tv.kiev.ua/main_news/72927/view/

UN identifies nearly 180 foreign mercenaries in Donbas, 24.03.2016

This is said in the statement of the United Nations Working Group on mercenaries. "The expert group was informed by the authorities of Ukraine of at least 176 identified foreigners serving in armed groups of the self-proclaimed 'Donetsk people's republic' and the self-proclaimed 'Luhansk people's republic'," the statement says. Reportedly, at the end of the official five-day visit to the country, the experts revealed that human rights violations were committed at the hands of not only mercenaries, but also other foreign fighters. The foreign armed actors range from volunteers to paid service men and women, and from independent militia members to professional military, reads the statement. These reportedly include large numbers from the Russian Federation, Serbia, Belarus, France and Italy, among others. <http://www.ukrinform.net/rubric-defense/1987969-un-identifies-nearly-180-foreign-mercenaries-in-donbas.html>

ATO HQ reports 53 attacks on Ukraine troops in last day, 24.03.2016

"The Russian-backed mercenaries fired mortars and large-caliber artillery on ATO forces and launched about 150 missiles and 22 shells. The most difficult situation was near the town of Avdiyivka. The enemy fired grenade launchers of various systems, heavy machine guns and small arms on the Ukrainian fortified positions near the villages of Novhorodske, Troyitske, Luhanske, Shyrokyne, Mayorsk, Zaitseve and Novozvanivka. In addition, the snipers were firing near the villages of Pisky and Starohnativka," the report says. The situation remains tense near the town of Maryinka. The Maryinka checkpoint was attacked by an enemy sniper, the press center said. "The militants fired mortars on our fortified positions near the Zenit position on the outskirts of Avdiyivka, as well as from the temporarily occupied town of Pervomaisk on the village of Bohuslavske. The terrorists also fired rocket-propelled grenades and heavy machine guns on the Ukrainian positions near the villages of Pisky, Opytne, Luhanske, Novozvanivka and Troyitske. The intensity of shelling decreased at midnight," the report reads. <http://ukrainianwall.com/english-news/ato-hq-52-attacks-on-ukraine-troops-in-last-day-most-in-donetsk-sector/>

Fierce fighting near Avdiyivka: intel reports on 6 Russian KIAs in 2 days, 24.03.2016

"More losses are recorded at the units of 11th separate motorized rifle regiment (Makiyivka) and 3rd separate motorized rifle brigade (Horlivka) of the 1st Army Corps (Donetsk) of the Russian Armed Forces, participating in hostilities near Avdiyivka. Six Russian soldiers were killed on March 22-23, and another five were seriously wounded," the Ukrainian military intelligence says.

Later on Thursday, a video of an intense combat action overnight, when the ATO forces-held industrial zone near Avdiyivka was encircled by the enemy, was published on the Internet, according to a volunteer activist Vitalii Deynega. "A 500-meter long road connecting the city and the industrial area was shelled with 152mm howitzers. Sabotage and reconnaissance groups penetrated the groves on each flank. The passage for any reserves to come in was hindered," reads his posting. The volunteer said that the shelling of the Ukrainian positions came from all directions: a tank engaged, as well as 120-mm mortars, 152-mm howitzers, and grenade launchers of different types.

<http://www.unian.info/war/1299509-fierce-fighting-near-avdiyivka-intel-reports-on-6-russian-kias-in-2-days.html>

Attacks on Ukraine troops in Mariupol sector grow to 14 on Thursday, 24.03.2016

"The variety of attacks in the Mariupol sector has actually boosted compared with the previous day. If there were 4 the day previously, the previous 24 Hr saw 14 [The previous 24 hrs saw 4 [there were 4 the day previously attacks]," the ATO press establishment stated. The opponent was shelling the towns of Staromykhailivka, Trudivske, as well as Kaplany, utilizing primarily infantry combating automobiles as well as automated explosive launchers. The towns were likewise under sniper fire. In overall, the consolidated Russian-separatist pressures assaulted Ukrainian military placements in eastern Ukraine 52 times in the previous 24 Hr, consisting of 38 times in the Donetsk sector. The opponent regularly assaulted the communities of Avdiyivka as well as Maryinka, the towns of Mayorsk, Zaitseve, Luhanske, utilizing 120mm as well as 82mm mortars, grenade launchers of various softwares as well as little arms|little arms as well as various softwares. Ukrainian troops reported that an opponent Kamaz vehicle had actually been ruined when they terminated back in among the instructions. The ATO press establishment worries that the variety of opponent attacks has actually not reduced, as well as the Ukrainian militaries remain to securely protect their placements.

<http://journalfocus.com/2016/03/attacks-on-ukraine-troops-in-mariupol-sector-grow-to-14-on-thursday/>

Ukraine crisis: 'Russian soldier's' lawyer found dead, 24.03.2016

Yuriy Hrabovsky's body was found in a forest 125km (78 miles) south of Kiev.

He represented Alexander Alexandrov, who was captured in eastern Ukraine with Yevgeny Yerofeyev last May. They are accused of waging war against Ukrainian troops. Russia says they were volunteers who had left active service.

<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-35899487>

Militants massing in Yasynuvata for new attacks near Avdiyivka, 25.03.2016

It reports that the militants' target is the industrial area near Avdiyivka. The combat activity was on the rise near Avdiyivka at night as the enemy was firing artillery systems on the area. The militants are most likely to be preparing for new attacks. Reports on the Ukrainian army's casualties are not precise – from 13 to 17 Ukrainian soldiers were reported to have been wounded in the past two days of the fighting. Two soldiers were in a critical condition. Prior to that, the Ukrainian armed forces seized two militant trucks, which had been left on the battlefield.

http://www.fm-tv.kiev.ua/main_news/73056/view/

Ukraine intel names Russian general heading 'missile forces' in Donbas, 25.03.2016

The Ukrainian intelligence has found out that Major General of the Russian Armed Forces Stepan Yaroshchuk is directly responsible for the combat use of the missile troops in the occupied territories of Donbas, as well as shelling of the Ukrainian troops and civilians, according to the Main Intelligence Directorate of the Ukrainian Defense Ministry.

<http://romaninukraine.com/ukraine-intel-names-russian-general-heading-missile-forces-in-donbas/>

Militants continue to use banned weapons, hot spot near Avdiyivka, 26.03.2016

"In the last day, the militants fired 39 times on the Ukrainian positions in Donbas, using 82mm and 120mm mortars, infantry fighting vehicles, hand-held and automatic grenade launchers, heavy machine guns, as well as small arms," the report says. The situation was most tense near the town of Avdiyivka. The militants fired 120mm mortars, grenade launchers of various systems and heavy machine guns eight times on the Ukrainian positions. The enemy snipers were also working there. The Ukrainian troops had to fire back six times in order to hold their positions in this area. In the Donetsk sector, the occupiers combined fire near the villages of Luhanske, Novhorodske, Mayorsk, Zaitseve, Leninske, Pisky, and Opytne. They also attacked Ukrainian army positions six times in the Mariupol sector. In particular, the militants used rocket-propelled grenades and small arms near the towns of Maryinka and Krasnohorivka.

<http://uaposition.com/latest-news/militants-continue-to-use-banned-weapons-hot-spot-near-avdiyivka/>

Russian-Backed Separatists Reportedly Try To "Storm" Avdeyevka, North Of Donetsk, 27.03.2016

"Shelling does not cease near Avdiyivka. During the reported period, the enemy has launched fire six times using mortars, grenade launchers, machine guns and large-caliber firearms," a statement reads. Also, illegal armed groups tried to storm one of the strongholds of the ATO forces near Avdiyivka. Ukrainian servicemen had to open retaliation fire, forcing a sabotage and reconnaissance group of six militants to retreat. No casualties among Ukrainian forces have been reported, information on enemy casualties is being clarified, the press center said. According to the ATO headquarters, in the Mariupol direction, militants used anti-tank guided missiles and 120mm caliber mortars to shell the ATO forces near Novotroitske. According to Ukraine Today, "cannon artillery" has also been used against the Ukrainian military in the greater-Donetsk area for the first time in a very long time. The combined Russian-separatist forces attacked Ukrainian positions 44 times in the past 24 hours, according to a report.

<http://www.interpretemag.com/day-769-avdeyevka-under-attack-by-russian-backed-fighters-in-eastern-ukraine/>

ATO latest news: militants intensified attacks, used 152mm cannons in Donetsk region, the hottest spot in Avdiyivka, 28.03.2016

In Luhansk sector of ATO area militants violated the truce in the far east and west of the region – near the village of Bolotene in Stanychno-Luhansky district and the city of Popasna, Joinfo reports with reference to the information released today by Colonel Oleksandr Motuzyanyk, the spokesman of the Presidential Administration of Ukraine for ATO issues at the briefing in the Analytical-Information Center of the Ukrainian Security Service. In Donetsk sector the Russia-backed illegal armed groups again used artillery (152mm cannon). The incident took place in Mayorsk. Militants also continue strong mortar shelling on positions of the ATO forces – in the past 24 hours invaders fired on Ukrainian troops more than 230 shells (record number from last summer). The main "hot spots" were in Svitlodarsk district (the village of Luhanske), in the neighborhood of Horlivka (Zaitseve, Mayorsk, Lenine) and Avdiyivka. According to the Ukrainian military intelligence, a battery of enemy's Grads MRLS was deployed on the western outskirts of the village of Mineralne.

http://joinfo.com/world/1015660_ato-latest-news-militants-used-152mm-cannons-in-donetsk-region-the-hottest-spot-in-avdiyivka.html

<http://www.unian.info/war/1301796-militants-fire-grenade-launchers-mortars-on-ato-forces-near-avdiyivka.html>

Russia planning large-scale provocative shelling of ATO forces – Ukraine intel, 28.03.2016

"It has been established that in the period from March 29 to April 4, the command of the 1st (Donetsk) and 2nd (Luhansk) Army Corps of the Russian armed forces, under the guise of training exercises, is planning large-scale provocative shelling of ATO forces to cause the return fire," the report says. The intelligence says that the purpose of this move is to further accuse the Ukrainian side of violating the Minsk agreements and thus obtain grounds for the offensive.

<http://www.unian.info/war/1302048-russia-planning-large-scale-provocative-shelling-of-ato-forces-ukraine-intel.html>

<http://www.unian.info/politics/1302076-ukraine-intel-russia-plotting-to-discredit-osce-smm-deputy-chief.html>

Militant attacks on ATO forces increase, hot spot still in Avdiyivka, 29.03.2016

The militants attacked our positions 21 times there, using 120mm and 82mm mortars and 152mm artillery systems. In the last day, the Ukrainian servicemen opened fire in response 10 times in order to stop the enemy. "In general, the situation in the Donbas conflict zone remains tense and tends to escalate," the press center said.

http://www.fm-tv.kiev.ua/main_news/73174/view/

Getting hot in Donbas: Enemy fires 158 bombs at Zaitseve within 1.5 hours, 29.03.2016

"Enemy attacks in the Donetsk sector were aimed at Ukrainian troops in the villages of Luhanske, Mayorsk, Opytne and Novhorodske, and the town of Avdiyivka. But the hottest spot was the village of Zaitseve – Russian proxies had fired one hundred and fifty-eight 120mm and 82mm bombs at it within an hour and a half," the press center said. In total, the Russian-backed militants attacked Ukrainian troops in Donbas 33 times from 00:00 to 18.00 local time on

<http://www.unian.info/war/1303903-getting-hot-in-donbas-enemy-fires-158-bombs-at-zaitseve-within-15-hours.html>

<http://www.unian.info/war/1304165-militants-fire-mortars-on-ato-forces-residential-buildings.html>

"Time bomb": media reveal how Opposition Bloc MPs offer Ukraine to legalize "DPR-LPR", 30.03.2016

MTO Donbas, as an integral part of the territory of Ukraine is supposed to enjoy the status of inter-regional association with an independent state administration system, according to the draft law. The MTO is formed on a temporary basis and shall not be an independent subject of the system of administrative-territorial structure of Ukraine. The bill also stipulates that the authorities and local government of MTO Donbas decide on the establishment, structure, the number of units of people's militia for the protection of public order and coordinate their activities. The publication reports that, according to the bill, the supreme representative body in MTO Donbas shall be the Representative Assembly of MTO Donbas, which shall perform representative, rule-making, control functions and powers within its competence.

<http://www.unian.info/politics/1304558-time-bomb-media-reveals-how-opposition-bloc-mps-offer-ukraine-to-legalize-dpr-lpr.html>

Latest from OSCE Special Monitoring Mission (SMM) to Ukraine, 30.03.2016

The SMM observed a sharp increase in the number of ceasefire violations in Donetsk region. In Luhansk region the SMM recorded a low number of ceasefire violations. It facilitated dialogue within the Joint Centre for Control and Co-ordination. The SMM observed the marking of mined areas in the security zone. It followed up on reports of injured civilians. The Mission reached one border crossing point in areas not controlled by the Government. The SMM was restricted in its freedom of movement in areas not controlled by the Government, including in the border area.

<http://www.osce.org/ukraine-smm/230881>

Militants launch 77 attacks on ATO troops in eastern Ukraine, 31.03.2016

The illegal armed groups launched 77 attacks on the ATO troops in eastern Ukraine over the past day. This is reported by the ATO Headquarters press center.

It is noted that the militants continue to use the heavy weapons.

<http://en.uazmi.com/news/post/gJTDbXvJNRsv8PqQvKAoIa>

http://www.fm-tv.kiev.ua/main_news/73331/view/

Grenade thrown at MP Parasyuk's car late on Wed, 31.03.2016

"Someone has thrown a grenade at Parasyuk's car," Lutsenko wrote on Wednesday evening. He later wrote that the incident looked like "attempted murder."

"The grenade was thrown directly at the car, but branches [of a tree] did not let it hit the target. A RGD-type hand grenade was thrown after he had arrived home and parked his car.

Fortunately, it missed [and exploded] five meters away. It hit a nearby car," he wrote. "This means they had been following him, they knew where and approximately when he was to arrive. This is a serious case," he added.

http://www.fm-tv.kiev.ua/main_news/73333/view/

Pilot Savchenko

Savchenko may go on 'dry' hunger strike if not extradited to Ukraine, 01.03.2016

Ukrainian pilot, MP and member of the Ukrainian delegation to PACE Nadia Savchenko is ready to go on a 'dry' hunger strike, her sister Vira Savchenko said.

<http://www.kyivpost.com/article/content/ukraine-politics/unian-savchenko-may-go-on-dry-hunger-strike-if-not-extradited-to-ukraine-409141.html>

Prosecution argues Savchenko's guilt of Russian TV journalists murder proven, 02.03.2016

The state prosecution believes that the guilt of former Ukrainian military servicewoman Nadezhda Savchenko of complicity in the murder of Russian journalists is proven. "Using her skills and equipment Savchenko transmitted the whereabouts of the persons in question. The coordinates received from Savchenko were used to fire no less than six shells," the prosecutor said at a meeting of the Donetsk city court. The prosecutor also believes there is sufficient evidence Savchenko had crossed the Russian border illegally.

<http://tass.ru/en/politics/860110>

<http://tass.ru/en/society/860158>

<http://www.unian.info/society/1281013-savchenko-speech-in-court-this-trial-proves-guilt-of-russian-journalists.html>

<http://www.breakingnewspoint.com/story/2663794/savchenko-speaks-up-against-swap-for-gru-officers-threatens-her-sentence-to-be-posthumous.html>

Savchenko announces hunger strike after court postpones last hearing, 03.03.2016

Ukrainian pilot Nadia Savchenko said on Thursday that she was going on a 'dry' hunger strike after the Russian-based Donetsk city court in Rostov region suddenly announced it would postpone the hearing until March 9 without letting Savchenko deliver her final word.

<http://www.digitalnewsbuzz.com/report/savchenko-announces-hunger-strike-after-court-postpones-last-hearing/625195.html>

Savchenko says will stop hunger strike only if brought back to Ukraine "dead or alive", 04.03.2016

A dry hunger strike is a protest "against the actions of the Russian government, the Russian special services, the investigators, the court and the Prosecutor's Office, as they all try to conceal their crimes." Savchenko is positive that these agencies are responsible for the violation of international law, her abduction from Ukraine, forced transportation to the Russian Federation and her illegal holding in Russian prisons, as well as for the sham trial. "I forbid pulling me out of hunger strike here in the detention facility or anywhere else in Russia. I forbid any lab tests being taken from me and any medicines given. I forbid Russian doctors and prison staff touching me. I only agree to the examination by doctors from Ukraine and Europe," said Savchenko.

<http://ukrainianlaw.blogspot.com/2016/03/savchenko-says-will-stop-hunger-strike.html>

Lawyer calls for global campaign in Savchenko's defense, 05.03.2016

"Right now there comes a climax in the fight for Nadia Savchenko. We are under time pressure because of Nadia's hunger strike. I urge the Ukrainian communities around the world to get to the streets March 9, 2016, on the third GLOBAL DAY «FreeSavchenko» in the day of the court hearing. On the day when Taras Shevchenko was born! Remember that Savchenko may not survive dry hunger strike," Feygin said during a Shuster Live TV show.

<http://www.unian.info/politics/1283570-lawyer-calls-for-global-campaign-in-savchenkos-defense.html>

CIT: Nadiya Savchenko is innocent, and here's the proof, 06.03.2016

Moscow-based activist group Conflict Intelligence Team publishes results of investigation proving Ukrainian pilot is not guilty. On March 2, 2016, prosecutor asked the Russian court considering the case of Ukrainian pilot Nadiya Savchenko to sentence her to 23 years in a prison colony. Savchenko is accused of working as a spotter for Ukrainian artillery fire that killed Russian journalists Igor Kornelyuk and Anton Voloshin. However, videos provided by pro-Russian fighter Egor Russkiy who filmed the capture of Nadiya Savchenko contain undeniable proof that by the time Russian journalists were killed Nadiya had already been captured and thus is not guilty of their murder.

<http://uatoday.tv/society/cit-nadiya-savchenko-is-innocent-and-here-s-the-proof-605066.html>

<http://uatoday.tv/society/thousand-rally-in-kyiv-to-demand-savchenko-s-release-605138.html>

<https://bookhaven.stanford.edu/2016/03/nadia-savchenko-continues-her-hunger-strike-they-will-sentence-me-posthumously/>

Ukrainian consuls visit Savchenko, say her health has deteriorated, 07.03.2016

Ukrainian pilot Nadiya Savchenko has written a short statement saying she "doesn't want to wait for uncertainty" and she will be "freed on her own conditions." Savchenko is currently in her fourth day of 'dry' hunger strike which she vowed after a Russian court denied her final statement during the latest hearing in her case. Ukrainian Consul General Anatoliy Moskalenko and Consul Oleksandr Kovtun visited Savchenko in jail. They said her health is deteriorating, but she is conscious and reacts normally. The captive pilot refuses to undergo any medical tests until Ukrainian doctors arrive. She also refuses to stop her hunger strike, despite pleas from lawyers and officials.

<http://uatoday.tv/society/ukrainian-consuls-visit-savchenko-say-her-health-has-deteriorated-605678.html>

Russian authorities promise Ukrainian doctors' access to Savchenko, 08.03.2016

Kyiv has gained the Russian authorities' permission that enables a Ukrainian medical team to visit Ukrainian pilot Nadia Savchenko, who is on 'dry' hunger strike, at the detention facility, parliament member Iryna Heraschenko (Petro Poroshenko Bloc) has said. "A group of Ukrainian physicians will leave for meeting with Nadia Savchenko within hours; they will examine her and provide assistance. Ukrainian diplomats have finally gained a promise from the Russian authorities that our doctors will visit Nadia on March 9," Heraschenko wrote.

<http://en.interfax.com.ua/news/general/329423.html>

On Lubyanka square in Moscow detained participants of the rally in support Savchenko, 08.03.2016

Around 19:00 near the building of FSB on Lubyanka square, the police prevented the picket the activists, holding posters with slogans in support of Savchenko. According to one of the activists, the police took him to a police station three participants. Among the detainees there is a young man with disabilities. According to «OVD-info», in the square detained five activists: Vasily Nedopekin, Faith Lavrushina, Elena Zakharova, Mikhail Udinov and Alexander Makarov. Closer to the evening, reports «OVD-info», detainees began to release from the Department.

<http://en.news-4-u.ru/on-lubyanka-square-in-moscow-detained-participants-of-the-rally-in-support-savchenko.html>

Ukrainian journalists detained in Russia, 08.03.2016

Russian police held up a team of Ukrainian journalists from the STB channel for an allegedly unpaid fine. The police officers took away the journalists' documents and insist on questioning each of them, reports Anton Naumlyuk. "A car carrying a team of Ukrainian journalists covering Nadezhda Savchenko case has been pulled over (by a traffic police officer named Shestakov) in Russia's Kursk region," reads the message.

According to Naumlyuk, the detained have been in Russia for several days. Throughout this time, they have neither committed any offenses nor been fined.

<http://gha.com.ua/en/events-incidents/ukrainian-journalists-detained-in-russia/136334/>

Biden, Kerry call on Russia to release Savchenko, 08.03.2016

Last December, I had the great honor of addressing the Ukrainian Rada. I spoke to them about how, as members of Ukraine's parliament, they had the opportunity to write a new future for their country. But one Rada member was notably missing that day—Nadiya Savchenko. Instead, her photo hung from the speaker's podium as a reminder of her ongoing struggle. Nadiya has been unjustly imprisoned in Russia since 2014—detained and facing trial on trumped up charges. Nadiya was proudly serving her country as a member of the Ukrainian armed forces, fighting in the eastern part of the country when she was abducted by separatists and taken across the border against her will. During the past 20 months, she has become a symbol of Ukrainian national pride and strength. She was even elected to the Rada from her prison cell. Her unlawful continuing detention is a clear violation of Russia's commitment under the Minsk agreements, and she should be freed at once. Recently, Nadiya has begun a new hunger strike to protest her detention, and her health has begun to deteriorate after five days with no food or liquids.

<http://www.kyivpost.com/article/content/ukraine-politics/biden-kerry-call-on-russia-to-release-savchenko-409590.html>

Russian court to announce verdict on Savchenko case on March 21, 09.03.2016

The court hearing in Savchenko case lasted about 20 minutes in the Donetsk city court, Rostov region, Russia. "I want to set an example that you can make Russia and its totalitarian regime knuckle under, if you are not afraid," Savchenko said. The interpreter read out her final statement, published earlier. After that, the court announced that the verdict to Savchenko would be passed at 11:00 on March 21.

<http://www.ukrinform.net/rubric-politics/1978690-verdict-to-savchenko-to-be-announced-on-march-21.html>

Ukraine's Savchenko starts drinking water, but continues hunger strike, 10.03.2016

This was reported by Savchenko's lawyer Mark Feygin, who tweeted: "Just seen Nadiya. She has stopped a (dry) hunger strike following the request of President Petro Poroshenko and (her) countrymen." Another of Savchenko's lawyers Nikolai Polozov confirmed this information and stated on his Twitter: "Thank God, Nadiya Savchenko has stopped a dry hunger strike. Her decision was influenced by the request coming from Petro Poroshenko and all those who support her!"

<http://uatoday.tv/politics/ukraine-s-nadiya-savchenko-suspends-full-hunger-strike-607483.html>

<http://uatoday.tv/society/savchenko-defiant-606772.html>

<http://www.unian.info/society/1286469-savchenko-stops-dry-hunger-strike-at-poroshenkos-request.html>

<http://en.vnews.agency/news/politics/16087-no-letters-from-poroshenko-to-savchenko-tsegolko.html>

<http://uatoday.tv/society/ukrainian-president-s-letter-to-savchenko-turns-out-to-be-fake-607672.html>

http://en.censor.net.ua/news/378329/savchenko_ends_dry_hunger_strike_following_requests_of_her_supporters_and_ukrainian_president_lawyers

Federica Mogherini calls for 'immediate and unconditional release' of Savchenko, 10.03.2016

EU Foreign Policy Chief calls on Russia to set Ukrainian pilot and MP free

According to the E.U. spokesperson, Mogherini demanded the Russian government to set Savchenko free, following similar calls from other officials. "Last night, High Representative Vice-President Federica Mogherini issued a statement very clearly calling for the release of Ukrainian pilot Nadiya Savchenko, an immediate and unconditional release which would be in line not only with Russia's international human rights commitments but also in line in the spirit of the package of Minsk agreements and commitments that that are contained in this package", Mogherini's spokeswoman Maja Kocijancic told a news briefing in Brussels.

<http://uatoday.tv/politics/mogherini-calls-on-russia-to-free-ukrainian-pilot-607595.html>

<http://uatoday.tv/society/nadiya-savchenko-supporters-organize-actions-all-over-the-world-607558.html>

<http://uatoday.tv/politics/rfe-rl-russian-activists-in-st-petersburg-moscow-demand-savchenko-s-release-607042.html>

Canada calls for immediate release of Nadiya Savchenko, 10.03.2016

The Honourable Stéphane Dion, Minister of Foreign Affairs, today issued the following statement: "I am gravely concerned about the health of Nadiya Savchenko, Ukrainian pilot, member of Ukraine's parliament and Member of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, who has been unlawfully detained by Russia since June 2014. She was put on trial in a Russian court, and on March 4, 2016, following the postponement by the court of her closing remarks, Ms. Savchenko, already on a hunger strike, began to refuse water. "Canada has repeatedly underlined that Ms. Savchenko's transfer to Russia was illegal, the charges brought against her politically motivated and her treatment during her detention a matter of grave concern. The court process has been marked by irregularities from the start.

<http://uatoday.tv/society/canada-calls-for-immediate-release-of-nadiya-savchenko-607651.html>

<http://uatoday.tv/society/polish-mps-demand-russia-free-ukrainian-fighter-pilot-savchenko-607111.html>

Savchenko's health status critical – lawyer, 11.03.2016

"Yesterday, she vomited the water, which she was trying to drink. In addition, her state of health is getting worse. Her old problem with kidney stones has worsened because of stress to the body in the form of hunger strike (especially dry). Her fever heat doesn't subside and it means that she has a serious inflammation of the internal organs. In other words, it is now an urgent need to conduct her medical examination," the lawyer said.

<http://uatoday.tv/politics/savchenko-s-health-status-critical-lawyer-608242.html>

<http://belsat.eu/en/news/lawyer-about-savchenko-s-health-situation-is-critical/>

'Nadiya Savchenko - one of the most striking people I've ever met', 11.03.2016

The American capital stood up with quality and quantity. Ukrainians and Americans collaborated for two peaceful protest against Nadiya unfaithful detention and gathered near the statue of Taras Shevchenko and then right next to the residence of Russian ambassador. Banners, flyers, loudspeakers and Ukrainian flags – all in front of a Russian embassy. The building is just a few blocks away from the White House. The protest was loud enough to be heard even there. "Putin, go away! Free Savchenko!"

This is another protest, in support of the Ukrainian pilot. It was next to the statue of Taras Shevchenko, in downtown Washington, D.C.. Hundreds of Ukrainians arrived with the same demand: Savchenko should be immediately released.

<http://uatoday.tv/society/quot-nadiya-savchenko-one-of-the-most-striking-people-i-ve-ever-met-quot-608209.html>

OSCE special envoy calls Savchenko's release integral part of implementing Minsk agreements, 11.03.2016

Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) Special Representative Martin Sajdik said, following the meeting of the Contact Group on the settlement of the situation in eastern Ukraine, that the issue of Savchenko's release makes integral part of the implementation of the Minsk agreements. "The issue of release of our pilot Nadia Savchenko was especially acute: this is integral part of the implementation of the Minsk agreements. OSCE Chairperson-in-Office's Special Representative Martin Sajdik also noted this," Darka Olifer, spokesperson of Ukrainian representative in the Contact Group Leonid Kuchma, posted.

<http://en.interfax.com.ua/news/general/330179.html>

Ukrainian doctors leave Russia without seeing Savchenko, 13.03.2016

Ukrainian medics were forced to leave Russia without seeing the Ukrainian military pilot and MP. One of Savchenko's defence lawyers Nikolai Polozov reported the news on Facebook. Savchenko's health deteriorated after going on hunger strike without water for several days.

<http://uatoday.tv/news/ukrainian-doctors-leave-russia-without-seeing-savchenko-609271.html>

<http://www.interpretermag.com/fighting-in-ukraine-hot-ukrainian-lawyers-leave-russia-without-visiting-nadiya-savchenko/>

Savchenko To Continue Hunger Strike As Court Delays Verdict, 15.03.2016

A defiant Savchenko declared that she would recognize neither the court nor its verdict, before she stood on a bench inside the cage for defendants and raised her middle finger in the direction of the judge.

Savchenko emphasized that she is willing to continue the no-food, no-water hunger strike no matter what happens, saying, "You must understand that we are playing with my life; the stakes are high and I have nothing to lose."

She also said a popular uprising similar to Ukraine's Euromaidan movement is inevitable in Russia, adding that Russian President Vladimir Putin "cannot hold on to power by means of people's blood."

<http://www.rferl.org/content/savchenko-trial-resumes-hunger-strike-russia-ukraine/27599787.html>

Sweden calls on Russia to immediately release Savchenko, other Ukrainian nationals, 15.03.2016

"I call on Russia to immediately release Nadia Savchenko and other Ukrainian nationals who have been illegally detained and held in custody in violation of the Minsk agreements," a press service quotes Wallstrom as saying. The foreign chief also said that Swedish Embassy in Moscow is following Savchenko's trial in the court room, and "encouraged others to do the same." "Russia must respect Ukraine's territorial integrity and sovereignty, and international law. The right to a fair trial is a basic human right," Wallstrom stressed.

<http://en.interfax.com.ua/news/general/330717.html>

Obama urges Putin to release Ukrainian pilot Savchenko, 16.03.2016

President Barack Obama has urged Russian President Vladimir Putin to release Ukrainian pilot Nadezhda Savchenko from Russian prison.

That's according to a senior Obama administration official who wasn't authorized to discuss the conversation by name and requested anonymity. The White House had previously disclosed that Obama and Putin spoke by phone. Savchenko was fighting with a Ukrainian volunteer battalion against Russia-backed rebels in eastern Ukraine when she was captured in June 2014. Russia claims she was acting as a spotter who called in coordinates for a mortar attack that killed two Russian journalists and several other civilians. She has gone on a hunger strike and refused to take water after a court hearing last Thursday. Rights advocates fear she could die if she kept refusing water.

<http://www.kaaltv.com/politics/obama-urges-putin-to-release-ukrainian-pilot-savchenko/4076395/>

Hard to call terms of Savchenko's return to Ukraine – lawyer, 16.03.2016

"I am in Kyiv and I would like to take the opportunity to voice a couple of my thoughts to the Ukrainians regarding the case of Nadia Savchenko. The issue of Savchenko's release is clear enough for me, however, its terms are critically important! After the verdict (there is no doubt that it will be a "guilty" verdict with severe punishment), Nadia is going to return to hunger strike. The actual situation with the release of Savchenko from captivity regarding its terms is uncertain," Feygin wrote.

http://www.fm-tv.kiev.ua/main_news/72644/view/

G7 Envoys call for Savchenko's immediate release, 16.03.2016

"G7 Ambassadors in Ukraine express their serious concerns about the health of Nadiya Savchenko, a member of the Ukrainian Parliament and the Ukrainian Armed Forces, who has been imprisoned in Russia since 2014 and is currently on hunger strike in protest against her detention," reads the statement published on the website of Japan's Embassy to Ukraine. The Ambassadors "call on the Russian authorities to immediately release Nadiya Savchenko and to comply with the commitments made in the 'Package of measures for the implementation of the Minsk Agreements' including the release of all hostages and illegally detained persons."

<http://www.breakingnewspoint.com/story/2738201/g7-envoys-call-for-savchenkos-immediate-release.html>

http://www.ua.emb-japan.go.jp/itprtop_en/00_000189.html

Kremlin Deems External Interference in Savchenko Hearing Inadmissible, 17.03.2016

Kremlin considers foreign interference in Russian court hearings, including in the case of Ukrainian national Nadezhda Savchenko, unacceptable, Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said. "The president has repeatedly given explanations on this matter – both to foreign counterparts and on other levels – that this is a trial, any outside interference in the jurisdiction of our courts is unacceptable, it is impossible," Peskov told reporters.

<http://sputniknews.com/russia/20160317/1036445644/kremlin-savchenko-hearing.html>

Kyiv passes Brussels 'Savchenko' sanctions list with 46 names, 18.03.2016

Ukraine is pressing the E.U. to impose sanctions on people involved in the abduction of pilot Nadiya Savchenko. Kyiv has passed to Brussels a list of 46 names, among them Russian prosecutors and investigators.

<http://uatoday.tv/politics/kyiv-passes-brussels-savchenko-sanctions-list-with-46-names-612625.html>

Ukrainian delegation not permitted to return to courtroom in Savchenko trial – Tseholko, 21.03.2016

The Ukrainian delegation was not allowed to come back to the courtroom where the trial of Nadiya Savchenko takes place. The press secretary of the President of Ukraine Svyatoslav Tseholko has tweeted. "Just now the Ukrainian delegation was not allowed to return to the court room without any explanation: neither I, nor MPs and the consuls," wrote Tseholko.

<http://www.ukrinform.net/rubric-politics/1985927-ukrainian-delegation-not-permitted-to-return-to-courtroom-in-savchenkos-trial-tseholko.html>

Savchenko found guilty of murder of Russian journalists near Luhansk, 21.03.2016

The court used as the basis for the accusation the proof presented by the prosecution, including testimonies from witnesses, results of tests. The verdict reads she is guilty of murder of VGTRK journalists Igor Kornelyuk and Anton Voloshin, as well as of an attempt on lives of civilians and illegally crossing of the Russian border. The sentence says Savchenko, "having skills of military training, and experience in military actions in Iraq, while on a holiday, on her own choice in order to participate in the armed conflict in Ukraine's southeast, came to the Aidar battalion under command of Serhiy Melnychuk, which was located in the town of Schastia in Luhansk region." Savchenko on her own decided to participate in the artillery firing from D-30 howitzers at civilians, who had refused to recognize legitimacy of the current Ukrainian power and who chose to establish their own separate republic.

http://www.fm-tv.kiev.ua/main_news/72807/view/

<http://www.rferl.org/content/russian-court-resumes-reading-savchenko-verdict/27627982.html>

Ukrainian army ex-pilot found guilty of death of Russian journalists near Lugansk — court, 21.03.2016

The verdict reads she is guilty of murder of VGTRK journalists Igor Kornelyuk and Anton Voloshin, as well as of attempt on lives of civilians and illegally crossing of the Russian border. The court used as basis of the accusation the proofs presented by the prosecution, including testimonies from witnesses, results of tests. The sentence says Savchenko "having skills of military training, and experience in military actions in Iraq, while on a holiday, on her own choice in order to participate in the armed conflict in Ukraine's south-east, came to the Aidar battalion under commander Sergey Melnichuk, which was located in the town of Schastye in the Lugansk region." Savchenko on her own decided to participate in the artillery firing from D-30 howitzers at civilians, who had refused to recognize legitimacy of the current Ukrainian power and who chose to establish their own separate republic. Earlier, Savchenko said she would appeal the court decision. Voicing of the verdict continues. The term for Savchenko will be announced on March 22.

<http://tass.ru/en/world/863897>

<http://en.interfax.com.ua/news/general/332051.html>

"LPR" militant confirms Savchenko captured before Russian journos died, 21.03.2016

The terrorist claims that Savchenko was taken prisoner before noon on June 17, 2014, that is, before the shelling of Metalist settlement resulting in the death of two Russian journalists, reads the report. It is noted that "Ilim" was not invited to court hearings as a witness. Instead of him Dmitry Oslovsky, callsign Bekas, and Sergey Moiseyev, aka Cap, testified. According to the version of Savchenko's capture presented by investigators, it was Bekas who took part in Savchenko's detention and Cap who took her to Luhansk. During the interviews, both militants testified that they had captured Nadia Savchenko at the time after the Russian journalists got under the shelling.

"Ilim" is also reported as saying that he regrets not shooting Savchenko during capture.

<http://www.unian.info/society/1296314-lpr-militant-confirms-savchenko-captured-before-russian-journos-died.html>

Kyiv calls Savchenko trial 'kangaroo court', says it is ready to do prisoner swap deal, 22.03.2016

Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko says he is ready to hand over two Russian soldiers in exchange for pilot Nadiya Savchenko. Poroshenko calls her trial a kangaroo court. Ukrainian President, Petro Poroshenko, saying in televised address: "Ukraine will never - I repeat, never - recognise either the kangaroo court (of Nadiya Savchenko), nor the so-called sentencing...I have raised the issue of the liberation of Nadiya Savchenko and other Ukrainian hostages many times. President Putin has stated that after the so-called court ruling they will return Nadiya Savchenko to Ukraine. Now is the right time to fulfill this promise. I, in return, am ready to hand to Russia two Russian servicemen arrested on our soil for their participation for armed aggression against Ukraine."

<http://uatoday.tv/politics/poroshenko-offers-putin-to-swap-savchenko-for-two-russian-soldiers-615749.html>

<https://www.yahoo.com/news/kyiv-offers-swap-two-suspected-russian-troops-ukraine-150127949.html>

Russian Court's Unjust Verdict Against Nadiya Savchenko, 22.03.2016

The conviction and sentencing of Nadiya Savchenko to 22 years imprisonment show a blatant disregard for the principles of justice and contravene Russia's commitments under the Minsk agreements. For nearly two years, Russia has unjustly detained Savchenko on charges that have no basis in fact and has denied her the basic protections of the rule of law. She has reportedly endured interrogation, solitary confinement, and forced "psychiatric evaluation." Nadiya Savchenko deserves to go home to her family and friends and to join her colleagues in the Rada in building a better future for their country. We reiterate our call on Russia to immediately release Nadiya Savchenko and other unlawfully detained persons.

<http://www.state.gov/r/pa/prs/ps/2016/03/254949.htm>

President of Ukraine and U.S. Vice President strongly condemned the verdict in the case of Nadiya Savchenko and urged Moscow to fulfill the Minsk agreements responsibly, 22.03.2016

"Ukraine will never recognize this show trial," Petro Poroshenko emphasized.

The parties coordinated positions for the immediate return of Nadiya Savchenko to Ukraine. The U.S. Vice President assured that respective signals on immediate liberation of Savchenko will be communicated to the Russian side in the course of the coming visit to Moscow of the U.S. State Secretary. The President drew attention to a Savchenko List elaborated by Ukraine, which includes persons involved in trumping up a case against her. Joseph Biden also noted that the First Lady of the US Michelle Obama was deeply touched by the appeal of President's wife Maryna Poroshenko to her with a request to join the campaign on Savchenko's liberation.

<http://www.president.gov.ua/en/news/prezident-ukrayini-ta-vice-prezident-ssha-rishuche-zasudili-36885>

EU Urges Russia To Immediately Release Savchenko, 23.03.2016

According to the statement by Federica Mogherini, High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs, Nadiya Savchenko, as well as other political prisoners, should be immediately released, both for humanitarian reasons and under the Minsk Agreements. Previously, Nadiya Savchenko has been sentenced to 22 years, despite numerous urges to release her.

Mogherini emphasized that all the other "Ukrainian citizens, who are unlawfully kept in Russia, including Oleg Sentsov and Oleksandr Kolchenko, should be safely returned to Ukraine".

<http://ukraineunderattack.org/en/60859-eu-urges-russia-to-immediately-release-savchenko.html>

http://eeas.europa.eu/statements-eeas/2016/160323_01_en.htm

Kremlin says it knows nothing about Poroshenko-Putin deal on Savchenko, 23.03.2016

The Kremlin does not confirm a statement by Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko that his Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin has allegedly promised to release or exchange Ukrainian pilot Nadiya Savchenko after the trial ends in Russia

"I do not know about such agreements," TASS quoted Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov. Peskov referred to his statement made on Tuesday when he said that Russia would abide by its national legislation in any case. "In all other respects only the president can make such a decision. I cannot say for now what decision will follow there," he said then.

<http://www.unian.info/politics/1297881-kremlin-says-it-knows-nothing-about-poroshenko-putin-deal-on-savchenko.html>

<http://tass.ru/en/politics/864501>

Savchenko will be transferred to Ukraine in the next two weeks, - the Russian Ambassador, 23.03.2016

Nadezhda Savchenko who is illegally condemned in Russia will be sent to Ukraine in the next two weeks, the Russian Ambassador Mikhail Zurabov has declared. Zurabov has declared it at the closed meeting, without having specified at the same time whether there is a speech about Savchenko's exchange for detainees under Happiness Alexander Alexandrov and Evgeny Erofeyev's Grushnikov. Also Zurabov has noted that the Russian side was ready to return the woman-pilot home by March 8, however in Moscow have changed the mind after attack on the Russian Embassy in Kiev then the Donetsk city court has postponed hearings, and Savchenko has in protest gone on hunger strike.

<https://news.pn/en/criminal/157182>

U.N. demand Nadiya Savchenko must be released, 23.03.2016

United Nations Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon has insisted captured Ukrainian pilot Nadiya Savchenko must be released. That's according to Volodymyr Yelchenko, Ukraine's Permanent Representative to the United Nations who said Ban Ki Moon assured him he would assist in the freeing of Savchenko. Volodymyr Yelchenko, Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the U.N.: "Russia's brutal violation of universal norms as well as Nadiya's PACE immunity is a clear signal to the international community on the inadmissibility of violating fundamental principles and norms by the country which is one of the UN Security Council permanent members."

<http://uatoday.tv/news/112-un-secretary-general-supports-ukrainian-side-in-savchenko-s-case-616115.html>

Statement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine regarding the significant deterioration of Nadiya Savchenko's health due to her continuing unlawful detention by the Russian side, 25.03.2016

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine expresses strong protest with regard to the continuation of the illegal detention by the Russian authorities of illegally sentenced citizen of Ukraine – Nadiya Savchenko, which led to significant deterioration of her health and constitutes a danger to her life. We are outraged by the unfounded refusal of the Russian side to allow qualified Ukrainian doctors to visit Nadiya Savchenko, which indicates an attempt of the Russian authorities to conceal her real health condition and deceive the international community about the so-called satisfactory state of health. We reiterate that under the existing prolongation of the detention of illegally sentenced Nadiya Savchenko, the Russian side bears full responsibility for her health and life. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine urges Russia to immediately allow Ukrainian doctors to visit Nadiya Savchenko and to release her without delay, as stipulated by the Minsk Agreements, which the Russian Federation is a signatory to. We call upon the entire international community to continue its pressure on the Russian Federation with the aim of saving life of the illegally sentenced citizen of Ukraine Nadiya Savchenko and her return back to Ukraine.

<http://mfa.gov.ua/en/press-center/news/46075-zajava-mzs-ukrajini-u-zvjazku-z-suttevym-pogirshennyam-stanu-zdorovja-nsavchenko-vnaslidok-prodovzhennya-rosijskoju-storonoju-jiji-protipravnogo-utrimannya>

Putin has not taken any decisions on Savchenko case - presidential spokesman Peskov, 26.03.2016

"The situation with Savchenko is very simple and clear for us - Savchenko is convicted, the rest happens in accordance with the Russian law. She will serve her sentence. Only the Head of the State can make other decisions. So far, there are no such decisions," Peskov said.

Savchenko's term will be calculated from the date of detention - June 30, 2014. Her prison sentence will last for 20 years and 3 months.

<http://tass.ru/en/politics/865323>

<http://www.breakingnewspoint.com/story/2794877/russia-claims-savchenko-cant-be-released-according-to-minsk-agreements.html>

Ilya Novikov on Savchenko release: "As soon as she gets out, she will start pulling out the others", 29.03.2016

Global outcry caused by the case of Ukrainian female pilot Nadia Savchenko, who has been illegally transferred to Russia to be sentenced to 22 years' imprisonment, gives hope to the Ukrainian human rights activists that the world's attention will also be drawn to the other citizens of Ukraine, who are illegally held and tried in the Russian Federation. Moreover, this also gives hope that Savchenko's release will be followed by the rescue of other political prisoners. However, Nadia's lawyer Ilya Novikov believes that a "big swap" will not start until year-end. The lawyer for Nadia Savchenko, Ilya Novikov, has elaborated on possible mechanisms of her release; said why Russia should not hope that the sanctions would be lifted in exchange for freeing the Ukrainian female pilot; and when we can expect the rescue of other political prisoners. Such statement by the Foreign Ministry means that the decision [on Savchenko's release] is still pending.

<http://www.unian.info/politics/1303070-ilya-novikov-on-savchenko-release-as-soon-as-she-gets-out-she-will-start-pulling-out-the-others.html>

Savchenko may be swapped for Bout and Yaroshenko, 29.03.2016

Ukrainian citizen Nadia Savchenko, who was sentenced in Russia to 22 years in prison on murder charges, may be exchanged for a group of Russian citizens, including Viktor Bout and Konstantin Yaroshenko, who are serving lengthy prison terms in the United States. "Currently, consultations are underway, including through confidential channels, on the possibility of releasing Savchenko through a swap. The Russian side proposed a list of its citizens in exchange for whom it is ready to release the former Ukrainian soldier," one of the sources said. Russia's list includes businessman Bout and pilot Yaroshenko, he said. "There are also Russians whose activity is usually not made public among them," the source noted. The source sees no serious obstacles to such an exchange, after Savchenko's sentence goes into effect. "Exchanges of one person for several [people] have taken place before. In the case of Savchenko, the issue is about a convict sentenced for a grave crime – the murder of Russian citizens. Those who she may be exchanged for killed no one," the source said.

<http://en.interfax.com.ua/news/general/333845.html>

<http://tass.ru/en/politics/865796>

National Minorities

Crimean Tatar Mejlis hearing branded 'kangaroo court' begins on Russian-occupied peninsula, 17.03.2016

In the Russian-occupied Crimean peninsula a court case is being heard into aban on the Crimean Tatar Mejlis. The peninsula's so-called prosecutor says the self-governing assembly should be labelled as 'extremist' and shut down. The head of the Mejlis Refat Chubarov says the proceedings a sham and is calling on the UN to intervene. In Kyiv and a number of other Ukrainian cities meanwhile demonstrations are being held in support of the Crimean Tatars. The indigenous population of the Black Sea peninsula has been subject to repressions, disappearances and imprisonment since Moscow's annexation.

<http://uatoday.tv/politics/tatar-mejlis-hearing-branded-kangaroo-court-begins-on-russian-occupied-crimea-612112.html>

Ukraine Worldwide

U.S. military intel reveals part of Russia's "grand plan" to win concessions in Ukraine conflict, 03.03.2016

Russia's military operation in Syria and the efforts to establish cooperation are aimed at distraction for its activities against Ukraine and part of a "grand plan" to win unspecified concessions from the international community. Marine Corps Lt. Gen. Vincent Stewart, director of the Defense Intelligence Agency, stated this, Defense News reports. "Russia's cooperation on Syria is in part a distraction for its activities against Ukraine and part of a "grand plan" to win unspecified concessions from the international community in the Ukraine conflict," Stewart said. According to him, the Russian military has been using stepped-up snap exercises at home to rattle Europe and intentionally blur the lines between training and rehearsals for activity outside its borders. "The recent snap exercises have been realistic, they have been threatening, they have shown a level of sophistication that I have not seen in 20 or so years," the director of the Defense Intelligence Agency noted.

<http://www.ukrinform.net/rubric-defense/1975956-us-intelligence-uncovers-moscows-grand-plan-regarding-ukraine.html>

<http://www.defensenews.com/story/defense/2016/03/02/pentagon-official-decries-russian-flights-over-us/81220002/>

Russian embassy attacked, presents note of protest to Ukrainian foreign ministry, 06.03.2016

Russia's embassy in Ukraine presented a note of protest to the Ukrainian foreign ministry in connection with the attack on the embassy's building the night to Sunday, the embassy's press secretary Oleg Grishin told. "Regarding this incident, we have presented a note of protest to the Ukrainian Foreign Ministry," he said. The press secretary said, at night people in camouflage smocks, wearing facial masks, armed with baseball bats, attacked vehicles of the Russian embassy in Kiev. "They damaged greatly three cars," the press secretary said. "Besides, they threw several blasting cartridges onto the territory of the Russian diplomatic mission." He said the attackers were clearly well equipped and the attack had been staged.

<http://tass.ru/en/world/860895>

<http://en.israel-today.ru/protests-in-kiev-members-smash-cars-in-front-of-the-russian-embassy.html>

Additional sanctions on individuals and entities for activities related to Russia and Ukraine, 18.03.2016

In order to maintain the efficacy of existing sanctions until Russia fully complies with its international obligations with respect to Ukraine, the Special Economic Measures (Russia) Regulations have been amended to list 10 additional entities and two additional individuals in Schedule 1 that are subject to an asset freeze and dealings prohibition. The Russia Regulations have also been amended to expand the category of entities that may be subject to sanctions under Schedule 1. In addition, the Special Economic Measures (Ukraine) Regulations have been amended to list four additional entities and three additional individuals that are subject to an asset freeze and dealings prohibition. Sanctions are more effective when applied in coordination with partners. Canada's new measures align with recent actions taken by the United States and the European Union. They are designed to maintain the efficacy of existing sanctions measures, to underscore continued transatlantic unity in responding to Russia's actions on Ukraine, to maintain pressure on Russia to fully implement its Minsk commitments and to demonstrate our commitment to a policy of non-recognition of Russia's illegal annexation of Crimea.

<http://news.gc.ca/web/article-en.do?nid=1041609&tp=1>

Putin's shadow government for Donbass exposed, 30.03.2016

BILD has obtained a document containing the true plans by Russia for the occupied territory of the Donbass. Russian ministries are responsible for Ukrainian politics. In this regard, the concrete plans extend far beyond "humanitarian issues". In six working groups, the subject areas of "Finance and tax law", "Defining wage policies as well as residential and public service matters", "Restoration of industry", "Trade with energy sources", "Establishment of a market for electricity" and "Transportation infrastructure" are being planned down to the last detail. The regions are consequently being treated as parts of Russia's sovereign territory. Experts to whom BILD showed the document saw practically no difference from commission records concerning the Russian state itself. Deputy leaders of five ministries of the Russian Federation head the relevant cross-departmental working groups; the secret service "FSB" has supervision over each working group.

<http://www.bild.de/politik/ausland/ukraine-konflikt/donbass-shadow-government-45102202.bild.html>

Russian FSB detains Ukrainian operative, 31.03.2016

It is noted that the SBU lieutenant colonel Yuriy Ivanchenko was detained on March 26. According to special services, the counterintelligence officer arrived in Russia under the pretext of a visiting his relatives, despite the fact that the SBU had banned its employees from entering the territory of the Russian Federation. "Even before the arrival in Russia, the FSB received information that the SBU and CIA had prepared Ivanchenko to get recruited by the FSB as a walk-in," the FSB said.

<http://www.unian.info/society/1305620-russian-fsb-detains-ukrainian-operative.html>

<http://www.unian.info/society/1305694-sbu-confirms-detention-of-its-operative-in-russia.html>