



Monitoring of Xenophobia and Extremism in Ukraine November 2016

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Introduction

November was marked by a variety of protest actions, especially in the center of Kiev. However, attempts to use the various opposition forces for unwinding massive protests and accusations of the National Bank of Ukraine in the large-scale frauds, and the tariff issue, were not successful. Protests by the National Bank look artificial, with clearly paid crowd scenes. Various political action - against right-wing radicals and militant patriots, street self-presentation a new political movement Saakashvili - look more natural.

The paradox of the political situation in Ukraine in November – attempts to organize mass and sharp protests failed on a background of shocking obvious factors that influence the social and political spheres of life.

In early November, there was an obvious political shock of the content of e-declarations, filed in late October by our officials, MPs, judges. In late November, millions of Ukrainians were in shock due to the bills for centralized heating.

Mikheil Saakashvili announced resignation from the post of the head of the Odessa Regional State Administration and his move to opposition to President Poroshenko. Khatia Dekanoidze resigns as Ukraine's National Police chief.

In the US presidential election won Donald Trump. No one (including D.Trump) can not now say specifically what new foreign policy of the US President towards Ukraine would be.

Another ambiguous foreign policy challenge for Ukraine in November was hanging with the decision to grant Ukraine visa-free status in its relations with the EU.

Viktor Yanukovich was questioned via video link from Rostov.

The military situation in the ATO zone is very ambiguous. There has not been a large-scale military escalation. But bursts of attacks occur periodically, including the use of heavy weapons, especially in the direction of Mariupol. In Lugansk area the situation has worsen. There is no progress in the talks at the Trilateral contact group in Minsk. The explanation is very simple - the Russian leadership is not ready for a productive compromise.

Prognosis

42% of Ukrainians want early parliament election – poll, 01.11.2016

As of September this year, 42% of the population in Ukraine said they would support early elections to the Verkhovna Rada, the country's parliament, according to a public opinion poll conducted by Rating Group Ukraine at the request of the International Republican Institute. At the same time, 64% would go to vote if the snap parliamentary elections took place. In particular, 18% of those polls expressed unequivocal support for the idea of holding the early vote for parliament in Ukraine, another 24% said they would rather support than skip it. Some 18% of the pollees said they were "undecided."

<http://uatoday.tv/society/42-of-ukrainians-want-early-parliament-election-poll-797279.html>

Poll Shows More Ukrainians Support NATO, Dislike Russia, 01.11.2016

The survey showed that 43% of respondents would vote "yes" in a referendum on Ukraine's accession to NATO, up from 39% in a June poll. Some 29% said they were against Kyiv joining the military alliance, with 17% saying they were undecided and 11% indicating they would not vote. 57% describe themselves as having either "cold" or "very cold" feelings toward Russia. The poll -- conducted by the Rating Group Ukraine on behalf of the U.S.-based International Republican Institute (IRI) and funded by the Canadian government -- also showed dissatisfaction with the Ukrainian government's handling of economic and corruption issues.

<http://www.rferl.org/a/ukraine-poll-more-for-nato-against-russia/28089250.html>

Statements of officials

Ukraine rebuilds navy, with U.S. help, to counter Russian build-up in Crimea, 02.11.2016

Ukraine is refitting and expanding its naval fleet, including repairing its flagship, the frigate "Hetman Sahaydachnyy", to counter a Russian military build-up in the annexed territory of Crimea. The upgrade will be helped by \$30 million worth of U.S. aid, part of a \$500 million package from Washington for the Ukrainian military which Kiev expects to receive next year. "Step by step we will rebuild our fleet from the beginning," Vice Admiral Ihor Voronchenko said.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/us-ukraine-defence-crimea-idUSKBN12X1PM?il=0>

Ukraine NSDC chief: Crimea de-occupation "death sentence" for Putin, 04.11.2016

"Putin and his entourage are not OK with an independent democratic Ukraine. For them, a strong Ukraine is the coffin of their regime. Therefore, when they say that we can negotiate a deal with Putin, I do not believe it," said Turchynov. He believes that there is no alternative to the Minsk process. "Yet it is the only platform that allows applying diplomatic and political methods of influence on the RF," said the NSDC secretary. He does not rule out that "the time will come when, disfigured by the economic and political leprosy, a degrading Grandmother Russia will crawl to us to beg for negotiations on a peaceful format of [the conflict] solution". "To this end, it is necessary that the sanctions system be enhanced, while the unity of Europe persist. The new U.S. administration should feel its responsibility for the processes which had started way before, when the US was in their center. This should work altogether," he said.

<http://www.unian.info/politics/1607846-ukraine-nsdc-chief-crimea-de-occupation-death-sentence-for-putin.html>

Savchenko compares Putin to Hitler on BBC Newsnight, 04.11.2016

Iconic Ukrainian politician Nadiya Savchenko has become the latest high-profile figure to draw parallels between Vladimir Putin's military aggression in Ukraine and Adolf Hitler's 1930s expansionism. Such comparisons have led to the emergence of the nickname 'Putler' to describe the Russian leader. They are considered particularly provocative given the emphasis Putin has placed on the Soviet role in the WWII defeat of Nazi Germany.

<http://bunews.com.ua/component/zoo/item/nadiya-savchenko-compares-putin-to-hitler-in-appearance-on-bbc-s-newsnight>

Huge Nato land army to meet Russian aggression, 07.11.2016

Hundreds of thousands of Nato troops will be put on a higher state of alert amid growing tensions with Russia, the head of the alliance has indicated. Nato commanders want to prepare a substantial land force capable of deterring Russian aggression. Jens Stoltenberg, the alliance's secretary-general, did not give precise figures, but Sir Adam Thomson, Britain's outgoing permanent representative to Nato, said he thought that the goal was to speed up the response time of up to 300,000 military personnel to about two months. At present a force of this size could take up to 180 days to deploy.

The troops would act as a "follow-on force" to Nato's existing response force, which can be deployed to a warzone within days.

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/news/huge-nato-land-army-to-meet-russian-aggression-xsdnldzkg>

Mark C. Toner Deputy Spokesperson Daily Press Briefing Washington, DC, 09.11.2016

MR TONER: Our stance is what it's been and will remain in – certainly throughout this Administration, which is with regard to sanctions on Crimea, those remain in place until Russia removes its forces from Crimea and gives that peninsula back to Ukraine. With regard to other sanctions with respect to Ukraine and its actions in eastern Ukraine, those sanctions remain in place until the Minsk agreement is fully implemented. And we continue to make progress and work in that regard, but that's the clearest path to remove sanctions for Russia.

<http://www.state.gov/r/pa/prs/dpb/2016/11/264198.htm>

Pledging unwavering defence, NATO braces for Trump, 09.11.2016

NATO promised to defend all allies despite election victor Donald Trump's call to set conditions for U.S. help, as the alliance braced for a more impulsive leader some fear could withdraw funding to deter Russia. During the presidential election campaign Trump threatened to abandon U.S. allies in Europe if they do not spend enough on defense, comments that were particularly unnerving for the ex-Soviet Baltic states on Russia's border which fear Moscow might try a repeat of its 2014 annexation of Ukraine's Crimea. NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg said NATO's promise to defend any ally under attack was an unconditional guarantee set out in the Western alliance's founding treaty in 1949. "All allies have made a solemn commitment to defend each other and this is something which is absolute and unconditioned," Stoltenberg told a news conference, saying he would try to speak to Trump by telephone as soon as possible and would welcome him to a NATO summit in Brussels next year.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/us-usa-election-reaction-nato-idUSKBN1341DF?il=0>

<http://edition.cnn.com/>

U.S. army to continue supporting Ukraine no matter who is elected president - Gen. Hodges, 07.11.2016

Gen. Hodges repeatedly emphasized that support in Congress for Ukraine has been bipartisan and stability in Europe is unquestionably in America's economic and national-security interests, according to WSJ. Speaking to reporters in Lviv, Gen. Hodges noted that supporting Ukraine with non-lethal military assistance has received bipartisan support in Congress. "No matter who is president. No matter who controls Congress, the United States is always going to be interested and need security and stability in Europe," Gen. Hodges said. Gen. Hodges and other U.S. military leaders were in Ukraine reviewing the international training effort and the overhaul of its military medicine. A range of U.S. military officials have noted they have taken a number of steps to demonstrate a renewed commitment to European defense, including the decision to send an armored infantry brigade to the continent early next year, build up stocks of military equipment and to participate in the North Atlantic Treaty Organization buildup of forces in Poland and the Baltic States. Gen. Hodges, who is expected to remain in command of U.S. Army forces in Europe through the summer, said the military has plans to rotate in new trainers and hold a series of large exercises in the Black Sea region.

<http://www.unian.info/politics/1609576-us-army-to-continue-supporting-ukraine-no-matter-who-is-elected-president-gen-hodges.html>

Putin secretly met with Yanukovich, and not about Ukraine, 07.11.2016

Russia's President Vladimir Putin has secretly met with Ukraine's disgraced ex-President Viktor Yanukovich over the ledgers that mention Donald Trump's former campaign chief Paul Manafort. "According to information obtained from inside Russia by Western intelligence, Putin met with Yanukovich in secret near Volgograd, formerly known as Stalingrad. Yanukovich assured Putin there was no documentary trail showing payments to Manafort, although Putin told associates he did not believe the Ukrainian president, according to the information obtained by the Western intelligence source,"

<http://uatoday.tv/press/putin-secretly-met-with-yanukovich-and-not-on-ukraine-800814.html>

Kremlin recalls conditions of "unfreezing" conflict with Ukraine, 08.11.2016

"Russia is interested in resolving the conflict near its borders more than anyone else, despite the fact that you have periodically heard the assertions that we want to artificially protract this conflict preserving it in such a frozen state forever. These are the attempts to shift the blame on someone else," Lavrov said speaking at Alexander Gorchakov Public Diplomacy Fund. Lavrov said the sides needed to make efforts to restore mutual trust, which had been severed due to the Ukrainian crisis. "We all agree that the speedy and full implementation of the Minsk agreements remains on the agenda, under which Kyiv assumed specific obligations to grant special status to Donbas, enshrining this in the Constitution of Ukraine, to adopt an amnesty law, to hold local elections," Lavrov said. "I emphasize that we are talking about basic European standards providing for citizens' right to local self-government, to freely use their native language," he added. Lavrov believes that the attempts to isolate Russia have repeatedly led to serious consequences for the whole Europe. According to him, it is no longer possible to create some islands of security in today's interconnected world.

<http://www.unian.info/politics/1612016-kremlin-recalls-conditions-of-unfreezing-conflict-with-ukraine.html>

EU agrees new sanctions against Crimea officials, EU's presidency says, 08.11.2016

European Union finance ministers agreed on Tuesday new targeted sanctions against Crimean officials, adding to restrictive measures adopted after Russia's annexation of Crimea in 2014. "The Council adopted new listings under the restrictive measures in respect of actions undermining Ukraine's territorial integrity," Slovakia's Finance Minister Peter Kazimir told a news conference at the end of a meeting of the Council of EU finance ministers. He was replying to a question on whether new sanctions have been imposed on Crimean officials. Slovakia holds the rotating presidency of the EU until the end of the year. A list of 151 people and 37 entities are already subject to visa bans and an assets freeze in the EU for their role in the annexation of Crimea or the Russia-backed rebellion in eastern Ukraine.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/us-ukraine-crisis-eu-russia-idUSKBN1331YZ?il=0>

Presidential Staff: Ukraine to cooperate with Trump, 09.11.2016

According to Secretary of the National Reform Council Dmytro Shymkiv, there is a need to increase pro-Ukrainian coalition around the world. "The question that Ukraine faces is to increase Ukrainian coalition, the global coalition on which the president, the foreign minister, a parliamentary committee of the Verkhovna Rada are working; and to increase the coalition in support of Ukraine," he said. "Today we must understand that there are a lot of levers and counterweights in the U.S., which are built by a political system in the United States. Therefore, we need to develop our relations at the level, at which we have built our relations for many years," said Shymkiv. "We have a lot of friends there [in the U.S.] I'm sure that we will find how to cooperate in the future, whatever the Administration will be," he said. "We will work with Trump," Shymkiv added.

<http://www.unian.info/politics/1613977-presidential-staff-ukraine-to-cooperate-with-trump.html>

Ukraine submits to UN draft resolution on Crimea, Russia expected to oppose, 09.11.2016

"I have the honor to submit the draft resolution entitled 'Situation of human rights in the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol.' The draft resolution is based on the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, international human rights treaties and other relevant international instruments and declarations," Yelchenko said. 38 delegations became co-authors of the draft resolution. The document proposes to condemn human rights abuses, discriminatory measures and practices by Russian occupation authorities against residents of the temporarily occupied territory of Crimea, including the Crimean Tatars and Ukrainians, and persons belonging to other ethnic and religious groups.

<http://www.unian.info/politics/1613747-ukraine-submits-to-un-draft-resolution-on-crimea-russia-expected-to-oppose.html>

US will remain strong partner of Ukraine – ambassador, 09.11.2016

'One thing I'm quite certain about, no matter who the next commander in chief is, that through the transition period, through the next administration, the United States will remain a strong partner of Ukraine', US ambassador to Ukraine Marie L. Yovanovitch said. She said that the US will continue its policy regarding Russia, and will keep the sanctions. Both teams demonstrate support for Ukrainian sovereignty, territorial integrity and partnership.

<http://uatoday.tv/politics/us-will-remain-strong-partner-of-ukraine-ambassador-802249.html>

Ex-NATO chief advises Trump to display strength towards Russia, protect Ukraine, 09.11.2016

Former NATO Secretary-General Anders Fogh Rasmussen recommends the new President of the United States to initiate three foreign policy steps within his first 100 days in the Oval Office, the first of which is to display strength towards Russia and to protect Ukraine, according to the message of the Rasmussen Global fund. "The U.S. should continue to build its security policy on the transatlantic relationship that has led to an unprecedented peace and prosperity for the United States and Europe. Therefore, as Commander-in-Chief, Donald Trump must display strength towards Russia. Putin only respects a firm and steady hand. The U.S. President must strengthen the U.S. containment and deterrent policy towards Russia to lay the ground for serious dialogue and, ultimately, restore the strategic balance in Europe," he said.

<https://www.kyivpost.com/ukraine-politics/unian-ex-nato-chief-advises-trump-display-strength-towards-russia-protect-ukraine.html>

US: No change to foreign policy during transition, 10.11.2016

The State Department said Wednesday the U.S. stance regarding sanctions against Russia will not change following the election of Donald Trump to the presidency. "Our stance was they have been and will certainly remain throughout this administration," agency spokesman Mark Toner said during a press briefing. "With regard to sanctions on Crimea, those remain in place until Russia removes its forces from Crimea and gives this peninsula back to Ukraine." The U.S. has sanctioned Russia since it annexed Crimea in 2014. During his campaign, Trump questioned the reason for NATO, openly said he admired Russian President Vladimir Putin and allegedly accepted the annexation of Crimea. After his victory was ensured, Putin said Moscow was ready to restore relations with U.S.

<http://m.aa.com.tr/en/americas/us-no-change-to-foreign-policy-during-transition-/682424>

Some from Trump`s team stand for arming Ukraine – Gongadze, 10.11.2016

"Trump[']s entourage] has got many pro-Russian representatives who can be tapped to head major security agencies. But there are people beside him who stand for arming Ukraine. It`s not that unambiguous," she U.S.-based Ukrainian journalist Myroslava Gongadze said. Amid U.S. elections, the subject of Ukraine was raised in the context of Russia, and Hillary Clinton acted as a defender of Ukraine. "Trump said he was ready to go to Moscow even prior to his inauguration. Therefore, risks are high. As we remember [his] statements about possible recognition of Crimea as Russian territory," she said. In her words, the main question is who in Trump`s team will be authorized to take decisions.

<http://uaposition.com/latest-news/trumps-team-stand-arming-ukraine-gongadze/>

Poroshenko`s office: We hope U.S. to continue supporting Ukraine thanks to Republicans in Congress, 10.11.2016

Deputy Head of the presidential administration Kostiantyn Yeliseyev believes that the United States will continue to provide assistance to Ukraine since the Republicans in the U.S. parliament have always been in the vanguard of support. "First of all, we must rely on ourselves, we should protect ourselves and build up our army," he said. "Of course, we are grateful to all our partners, including the United States, for their help. Of course, we hope that the support that was provided in the last year will be continued this year as well, and we are optimistic about the fact that the core of the American republican parliament has been in the vanguard of such assistance. Therefore, we proceed from the assumption that there will be no surprises there," Yeliseyev said.

<http://uaposition.com/latest-news/poroshenkos-office-hope-u-s-continue-supporting-ukraine-republicans-congress/>

Detention of "saboteurs" in Crimea may freeze talks on prisoner swap – Feygin, 10.11.2016

"Isn't it strange that this coincided with some global events like the U.S. election and the statement of one of the [presidential] candidates on possibility of talks on Crimea and the recognition of its annexation. It seems that the situation is being ramped up politically. I am convinced that this is yet another fake story," Feygin said. In his opinion, such events always have political consequences. "For example, the freezing of all talks on humanitarian exchange. Now in the wake of these new, so to speak, 'saboteurs', it becomes problematic to talk about the exchange of Sentsov, Kolchenko, Karpiuk, and Klykh," the lawyer said. He also said that "the Crimean saboteurs" detained in August were transferred to Moscow's Lefortovo pretrial detention facility, where Ukrainian journalist Roman Sushchenko, who has been accused of spying, is also held in custody.

<http://www.unian.info/politics/1616746-detention-of-saboteurs-in-crimea-may-freeze-talks-on-prisoner-swap-feygin.html>

Ukraine's Savchenko Urges Trump To 'Strengthen' Sanctions Against Russia, 10.11.2016

Ukrainian lawmaker Nadia Savchenko has urged U.S. President-elect Donald Trump to "strengthen sanctions" against Russia. In her letter on November 10, Savchenko urged Trump to provide Ukraine with the "diplomatic, technical, and military support" to fight Russia's aggression. Savchenko said the current standoff between Kyiv and Moscow over Russia's annexation of the Crimean Peninsula and its support of pro-Russia separatists in eastern Ukraine was reminiscent of the situation in Europe before World War II. "I want to add that you have all the possibilities to prevent World War III," Savchenko wrote.

<http://www.rferl.org/a/ukraine-savchenko-trump-russia-sanctions/28107882.html>

Ukraine`s diplomat on Trump`s pro-Russian stance: Russia gets it wrong, 11.11.2016

Ukrainian Ambassador to the United States Valeriy Chaly has commented on Russia`s take on U.S. President-elect Donald Trump`s pro-Russian stance, saying that they get it wrong. "If Russia waits until Trump takes office and changes foreign policy... We've seen them all applauding there as if the whole Russia had voted for Trump. I think they get it wrong regarding the institutions here, in the United States, and the position taken by Trump himself," the Ukrainian ambassador said during a Ukrainian talk show, TSN reported.

<http://uaposition.com/latest-news/ukraines-diplomat-trumps-pro-russian-stance-russia-wrong/>

PUTIN AIDE: TRUMP COULD BUILD CONFIDENCE WITH NATO PULLBACK, 11.11.2016

Dmitry Peskov said in an interview with The Associated Press that this "would lead to a kind of detente in Europe." But unfortunately, he said, Russia now sees "NATO's muscles ... getting bigger and bigger and closer and closer to Russian borders."

Peskov, who is considered one of Putin's closest aides, called NATO "an instrument of confrontation."

http://hosted.ap.org/dynamic/stories/U/US_RUSSIA_TRUMP_INTERVIEW?SITE=AP&SECTION=HOME&TEMPLATE=DEFAULT
<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-us-canada-37981770>

Canada says Russian sanctions must be upheld by all countries, 11.11.2016

Canadian Foreign Minister Stephane Dion on Friday urged all countries to remain firm about upholding sanctions against Russia for its actions toward Ukraine and said Canada will not ease them as long as Moscow keeps its current stance. Dion's comments came three days after businessman Donald Trump won the U.S. presidential election after a campaign in which he praised Russian President Vladimir Putin. "The behavior of Russia in Ukraine and Syria is problematic to say the least. Because of that, it is important to be very frank in our relationship with Russia," Dion said. "About Ukraine, there are sanctions that are existing and Canada is insisting that all countries must be very firm about these sanctions," Dion added. Russian officials, eager to see the sanctions lifted or eased, welcomed Trump's election. Putin on Wednesday said he was ready to fully restore ties with Washington.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/us-canada-russia-sanctions-idUSKBN136292>

Mogherini warns against "black and white" representations of EU-Russia relations, 14.11.2016

I can say there is unity among all the twenty eight on the need first of all, to continue working on the strength of the transatlantic relation. The European Union and the United States are partners and will continue to be partners for what concerns us in the European Union, based on our own values, principles, interests. Secondly, we discussed also the need to strengthen the European unity around some key issues that will be even more crucial in the months to come. First of all, the need to work on the multilateral system: for us it is extremely important to work on the climate change agreement implementation, on non-proliferation and the protection of the Iranian nuclear deal, but also on trade and all the crises we have around us on which, during these last eight years, we worked very well together with the United States; and we are looking forward to a very strong partnership with the next administration. We have decided together to engage with the incoming administration even from these very first weeks of transition. Obviously we will continue to work day and night with the current administration but also preparing the ground for the change in administration from January, and I will be glad to not only visit Washington soon but also invite the future Secretary of State to one of our next Foreign Affairs Council.

https://eeas.europa.eu/headquarters/headquarters-homepage/14697/remarks-by-high-representativevice-president-federica-mogherini-at-the-end-of-the-informal-dinner-of-the-eu-foreign-ministers_en

Treasury Sanctions Individuals for Activities Related to Russia's Occupation of Crimea, 14.11.2016

The U.S. Department of the Treasury's Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) today designated six individuals who represent Crimea and Sevastopol in the Russian State Duma (Parliament). Specifically, OFAC designated Dmitry Belik, Andrey Kozenko, Konstantin Bakharev, Svetlana Savchenko, Ruslan Balbek, and Pavel Shperov pursuant to Executive Order 13660 for being responsible for or complicit in actions or policies that undermine democratic processes or institutions in Ukraine and actions or policies that threaten the peace, security, stability, sovereignty, or territorial integrity of Ukraine. Last week, the EU also designated these six individuals. These actions support the U.S. commitment to seek a diplomatic resolution to the crisis in Ukraine by maintaining our sanctions on Russia and to further align U.S. measures with those of our international partners. These steps also demonstrate our sustained commitment to a policy of non-recognition with respect to Russia's purported annexation of Crimea, and our intent to maintain Crimea-related sanctions until Russia ends its occupation of the peninsula. "The United States does not recognize the illegitimate elections to the Russian State Duma that took place in Crimea," said John E. Smith, Acting OFAC Director. "Today's action was closely coordinated with the EU, underscoring the strength of the U.S.-EU partnership in maintaining pressure on Russia until it respects the security and sovereignty of Ukraine. Treasury will continue to sanction those individuals involved in Russia's annexation of Crimea and its destabilizing activities in Ukraine."

<https://www.treasury.gov/press-center/press-releases/Pages/jl0609.aspx>

Trump, Putin and Grudging Reformers Tip Ukraine Closer to Russia, 15.11.2016

In Ukraine, ever on the fault line between Russian power and western influence, the prospect of losing Uncle Sam's protection under a new U.S. president is bad enough. The more immediate loss may be "Uncle Joe." U.S. Vice President Joe Biden has been essential to cajoling the government in Kiev to keep up with the economic and anti-corruption reform commitments in the International Monetary Fund's bailout package, together with successive U.S. ambassadors and the European Union. The IMF program underpins all the foreign aid on which Ukraine depends. With President-elect Donald Trump taking office in January, that American engagement looks set to wane. Although it isn't clear if he will follow through on campaign proposals to recognize Russia's 2014 annexation of Crimea or lift sanctions, U.S. efforts to integrate Ukraine and its economy into the West would be collateral damage in any U.S.-Russian rapprochement.

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2016-11-15/trump-putin-and-grudging-reformers-tip-ukraine-closer-to-russia>

A Trump administration thaw with Russia is 'unacceptable,' McCain says, 16.11.2016

Sen. John McCain, the chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee, sent his first shot across the bow of President-elect Donald Trump's national security plans Tuesday, saying that any attempt to "reset" relations with Russia is unacceptable.

"With the U.S. presidential transition underway, Vladimir Putin has said in recent days that he wants to improve relations with the United States," McCain (R-Ariz.) said in a statement released by his office. "We should place as much faith in such statements as any other made by a former KGB agent who has plunged his country into tyranny, murdered his political opponents, invaded his neighbors, threatened America's allies and attempted to undermine America's elections," he said.

https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/national-security/a-trump-administration-thaw-with-russia-is-unacceptable-mccain-says/2016/11/15/a3b5c4da-ab5a-11e6-8b45-f8e493f06fcd_story.html

<http://www.state.gov/r/pa/prs/dpb/2016/11/264412.htm>

Canada quietly reaches out to Russia for talks on Syria, Ukraine, 17.11.2016

Mark Gwozdecky, the foreign ministry's political director, met Russian deputy foreign minister Sergei Ryabkov on Nov 1 for talks on issues such as arms control as well as Ukraine and the war in Syria, according to the Russian foreign ministry. The visit was the first of its kind by a top Canadian official since Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's Liberals took power a year ago from the Conservatives, who imposed punitive measures over the actions of Russian-backed militants in Ukraine. The Liberals also condemn Moscow's intervention. Foreign Minister Stephane Dion on Friday urged all countries to remain firm about upholding sanctions. But they also say they want to discuss matters of mutual interest. The twin messages have Canada's foreign partners watching for any shift in policy at a time when U.S. President elect Donald Trump has indicated he will seek a rapprochement with Russia. "There are too many important issues for us, from the Arctic to the devastating situation in Syria, not to be raising those directly with them," said Joe Pickerill, chief spokesman for Dion. "Canada does not need interlocutors to raise its concerns, nor will we shout them from the sidelines. This government will raise the issues directly." Gwozdecky visited Moscow shortly before Trump's election victory.

<http://ca.reuters.com/article/topNews/idCAKBN13B21Q>

Chubarov: Minsk can't remain venue for talks on Donbas, 17.11.2016

Head of the Mejlis of the Crimean Tatars and Ukrainian MP Refat Chubarov has said that Minsk cannot continue to be the venue for meetings and negotiations on issues related to Russia's aggression against Ukraine. "The truth is that on the eve of the meeting (November 15, 2016) of the UN [General Assembly] Third Committee, Russia entrusted Belarus the role of a swindler, whose aim was the failure of the consideration of a draft resolution on the human rights situation in Russian-occupied Crimea," he wrote. Chubarov said that the responsibility for this role of Belarus was assigned to the official authorities of the country.

<http://uaposition.com/latest-news/chubarov-minsk-cant-remain-venue-talks-donbas/>

Trump Names CIA Director, National Security Adviser, And Attorney General, 18.11.2016

U.S. President-elect Donald Trump has moved to fill some top positions in his government by selecting a Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) director, a national security adviser, and an attorney general. Trump said in a statement he had chosen Representative Mike Pompeo (Republican-Kansas) to be CIA director, retired General Michael Flynn for the post of national security adviser, and Senator Jeff Sessions (Republican-Alabama) as the country's top prosecutor. Pompeo and Sessions require confirmation by a majority vote in the Senate; Flynn does not. Trump said Pompeo will be a "brilliant and unrelenting leader" as chief of the CIA.

<http://www.rferl.org/a/us-trump-appointments-cia-pompeo-sessions-attorney-general/28126465.html>

InformNapalm's proofs of Russian military aggression presented during NATO PA, 19.11.2016

InformNapalm volunteer intelligence community has been gathering evidence of Russian aggression in Ukraine for over 2 years. Proving the participation of Russian professional military in the war in Donbas is the most important part of our work. While Russian soldiers have been pretty cautious and carefully cover up their combat involvement, they still leave traces. Our analysts sift through different sources – websites, videos, social media posts – to find these traces and present investigations to public. So far we have identified servicemen from 75 Russian military units sent to Ukraine on the orders of their command. This video will quickly guide you through our major findings. It contains 165 documented incidents.

<https://informnapalm.org/en/75-russian-military-units-fight-donbas/>

Head of U.S.-Ukraine Business Council: "There is going to be a big battle in Washington but I think that the new U.S. Administration will be inclined to further provide support for Ukraine", 19.11.2016

After the presidential elections in the United States, the state players are facing the need to reconsider their strategies for relations with the world's only superpower. The outcome of the U.S. poll, a surprise to many, including the Democrats, has blurred the prospects of global foreign policy. As the U.S. has been one of Ukraine's most vocal supporters and probably the most important ally, it is vital for Kyiv authorities to fine-tune the Ukraine-U.S. relations given the current realities and adopt a right strategy to pursue fruitful cooperation and ensure continued support against the background of Russian aggression. President of the U.S.-Ukraine Business Council (USUBC) Morgan Williams explains what Ukraine needs to do to build up a right strategy for attracting U.S. investment, and why it is important to boost reforms.

<http://www.unian.info/economics/1631692-head-of-us-ukraine-business-council-there-is-going-to-be-a-big-battle-in-washington-but-i-think-that-the-new-us-administration-will-be-inclined-to-further-provide-support-for-ukraine.html>

NATO PA URGES UNITED STANCE ON RUSSIA, SUPPORT FOR UKRAINE, 20.11.2016

"It is clear that conditions for an improved relationship currently do not exist; that Russia's foreign policy priorities and the values underpinning these priorities remain in fundamental conflict with those of NATO," says a report adopted by the NATO PA's Political Committee. "Through its actions and rhetoric, Russia continues to unsettle the European security environment and undermine the stability upon which Alliance security depends." Tensions with Russia and the conflict in Ukraine were a major theme on the first full day of the Assembly's annual session held this year in Istanbul. Members heard a sobering assessment from James Sherr, a Russia expert at Britain's Chatham House think tank, who warned current tensions between Moscow and the West are "more dangerous" than the Cold War. Legislators appealed for Western Allies to remain resolute and united in the face of Russian efforts to create divisions. "Against the backdrop of continued Russian provocations, maintaining a unified approach among the Allies will be crucial for our credibility and cohesion," said Lithuanian lawmaker Rasa Juknevičienė, who authored the report. "Russia is no longer the superpower it was during the Cold War, but it still wields considerable influence in the world. Russia seeks to create chaos and divide the West." Western support for Ukraine is key to thwarting Russian destabilization efforts, lawmakers said.

<http://www.nato-pa.int/Default.asp?CAT2=0&CAT1=0&CAT0=0&SHORTCUT=4366>

General stating Russian aggression in Ukraine "much more severe" than U.S. treats it may become Defense Secretary, 21.11.2016

Mattis is scheduled to meet with Trump on Saturday, November 19, along with a group of candidates for ministerial posts in the incoming administration. Mattis served in the Armed forces of the United States for 34 years and bears a status of a living legend in the U.S. military, VOA reports. A former Central Command commander (2010-2013), he also held other senior positions in the U.S. army and led the U.S. Marines in Iraq. He has a reputation of an intellectual, a popular leader and a resolute manager, attentive to his subordinates. It is believed that he was squeezed out from his post of commander of Central Command of the U.S. Armed Forces Mattis because of his disagreements with the Obama administration over the country's policy toward Iran, particularly his excessive militancy. The retired General earlier criticized President Obama for the "atrophy" of his foreign policy. Speaking at a Heritage Foundation in Washington in 2015, he said, "the perception is we're pulling back" on America's commitment to its allies and partners, leaving them adrift in a changing world. "We have strategic atrophy."

<http://www.unian.info/world/1632767-general-stating-russian-aggression-in-ukraine-much-more-severe-than-ustreats-it-may-become-defense-secretary.html>

Ukrainian Foreign Minister calls "alternatives" to Minsk pact, 21.11.2016

"We all know that the Minsk agreements are commitments, in particular, political commitments on the part of Russia... The alternative to Minsk is [conflict] freezing and Russia's subsequent destabilization of Ukraine," Ukrainian Foreign Minister Pavlo Klimkin said.

<http://uaposition.com/latest-news/Ukrainian-Foreign-Minister-calls-alternatives-to-minsk-pact/>

Putin explained the sharp Russian reaction to NATO expansion, 21.11.2016

«Why are we so sensitive to NATO expansion? We are concerned about the practice of adoption decisions», Russian President Vladimir Putin said in an interview with U.S. Director Oliver Stone for the film «Ukraine in flames». When a country becomes a member of the military Alliance, it «is very difficult to resist the pressure from such a large country, the leader of NATO, as the United States.» Answering the question of what the consequences would capture military base in Sevastopol NATO or the United States, Putin said that they would be «very heavy». «In this we must take countermeasures that is to jeopardize our missile systems those objects which, in our opinion, begin to threaten us. The situation is annoying», — said the President.

<http://en.news-original.ru/putin-explained-the-sharp-russian-reaction-to-nato-expansion.html>

Poroshenko's office names Russia goals in Donbas: from federalization of Ukraine to the restoration of the Soviet Union, 22.11.2016

Firstly, in the short term, Russia seeks to maintain the so-called "controlled escalation" in Donbas, he said. "The second goal of the medium-term plan is to launch a flywheel of federalization in Ukraine in order to divide and eventually ruin our country," Yeliseyev said. And the long-term goal is based on the well-known Russian president's phrase that the greatest tragedy of the 20th century was the collapse of the Soviet Union. "Note, [Vladimir Putin says] it was not World War I and not World War II, but the collapse of the Soviet Union... Of course, his goal remains in place – to restore a new Soviet Union in some form, and Ukraine is the "sweetest piece of pie", he added.

https://www.1492news.com/news/37711_1479838280

Avakov says he knows mastermind behind Maidan dispersals, 23.11.2016

Ukrainian Interior Minister Arsen Avakov claims that MP from the Opposition Bloc and former head of Viktor Yanukovich's presidential administration Serhiy Lyovochkin is behind the dispersal of protesters on Kyiv's Maidan Nezalezhnosti, or Independence Square. "Lyovochkin should have been in jail, not in parliament, because he is the mastermind behind the Maidan dispersals," Avakov said, answering a question during a press conference in Severodonetsk, Luhansk region, where he was opening a new service center.

<http://www.unian.info/politics/1640357-avakov-says-he-knows-mastermind-behind-maidan-dispersals.html>

Trump, in Interview, Moderates Views but Defies Conventions, 23.11.2016

President-elect Donald J. Trump on Tuesday tempered some of his most extreme campaign promises, dropping his vow to jail Hillary Clinton, expressing doubt about the value of torturing terrorism suspects and pledging to have an open mind about climate change. But in a wide-ranging hourlong interview with reporters and editors at The New York Times — which was scheduled, canceled and then reinstated after a dispute over the ground rules — Mr. Trump was unapologetic about flouting some of the traditional ethical and political conventions that have long shaped the American presidency.

He said he had no legal obligation to establish boundaries between his business empire and his White House, conceding that the Trump brand “is certainly a hotter brand than it was before.” Still, he said he would try to figure out a way to insulate himself from his businesses, which would be run by his children. He defended Stephen K. Bannon, his chief strategist, against charges of racism, calling him a “decent guy.” And he mocked Republicans who had failed to support him in his unorthodox presidential campaign.

http://www.nytimes.com/2016/11/22/us/politics/donald-trump-visit.html?_r=1

Minsk: Ukraine demands Debaltseve back to make disengagement possible, 23.11.2016

Withdrawal of forces in Donbas is possible if Russian proxies return to already agreed demarcation line. During the safety subgroup session of the Trilateral group in Minsk Ukraine has once again raised the question of returning to the demarcation line of September 19, 2014, according to which the town of Debaltseve should be under control of Ukraine. "Further implementation of the framework decision on the disengagement of forces and equipment may occur after the demilitarization of Debaltseve," Darka Oliner, the spokesperson of Ukraine's envoy to the Minsk talks Leonid Kuchma informed.

<http://uatoday.tv/politics/minsk-ukraine-demands-debaltseve-back-to-make-disengagement-possible-812063.html>

Poroshenko sure Trump will not change U.S. policy on Ukraine, 24.11.2016

Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko said on Thursday he did not expect the election of Donald Trump to the White House to bring any great change in U.S. support for his country. Saying Kiev had enjoyed support from both parties in Washington in its confrontation with Russia, Poroshenko told a news conference after a summit with EU leaders in Brussels: "We don't expect any significant changes in this bipartisan support."

He had spoken to Trump in recent days, he noted.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/us-usa-trump-ukraine-poroshenko-idUSKBN13J11F>

<http://www.unian.info/economics/1641842-nbu-ukraine-risks-to-lose-support-of-international-financial-institutions.html>

<http://uatoday.tv/politics/trump-asked-poroshenko-about-details-on-russian-aggression-812943.html>

Lukashenko under Kremlin pressure: Russia may prepare for construction of military base in Belarus, 25.11.2016

A tender announced by the Russian Defense Ministry for military transportation in international rail traffic sees a boost in volumes of such transportation for 2017, which can be an evidence of certain military accords reached between Alexander Lukashenko and Vladimir Putin, according to the press service of the opposition's Belarusian Christian Democracy Party. "In 2015 and in 2016 they purchased the services for 125 and 50 railcars respectively in the direction of Belarus and back, but for 2017, the number of railcars in this direction has increased dramatically – up to 4,162," reads the statement. According to co-chairman of the Belarusian Christian Democracy Vitaliy Rymasheuski, this may indicate "new military agreements which Putin forced Lukashenko to agree to". "Lukashenko's regime is totally dependent on Moscow financially, and it is obvious that the Kremlin in exchange for concessions on economic issues will require complete obedience in foreign policy. In fact, Belarus today is a satellite of Russia," he said.

<http://uaposition.com/latest-news/lukashenko-kremlin-pressure-russia-prepare-construction-military-base-belarus/>

Steinmeier declares European security threat, given Russia's aggression, 25.11.2016

"Europe's security is in danger," German Foreign Minister Frank-Walter Steinmeier said. With the internationally wrongful annexation of Crimea by Russia and the unresolved conflict in eastern Ukraine, "the question of war and peace returned back to our continent" as confidence was destroyed and a threat emerged of a new arms proliferation spiral. He "campaigns with many other European foreign ministers to re-launch arms control," Steinmeier told Die Welt. Such armaments control is a "tried and tested tool for transparency, risk avoidance and confidence building". "We call upon all states that are responsible for the security of Europe to support this initiative and to join the dialogue on arms control," Steinmeier said.

<http://uatoday.tv/politics/steinmeier-declares-european-security-threat-given-russia-s-aggression-813578.html>

Yanukovich regrets he didn't declare martial law amid Maidan, 25.11.2016

"As for me, I have really committed a number of mistakes. I'm not a saint. My biggest mistake was that I did not have the strength to sign a decree to bring troops in and declare martial law in Ukraine. It was the only way to stop the radicals at that moment," fugitive ex-President of Ukraine Viktor Yanukovich said at a press conference in Rostov-on-Don, Russia, on Friday, November 25. Read also Avakov says he knows mastermind behind Maidan dispersals The ex-president also claims he "chose to avoid bloodshed."

<http://www.unian.info/politics/1645436-yanukovich-regrets-he-didnt-declare-martial-law-amid-maidan.html>

<http://www.unian.info/politics/1645517-yanukovich-says-his-opinion-makes-no-difference-to-putin.html>

<http://www.unian.info/politics/1647212-yanukovich-trying-hard.html>

EU Commissioner Hahn: EU to face serious problems if Ukraine sees no visa lib, 26.11.2016

EU Commissioner for European Neighborhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiations Johannes Hahn has said that the European Union will experience serious problems due to the loss of confidence if Ukraine does not get its visa-free regime with the bloc. At a technical and political level, the EU acknowledged that Ukraine had fulfilled all the requirements for the provision of a visa-free regime, he said at a meeting with journalists in Brussels, Europeiska Pravda reports. According to Hahn, 144 criteria have been met and the electronic declaration was a huge step forward. At the same time, he emphasized that the task set by European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker was very ambitious. He added that the main question was to have a political will to this end as all technical aspects can be resolved very simply.

<http://uaposition.com/latest-news/eu-commissioner-hahn-eu-face-problems-ukraine-sees-visa-lib/>

Savchenko plans to become independent politician, 26.11.2016

"I won't join any party. I am becoming an independent politician. I am opening my own foundation," Savchenko said on the Shuster Live TV program on Friday evening, according to Ukrainska Pravda. Read also Savchenko urges Trump to 'strengthen' Russia sanctions At the same time, Savchenko reiterated that she was not planning to leave the Batkivshchyna faction in the Ukrainian Verkhovna Rada. Savchenko is also ready to run for president of Ukraine if there are early elections.

<http://www.unian.info/politics/1645936-savchenko-plans-to-become-independent-politician.html>

EU Commission "sees no argument" for lifting anti-Russian sanctions, 27.11.2016

"Up until now, I have seen no argument for the sanctions against Russia being immediately lifted," European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker said in an interview with Euronews. "I would like to have an agreement with Russia that goes beyond the ordinary framework, bearing in mind that without Russia, there is no security architecture in Europe," he said adding that President Obama's assessment of Russia as "a regional power" was, in his opinion, "a big error." When asked whether European leaders would maintain sanctions against Moscow given that Donald Trump would come to power in a few months, Juncker said the EU was not dependent on U.S. foreign policy. "The U.S. will do what it wants to do and Europeans will have their own interests within their own scope to manage," European Commission President said.

<http://uatoday.tv/politics/eu-commission-sees-no-argument-for-lifting-anti-russian-sanctions-814388.html>

Putin reportedly asks Dzhemilev for loyalty to get his son released in 2014, 27.11.2016

Russian President Vladimir Putin offered to release Hayser Dzhemilev, a son of the Crimean Tatars leader Mustafa Dzhemilev, from prison back in 2014 in exchange for Mustafa's loyalty, First Deputy Chairperson of the Verkhovna Rada Iryna Gerashchenko wrote. "Few people know it, but back in 2014 Putin offered to release Dzhemilev's son and transfer him to the occupied Crimea in exchange for Mustafa Dzhemilev's loyalty, but the latter turned down [the offer]," she wrote. Gerashchenko emphasized that Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko had raised the issue of release of Dzhemilev's son and his transfer to Ukraine in his communication with Putin.

<http://www.unian.info/politics/1646617-putin-reportedly-asks-dzhemilev-for-loyalty-to-get-his-son-released-in-2014.html>

Russia Opens Criminal Case Against Ukrainian Military Commanders, 28.11.2016

Svetlana Petrenko, a spokeswoman for Russia's Investigative Committee said that prosecutors uncovered "previously unknown incidents" of artillery strikes on civilians by Ukrainian military forces. As a result, a criminal probe against six Ukrainian military commanders was launched - Colonel Oleksandr Hruzevych, Lieutenant Colonel Mykhaylo Drapaty, Colonel Serhiy Panchenko, Colonel Serhiy Perets, and Lieutenant Colonel Volodymyr Horbatiuk. The commanders are accused of "the use of prohibited means and methods of warfare." The officers "fulfilled the clearly criminal orders of senior officials of the Ukrainian Defense Ministry," Petrenko said.

<http://www.rferl.org/a/russia-ukraine-criminal-case-artillery-alleged-war-crimes/28143416.html>

Lutsenko reads out an indictment of treason against Yanukovych, 28.11.2016

Prosecutor General of Ukraine Yuriy Lutsenko has read out official accusations of high treason that have been brought against former Ukrainian President Viktor Yanukovych.

"Given the fact that Yanukovych is outside [the country], does not appear under subpoena and is actually hiding from Ukraine's law enforcement agencies, the charges are being announced in verbal form. But the notice of suspicion was sent one hour ago to all known addresses and the place of last residence of Viktor Yanukovych. After my speech it will be handed over to his lawyer. The above-mentioned notice of suspicion has been drafted by me as Prosecutor General of Ukraine," he said. Criminal proceedings of this case are being investigated by the main military prosecutor's office.

<http://uatoday.tv/crime/lutsenko-reads-out-indictment-of-treason-against-yanukovych-814958.html>

<http://www.unian.info/politics/1648657-lutsenko-azarov-next-to-be-charged-with-high-treason.html>

<http://www.unian.info/politics/1649067-yanukovych-agreed-to-cross-interrogation-with-opposition-leaders-of-the-euromaidan-period.html>

<http://www.unian.info/politics/1651641-point-of-no-return-for-yanukovych.html>

Germany has only modest hopes for Ukraine talks on Tuesday, 28.11.2016

There is little chance of major progress on ending fighting in eastern Ukraine, said German Foreign Minister Frank-Walter Steinmeier who is due to meet his counterparts from France, Ukraine and Russia in Minsk on Tuesday to review progress on implementing last year's ceasefire accord and on a road map the leaders of the four countries agreed to draw up in November. Ministry spokesman Martin Schaefer said Germany hoped Ukraine and Russia would agree to disengage their forces in some additional areas beyond the three "hot spots" agreed earlier. He said officials hoped to see clear signals from the Ukrainian and Russian foreign ministers that they remained committed to implementing the ceasefire accord and to constructing a road map for doing so. "I don't think it's a big secret that the expectations of Mr. Steinmeier for the meeting tomorrow are modest," Schaefer said. "Neither the intensive pre-negotiations and discussions of the last months nor the public statements made by the parties provide much hope for a sensational breakthrough. We have the impression that the conflict parties have dug into their trenches and are not able to really get a handle on the ceasefire violations and stop the shooting."

<http://www.reuters.com/article/us-ukraine-crisis-germany-idUSKBN13N100?il=0>

Tuka forecasts return of Donbas in 2018 the latest, 28.11.2016

"I am confident they will give the 'DPR' and 'LPR' back. But they will keep seizing Crimea in an iron grip. And it is important not to ease the sanction pressure. The most likely way to retake Crimea is when the [Russian] Federation itself faces centrifugal processes," he said Tuka cited the years of 2017-2018. "I'm optimistic. I have a feeling that this will happen in 2017 or 2018 the latest," he said, adding that it will proceed on terms of the Minsk agreements.

<http://www.unian.info/war/1647991-tuka-forecasts-return-of-donbas-in-2018-the-latest.html>

Discussion on Donbas "road map" in Minsk short because of Russian position – Klimkin, 29.11.2016

"A discussion on the logic of the "road map". Alas, it was rather short, as the Russian side does not agree on the key priorities. A fundamental difference remains between us as to the vision of the "road map". What the Russian side wants is to actually legitimize its protectorate, or a colony, in Donbas, without making any steps to transfer control of the territory of the occupied Donbas to the international community, the OSCE; without making steps to improve security, not carrying out humanitarian steps," said Ukrainian Foreign Minister Pavlo Klimkin following a meeting of the Normandy Four top diplomats November 29.

<http://uaposition.com/latest-news/discussion-donbas-road-map-minsk-short-russian-position-klimkin/>

<http://www.unian.info/politics/1651661-no-accord-on-withdrawal-of-russian-troops-mercenaries-from-donbas-klimkin.html>

Russia's Lavrov says issue of armed OSCE mission in Donbas "no longer relevant", 29.11.2016

"The question is no longer relevant, there exists no such need. Today, no one spoke about it. No militarized missions neither that of the OSCE nor of any other structure, which is periodically discussed in Kyiv, no one is considering them," Lavrov said.

<http://www.unian.info/politics/1651557-russias-lavrov-says-issue-of-armed-osce-mission-in-donbas-no-longer-relevant.html>

Liberating all hostages before Christmas, 30.11.2016

First Vice Speaker of Ukraine's parliament Iryna Gerashchenko has said that the Ukrainian side at the Normandy Four foreign ministers meeting in Minsk insisted on liberating all hostages before Christmas. "The Ukrainian side insists on liberating all hostages before Christmas and the beginning of the new year in 2017. The process of releasing hostages has to be unblocked. Germany and France support this position. But liberation fully depends on the Russian Federation, while the representative of this country once again avoids giving specific answers and is not ready to take decisions regarding key humanitarian issues," Gerashchenko wrote.

<http://uatoday.tv/politics/ukraine-insists-on-liberating-all-hostages-before-christmas-816198.html>

Russian Foreign Ministry: Ukraine seeking Russia's "tough response" to missile drills, 30.11.2016

"As for the drills involving missile launches, I want to say that this is another large-scale provocation of the Ukrainian authorities aimed at escalating the conflict between Ukraine and Russia," Zakharova said. According to her, the "provocation" is designed to see "a tough response from the Russian Federation." Read also Russian Def. Ministry protests Ukraine's restrictions in airspace over Black Sea "I do not rule out that it is about trying by all means to keep the United States its main patron following a victory of Donald Trump in the U.S. election," Zakharova said. She is convinced that provocations are required to this end, and this is a "classic method for those countries and policy makers, for whom their personal interests and ambitions are above the interests and lives of the people of their country."

<http://www.unian.info/politics/1652801-russian-foreign-ministry-ukraine-seeking-russias-tough-response-to-missile-drills.html>

<http://uatoday.tv/politics/no-one-will-tell-us-what-to-do-816563.html>

Actions of Ukrainian Authorities

SBU issues entry ban against 140 Russian artists, 05.11.2016

The SBU claimed 50 representatives of Russian cultural circles had been blacklisted since last December. "The check revealed a number of individuals, whose activities or statements contradicted the interests of our national security, and therefore it was decided to ban them from entering the territory of Ukraine," reads the SBU response. At the same time, the agency has not specified names of those prohibited from visiting Ukraine.

<http://www.unian.info/society/1608241-sbu-issues-entry-ban-against-140-russian-artists.html>

Minister of Defense of Ukraine: Ukraine respects Moldova`s intention to close Russian military base on its territory, 07.11.2016

Minister of Defense of Ukraine Stepan Poltorak has held talks with Minister of Defense of Moldova Anatol Salaru. The heads of defense ministries discussed issues of cooperation between ministries of defense of Ukraine and Moldova and prospects of its development, the Ministry of Defense of Ukraine has reported. Poltorak stressed Ukraine respected territorial integrity of Moldova and supported its intention to close a Russian military base on its territory.

<http://uaposition.com/latest-news/Minister-Defense-Ukraine-ukraine-respects-moldovas-intention-to-close-russian-military-base-on-its-territory/>

Yanukovych may face accountability for involvement in Crimea, Donbas events, 07.11.2016

Ukrainian Deputy Prosecutor General Eugene Enin says that former President Viktor Yanukovych could be brought to account on a number of counts that reveal his direct involvement in events in occupied Crimea and Donbas. Maidan events can be seen as the prologue to further crimes that led to disastrous developments in the Crimea and Donbas, he said.

<http://uatoday.tv/crime/yanukovych-may-face-accountability-for-involvement-in-crimea-donbas-events-801499.html>

Poroshenko signs Odesa governor Saakashvili's resignation, 10.11.2016

Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko has signed a letter of resignation submitted by Chairman of Odesa Regional State Administration Mikheil Saakashvili. What is more, Poroshenko signed a decree to dismiss Saakashvili from the post of freelance adviser to the president.

<http://uatoday.tv/politics/poroshenko-signs-odesa-governor-saakashvili-s-resignation-803024.html>

<https://www.kyivpost.com/ukraine-politics/reuters-quitting-odesa-governor-saakashvili-hits-ukraine-leadership.html>

<http://www.unian.info/politics/1612271-someone-decided-to-do-politics-in-ukraine-poroshenko-comments-on-saakashvilis-resignation.html>

Russia plotting massive destabilization in Ukraine starting Nov 15 – SBU, 11.11.2016

The SBU official noted that both the Security Service and the Foreign Intelligence Service (SZR) of Ukraine obtained operational data, which "expose plans of the Russian Federation for large-scale destabilization in Ukraine, scheduled to be launched on November 15 of this year". "This intelligence is broadly in line with the content of the so-called plan of priority actions to destabilize the social and political situation in Ukraine," said Dublik. He added that the expert study of the authenticity of this plan is underway, in the framework of a relevant criminal probe. According to Dublik, the information seized from the email account of Russian Presidential Advisor Vladislav Surkov indicates the beginning of the implementation of such a plan. According to the intel of both SBU and SZR, Surkov's deputy Inal Ardzinba directly supervises and implements the plan. At the same time, the man responsible for contacts with Ukraine's political movements and certain non-governmental organizations involved in protests is Armenian citizen Mr Martirosyan. As a rule, these are false flag contacts or those promising financial reward, said Dublik. "Our agency recorded numerous trips outside of Ukraine, namely to the Russian Federation, of the organizers of rallies both to receive funding and specific instructions and details... At the same time, the enemy is counting on the effectiveness of a false flag use of the activity of a number of public organizations, which are currently holding a number of mass rallies in the capital and in other regions of the state," he said.

<http://www.unian.info/society/1618622-russia-plotting-massive-destabilization-in-ukraine-starting-nov-15-sbu.html>

Khatia Dekanoidze resigns as Ukraine's National Police chief, 14.11.2016

Khatia Dekanoidze, the head of Ukraine's National Police, said on Nov. 14 she is resigning. "As I promised, I created a foundation for the development of a new national police in the course of one year. I stayed loyal to you and your interests until the last minute of my work. But unfortunately, my powers and will were not sufficient for sharp changes. I've done my duty, and therefore I announce my resignation," Dekanoidze told reporters in Kyiv on Nov. 14.

<https://www.kyivpost.com/ukraine-politics/khatia-dekanoidze-resigns-ukraines-national-police-chief.html>

Readout of Vice President Biden's Call with President Petro Poroshenko of Ukraine, 17.11.2016

Vice President Biden spoke by phone today with Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko. The two leaders underscored the importance of full implementation of the Minsk agreements, and President Poroshenko previewed Ukrainian preparations for the upcoming EU-Ukraine Summit in Brussels. The leaders expressed hope that the summit would provide a positive signal of support for the Ukrainian people. The leaders also discussed Ukraine's reform trajectory and emphasized the need for continued swift progress, including on steps needed to secure Ukraine's next tranche of IMF funding.

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2016/11/16/readout-vice-president-bidens-call-president-petro-poroshenko-ukraine>

Ukraine OSINT experts present at NATO PA evidence of Russia's military involvement in Donbas conflict, 21.11.2016

Ukrainian parliamentary delegation, presented two InformNapalm's videos with the evidence of Russian military aggression against Ukraine before members of NATO Parliamentary Assembly in Istanbul, Turkey. InformNapalm volunteer intelligence community has been gathering evidence of Russian aggression in Ukraine for over two years, the organization's website reports. Proving the participation of Russian professional military in the war in Donbas is the most important part of their work, the experts say. While Russian soldiers have been cautious and carefully cover up their combat involvement, they still leave traces, according to InformNapalm statement.

<http://uaposition.com/latest-news/ukraine-osint-experts-present-nato-pa-evidence-russias-military-involvement-donbas-conflict/>

SBU detains two defectors – former Ukrainian servicemen, 22.11.2016

In the course of a special operation of the Counterintelligence Department of the SBU two former Ukrainian servicemen who broke the oath and defected to the Russian Army were detained. "Defectors were detained near the Chonhar checkpoint, at the administrative border of occupied Crimea", SBU Head Vasyl Hrytsak. SBU received information that the traitors attempted to conduct corruption scheme and illegally get certain documents in the Ukrainian territory for financial gain. They came to the Chonhar checkpoint, where the meeting with the carrier was to take place. By monitoring the moving of the carrier the law enforcers located the traitors and detained by the SBU officers during their stay in the territory controlled by the Ukrainian authorities.

<https://ssu.gov.ua/en/news/1/category/21/view/2312#sthash.Emildyvp.dpbs>

"Much has been done: 35 persons convicted, 152 tried, 190 under pretrial investigation," - Lutsenko on Maidan-related cases, 22.11.2016

35 persons have been convicted for crimes against the Maidan activists, another 152 individuals are being tried, and about 190 suspects are under the pretrial investigation. As reported, Prosecutor General of Ukraine Yuri Lutsenko said. "I can say that much has been done: 152 persons are being tried after the Prosecutor General's Office has brought charges against them; 35 individuals have already been indicted; the pretrial investigation into about 190 persons of interest is underway," he said commenting on an opinion that no one had been held accountable for crimes against the Maidan activists that was widely spread among many Ukrainians. "Those who pulled the trigger are in the dock indeed. But those who armed them, who ordered them to slay innocent people are hiding in Moscow," the PGO chief stressed.

http://en.censor.net.ua/news/415942/much_has_been_done_35_persons_convicted_152_tried_190_under_pretrial_investigation_lutsenko_on_maidanrelated

CRIMEAN TATARS SET UP RELIGIOUS ADMINISTRATION OF MUSLIMS OF CRIMEA IN KYIV, 22.11.2016

Kyiv hosted the assembly of delegates of the Crimean Tatar Muslim organizations in the course of which the Spiritual Administration of Muslims of Crimea was set up on mainland Ukraine. The congress was attended by 40 reps from 14 Tatar Muslim Organizations of Ukraine (Kherson region, Kyiv, Lviv, Vinnytsia), and representatives of the Mejlis and Kurultai of the Crimean Tatars. A key issue was the establishment of a single Islamic center - Muftiyat. This idea was supported unanimously, with no abstentions, no one spoke against. The established organization is assumed to promote unification and cooperation of all Crimean Tatar Muslims in mainland Ukraine. Mufti chose Ayder Rustamov. 38 delegates voted for his candidacy. Eider Bay represents Muslims of Crimea, the Crimean Tatars who were forced to leave Crimea.

http://risu.org.ua/en/index/all_news/other_confessions/islam/65184/

Yanukovich`s questioning via video conference to be held today, 25.11.2016

On November 25, the Svyatoshinsky District Court of Kyiv will hold a hearing in the case of the Maidan events, with plans announced to question as a witness Ukraine`s disgraced ex-president Viktor Yanukovich via video conference. The questioning of Viktor Yanukovich is scheduled for 13:00 Kyiv time. In addition the court will question former commander of the troops of the Ukrainian Interior Ministry Stanislav Shulyak. Both men will testify from the Rostov regional court in Russia via a video conference.

<http://uaposition.com/latest-news/yanukovichs-questioning-video-conference-held-today/>

<http://www.unian.info/politics/1644142-lutsenko-on-yanukovich-questioning-another-pr-event-to-claim-illegitimate-kyiv-junta.html>

<http://www.unian.info/politics/1644267-shkiryak-yanukovich-would-not-have-agreed-to-video-questioning-without-putins-direct-order.html>

Ukraine Plans Missile Drills Near Crimea Amid Threats From Russia, 30.11.2016

Ukraine plans to conduct missile test launches near the border with Russian-occupied Crimea this week amid threats from Moscow that it will launch a military strike in retaliation. Kiev`s armed forces are expected to hold the training missile launches on Thursday and Friday. A spokesman for Ukraine`s defense ministry said Wednesday that the exercises will take place despite threats from Russia. The Russian defense ministry warned in a letter to the Ukrainian embassy in Russia last week that Moscow`s forces would shoot down Ukrainian missiles and engage missile launchers if Kiev moved forward with the missile launches. The Russian defense ministry accused Ukraine of placing "illegal restrictions" on airspace over the Black Sea off the coast of Crimea to conduct the missile launches, according to a statement quoted by the Ukrainian Independent Information Agency. "With regard to some threats and the like, they cannot interfere with the plans of the armed forces of Ukraine and the designers of military weapons which will be carried out on the territory of a sovereign Ukraine," Andriy Lysenko, a spokesman for Ukraine`s defense ministry, said Wednesday when addressing reports that Russia could launch missiles at Ukraine in retaliation for the military drills.

<http://freebeacon.com/national-security/ukraine-plans-missile-drills-near-crimea-amid-threats-russia/>

Ukraine broke information-related cooperation with Russia, 30.11.2016

The Ukrainian government has terminated the agreement on cooperation in the field of television and radio broadcasting with the Russian Federation. The Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine has canceled the agreement on cooperation in the field of television and radio broadcasting, previously concluded with the Russian Federation, Ukrainian Minister of Information Policy Yuriy Stets told an Ukrinform correspondent. The Minister noted that the supported resolutions provides for the abolition of the Agreement between the governments of the Russian Federation and Ukraine on cooperation in the field of television and radio broadcasting and the Agreement between the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine and the Russian government in the field of information. It should be mentioned that on November 1, the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine adopted a bill authorizing imposition of fines on media sources that violate the laws of Ukraine, including the broadcast of materials sympathetic to separatism.

<https://qha.com.ua/en/politics/ukraine-broke-informationrelated-cooperation-with-russia/139576/>

Terrorism / Separatism

Almost half of attacks on Ukraine troops in Donbas focus on Mariupol sector, 01.11.2016

Combined Russian-separatist forces attacked Ukrainian army positions in eastern Ukraine 36 times in the past 24 hours, including 17 in the Mariupol sector, nine barrages in the Luhansk sector, and 10 in the Donetsk sector, according to the press service of the Anti-Terrorist Operation Headquarters. In the Mariupol sector, the enemy fired heavy machine guns, grenade launchers and small arms on the Ukrainian fortified positions near the villages of Hranitne, Lebedynske, Hnutove and Novotroytske. Further, infantry fighting vehicles (IFVs) were used to attack in the village of Berezne.

<https://www.kyivpost.com/ukraine-politics/unian-almost-half-attacks-ukraine-troops-donbas-focus-mariupol-sector.html>

On last day: 37 attacks on Ukraine, use of 152mm artillery, 02.11.2016

This has been reported by the ATO Headquarters press center. Thus, in Mykhailivka area terrorists used 82mm and 120mm mortars to shell the Ukrainian positions, and near the populated area of Pishchovyk the enemy fired 122 mm artillery. Near Povlopil and Krasnohorivka, militants used machine guns, mortars and small arms. The Ukrainian positions near Lebedynske and Vodiane came under 120mm mortar fire, while in Shyrokyne the enemy used mortars and armored personnel carrier. Seven attacks were launched in Donetsk direction. Terrorists fired at Avdiivka, Slavne and Luhanske, using 82mm mortars, machine guns, grenade launchers and small arms. Three ceasefire violations were recorded in Luhansk direction. Terrorists shelled Krymske, using mortars and 152 mm artillery, and in Lopaskino and Stanitsa Luhanska they used mortars to attack Ukrainian positions.

<http://www.ukrinform.net/rubric-defense/2112763-militants-launched-37-attacks-on-ukrainian-troops-in-donbas-in-last-day.html>

<http://www.unian.info/war/1604641-ukraine-reports-almost-50-attacks-in-donbas-grads-used-in-luhansk-sector.html>

Latest from OSCE Special Monitoring Mission (SMM) to Ukraine, 04.11.2016

In Donetsk region, the SMM recorded fewer ceasefire violations compared with the previous reporting period, with most of the violations recorded in areas east and north-east of Mariupol. In Luhansk region the SMM recorded more ceasefire violations compared with the previous day. The SMM followed up on reports of civilian casualties in Dokuchaievsk and shelling north of Sakhanka. The Mission continued to monitor the disengagement process in Stanytsia Luhanska, Zolote and Petrivske and was restricted in its freedom of movement in all three areas.* It monitored two border areas currently not under government control. It monitored repair works to essential infrastructure. The SMM continued to monitor the situation of civilians at entry-exit checkpoints along the contact line. In Kyiv the Mission monitored two protests in front of the Russian Federation Embassy.

<http://www.osce.org/ukraine-smm/279361>

Tymchuk: Russia massing military hardware near Ukraine border, 02.11.2016

According to his post, the accumulation of forces and military hardware of the Russian Armed Forces is being observed near the Ukrainian border in Rostov region. "In particular, a significant amount of military equipment (cannon artillery, battle tanks) has been spotted near the villages of Matveev Kurgan, Zakadychnoe, Krynka and Demidovka. Military equipment and weaponry are located in forests and are camouflaged. The equipment is being guarded by persons in military uniform without insignia," Tymchuk said.

<http://www.unian.info/war/1603012-tymchuk-russia-massing-military-hardware-near-ukraine-border.html>

SBU ready to swap three militants for each Ukrainian citizen, 02.11.2016

Chief of Ukraine's SBU Security Service Vasyl Hrytsak said the agency is ready to exchange three detained militants for each Ukrainian hostage remaining in captivity in Donbas, according to correspondent reporting from Hrytsak's briefing in Kramatorsk on Nov. 2. "We have already reached the point when we are ready to give for each [Ukrainian hostage] three of them [the militants]. All we need is to bring our guys back home," he said.

<https://www.kyivpost.com/ukraine-politics/unian-sbu-ready-swap-three-militants-ukrainian-citizen.html>

DPR ready to exchange prisoners only on "all for all" basis — ombudsperson, 02.11.2016

"We are ready to carry out prisoner exchanges in the format enshrined in the Package of Measures for the Implementation of the Minsk Agreements, namely, in accordance with the 'all for all' formula," the Donetsk News Agency quotes her as saying. Vasily Gritsak, the head of Ukraine's Security Service, said earlier that Kiev is ready for a prisoner swap in the conflict zone in the Donbass region and suggests exchanging three captive militia fighters for one Ukrainian soldier. As of today, 149 Ukrainians are held prisoner in the self-proclaimed Donetsk and Lugansk republics (DPR and LPR), 494 more are reported missing, he said, adding that he knew nothing about the next exchange giving neither dates nor numbers. Prisoner swaps is a key clause in the Minsk Package of Measures. According to this document, prisoners need to be exchanged in line with the "all for all" formula.

<http://tass.com/world/910302>

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<http://www.osce.org/ukraine-smm/279361>

Banned artillery used to shell ATO troops in Donetsk, Luhansk regions, 06.11.2016

Russia's hybrid military force continues using banned 152mm artillery systems to shell Ukrainian troops in the Donetsk and Luhansk regions with the total number of enemy attacks in the war-torn areas in Donbas being 47 instances in the past 24 hours, according to the Ukrainian Anti-Terrorist Operation (ATO) headquarters.

<https://www.kyivpost.com/ukraine-politics/unian-banned-artillery-used-shell-ato-troops-donetsk-luhansk-regions.html>

<http://www.unian.info/war/1609267-militant-shelling-concentrated-near-ukraine-controlled-mariupol-on-sunday.html>

Donbas: 52 attacks from Russian-backed militants over last 24 hours, 07.11.2016

The enemy shelled Ukrainian positions near Starohnativka, Novotroyitske and Hnutove from the heavy caliber machine guns, grenade launchers and small arms. Pro-Russian militants used grenade launchers and infantry combat vehicles in Berezove. They shelled near Mariinka, Pavlopillya, Talakivka and Vodyane from 82 mm and 120 mm mortar launchers. Mortar launchers and tanks were used to shell Krasnohorivka. Ukrainian positions in Shyrokyne came under the fire of machine guns, 82 mm and 120 mm mortar launchers, infantry combat vehicles, 122 mm and 152 mm cannon artillery.

Ceasefire was 12 times violated in Luhansk direction. Enemy used grenade launchers and cannon artillery near Shchastya, Zhovte, Novooleksandrivka, Stanytsia Luhanska, with 82 mm mortar launchers used in the latest. 8 attacks were made in Donetsk direction. Russian occupational forces used cannon artillery against Ukrainian defense in Novotroyitske, various grenade launchers and 82 mm mortar launchers in Zaytseve. Ukrainian troops near Avdiivka, Luhanske and Troyitske came under fire of tanks, infantry combat vehicles, 82 mm and 120 mm mortar launchers.

32 provocations spotted in Mariupol direction.

<http://112.international/conflict-in-eastern-ukraine/donbas-52-attacks-from-russian-backed-militants-over-last-24-hours-10735.html?type=amp>

Russian proxies attack Ukraine 50 times in last day, hot spot near Mariupol, 08.11.2016

Combined Russian-separatist forces attacked Ukrainian army positions in eastern Ukraine 50 times in the past 24 hours, including 31 in the Mariupol sector, nine barrages in the Luhansk sector, and another 10 in the Donetsk sector, according to the press service of the military operation headquarters. In the Mariupol sector, the militants used small arms and rocket-propelled grenades against Ukrainian army in the villages of Pavlopil, Novotroyitske, Bohdanivka and Novomykhailivka, and the town of Maryinka. They opened fire from 82mm mortars, infantry fighting vehicles on the villages of Shyrokyne and Talakivka, as well as from anti-aircraft guns, machine guns and 82mm and 120mm mortars on the Ukrainian fortified positions in the town of Krasnohorivka. In addition to mortars, the occupiers also used 122mm cannon artillery systems near the villages of Vodiane and Hnutove.

<https://www.kyivpost.com/ukraine-politics/unian-russian-proxies-attack-ukraine-50-times-last-day-hot-spot-near-mariupol.html>

"LPR" terrorists capture Luhansk judge – activist, 08.11.2016

Pro-Russian militants from the so-called Luhansk People's Republic terrorist organization three weeks ago kidnapped Vitaliy Rudenko, the Judge of the Luhansk Court of Appeals, that's according to the chairman of Patriot volunteer organization and member of the hostage exchange negotiating group, Oleh Kotenko, who spoke to Hromadske Radio. According to Kotenko, the Ukrainian authorities did not inform the public of the abduction, hoping to secure a swift exchange. "The judge agreed with a man he knew from the `LPR` that he would help him with a so-called `green corridor` so that he could visit the town of Krasnodon and bury his parents," said Kotenko. He said that once the judge drove to the checkpoint, he was stopped and ID`ed. The local "MGB" (Security Service) were called on the scene, and the judge was arrested.

<http://uaposition.com/latest-news/lpr-terrorists-capture-luhansk-judge-activist/>

Militants attack Ukraine 54 times in last day, fire self-propelled artillery in Luhansk region, 09.11.2016

Combined Russian-separatist forces attacked Ukrainian army positions in eastern Ukraine 54 times in the past 24 hours, including 32 in the Mariupol sector, 16 barrages in the Luhansk sector, and eight in the Donetsk sector, according to the ATO HQ press service.

<http://www.newshotspot.com/newsfocus/militants-attack-ukraine-54-times-in-last-day-fire-selfpropelled-artillery-in-luhansk-region/4018980.html>

Russia's claim of "Ukrainian saboteurs" attempt to discredit Ukraine – military intelligence, 10.11.2016

The Main Directorate of Intelligence of Ukraine's Defense Ministry has refuted the Russian FSB report that it was their employees who had been arrested in the occupied Crimea's strategic port city of Sevastopol on November 9. "The statement of the Federal Security Service of the Russian Federation on the detention of officers of the Main Directorate of Intelligence of Ukraine is yet another fake. We refute allegations of the FSB on the alleged detention of our employees in Sevastopol," according to a statement of the agency. The intelligence says that this statement is aimed at "concealing own repressive actions against the inhabitants of the peninsula, as well as at discrediting Ukraine in the eyes of the international community."

<http://uaposition.com/latest-news/russias-claim-of-ukrainian-saboteurs-attempt-to-discredit-ukraine-military-intelligence/>

Ukraine reconstructs strategic bridges wrecked by Donbas militants, 11.11.2016

Ukrainian restoration hardware is currently operative in the cities where a range of strategically essential bridges were left in ruins. Militants while retreating from those cities in 2014 blew up major channels of the transport connection. And now Ukrainians from different parts of the country are eliminating ill-fated legacy from the separatists.

"Our brigade is from all over Ukraine. I'm from Cherkasy region, there are people from Mariupol. And we never have arguments, we are all Ukrainians"

<http://uatoday.tv/politics/ukraine-reconstructs-strategically-important-bridges-ruined-by-donbas-militants-803444.html>

ATO HQ: Militants attack Ukraine 35 times in last day, fire heavy artillery near Vodiane, 11.11.2016

"In the Mariupol sector, the militants attacked our positions near the towns of Maryinka and Krasnohorivka, and the villages of Hnutove and Shyrokyne. They used self-propelled artillery systems near the village of Vodiane, as well as armored personnel carriers, infantry fighting vehicles and grenade launchers on Maryinka," the report says. A sniper was active in this area. The enemy also fired rocket-propelled grenades and small arms. In the Luhansk sector, they mortars, rocket-propelled grenades. Sniper fired in Stanytsia Luhanska and Schastia.

<http://www.unian.info/war/1618271-ato-hq-militants-attack-ukraine-35-times-in-last-day-fire-heavy-artillery-near-vodiane.html>

Russian militants attack Ukraine 43 times on Saturday, use grenade launchers and artillery, 12.11.2016

Combined Russian-separatist forces attacked Ukrainian army positions in eastern Ukraine 43 times since the beginning of the day, according to the ATO HQ press service.

<http://uaposition.com/latest-news/russian-militants-attack-ukraine-43-times-on-saturday-use-grenade-launchers-and-artillery/>

Situation in Donbas aggravates, Russian attacks increasing dramatically, 13.11.2016

The situation in Donbas aggravated over the past day, with militants actively using artillery and rocket launchers, according to the ATO HQ press service.

<http://uaposition.com/maps/situation-in-donbas-aggravates-with-Russian-attacks-increasing-dramatically/>

OSCE SMM: Number of Donbas truce violations 150% up last week, 17.11.2016

Principal Deputy Chief Monitor of the OSCE SMM to Ukraine Alexander Hug reports that the OSCE has recorded a sharp increase in the number of ceasefire violations in the ATO zone in Donbas last week. "No. of ceasefire violations recorded by OSCE SMM monitors last week [was] up by approx 150% compared to previous week," the OSCE SMM said. Explosions were caused by mortars, tanks, artillery and multiple launch rocket systems, it said.

<http://uaposition.com/latest-news/osce-smm-number-donbas-truce-violations-150-last-week/>

<http://uaposition.com/latest-news/osce-sees-30000-individuals-military-dress-coming-russia-donbas/>

Russian proxies actively use Grads, banned artillery in Donbas – local authorities, 18.11.2016

"In the past day, there were 40 militant attacks with the use of 152mm and 122mm self-propelled artillery systems. The village of Shyrokyne [near the Ukrainian-controlled strategic port city of Mariupol] was attacked by a tank. We saw shooting earlier, but now no one of the Russian mercenaries cares and Grads and self-propelled artillery systems are used," he said.

<http://www.unian.info/war/1631356-russian-proxies-actively-use-grads-banned-artillery-in-donbas-local-authorities.html>

Ukraine's ATO HQ reports ongoing attacks in all sectors in Donbas, 20.11.2016

ATO forces stationed near the Ukrainian-controlled strategic port city of Mariupol were attacked with the use of mortars, grenade launchers and small arms. Banned 152mm artillery systems and a main battle tank were engaged to attack the village of Shyrokyne. The combined Russian-separatist forces used mortars, grenade launchers, anti-aircraft guns and large-caliber machine-guns in the Luhansk sector. Mortars, grenade launchers and small arms were used in the Donetsk sector.

<http://www.unian.info/war/1633431-ukraines-ato-hq-reports-ongoing-attacks-in-all-sectors-in-donbas.html>

Russian proxies attack Ukraine 15 times in last day, use IFVs in Mariupol sector, 21.11.2016

In the Mariupol sector, the occupiers fired from tanks, infantry fighting vehicles (IFVs) and 82mm mortars. They also used rocket-propelled grenades and small arms. In the Donetsk and Luhansk sectors, the militants fired rocket-propelled grenades and mortars.

<http://www.unian.info/war/1634317-russian-proxies-attack-ukraine-15-times-in-last-day-use-ifvs-in-mariupol-sector.html>

Clashes with police reported in Kyiv amid Revolution anniversary events, 21.11.2016

About 1,000 people have gathered on Kyiv's Independence Square, or Maidan Nezalezhnosti. There are two epicenters of activity – near the Stele of Independence and on the part of the square, across Khreschatyk Street. People who have gathered near the Stele are holding flags of the Organization of Ukrainian Nationalists (OUN) and the Popular Rukh movement. One can hear recordings with patriotic songs and listen to activists' speeches. A similar picture can be seen across the street. Yet, there is live music there, as a folk group has been singing folk songs. At break, speakers discuss political topics, calling the public not to disenchant with the Revolution of Dignity and continue the struggle. No organized groups of protesters have been seen on the Maidan though. But later, some participants in the anniversary events said they wanted to bring car tires onto the square through a cordon of police, which has resulted in clashes with police officers. Some of the participants set tires on fire near the Stele.

<http://www.unian.info/kyiv/1636182-clashes-with-police-reported-in-kyiv-amid-revolution-anniversary-events.html>

Attack on Russian Sberbank in Kyiv: police vow to bring perpetrators to justice, 22.11.2016

The police intend to bring to justice those involved in the smashing arranged at Kyiv's branch of a Russian bank, Sberbank, on Pushkinska Street near the Leo Tolstoy Square subway station on Monday, November 21, said Chief of the Kyiv National Police Department Andriy Kryschenko. "Investigation is underway, I believe we have enough evidence, videotapes. We will be able to bring to justice those who ransacked a branch of Russian Sberbank," Kryschenko said. He noted that there were no victims in clashes with the law enforcers. Only during the rally under Sberbank, a girl was injured when she fell from atop.

<http://uaposition.com/latest-news/attack-russian-sberbank-kyiv-police-vow-bring-perpetrators-justice/>

<http://www.unian.info/politics/1640921-ukrainian-culture-center-in-moscow-attacked-ukraine-demands-probe.html>

Militants fire Grad-P's on ATO forces; use mortars, grenade launchers in Donetsk sector, 23.11.2016

In the Mariupol sector, the enemy fired mortars of various calibers, rocket-propelled grenades and small arms on the villages of Shyrokyne, Taramchuk, Vodiane and Talakivka, and the towns of Krasnohorivka and Maryinka. "A sniper was active in the villages of Novotroyitske and Pavlopillia. The militants used Grad-P (Partisan) MANPADs on our positions near Krasnohorivka," the report says. In the Donetsk sector, Russia's hybrid military force fired mortars, rocket-propelled grenades and small arms on the town of Avdiyivka and the village of Zaitseve. In the Luhansk sector, the occupiers used mortars, rocket-propelled grenades and small arms in the villages of Novozvanivka and Novo-Oleksandrivka.

<http://www.unian.info/war/1638851-militants-fire-grad-ps-on-ato-forces-use-mortars-grenade-launchers-in-donetsk-sector.html>

OSCE sees spike in Donbas truce violations in Nov, 25.11.2016

"The situation continues to deteriorate in eastern Ukraine. In mid-November ceasefire violations reached their highest levels since the establishment of the Special Monitoring Mission in 2014," reads the statement by Deputy Mission Chief Kate Byrnes delivered at the OSCE Permanent Council meeting in Vienna. "Furthermore, the SMM recorded last week the highest-ever number of violations from heavy weapons, including multiple launch rocket systems. Combined Russian-separatist forces continue to be responsible for the majority of ceasefire violations," Byrnes said. "We call on all parties to comply fully with the Minsk agreements, including upholding the ceasefire, withdrawing proscribed weapons, making progress on disengagement, and providing the SMM full and unfettered access to all parts of Ukraine, particularly the territory controlled by combined Russian-separatist forces." She also noted that as fighting has surged, so too have threats and aggressive acts against the SMM, with nine incidents recorded over the last two months.

<http://uaposition.com/latest-news/osce-sees-spike-donbas-truce-violations-nov/>

ATO HQ warns against acts of provocation in occupied Debaltsevo, 25.11.2016

"They will create a picture for Russian-backed media by staging mass rallies, where they will bring people from different towns and villages. The occupiers will use military equipment with Ukraine's insignia on the sides and yellow-and-blue flags, [they will be] dressed in Ukrainian army uniform in an attempt to discredit the Armed Forces of Ukraine and the Minsk agreements," the ATO HQ said. The ATO HQ warns there may be casualties among civilians, therefore local residents need to be very cautious, as the militants will "go to every expedient not to let peace return to Debaltsevo."

<http://www.unian.info/war/1645537-ato-hq-warns-against-acts-of-provocation-in-occupied-debaltsevo.html>

Russian proxies attack Ukraine 37 times in last day, 26.11.2016

Most of the attacks occurred in the Mariupol sector where the militants fired heavy artillery, mortars, grenade launchers and small arms. Sniper was also active in Novotroytske. In the Donetsk sector, Russia's hybrid military force opened fire from grenade launchers, heavy machine guns. In the Luhansk sector, the occupiers fired mortars, anti-tank missiles, grenade launchers and small arms.

<http://www.unian.info/war/1646542-ato-hq-russian-proxies-attack-ukraine-37-times-in-last-day.html>

Separatists Say Dozhd Journalists 'Deported' From Eastern Ukraine, 26.11.2016

Separatist authorities in Donetsk said in a November 25 statement that they had "deported" Dozhd journalists Sergei Yerzhenkov and Vasily Polonsky. The announcement came after the TV channel said it had lost contact with the two men.

The statement accused the journalists of conducting "illegal journalistic activity" in areas of Donetsk controlled by the separatists, who have been fighting a bloody war with Ukrainian forces that has killed more than 9,600 since April 2014. Dozhd is known for its critical coverage of Russian President Vladimir Putin, who has denied accusations by Kyiv, NATO, and the EU that the Kremlin is backing the separatists despite substantial evidence of such support. The channel also provides a regular platform for opponents of the Russian government.

<http://www.rferl.org/a/ukraine-separatists-deport-independent-russian-journalists-dozhd/28140109.html>

Ukrainian officers detain militants' accomplices near Mariupol, 27.11.2016

The press service said that the detainees were guilty of criminal offenses and aiding militants of DPR. On the same day, the Ukrainian guards also detained one citizen near a checkpoint at the entrance to the city in Mariupol. "During the search, it was established that the citizen was a member of the DPR illegal armed police," the report says. The detainees were transferred to the National Police and the Security Service of Ukraine. As was previously reported, the police officers in Donetsk region also exposed six militants and their accomplices who were hiding in Ukrainian-controlled territory.

<http://www.unian.info/war/1646901-ukrainian-officers-detain-militants-accomplices-near-mariupol.html>

Ukrainian army created a "kettle" for militants in Dokuchaievsk city and ready to liberate within two hours, 28.11.2016

Ukraine's army is waiting for the command and claims it has almost created a "kettle" where Russian proxies can lose control over the whole city of Dokuchaievsk. Soldiers of the 30th brigade have recently destroyed two artillery systems and a new Russian radar locator there. The city of Dokuchaievsk does not resemble any other city across the Donbas heath. It is surrounded by high spoil tips like a mountain chain. When militants tried to seize them, they were highly surprised the tips were controlled by Ukraine's ATO forces. On all three sides, the city is under fire control of 30th brigade of Ukraine's Armed Forces - a hop skip and a jump away from a full encirclement. If the command was announced, militants would be encircled and within two hours Dokuchaievsk would be Ukrainian. The Ukrainian positions are located at the tips around the city and the front avoids it crescent.

https://www.1492news.com/news/37724_1480355732

Disengagement of forces near Stanytsia Luhanska again fails due to 'LPR' militants, 28.11.2016

Militants of the self-proclaimed LPR have again disrupted the disengagement of forces and military equipment near the village of Stanytsia Luhanska "Another attempt to count seven days when the fire is ceased to launch the disengagement of forces and equipment near Stanytsia Luhanska has again been disrupted by armed formations in separate areas of Luhansk region," the ATO HQ said with reference to the Ukrainian members of the JCCC of the ceasefire in Donbas. Late on Sunday, November 27, the JCCC's Ukrainian members recorded new attacks by "LPR" militants in the area designated for the disengagement near Stanytsia Luhanska. The positions of the Armed Forces of Ukraine there were shelled with the use of grenade launchers and small arms, the ATO HQ said. The JCCC immediately informed the OSCE SMM to Ukraine about the attacks.

<http://www.unian.info/war/1647467-disengagement-of-forces-near-stanytsia-luhanska-again-fails-due-to-lpr-militants.html>

Latest from OSCE Special Monitoring Mission (SMM) to Ukraine, 29.11.2016

The SMM recorded more ceasefire violations in Donetsk region during the reporting period and fewer in Luhansk region, compared with the previous reporting period. The SMM recorded the majority of the ceasefire violations around the Avdiivka-Yasynuvata-Donetsk airport area. The SMM continued to monitor the disengagement areas in Stanytsia Luhanska, Zolote and Petrivske, and faced restrictions of its freedom of movement in all three areas.* The SMM camera at the Stanytsia Luhanska bridge recorded at least two ceasefire violations within the disengagement area. The Mission followed up on reports of an accidental civilian casualty in Dokuchaievsk and three non-civilian casualties in Novozvanivka. It continued to monitor the withdrawal of weapons and noted weapons in violation of the withdrawal lines in government-controlled areas. The SMM monitored repairs to essential infrastructure providing water to 50,000 people in and around Toretsk.

http://www.osce.org/ukraine-smm/285331#_ftn1

National Minorities

Repressive machine in occupied Crimea gaining momentum in order to destroy Crimean Tatars – Ukraine MFA, 08.11.2016

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine believes that the main goal of repression in occupied Crimea is the destruction of the indigenous Crimean Tatar people, spokesperson for the Ukrainian Foreign Ministry Mariana Betsa wrote on Twitter.

"The repressive machine in occupied Crimea is gaining momentum. The destruction of indigenous people of Crimea is its main goal," she tweeted. Earlier, Russian lawyer Nikolay Polozov wrote on Twitter that another court hearing in the case of deputy chairman of the Mejlis of the Crimean Tatar people Ahtem Chiygoz would be held in occupied Crimea on Tuesday.

<http://uaposition.com/latest-news/repressive-machine-in-occupied-crimea-gaining-momentum-in-order-to-destroy-crimean-tatars-ukraine-mfa/>

In Uzhgorod, vandals defaced the monument to Holocaust victims, 28.11.2016

On November 26, on the Day of remembrance of the victims of Holodomor in Ukraine, unknown persons doused the monument with red paint and scattered provocative leaflets inciting ethnic hatred. The text, which was sent from the address patriot44@mail.ua together with the photos, reads that it was done by "unknown Transcarpathian nationalists", and they call it "an act of revenge on the so-called Jewish "holy place." Since no specific names were mentioned, nobody assumed responsibility for the act itself. While nobody has appealed to Transcarpathian police about the desecration of the monument, they already began to investigate into the matter.

http://uzhgorod.in/en/news/2016/novabr/in_uzhgorod_vandals_defaced_the_monument_to_holocaust_victims_photos
<http://www.rferl.org/a/belarus-holocaust-memorial-mahileu-vandalized/28131206.html>

Mass Media

On International Day to End Impunity for Crimes against Journalists, OSCE Representative urges States to take real steps to break cycle of impunity, 02.11.2016

On the International Day to End Impunity for Crimes Committed against Journalists the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media, Dunja Mijatović, called on OSCE participating States to step up their investigations and identify and prosecute those who commit crimes against journalists. "Authorities throughout the OSCE region are failing to take action to reduce the high number of attacks against journalists, and they are failing to confront the issue of impunity," Mijatović said. In December 2013, the United Nations General Assembly adopted a landmark resolution on journalist safety and proclaimed 2 November as the International Day to End Impunity. It was the first time the General Assembly adopted a resolution directly addressing journalists' safety and the issue of impunity. "This date serves as a reminder of the collaborative effort necessary to bring issues of criminal impunity to light," Mijatović said. "The grim facts are that nine out of every ten murders of journalists are never solved and that the vast majority of physical attacks against journalist are not investigated. These statistics alone show that we can never give up and never give in to the fight for journalists' safety and media freedom."

<http://www.osce.org/fom/278592>

Ukraine Worldwide

Special Report: In Crimea, Russia signals military resolve with new and revamped bases, 01.11.2016

The missile bunkers that dot the verdant hills along Crimea's southern coast are known locally as Object 100. Until recently, tourists paid \$50 to visit the crumbling and abandoned former Soviet sites, which served during the Cold War as a defense against naval attack from the Black Sea. Now the bunkers are coming back online. After Russia took control of Crimea from Ukraine in 2014, signs went up in the woods around the sites warning visitors against entering a "forbidden zone of the Russian Ministry of Defence." A resident of a nearby village who said he was employed at the base last year said Russian soldiers had re-occupied the sites and blocked roads leading into the area. He was unable to say when the Russian soldiers arrived. "It is a functioning military base with an anti-ship missile system," the villager told a Reuters reporter who visited the area in July. The bunkers are just one small part of a new Russian program to militarize the Crimean peninsula. Based on recent site observations by Reuters, accounts from locals, media reports and official Russian data, Moscow has reanimated multiple Soviet-built facilities in the region, built new bases and stationed soldiers there. Crimea sits at the southern end of a line of new and refurbished Russian military facilities that stretches north in an arc through western Russia and ends in the country's Baltic outpost of Kaliningrad.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/us-russia-crimea-specialreport-idUSKBN12W3NS>

ESTONIA REPORTS SIXTH AIRSPACE VIOLATION BY RUSSIAN AIR FORCE THIS YEAR, 02.11.2016

Estonia has accused Russia's border guard of violating its airspace in what it is claiming is the sixth such violation this year. The Estonian Ministry of Defense announced via Twitter on Tuesday evening that a Russian An-148 border patrol aircraft had violated Estonian space for the sixth time in 2016. The incident took place Tuesday morning near the island of Vaindloo, Estonia's northernmost territory in the Baltic Sea. According to a statement by the Estonian Armed Forces, the aircraft's stay in Estonian airspace lasted around a minute. It was flying with its transponder switched on but there was no radio contact between the Russian crew and Estonian forces at the time of the violation, according to the statement.

<http://europe.newsweek.com/estonia-reports-sixth-airspace-violation-russian-air-force-515877?rm=eu>

Russia makes U-turn after evicting Amnesty from Moscow office, 03.11.2016

Human rights group Amnesty International can return to the Moscow office it was evicted from this week, a Kremlin human rights adviser said on Thursday after discussing the matter with President Vladimir Putin. Amnesty has been a vocal critic of Russia over its bombing campaign in Syria and had said it believed the eviction might be part of an official crackdown on civil society groups. Amnesty staff had turned up at their office in central Moscow on Wednesday morning to find the locks had been changed and the power cut off. The Moscow city government, from which Amnesty leases the premises, said it was owed rent, but the group said payments were up to date. Mikhail Fedotov, head of the Russian Human Rights Council which formally reports to the Kremlin, told Reuters he had met Putin and discussed the matter.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/us-russia-amnesty-office-idUSKBN12Y2J1>

FBI examining fake documents targeting Clinton campaign: sources, 04.11.2016

The FBI and U.S. intelligence agencies are examining faked documents aimed at discrediting the Hillary Clinton campaign as part of a broader investigation into what U.S. officials believe has been an attempt by Russia to disrupt the presidential election, people with knowledge of the matter said. U.S. Senator Tom Carper, a Democrat on the Senate Homeland Security Committee, has referred one of the documents to the FBI for investigation on the grounds that his name and stationery were forged to appear authentic. In a document forged to appear as though Carper was writing a letter to Clinton, Carper is quoted as saying the Department of Homeland Security had advised him of a risk that a "massive" cyber attack "could change the election results in favor of a specific candidate." The document dated October 3 was reviewed by Reuters. You can see a copy of the letter here: tmsnr.rs/2emt5AI. It concludes, "Any suspicious incident will be immediately reported to your assistants so that a recount of votes could be timely organized. You will not lose the election because of some compromised electronic voting systems." The fake Carper letter is one of several documents presented to the FBI and the U.S. Department of Justice for review in recent weeks, the sources said.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/us-usa-election-documents-idUSKBN12Y2WY>

Former CIA chief: Trump is Russia's useful fool, 04.11.2016

Michael V. Hayden, a principal at the Chertoff Group and visiting professor at George Mason University's Schar School of Policy and Government, was director of the National Security Agency from 1999 to 2005 and the Central Intelligence Agency from 2006 to 2009. I know I'm not the first to notice this, but Donald Trump really does sound a lot like Vladimir Putin. There has always been a sympathetic authoritarian chord between the Republican presidential nominee and the Russian president. Both are on record as admiring The Strong Leader. They've even complimented one another on the trait. Putin could have been humming along when Trump was claiming "I alone can fix it" during his acceptance speech at the Republican National Convention. Maybe he was. Each seems to have a pretty conspiratorial view of the world, too. Putin comes by his naturally. He's a product of a KGB Marxist philosophy where "the other" — any other — is reflexively identified as hostile and created by immutable forces of history, something to be feared and ultimately crushed.

https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/former-cia-chief-trump-is-russias-useful-fool/2016/11/03/cda42ffe-a1d5-11e6-8d63-3e0a660f1f04_story.html?hpid=hp_no-name_opinion-card-f:homepage/story

<http://www.cbc.ca/news/politics/nato-watching-trump-putin-closely-1.3858462>

Trump wins, 09.11.2016

The republican candidate Donald Trump's victory became apparent after the count in Wisconsin showed his lead. Considering Trump's victory in this state, he scored more than 270 electoral votes needed to secure the victory.

<http://www.unian.info/world/1613792-trump-wins.html>

<https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/ng-interactive/2016/nov/09/president-victory-speech-annotated>

<https://www.rt.com/usa/336501-trump-russia-relations-putin/>

<http://uaopposition.com/analysis-opinion/trumps-key-quotes-on-ukraine-and-Russian-agression-tweets-videos-links/>

http://www.nato.int/cps/en/natohq/news_137500.htm

https://www.buzzfeed.com/christophermassie/trump-called-russias-invasion-of-ukraine-so-smart-in-2014?utm_term=.dtP8JDlxL#.abK9O2g3v

Russia claims another two Ukraine "saboteurs" in occupied Crimea detained, 21.11.2016

The court in the Russian-occupied Crimea has ruled to hold in custody another two "Ukrainian saboteurs" after their detention by the FSB in a spree of arrests the Russian security service said were connected with a crackdown on an alleged subversive plot of the Ukrainian military intel against the peninsula's critical infrastructure and military bases. The occupation forces claim one of the detainees is Colonel of the Main Intelligence Directorate of Ukraine's Defense Ministry Oleksiy Stohniy. Another man arrested is allegedly a Ukrainian officer Hleb Shabliy. Russia claims that Stohniy and Shabliy have conspired with a "Shtyblikov group", the members of which had been arrested in Crimea earlier, Radio Liberty reported.

<http://uaposition.com/latest-news/russia-claims-another-ukraine-saboteurs-occupied-crimea-detained/>

Canada adds Crimean officials to sanctions list, 29.11.2016

In order to maintain the necessary pressure on Russia until it fully complies with its international obligations with respect to Ukraine, the Special Economic Measures (Ukraine) Regulations have been amended to list 15 additional separatist individuals, including six members of Russia's State Duma from Crimea, who are subject to an asset freeze and dealings prohibition. These sanctions are in response to the September 18 election of officials residing in Crimea to Russia's State Duma. Canada does not support the legitimacy or the outcome of these elections held in the occupied Crimean peninsula, as it has never recognized Russia's illegal annexation of Ukraine's Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol. Adding more sanctions, in coordination with our partners, is the most effective way to underscore the resounding message that together with the United States and the European Union, there is unity in responding to Russia's actions in Ukraine. Canada's new measures are also designed to maintain the efficacy of existing sanctions measures, and, crucially, to maintain pressure on Russia to implement its Minsk commitments. Canada reaffirms its commitment to a policy of non-recognition of Russia's illegal annexation of Crimea.

http://news.gc.ca/web/article-en.do?jsessionid=ae3f183a6234d6096293babd5ce46234d299f89e9b5eae55afc68221d5a10f7_e34Rc3iMbx8Oai0Tbx0SaxuRbNj0?mthd=index&crtr_page=1&nid=1161379

Russian troops in Crimea on high alert following Kiev's missile launch preparations, 29.11.2016

"Ukraine's firing exercises are a sort of a PR-move aimed at creating a nervous situation but in any case the military perceive this as a real and potential threat and, therefore, the Russian air defense forces in Crimea have been placed on enhanced alert," the source said. "This refers not only to ground-based but also to shipborne air defense forces as ships of the Black Sea Fleet are self-sustained combat units for repelling any threats," the source said. The Russian aviation watchdog Rosaviatsia earlier said that Ukraine had unilaterally decided in violation of all international treaties to hold missile launches in Russia's sovereign airspace near Crimea, in the area of civil and government planes' routes, on December 1-2. Ukraine issued a NOTAM (an aviation notice) on November 24 about the activation of dangerous zones in the airspace over planned missile launches on these dates. At the same time, the issue of closing the airspace over Crimea is not on the agenda: Rosaviatsia expects the illegitimate decisions to be cancelled.

<http://tass.com/defense/915570>

Russia deploys anti-air system in Crimea ahead of Ukraine's drills, 30.11.2016

In the afternoon of November 29, movement of Russian military convoys was recorded in the Crimean city of Kerch. Activists of the open-source intelligence "InformNapalm" community identified S-300VM "Antey-2500" anti-aircraft missile system among other military equipment spotted in military convoys moving across the occupied Crimean peninsula. Deployment of the anti-aircraft complex may be associated with an attempt to disrupt the Ukrainian missile tests over the Black Sea, scheduled for December 1-2. InformNapalm warned that the appearance of the S-300VM in Crimea, directly ahead of the missile tests scheduled by the Ukrainian side, suggest that Russia is considering two possible scenarios: to shoot down a Ukrainian missile; or to stage a provocation involving downing of a passenger plane and blaming Ukraine's missile tests.

<http://uatoday.tv/politics/russia-deploys-anti-aircraft-system-in-crimea-ahead-of-ukraine-s-missile-tests-video-816263.html>
<http://uatoday.tv/politics/no-one-will-tell-us-what-to-do-816563.html>