



Monitoring of Xenophobia and Extremism in Ukraine November 2015

Content

Introduction
Prognosis
Statements of officials
Actions of Ukrainian Authorities
Terrorism / Separatism
Pilot Savchenko
National Minorities
Mass Media
Ukraine Worldwide

Introduction

In Kiev, protests took place against the oligarch Akhmetov, against the new deputy head of the Ukrainian police, and in Krivoy Rog - against the election results.

Prime Minister Arseniy Yatsenyuk with the support of the President Poroshenko banned overflights of Russian aircraft over the territory of Ukraine. According to economic calculations, it causes annual damage to the Ukrainian economy of 30 million dollars. Poroshenko visited Holland, where local elites urged to support the decision of the Ukrainian authorities to join the EU. President said that Ukraine's accession to the EU is a national idea of all Ukrainians. Recently there has been an escalation of conflict in the ATO zone. The parties accused each other in the accumulation of military equipment allegedly allocated to the rear. The OSCE, in turn, captures violations on both sides of the front line.

President of Ukraine Petro Poroshenko, commenting escalation, allow the military to open fire in response. General Directorate of Defense Intelligence of Ukraine has established representatives of the high command of the Armed Forces of Russia, who "personally responsible for the conduct of hostilities in the Donbas."

Since the beginning of the ATO 2673 soldiers were killed. 8519 serviceman injured, including 5,913 wounded are not in combat, in ATO zone also killed 11 security officer injured more than 100 people. At the moment, 144 people are held hostage, were released - 2 941 people.

On November 21 Ukraine marked The Day of Dignity and Freedom. Celebrations at the main Kiev square were accompanied by the anti-Semitic remarks.

Prognosis

How do EU member states perceive Russia's invasion of Ukraine, 04.11.2015

The Institute of World Policy on November 4 presented the results of unique survey on how the citizens of eight EU member states perceive Russia-Ukraine conflict.

Main findings of the poll were as follows: The pool of associations with Ukraine is dominated by negative images - the three key associations are war, Russia and poverty. Almost a third of EU citizens believe that Ukraine should be provided with EU membership in order to protect the country from further Russia's aggression. Citizens of France are the most skeptical towards Ukraine's European prospects, while the British are the most indifferent. Citizens of Spain, Italy, Poland, France, Germany, the United Kingdom, the Netherlands, and Sweden took part in the survey. The citizens of these EU states were asked to name three main associations with Ukraine and to list the arguments in favour and against Ukraine's membership in the EU. The survey is a continuation of the IWP's sociological research on the perceptions and attitudes of EU citizens towards Ukraine presented in June. The IWP then published the results of opinion polls on Ukraine in six most populated EU countries Spain, Italy, Poland, France, Germany, and the United Kingdom. Survey results to be released later today are expected to identify problems in the EU-Ukraine relations and to bring to light concerns of ordinary Europeans. The findings could be important in terms of Russia's powerful efforts to sow division among European nations fracturing their unity with respect to Ukraine.

<http://uatoday.tv/society/institute-of-world-policy-to-present-survey-results-on-november-4-527015.html>

Poll: Only 3% of Russians still consider Crimea belongs to Ukraine, 23.11.2015

As of November 2015, the 85% of Russian citizens believe that Crimea should be part of Russia, according to a survey by Levada Center, an independent Russian polling and sociological research organization. According to 52% of Russians, the expression 'Krymnash' ['Crimea is ours'] symbolizes celebration and pride due to the return of Crimea to Russia. At the same time, 16% of respondents believe that 'Krymnash' is a "symbol of Russia's revival," while 9% say it is a "symbol of victory over Ukrainian nationalists." Only 7% of respondents said that 'Krymnash' was a "meaningless expression," 5% said it was a "propaganda slogan," and another 10% couldn't answer the question. It is also worth emphasizing that only 3% of respondents believe that the peninsula should be part of Ukraine, 5% say that it must be an independent state and 87% believe that it should be part of the Russian Federation (about 6% couldn't answer). In August 2014, 73% of Russian respondents wanted Crimea to be part of Russia.

<http://uatoday.tv/news/poll-only-3-of-russians-still-consider-crimea-belongs-to-ukraine-539757.html>

Statements of officials

Ukraine, China Speak Out For Need to Reform Un Security Council, 01.07.2015

This was discussed at a meeting between First Deputy Foreign Minister of Ukraine Natalia Galibarenko and Special Envoy of the Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs for UN Security Council reform Gāo Yushēng. The sides also touched upon bilateral and multilateral cooperation, focusing on cooperation within the UN and other international organizations "In view of the celebration of the 70th anniversary of the Organization this year, the sides agreed that there is the need for making its work more efficient, including through the reform of the UN Security Council," the statement reads. According to Galibarenko, one of the signs that the UN Security Council needs to be reformed is the fact that it has failed to take effective measures to end Russian aggression against Ukraine, and Russia blatantly abuses its right of veto as a permanent member.

<http://x-news.com.ua/ukraine-china-speak-out-for-need-to-reform-un-security-council-42320/>

Poroshenko on Korban case: Ukraine should hear new names being made liable, 02.11.2015

"My reaction is absolutely simple. The first point is that some weeks ago when parliament was stripping the lawmakers facing charges of their immunity, I firmly promised that it was just the beginning, as the fight against corruption and the resolute processes of restoring lawfulness will go on. The second position – I emphasize and insist on that – an investigation should be as transparent as possible and there should be all the reasons for winning the public's trust, as the only ground for an investigation is a crime, the violation of laws against the state. This is inadmissible. The third point is that this won't stop at Korban, and neither the team of the new officials against whom cases should also be opened nor the old authorities where all who are guilty should bear responsibility will enjoy immunity from investigation, from being made liable for corruption-related crimes," he told Ukrainian TV channels in an interview broadcast on Sunday evening.

<http://www.unian.info/politics/1171069-poroshenko-on-korban-case-ukraine-should-hear-new-names-being-made-liable.html>

'Poland expects Ukraine to conduct more reforms' – ambassador, 02.11.2015

Ambassador to Poland and former Foreign Minister of Ukraine, to discuss Ukraine's relations with the newly elected parliament and the future government. Ukraine-Poland bilateral relations. "I believe that this trend [dynamic and supportive relations as Ukraine have with the President Komorowski and government of Ewa Kopacz will continue with the change of the President of Poland and the change of the government. I think that these relations that were established, that are grounding on the need and understanding of the importance of both countries for the regional stability and for the European stability, for European integration, will dominate in our bilateral relations."

<http://uatoday.tv/society/deshchytisia-525625.html>

Kremlin warns against linking A321 crash in Egypt with Russia's operation in Syria, 03.11.2015

Presidential spokesman Dmitry Peskov has told the media: "Hypothetic insinuations on that score are inappropriate. Besides, these are absolutely different issues. There is no point in linking them," Peskov said, when asked if progress in Russia's operation in Syria might be affected if it was confirmed the plane had fallen victim to a terrorist attack. He also pointed out that for now there was not the slightest evidence indicating there was an act of terror.

<http://tass.ru/en/politics/833709>

U.S. Army Chief of Staff Gen. Milley: I See Russia as Aggressive, 04.11.2015

"The situation with Russia is, in my mind, serious and growing more serious. I see Russia as aggressive, not just assertive. They attacked Georgia, they illegally seized the Crimea, they have attacked Ukraine, all of those countries were free and independent and have been sovereign nations now for a quarter of a century, since the fall of the Berlin wall. So, that's not just assertive behavior that is aggressive," he said at the 3rd Annual Defense One Summit in Washington, DC, the United States. Answering a question from Jennifer Griffin, a Fox News national security correspondent, whether he considers Russia a greater threat to the United States than ISIS at the moment, Milley said that Russia is the number one threat to the United States.

"I said in testimony that I considered Russia the number one threat to the United States. The reason I said that was twofold: one is capability and the second is intent. In terms of capability, Russia is the only country on Earth that has the capability to destroy the United States of America. It is an existential threat by definition, because of their nuclear capabilities. Other countries have nuclear weapons, but none as many as Russia and none have the capability to destroy – literally destroy – the United States," he said.

<https://charter97.org/en/news/2015/11/4/176768/>

Readout of Vice President Biden's Call with European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker, 04.11.2015

Vice President Joe Biden spoke today with European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker to discuss Ukraine, Syria, energy security, economic issues, and migration. On Ukraine, the two leaders agreed that sanctions on Russia should be tied to full implementation of the Minsk agreements, and that Ukraine needed to move forward expeditiously with further economic and anti-corruption reforms. The Vice President and President Juncker discussed the need for the United States and EU to cooperate in dealing with the European migration crisis as well as coordinate diplomatic efforts to seek a political resolution to the Syrian conflict. On energy security, the two leaders discussed the need for energy diversification and full application of EU competition standards. Finally, the Vice President and President Juncker both underscored the importance of rapidly concluding a replacement to the Safe Harbor framework, which is vital to both the U.S. and European economies.

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2015/11/03/readout-vice-president-bidens-call-european-commission-president-jean>

EU's Tusk says Russia does not abide by Minsk deal on Ukraine, 04.11.2015

Russia is not fully abiding by the terms of the Minsk peace deal for Ukraine and this will be taken into account by the European Union when it reviews its sanctions on Russia before the end of the year, the chairman of EU leaders said on Wednesday. It is "clear that the Minsk agreements (are) not yet fully implemented. This will need to be reflected in upcoming EU sanctions review," Donald Tusk said. EU nations agreed that economic sanctions on Russia would stay in place until a Minsk ceasefire deal in Ukraine is fully implemented. The Minsk agreement sets a deadline of the end of 2015 for Ukraine to regain full control over its eastern border. EU sanctions against Russia will expire on Jan. 31, 2016 if the 28 countries of the bloc do not agree on an extension. Tusk also rejected speculation that the EU could soften its sanctions on Russia in exchange for Russia's help in dealing with the Islamic State and the war in Syria. This "would not only be immoral but also ineffective," Tusk said.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2015/11/04/us-ukraine-russia-eu-sanctions-idUSKCN0ST1YR20151104#JmUuBt2SHI3rO6yE.97>

Washington concerned about uptick in ceasefire violations in eastern Ukraine, 05.11.2015

"We are disturbed by an uptick in ceasefire violations in eastern Ukraine over the past two weeks," Kirby said. He stressed that the Russian-separatist forces had repeatedly attacked Ukrainian forces with small arms, grenade launchers, anti-aircraft weapons, and high-caliber machine guns. According to Kirby, these violations endanger the ceasefire and the Minsk Agreements implementation, being the right path to restore peace as the United States has said before. "We call on Russia and the separatists to end the violence and to live up to their Minsk commitments," the spokesperson for the U.S. Department of State said.

<http://www.nrcu.gov.ua/en/news.html?newsID=11020>

<http://www.state.gov/r/pa/prs/dpb/2015/11/249179.htm#RUSSIA>

No grounds yet to name cause of Russian plane crash in Egypt, 05.11.2015

The Kremlin believes that any theories about what caused a Russian plane to crash in the Sinai Peninsula killing 224 people are speculation and that only the official investigation can determine what happened, Dmitry Peskov, a spokesman for President Vladimir Putin, said. The spokesman was reacting to an assertion from British Foreign Secretary Philip Hammond who said that there was a significant possibility that Islamic State's Egyptian affiliate had orchestrated a bomb attack on the Russian airliner. "We have said this before and we will repeat it again: theories about what happened and the causes of the incident can only be pronounced by the investigation," said Peskov, when asked about Hammond's comments. "So far, we have heard nothing (like this) from the investigation. Any kind of similar assumptions like this are based on information that has not been checked or are speculation."

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2015/11/05/egypt-crash-kremlin-idUSL8N1302X520151105#CV2weLMWR5Wt6qhy.97>

Steven Fisher says 'Ukraine is, was and will be the breadbasket of Europe, 05.11.2015

Everyone knows the agro culture sector is performing at one third of the efficiency level of the entire United States of Western Europe; that by itself means there is great potential for increasing productivity and therefore investment in the sector, said Fisher.

"Ukraine is, was and will be the breadbasket of Europe and therefore foreign investment can play a very large role in realizing those possibilities," he said. Fisher went on to say that gas and oil exploration and production is another area of great possibility for future foreign direct investment. He named low labor cost another feature worth noting, as seen with the decline of the hryvnia. Therefore, the country may attract global hubs in the near future, Fisher believes. The pace of Ukraine's reforms and fight with corruption were also discussed.

<http://www.unian.info/economics/1175350-ukraine-is-was-and-will-be-the-breadbasket-of-europe-steven-fisher.html>

US Government Willing to Provide Ukraine Third \$1Bn Loan Guarantee, 06.11.2015

The US is willing to give Ukraine a third \$1 billion loan to help the country target corruption and focus on tax reform, US Vice President Joe Biden told Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko during a phone call on Thursday, the White House announced in a statement.

<http://sputniknews.com/politics/20151106/1029673281/us-provide-ukraine-third-billion-loan.html>

Lavrov Says Ukraine's Minsk Deadlines Should Be Extended Into 2016, 06.11.2015

Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov says it is clear that deadlines on political reforms in Ukraine under the Minsk agreements need to be extended into 2016.

Lavrov issued the statement after meeting in Berlin on November 6 with the foreign ministers of Germany, France, and Ukraine to discuss the next steps toward ending Ukraine's conflict. The meeting took place amid a growing awareness that progress on a peace plan has been slower than hoped for in the conflict between Ukrainian government forces and Russian-backed separatists in eastern Ukraine, which has killed more than 7,900 people since April 2014. The conflict also has soured relations between Russia and the West, which accuses the Kremlin of playing a direct military role in the conflict. Russia continues to deny that it is sending its troops and weaponry into eastern Ukraine, despite growing evidence to the contrary.

<http://www.rferl.org/content/berlin-ukraine-russia-talks/27349571.html>

Best way to hold fair elections in East Ukraine is to withdraw Russian troops – Yatsenyuk, 06.11.2015

"This is a very fragile ceasefire. Once again, if we go back to the Minsk deal, we are ready to hold free and fair elections in Donetsk and Luhansk. But these elections are to meet all due and received criteria and Ukrainian legislation. And the best way to hold free and fair elections is just to withdraw Russians, to pull back all Russian forces. Because we can't get any kind of free and fair elections under the barrel of Russian gun, you know? So, the ceasefire is not the implementation of the Minsk deal. The ceasefire is just a precondition for full implementation of the Minsk deal. So, it's still fragile," Ukraine's Prime Minister Arseniy Yatsenyuk said, alleging he had received a report on Thursday from Ukraine's Department of Defense about 12 shelling incidents.

<http://uatoday.tv/politics/east-ukraine-elections-528836.html>

Ukraine counts on Europe's support to restore Donbas, 07.11.2015

"It is clear that there will be some internal state programs and local taxes. However, we must also rely on the assistance of our European partners. We had to make serious compromises to achieve peace. Therefore, we need specific guarantees of assistance for the restoration of these territories," he said. Groyzman expressed confidence that "with the help of our partners and allies, we will achieve the implementation of the agreements by our opponents." "They will have to withdraw their troops and militants, as well as to open territory for Ukrainian laws and elections. We will overcome this hard way," he said.

<http://www.unian.info/politics/1177135-ukraine-counts-on-europes-support-to-restore-donbas.html>

Poroshenko convinced control over Crimea will be returned to Ukraine, 07.11.2015

Poroshenko went on to compare last year's Russian annexation of Crimea to the Nazi takeover of Austria in 1938. "The situation in Crimea is a complete Anschluss, is an annexation of the sovereign Ukrainian territory, is a brutal violation of international law. At the end of the day, international law and order should be restored," he said, when talking with a reporter from the Conflict Zone program. Poroshenko said the only possible guarantee of security for Ukraine is NATO membership. He is convinced that Kyiv will be able to fulfill the requirements for membership in 6-8 years. Speaking about the settlement of the conflict in Donbas, the Ukrainian president assured that Kyiv fulfills all the requirements of the Minsk accords on time.

<http://en.interfax.com.ua/news/general/302254.html>

Law on Donbas special status should enter into force on election day — German FM, 10.11.2015

Steinmeier said the "Normandy Quartet" agreed that "on the day of election in Ukraine's east the law on special status will enter into force on preliminary basis." If OSCE (Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe) observers confirm that election was held without violations, the law "will enter into force on permanent basis," the foreign minister added. Law on Donbas special status is envisaged by the Minsk accords signed on February 12, after negotiations in the so-called "Normandy format" in the Belarusian capital Minsk, bringing together Russian President Vladimir Putin, French President Francois Hollande, German Chancellor Angela Merkel and Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko.

<http://tass.ru/en/world/835218>

European Commissioner for Trade: We decided that DCFTA would come into force, and Russia will have to accept that, 11.11.2015

Commissioner Malmström will visit Ukraine on November 12-13 to meet the Prime Minister, the President, the Minister for Economic Development and Trade, and the Foreign Minister. Implementation of the Ukraine – EU Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area from January 1, 2016, will be on the top agenda of Ms Malmström's visit. Ahead of her visit Cecilia Malmström has told what the advantages are of the DCFTA for the Ukrainian producers, what should be done to make the Ukrainian products competitive on the European markets, and how the consumers will profit. She also stressed the need for the Ukrainian authorities to take practical steps in the implementation of important reforms and elaborated on the actions of the EU toward Russia, which shows concern over the Ukraine-EU DCFTA. It is a trip to show support to Ukraine and to discuss the upcoming implementation of the DCFTA.

<http://ukrainianwall.com/english-news/european-commissioner-for-trade-we-decided-that-dcfta-would-come-into-force-and-russia-will-have-to-accept-that/>

Poroshenko says Ukrainian troops allowed to return fire if attacked, 12.11.2015

"These attempts to disrupt the Minsk agreement – not only by provoking the Ukrainian military with subversive activity, not just by shelling our territory with the use of the weapons that should have been withdrawn long ago, not just by barring the OSCE Special Monitoring Mission from visiting observation posts and weapon storage locations and by denying access to the non-controlled section of the Ukrainian-Russian border – demonstrate that risks and threats to national security, sovereignty, territorial integrity and independence of Ukraine remain considerable," the president said at a meeting of the National Security and Defense Council in Kyiv on Wednesday. "The Ukrainian servicemen have a firm order to fight back the enemy in case of a threat to their life amid attacks. We will not let the enemy take us by surprise," he added. At the same time, Poroshenko stressed that those were only defensive actions. Despite provocations by pro-Russian militants, Ukraine strictly abides by the agreements for the sake of the establishment of peace.

<http://www.unian.info/politics/1180976-poroshenko-says-ukrainian-troops-allowed-to-return-fire-if-attacked.html>

European Commission urges Ukraine to adopt full visa-liberalization package, 12.11.2015

The European Commission (EC) welcomes the adoption by the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine of a set of laws aimed at improving asset recovery procedures in the country. "Ukraine has committed to establishing a national Asset Recovery Office, as well as a management function for seized and confiscated assets and an effective inter-agency coordination to establish asset recovery records," reads the statement. The EC believes "the vote in the Rada was an important opportunity to pass strong legislation for improving the asset recovery framework." A thorough evaluation on the adopted text is planned by the EC, considering a number of amendments introduced, according to the report. "The European Commission expects Ukraine to adopt legislation which will improve the legal and institutional framework on asset recovery in line with EU standards and the Visa Liberalization Action Plan and which will offer the necessary guarantees for setting up a suitable asset recovery system," the statement reads.

<https://www.charter97.org/en/news/2015/11/12/178041/>

President: Those who committed crimes against Maidan must be punished, 12.11.2015

The President emphasized the importance of accelerating the investigation of all crimes against protesters on Maidan and urged the investigative bodies to intensify their work. "We have no right to delay this issue. No death should remain without responsibility of those who committed and organized these crimes," Petro Poroshenko said. The Head of State is confident that the fact that the suspects in these crimes are fugitives doesn't prevent their conviction and prosecution. "The Law initiated by me provides grounds for the adjudication in absentia," the President emphasized. He reminded that Ukraine had filed an appeal to the International Criminal Court in Hague for the former leaders of the country led by Yanukovich to be punished under the international law.

<http://www.president.gov.ua/en/news/vinni-u-zlochinah-proti-majdanu-mayut-buti-pokarani-preziden-34043>

NO SUSTAINABLE CEASEFIRE IN DONBAS – KLIMKIN TELLS, 13.11.2015

"We did not have any sustainable ceasefire. It was a very fragile process and we still have no confidence in the process, without full access to Donbas. Taking into account everyday cases about hidden weapons, including heavy weapons and tanks, and taking into account all kind of data about movements of the forces in Donbas, we can't talk about any real ceasefire," he said in an exclusive interview on Ukraine Today's Viewpoint. Klimkin pledged to keep informed all his foreign friends and peers about ongoing events, "because now the whole Minsk process, especially the withdrawal of weapons, is definitely jeopardized." "And we have to talk about it in a very straight forward way," he added.

<http://x-news.com.ua/no-sustainable-ceasefire-in-donbas-klimkin-tells-ukraine-today-88712/>

<http://www.unian.info/politics/1186463-swedens-fm-categorical-on-sanctions-against-russia.html>

Yatsenyuk: Ukraine to impose moratorium on Russian debt if Moscow says no to restructuring, 13.11.2015

Ukraine will declare a moratorium on the payment of a 'Russian debt if Moscow does not accept the terms of the proposed restructuring deal, Ukrainian Prime Minister Arseniy Yatsenyuk said during a meeting with the US Treasury Secretary Jacob Lew in Kyiv. "The [Ukrainian] government invited all the creditors to join the process of debt restructuring. All of them did, except Russia, and we finished the restructuring process," Yatsenyuk said.

<http://uatoday.tv/news/yatsenyuk-ukraine-to-impose-moratorium-on-russian-debt-if-moscow-says-no-to-restructuring-533142.html>

Ukraine's PM accuses Russia of promoting global terrorism, 15.11.2015

"It's time where it can be no half-truth. Terror is the same in all forms: against human life, against the independence of other nations, and against the basic principles of civilized international coexistence," he said. Yatsenyuk has no doubt that the violation of guarantees of security of the state, which gave up its nuclear weapons, the annexation of Crimea, the occupation of Donbas, threats of using force by the Kremlin promote global terrorism. The collective response of humanity must be clear and precise, he stressed.

<http://www.unian.info/politics/1184222-ukraines-pm-accuses-russia-of-promoting-global-terrorism.html>

Ukraine to strengthen security measures at airports and in cities, 14.11.2015

President of Ukraine Petro Poroshenko has instructed to strengthen security measures at the country's airports and introduce a special border regime due to the terrorist attacks in France. "I have held a meeting with the law enforcement agencies. Increased security measures will be taken at airports and cities in Ukraine, with a special border regime to be introduced," the head of state wrote. Poroshenko stressed that Ukraine and all the civilized world stand "side-by-side with France in its struggle against international terrorism." "The key message we saw from France is: "We are not afraid". Together with France, we defend our common European values - liberty, equality, fraternity. The whole world is with France," the president emphasized.

http://en.censor.net.ua/news/360651/ukraine_to_strengthen_security_measures_at_airports_and_in_cities

Poroshenko: Combat readiness raised amid escalation in Donbas, 15.11.2015

"We do see a solid demonstration of the escalation of the situation in the east. The number of attacks has increased, and our response was instantaneous. I have given a very clear order, that, when facing a threat to the life of the Ukrainian military, our soldiers, our heroes, the Ukrainian military have the right to return fire. And this had corresponding results: four sabotage and reconnaissance groups of militants were terminated, one of which came 80 meters close to our observation post. And our military were absolutely professional, they let them get close (it was the nighttime, but they [the Ukrainian troops] were equipped with thermal imagers), responded, and the sabotage and reconnaissance group was terminated," said Poroshenko.

<http://www.unian.info/politics/1184358-poroshenko-combat-readiness-raised-amid-escalation-in-donbas.html>

Russia plans a 'hybrid warfare' campaign aimed at destabilizing Europe, says Bulgarian President, 16.11.2015

Russia has trained its sights on the Balkans to wage a "hybrid warfare" campaign aimed at destabilizing the whole of Europe, the President of Bulgaria has warned. He demands that the EU and Nato do more to counter the rising threat of Russian aggression.

Rosen Plevneliev accuses Moscow of launching massive cyber attacks on Bulgaria's government institutions and increasingly testing Bulgaria's airspace in the wake of the annexation last year of Crimea, on the other side of the Black Sea. "The very efficient and secure way for Russia to destabilize Europe is through the Balkans, so that is what Mr Putin is focusing on," - "Our message to the EU, the Secretary General of Nato, our partners and Western allies is that the Balkans should be in the very heart of European security policy. Do more for us in order to do more for yourselves." The Bulgarian President's comments came after he attended a Nato summit of nine Eastern European member states in the Romanian capital Bucharest on Wednesday, at which leaders expressed concerns that the "security environment was deteriorating" as a result of Russia's "aggressive and unpredictable" behaviour.

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/europe/russia-plans-a-hybrid-warfare-campaign-aimed-at-destabilising-europe-says-bulgarian-president-a6734981.html>

Russia is ready to restructure "Yanukovich's debt", 16.11.2015

Russia is prepared to take \$1 billion per year from 2016 through 2018 from Ukraine, and to defer any payment this year, Putin told reporters at a news conference at the G-20 summit in Antalya, Turkey, on Monday. Russia proposed "better" terms for restructuring to Ukraine than the International Monetary Fund was seeking, Putin said. The proposal comes after months of Russian refusal to participate in restructuring talks over Ukraine's debt, which comes due in December. Russia said the \$3 billion bond is sovereign debt and not subject to the same restructuring talks as those Ukraine conducted with commercial lenders. Russia purchased the bonds in 2013 as part of a promised \$15 billion in aid after Ukraine's then-president Viktor Yanukovich rejected an association agreement with the European Union in favor of closer ties with its neighbor to the east. Russia is waiting for guarantees from the U.S., the EU or international financial organizations on Ukraine's debt repayment, Putin said.

http://www.fm-tv.kiev.ua/main_news/68186/view/

Ukraine's Acting Ambassador to NATO: Russia's actions see no understanding at NATO HQ, 16.11.2015

"The general atmosphere, which I observe at NATO Headquarters, is that there is an absolute, complete misunderstanding of the actions of the Russian side, their non-recognition and rejection," said Bozhok. At the same time, he said that the Russian diplomats avoid contacts with their Ukrainian counterparts at the Headquarters.

"There are no contacts as of today, because Russian colleagues simply avoid such contacts," he said. The diplomat believes that his "Russian colleagues simply have nothing to say to us (because we clearly understand what happened), so it makes no sense to impose their propaganda on us, the Ukrainians, who know the truth."

<http://ukrnews.today/ukraines-acting-ambassador-to-nato-russias-actions-see-no-understanding-at-nato-hq/>

Steinmeier: Russia focusing efforts in Syria, taking attention away from Ukraine, 16.11.2015

"Russia triggered the whole conflict. And for the long time they ensured that we would not make a millimeter of progress. At the last negotiations in Berlin and Paris we saw a movement towards making more progress. But that's because Russia's priorities have moved, said Steinmeier. "They are now much more interested in a military build-up in Syria. So they are may be focusing on their efforts in Syria and taking their attention away somewhat from the Ukrainian conflict," he said. He noted that "whatever the reason of this may be, the last meetings with Ukraine and Russia have been much more constructive than the previous meetings. The unilateral local elections on the part of the separatists have thankfully been postponed. Because, if it had happened, the Minsk process would have slipped from our hands entirely. So, we're going to continue working on trying to keep this process up and running."

<http://ukrnews.today/steinmeier-russia-focusing-efforts-in-syria-taking-attention-away-from-ukraine/>

George Soros: the country will follow Poroshenko the moment he reaffirms "commitment to new Ukraine", 17.11.2015

On 14 November 2015 the billionaire and philanthropist George Soros delivered a speech at the 25th Anniversary Dinner for the International Renaissance Foundation, part of the Open Society Foundations network, which he established to help post-soviet countries move away from communism. The new Ukraine aspires to be the exact opposite of the old Ukraine. In the old Ukraine the economy was dominated by oligarchs and a civil service that exploited the people rather than serving them. Freedoms granted by Ukraine's national independence did not guarantee basic human rights. Freedom of speech was confined by censorship and "temnik" and civil society activists faced real dangers. The new Ukraine is determined to undertake radical and painful political and economic reforms that will correct these defects. To be realistic, that is a noble objective but not an attainable one. Psychoanalysts have a technical term, they call it "a fantastic object", an ideal that inspires people but reality can never live up to it. The new Ukraine grew out of many years of civic activism that the foundation did support, and it was finally brought into existence by the heroic defenders of the Maidan who were willing to sacrifice their lives for a better future for their country. Contrary to what the Russian propaganda machine says, the foundation did not finance Maidan, although it did provide legal and medical assistance to the people who were fighting there and then sought to keep the spirit of Maidan alive by converting a revolution into a constructive, nation building activity – and that is the source of my pride and joy.

<http://ukrnews.today/george-soros-the-country-will-follow-poroshenko-the-moment-he-reaffirms-commitment-to-new-ukraine/>

<http://ukrnews.today/george-soros-the-moment-poroshenko-reaffirms-commitment-to-new-ukraine-it-will-follow-him/>

http://www.dragon-capital.com/en/about/media/press_releases/soros_invests_in_fund_sponsored_by_dragon_capital_to_invest_in_ukraine.html

Sweden's FM categorical on sanctions against Russia, 17.11.2015

Sweden is one of those EU member states, who believe that sanctions against Russia should remain unchanged, according to Minister of Foreign Affairs Ms Margot Wallström, who spoke at a joint press conference with the her Ukrainian and Lithuanian counterparts, Pavlo Klimkin and Linas Linkevicius.

<http://ukrainianwall.com/english-news/swedens-fm-categorical-on-sanctions-against-russia/>

Justin Trudeau tells Russia's Putin to end 'interference' in Ukraine, 17.11.2015

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau delivered a blunt message during a brief chat with Russian President Vladimir Putin: back off Ukraine. Trudeau said the two leaders had a brief conversation on the sidelines of the G20 summit in Antalya, Turkey. "I pointed out that although Canada has shifted its approach on a broad range of multilateral and international issues, we remain committed to the fact that Russia's interference in Ukraine must cease; that we stand with the Ukrainian people and expect the president to engage fully in the Minsk peace process," he said. Putin's relations with Western leaders have deteriorated over Russia's backing of pro-Moscow rebels in Ukraine. Trudeau's stand continues Canada's position under former prime minister Stephen Harper, a staunch supporter of Ukraine and one of Putin's most vocal critics

<http://www.cbc.ca/news/politics/canada-russia-trudeau-putin-ukraine-1.3321069>

Nuland says US must maintain pressure on Russia for Minsk commitments, 18.11.2015

"Now we have to help Ukraine see it through. We must maintain pressure on Russia and its separatist proxies to complete the unfinished commitments of Minsk, including: the return of all hostages; full humanitarian access for UN agencies, NGOs, and government relief agencies; free, fair elections in Donbas under the Ukrainian constitution monitored by ODIHR; the removal of all foreign forces and weapons; and the return of the international border to Ukraine," Nuland said at the Berlin Security Conference on November 17.

<http://uatoday.tv/news/nuland-says-us-must-maintain-pressure-on-russia-for-minsk-commitments-536565.html>

<http://www.state.gov/p/eur/rls/rm/2015/nov/249587.htm>

Poroshenko: Ukrainian military ready to stop aggressor, 18.11.2015

Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko claims Ukraine will stop the aggressor in case of a further offensive. At the same time, he pointed out that Russia had been provoking and initiating global destabilization. "The global destabilization, which has been initiated and is inspired by the Russian Federation, the bombing of Syria, and non-cooperation in the investigation into a terrorist attack on the MH17 aircraft makes us move to a completely different level of response," he added.

<http://world.korupciya.com/2015/11/18/poroshenko-ukrainian-military-ready-to-stop-aggressor/>

Eastern Europe warns West not to ignore Russia's ongoing war in Ukraine, 19.11.2015

Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania along with Poland are warning of Russian backsliding on implementing the Ukrainian ceasefire deal agreed in February. The Baltics all have ethnic Russian minorities and were unnerved when Putin declared last year that Moscow had the right to intervene with military force if necessary to protect Russian speakers abroad. Frequent Russian air incursions near Baltic airspace have added to jitters. "There cannot be bargaining over compliance of the (ceasefire) conditions," Estonian Prime Minister Taavi Roivas has said, insisting the deal must be fulfilled to the last letter. "Cooperation elsewhere does not mean for Europe concessions in its neighbourhood," he told parliament on Tuesday. But the Paris attacks and last month's downing of a Russian airliner over Egypt, both claimed by Islamic State, have created a sense that Western capitals and Moscow have a common interest in battling the militants.

<http://uatoday.tv/politics/eastern-europe-warns-west-not-to-ignore-russia-s-ongoing-war-in-ukraine-537651.html>

Yatsenyuk says sanctions against Russia should be extended by all EU countries, 19.11.2015

Ukrainian Prime Minister Arseniy Yatsenyuk believes that the United States and all the countries of the EU should extend their sanctions against Russia, the department of information and communication of the office of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine reported.

<https://www.kyivpost.com/content/ukraine/yatsenyuk-says-sanctions-against-russia-should-be-extended-by-all-eu-countries-us-402421.html>

<http://www.unian.info/politics/1189003-yatsenyuk-eu-and-us-should-extend-sanctions-against-russia.html>

Western leaders agreed to extend Russia sanctions by six months: diplomat, 21.11.2015

Western leaders who met on the margins of last week's Group of 20 summit in Turkey agreed to extend sanctions imposed on Russia for its intervention in Ukraine by six months until July of next year, a senior European diplomat told Reuters.

The decision was taken despite mounting calls to cooperate more closely with Russian President Vladimir Putin in the fight against Islamic State following the militant group's Nov. 13 attacks in Paris which killed 130 people. U.S. President Barack Obama, Germany's Angela Merkel, Britain's David Cameron, Italy's Matteo Renzi and French Foreign Minister Laurent Fabius, who represented President Francois Hollande at the summit, attended the brief meeting near the conclusion of the G20 meeting in Antalya.

The sanctions are due to expire in January, before full implementation of the so-called Minsk peace deal, which aims to resolve the standoff between Kiev and pro-Russian separatists in eastern Ukraine.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2015/11/21/us-eu-russia-sanctions-idUSKCN0TA0XH20151121#bKlcwrduRRZUO4t.97>

Yatsenyuk sure Ukraine will become EU member, 22.11.2015

Ukrainian Prime Minister Arseniy Yatsenyuk says he is sure that Ukraine will become a EU member state despite all the challenges and hardships, according to a statement posted on the government's website on the occasion of the 2nd anniversary of the Revolution of Dignity.

<http://www.kyivpost.com/content/ukraine/unian-yatsenyuk-sure-ukraine-will-become-eu-member-402625.html>

<http://www.onlinenewsplanet.com/news/1463993/pm-supports-presidents-position-on-suspending-shipments-to-crimea.html>

Actions in Syria Russia wants to distract attention from Ukraine, - Poroshenko, 22.11.2015

«Thanks to the President of Lithuania Dalia Grybauskaitė, the president of Estonia Toomas Ilves and the president of Latvia Raymonds Veyonis for invariable support and solidarity with Ukraine», - declared president Petro Poroshenko in Facebook. «In Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania perfectly understand the nature and the purposes of the Russian policy and therefore well understand that the democratic world has to belong carefully to cooperation with Russia round Syria. Because the purpose of this policy - to distract attention of the international community from the proceeding Russian aggression against Ukraine», - he added.

<https://news.pn/en/RussiaInvadedUkraine/148989>

<http://www.ukrweekly.com/uw/wp/at-u-n-putin-shifts-world-attention-from-ukraine-with-syrian-campaign/>

Dzhemilev: Crimea blockade activists ready to allow repair of two transmission lines, 23.11.2015

Dzhemilev meant the lines that provides electricity to some areas of Kherson region and the line leading to Zaporizhia nuclear power plant (NPP). "We will partly allow specialists to conduct mine clearance and repair works. There's a line there that leads to several areas of Kherson region, bypassing Crimea. People have no power there. We will let the brigades restore this line. People on the mainland should not suffer. Another line leads to the Zaporizhia NPP," he said. Dzhemilev said that negotiations on the resumption of power supply to Crimea would be possible after the release of the Ukrainian political prisoners in the occupied peninsula and in Russia. The leader of the Crimean Tatar people also suggested that Russia might introduce more trade restrictions in response to an energy blockade of Crimea.

<http://www.unian.info/politics/1191000-dzhemilev-crimea-blockade-activists-ready-to-allow-repair-of-two-transmission-lines.html>

Lithuanian foreign minister: 'You cannot make coalitions with terrorists', 23.11.2015

Linas Linkevičius, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Lithuania, stated: "I remember these killing at Charlie Hebdo. There was a march of piece in Paris and I also took part. When we were discussing this at the council of ministers of the European Union I also said that it is a big drama, but in Ukraine at that time almost the same number of people was killed almost every day. How many people should be killed to say 'Je suis Ukrainiens'? All these tragedies they cannot be solved at the expense of each other. These events in Paris now have big resonance, a lot of discussions. It doesn't mean we should put aside what is happening in Ukraine."

<http://uatoday.tv/society/linkevicius-539752.html>

The results of the meeting of the inter-Parliamentary Council Ukraine-NATO: Ukraine at the Alliance's priorities, 24.11.2015

The former defense Minister of Lithuania, member of the inter-Parliamentary Council Ukraine-NATO Rasa Juknevičienė emphasizes that, in spite of other developments, Ukraine remains among the priorities of the NATO parliamentary Assembly and the North Atlantic Alliance. «It is important that this meeting took place, which demonstrates how important the NATO parliamentary Assembly Ukraine, and that new developments in Europe have not changed Ukrainian priority. This is what I can say to the Ukrainian people. Ukraine remains a priority for NATO and not on the second plan,» she said. Co-Chairman of the Board, Deputy of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine Ivanna Klymush-Tsintsadze noted that a meeting was held with the «broad involvement of parliamentarians from many countries». «This is proof that the Ukrainian subject does not disappear from the political and practical work of the headquarters, we also heard from the representatives of the Alliance», — said the politician.

<http://en.reporter-ua.ru/the-results-of-the-meeting-of-the-inter-parliamentary-council-ukraine-nato-ukraine-at-the-alliances-priorities.html>

Our military would act similarly to Turkish in case airspace is violated, NSDC Secretary Turchynov says, 24.11.2015

Turkey air forces and air defense acted professionally and in the manner any civilized country's relevant units should act if a country's sovereign territory is violated by military jets of another country. This was announced by National Security and Defense Council Secretary Oleksandr Turchynov. "Prior to opening the fire, the Turkish side has warned Russia many times against its airspace violation by military jets of the Russian Federation air forces. Several more warnings have been made before firing, and only after that was the Russian plane attacked," he said, adding that Turkish military were fulfilling their duty to their country's airspace and their people's security. Turchynov believes that if Ukrainian airspace is violated by war planes, "Ukrainian military shall act in similar manner to protect our country from the aerial aggression."

http://en.censor.net.ua/news/362082/our_military_would_act_similarly_to_turkish_in_case_airspace_is_violated_nsd_secretary_turchynov_says

Ankara causes worsening of Russia-NATO relations — Russian PM, 25.11.2015

Russian Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev said on Wednesday that Turkey's actions to down the Russian Air Force Sukhoi Su-24 plane in Syria were criminal. The prime minister commented to reporters on the events on arrival in Yekaterinburg, after a many-day tour of Southeast Asia. "The recklessly criminal actions of the Turkish authorities that downed Russia's aircraft have three consequences," he said. "First — it's the dangerous worsening of relations between Russia and NATO, which cannot be justified by any interests, including protection of the state borders. Second — Turkey has demonstrated by its actions, in fact, the protection of the militants of the Islamic State (IS) terrorist group. That is not surprising, taking into account the available information about the direct financial interest of some Turkish officials linked with the supply of petroleum products produced at enterprises held by IS."

<http://tass.ru/en/politics/839036>

Putin Says Ukraine's Stance on Crimean 'Energy Blockade' Surprising, 25.11.2015

Some 2.5 million Crimeans were left without electricity over the weekend when explosions downed several transmission towers in southern Ukraine, according to Russia's Emergencies Ministry. "These problems will be overcome. The position of our partners from Kiev is the only thing that surprises us, without their silent approval these events could not have taken place — this is obvious and understandable," Putin said at the State Council meeting. The Russian president explained that Ukrainian partners were talking about "the need of Crimea's accession to Ukraine and were tormenting people". Putin stated the necessity of ensuring non-stop provisional power generator operation on the Crimean Peninsula. Following the electricity blackout, Crimea declared a state of emergency and switched to locally-based emergency power generation. Medical and other crucial elements of the social infrastructure are on backup power.

<http://sputniknews.com/russia/20151125/1030723728/crimea-russia-blockade-reaction.html>

Russia planning no war with Turkey — FM, 25.11.2015

The minister said the Russian side has always tried to "organize practical and pragmatic relations with our Turkish neighbors, including in the context of the Syrian crisis, especially now that we started the Aerospace Forces' operation in the Syrian Arab Republic on a request from official Damascus." "The president specially underscored yesterday that we have always tried to treat the regional interests of our neighbors with respect, including Turkey's regional interests," Lavrov said. "Now probably many things of what we are saying now should not be a secret, regarding how terrorists use Turkish territory to prepare their operations in Syria, to prepare terrorist acts in different countries, regarding efforts or lack of efforts on the part of official authorities to fight that," he said.

<http://tass.ru/en/politics/839164>

Chubarov: energy blockade to force considering Crimea's de-occupation at intl level, 25.11.2015

"The energy blockade of Crimea will force to consider the de-occupation of Crimea at the highest international level. If it is somehow impossible at the moment, the Minsk [Contact] Group should be expanded and the issue on the return of Crimea should be considered there," he said. He also suggested the permanent UN mission be deployed in occupied Crimea. He also said that the Crimea could not remain in complete blackout: "it is not normal."

<http://ukrainianwall.com/english-news/chubarov-energy-blockade-to-force-considering-crimeas-de-occupation-at-intl-level/>

Power supply to Crimea to be restored after Russia releases at least one political prisoner, - Dzhemilev, 26.11.2015

MP and one of the initiators to the 'civil blockade' of Crimea Mustafa Dzhemilev announced in Kyiv that power supply to the peninsula would be restored partially in three days. However, next day the leader of the protesters, Lenur Isliamov, said to the medium that journalists got Dzhemilev's words wrong. "We have allowed restoring the power pylon, but we are not connecting the line itself. Because if the Russian side, the occupational authorities allow releasing prisoners, at least one of our political prisoners, we will have an option to connect it. This was our demonstration," Isliamov said. "They ought to make some conciliatory steps. I think they should release Akhtem Ciygoz, some key figures first of all. But they are doing none of it. So there's this pressure by the society, why the hell should be turn the light on for them," Dzhemilev said to the medium. According to the deputy, Ukrainian authorities insist that power supplies to Crimea are restored, for agreements between Kyiv and Moscow provide for large fines by Ukraine to Russia in cases of disruption. However, Dzhemilev insists, the Crimean Tatars believe that the energy blockade should continue. "The command post said to cut lines as of now. "As long as there is no command from Kyiv, we will not let you connect it." This is the situation as of now, and we'll see what it's like tomorrow," Dzhemilev said.

http://en.censor.net.ua/news/362384/power_suply_to_crimea_to_be_restored_after_russia_releases_at_least_one_political_prisoner_dzhemilev
<http://ukrnews.today/crimean-tatars-name-conditions-for-restoring-power-supply-to-crimea/>

Russia sanctions could end if it meets Ukraine pledges: French PM, 26.11.2015

France said sanctions against Russia could be lifted if Moscow fulfils its pledges to bring peace to Ukraine, hours after Kiev closed its airspace to its neighbour's airlines and Russia said it would stop delivering gas. Speaking on the eve of talks between the French and Russian presidents, French Prime Minister Manuel Valls gave his clearest indication yet the punishing travel and financial restrictions placed on Russia over its role in eastern Ukraine could end. "We hope that sanctions against Russia may be lifted, but it must fulfil its part of the contract... which it signed in the context of the Minsk accords," Valls said. "We are conscious of the role and place of Russia in the world, in Europe and in our relationship, which is historic." Europe and the US have slapped sanctions on Moscow for stoking the Ukraine conflict, accusing the Russian government of orchestrating and supporting the pro-Russian revolt in the east of the country -- charges it denies.

<http://news.yahoo.com/ukraine-bans-russian-airlines-airspace-112957083.html>

Russia on U.S. sanctions: Washington should stop "geo-political games", 26.11.2015

Russia's deputy foreign minister said on Wednesday Moscow did not understand new United States sanctions against Russia over Syria and Washington should stop playing "geo-political games", RIA news agency reported. "It is clear that this is a new, complicated moment in relations," RIA quoted Sergei Ryabkov as saying. The United States has sanctioned 10 targets, including a Russian bank, for supporting Syrian President Bashar al-Assad, the U.S. Treasury Department said on Wednesday.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2015/11/25/us-mideast-crisis-syria-russia-usa-sanct-idUSKBN0TE2C920151125#VidXha5f814dr8h7.97>
<http://ukmews.today/russia-on-u-s-sanctions-washington-should-stop-geo-political-games/>

Moscow insists on Turkish realistic explanations of Su-24 downing, 26.11.2015

Russia is expecting Turkey to provide realistic explanations of the downing of the Sukhoi Su-24 bomber, the Kremlin has said. "Of course, we are still waiting for explanations, realistic explanations of the Turkish side," Kremlin press secretary Dmitry Peskov said.

<http://ukmews.today/moscow-insists-on-turkish-realistic-explanations-of-su-24-downing/>
http://en.censor.net.ua/news/362414/kremlin_believes_there_might_be_terrorist_threat_from_turkey
<http://www.unian.info/world/1194974-putin-demands-apologies-compensation-for-downed-jet-from-turkey.html>

Kuchma believes that the exchange of prisoners you can implement before year end, 26.11.2015

«Our work in the framework of the Minsk process has not been easy — it and security issues, and political subgroups. And so far I have no reason to say that the Minsk agreement will be implemented this year. But there is a point of agreement that can be implemented before the end of 2015, is the exchange of prisoners. I urge the representatives of separate districts of Donetsk and Lugansk regions to intensify the process of exchange of hostages — first of all, the release of seriously wounded people who need medical assistance,» — said Kuchma. The representative of Ukraine noted that the Ukrainian side has done and continues to do everything possible and necessary for the performance of this item agreements. We will remind, the Plenipotentiary of the President of Ukraine on the peaceful settlement of the situation in the Donetsk and Luhansk regions, Ukraine's representative in the sub-working group on humanitarian issues of the Trilateral contact group Irina Gerashchenko reported that on November 24 in Minsk at the meeting of the working sub-group on humanitarian Affairs of the Trilateral contact group, the theme of liberation of the Ukrainian hostages was the key. Captive occupants remain 148 Ukrainians.

<http://en.reporter-ua.ru/kuchma-believes-that-the-exchange-of-prisoners-you-can-implement-before-year-end.html>

Poroshenko sees anti-Russia sanctions as tool to restore peace to Ukraine, 26.11.2015

"The decision by the European Union to introduce sanctions against the Russian Federation as an aggressor, as the country that annexed the Crimea, for the non-implementation of the Minsk agreement, is a key instrument to bring peace and stability in the Ukrainian land," Poroshenko said at a press conference with Prime Minister of the Netherlands Mark Rutte in The Hague. Poroshenko stresses that the implementation of the Minsk Peace Protocol is not only the struggle for Ukraine's independence, but in the first turn it is the struggle for values.

http://www.fm-tv.kiev.ua/main_news/68663/view/

Turkey won't apologize for downing Russian warplane, Erdogan says, 27.11.2015

Turkey will not apologize for downing a Russian fighter jet it says violated Turkish airspace near the Syrian border, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said "I think if there is a party that needs to apologize, it is not us," he said. "Those who violated our airspace are the ones who need to apologize. Our pilots and our armed forces, they simply fulfilled their duties, which consisted of responding to ... violations of the rules of engagement. I think this is the essence." Tensions in the Middle East have escalated after Turkey shot down the Russian warplane, with Erdogan accusing Russia of deceit and Moscow announcing it will deploy anti-aircraft missiles to Syria. There has been bellicose rhetoric on both sides, and Russia and Turkey have each accused the other of supporting terrorism.

<http://fox6now.com/2015/11/26/turkey-wont-apologize-for-downing-russian-warplane-erdogan-says/>
<http://edition.cnn.com/videos/world/2015/11/26/erdogan-turkey-russia-warplane-interview-anderson.cnn>
<http://www.reuters.com/article/2015/11/26/us-mideast-crisis-russia-turkey-syria-dUSKBN0TF18R20151126#IKOvaxbhc8M9Pg3D.97>

Canada to give Ukraine demining equipment - General Staff, 28.11.2015

The General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine announced a supply of \$2.5 million-worth demining equipment from Canada. "Today [Saturday, November 28], the representative of Canada's military attaché will hand over to the Ukrainian side military demining equipment worth \$2.5 million," reads the statement. At the same time, the type of equipment was not specified. It was also noted that the Canadian instructors trained Ukrainian sappers early November at the Demining Center of the Armed Forces of Ukraine.

<http://ukrainianlaw.blogspot.com/2015/11/canada-to-give-ukraine-demining.html>

Poroshenko names sponsors of terrorism who make Ukraine suffer, 30.11.2015

"The terrible events that France experienced this tragic November are a daily reality for Ukraine for almost 21 months," said Poroshenko. The Ukrainian president added that "my country is suffering from terrorism sponsored and promoted by the Russian Federation." As a result, more than 8,000 Ukrainians, of whom about 6,000 civilians lost their lives. The Head of State stressed that "there can be no compromise on democratic values and principles with terrorists or states sponsoring terrorism." "We are not afraid and will never be intimidated!" said Poroshenko. "And such high-level international representation at the summit, which is almost equal to the UN General Assembly, is the best evidence of that." "Ukrainians stand side-by-side with the French," the president emphasized.

<http://www.unian.info/politics/1198474-poroshenko-names-sponsors-of-terrorism-who-make-ukraine-suffer.html>

Actions of Ukrainian Authorities

UAH 2.6 bln in accounts of Oleksandr Yanukovych's VBR bank arrested – Avakov, 01.11.2015

"The Chief Investigation Department of the Interior Ministry is investigating a criminal case against officials of PJSC VBR that belongs to Oleksandr Yanukovych, under Part 2 of Article 364, and Part 2 of Article 209 of the Criminal Code of Ukraine... Investigators carried out a search at VBR and arrested individuals and companies' deposit accounts with over UAH 2.6 billion in them [including UAH 12 million which personally belongs to Oleksandr Yanukovych]," Avakov wrote. He said that during the pretrial investigation, it was established that VBR officials in 2012-2014 illegally issued loans to state enterprises which had their credit rates set too high. Also, money was laundered via the deposit accounts of the bank's owner - Oleksandr Yanukovych, and affiliated persons – VBR employees and other companies. Avakov said that according to information available to the investigators, there are plans planned to launch liquidation procedure against PJSC VBR in November 2015, and as a result deposit funds could have been returned to Oleksandr Yanukovych and other individuals and companies.

<http://en.interfax.com.ua/news/general/301160.html>

Korban detained, could be head of organized crime group, now he is not a suspect – SBU, PGO, 02.11.2015

The Prosecutor General's Office (PGO) and the Security Service of Ukraine (SBU) have confirmed the information about the detention of the former deputy head of Dnipropetrovsk Regional State Administration, who participated in the elections for Kyiv mayor from UKROP Party, Hennadiy Korban, who could be the head of an organized crime group, however stated he has not been accused. Pre-trial restrictions will be chosen for him soon. "Korban has been detained. I think we'll choose pre-trial restrictions for him soon. But as this is determined by court, it is necessary to wait for a court ruling," SBU spokesperson Olena Hytlianska said.

<http://en.interfax.com.ua/news/general/300770.html>

<http://x-news.com.ua/chernihiv-court-hears-korbans-case-85685/>

<http://uatoday.tv/news/korban-released-from-court-room-taken-to-undisclosed-location-526097.html>

SBU suspects Akhmetov's supermarket chain of embezzling UAH 26.7 million from state budget, 02.11.2015

"On October 30 of this year, the day before the large-scale raid, a number of investigative and operational actions, searches and seizures in particular were carried out in Dnipropetrovsk against the structure that stole UAH 26.7 million from the state budget, as well as to underpaid taxes to the budget worth UAH 500 million," said the head of the SBU. He stressed that "the sum is decent, especially considering that it's about Brusnichka supermarket chain.

<http://ukrainianwall.com/english-news/sbu-suspects-akhmetovs-supermarket-chain-of-embezzling-uah-26-7-million-from-state-budget/>

Case of Russian GRU officers to be considered on Nov 10, 03.11.2015

The court also issued a tentative schedule of the next court hearings on this case: at 14:30 on November 12, November 17, November 19, and November 23. In addition, Kyiv's Holosiyivsky District Court ruled Yerofeyev and Aleksandrov should be kept in remand for another 60 days, until January 2, 2016. Thus, the judge rejected the defense's motion, in particular, to change the preventive measure for the GRU officers to house arrest, as well as to postpone consideration of the case until a decision on an administrative claim for recognition of the defendants as prisoners of war.

http://www.fm-tv.kiev.ua/main_news/67638/view/

Poroshenko, Juncker coordinate positions on visa-free regime, 03.11.2015

The press service of the Head of State reported. The President congratulated Jean-Claude Juncker on the first anniversary of the new composition of the European Commission and highly evaluated its constant and comprehensive support for Ukraine.

Poroshenko emphasized that the victory of democratic and pro-Ukrainian forces during the local elections of October 25 created an opportunity for acceleration of the process of reforms, first of all in the sphere of anti-corruption policy. The Presidents discussed efforts of the Ukrainian authorities on the creation of institutional and legislative framework for struggle against corruption, which is particularly important in the context of ensuring progress in the issue of introduction of the visa-free regime for Ukrainian citizens, as well as the fulfillment of Ukraine's obligations aimed to receive macro-financial assistance from the European Union.

http://sub.ukrinform.ua/eng/news/poroshenko_juncker_coordinate_positions_on_visa_free_regime_335362

Ukraine PM promises a new cabinet, 03.11.2015

Ukraine's Prime Minister Arseniy Yatsenyuk has pledged to bring in a new cabinet after his Western-friendly coalition suffered a resounding defeat to the parties of oligarchs and Russian sympathizers at local elections last week. "There have been mistakes," Yatsenyuk admitted during an interview in his Soviet-era cabinet offices. "But I will correct these mistakes with new folks sitting in the cabinet." Ministers from energy, healthcare, and education will be gone within two weeks, the prime minister said, and there will be a new deputy prime minister for European integration. But the replacements tasked with resuscitating Ukraine's European dream have yet to be agreed with President Petro Poroshenko. "It's too early to say who, this could shatter the coalition," he explained, revealing the fragile nature of the four-party pact that keeps his government afloat. "We are in talks with the president. But the quicker we announce the better."

<http://www.politico.eu/article/yatsenyuk-interview-cabinet-changes-ukraine/>

Head of Ukraine's National Police appointed, 04.11.2015

Minister of the Interior, Arsen Avakov, stated that his nominee is Khatia Dekanoidze: "I am confident that this appointment will be very efficient and accurate in today's situation." The Cabinet supported the proposal regarding Dekanoidze. Yatsenyuk also said that on this occasion he spoke with Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko, and the Head of State supported the initiative.

<http://uatoday.tv/news/head-of-ukraine-s-national-police-appointed-527570.html>

Rada fails to adopt "visa-liberalization bills," consideration postponed until Nov 10, 05.11.2015

The evening session of the Verkhovna Rada has been closed; the deputies are to consider the draft laws required for the implementation of the Action Plan on visa liberalization with the EU on Tuesday, November 10. Chairman of the Verkhovna Rada Volodymyr Hroisman closed the parliament meeting after the Rada saw not enough deputies present to support legislation relating to the implementation of the Action Plan on visa liberalization.

<http://time-ua.com/en/news/politics/15032-rada-fails-to-adopt-visa-liberalization-bills-consideration-postponed-until-nov-10>

Ukraine's ex-justice minister Lukash arrested on corruption charges, 06.11.2015

A Ukrainian court on November 6 ordered the arrest of former Justice Minister Olena Lukash on corruption charges, a day after she was detained in connection with an investigation into deadly Maidan shootings of February 2014. The charges against Lukash include misappropriation of state funds worth about \$2.5 million, as well as forgery and abuse of her office. The November 6 arrest order by Kyiv's Pechersky District Court granted her the possibility of paying bail of 5.1 million hryvni (\$221,000) within the next five days. Prosecutor Vladislav Kutsenko says Lukash was not being charged in connection with the Maidan shootings during opposition protests in 2014 that brought down the pro-Russian government of then-President Viktor Yanukovich.

However, Kutsenko said Lukash was being questioned as a witness in that case.

<http://www.rferl.org/content/ukraine-lukash-corruption-charges/27349811.html>

Korban placed under house arrest for two months, 06.11.2015

The court has held that Korban must hand over his ID, including the travel passport, and wear an electronic bracelet. Meanwhile, Korban's lawyer Oksana Tomchuk said the defense will appeal the decision. She also noted that the leader of Ukrop party will remain under house arrest in his house in Dnipropetrovsk 24/7. The prosecution reportedly requested to remand Korban into custody without the right to bail. The prosecutor has explained the request with an assumption that Korban may hide from the investigation, put pressure on witnesses, and commit criminal offenses. Korban's defense appealed to postpone the hearing due to lateness of the hour, but the prosecutors have accused lawyers of dragging out the trial, as the 72-hour term to impose a pretrial restriction would have ended at 8:40 a.m. on Nov. 6.

http://en.censor.net.ua/news/359483/korban_placed_under_house_arrest_for_two_months

PGO busts two fiscal officers for UAH 230,000 bribery, 06.11.2015

Ukraine's anti-corruption drive continues as the PGO detains the two fiscal officers who worked at the Central office of the inter-regional directorate of the SFS for servicing major taxpayers, catching them red-handed receiving undue benefit, according to the PGO. Together with the internal security service of the SFS, the PGO was revealed that the officers conspired into soliciting and receiving from a representative of one of the businesses undue benefit in the amount of UAH 230,000, for non-performing their duties on taking statutory measures to press criminal charges against the officials of said business. Further pre-trial investigation is underway, the measure of restraint against the detainees is being considered, according to the report.

http://www.fm-tv.kiev.ua/main_news/67818/view/

NATO experts involved in developing Ukrainian army concept until 2020, 09.11.2015

"For the first time in the history of Ukraine, foreign specialists are engaged in a process of drafting such an important document. In particular, it's the NATO Liaison office, since the introduction of relevant standards is among the main directions of development of the national army," Muzhenko said during a founding meeting with national experts, representatives of scientific institutions, public organizations and volunteers. Muzhenko said that the country will use both Ukrainian and the best international experience while drafting the Concept.

http://www.fm-tv.kiev.ua/main_news/67871/view/

Rada adopts special confiscation for corrupt officials, 10.11.2015

Bill No. 2541A "On Amendments to the Criminal and Civil Procedure Codes of Ukraine on the improvement of the institute of special confiscation in order to eliminate corruption risks in its application" was supported by 272 out of 374 MPs registered in the session hall.

http://www.fm-tv.kiev.ua/main_news/67923/view/

Yarosh steps down as leader of Right Sector – claims lack of authority, 11.11.2015

"I have to say no to the offer of the [movement's] conference to lead the organization and step down from post of the leader of the Right Sector national liberation movement, remaining a nationalist, a statist and a revolutionary," Yarosh wrote. He explained his move with the fact that his position is not always in line with aspirations of part of the Right Sector's leadership. Read also Right Sector preparing for no-confidence vote against government – Stratfor "I was wounded and required a long period for treatment, I entrusted some areas of the movement's activities to my closest associates who have had and still have their own perspective for the development of the nationalist movement. My own position does not always coincide with the aspirations of part of the leadership. As a leader, I am personally responsible for everything that happens within the organization, and do not intend to put it onto someone else's shoulders. That is why I can't be a leader without authority in the Right Sector," he said.

<http://ukrainianwall.com/english-news/yarosh-steps-down-as-leader-of-right-sector-claims-lack-of-authority/>

In Kyiv, OSCE PA President discusses Minsk implementation, reform process with Parliament Chairman Groysman, 11.11.2015

OSCE Parliamentary Assembly President Ilkka Kanerva (MP, Finland) met today in Kyiv with Verkhovna Rada (Parliament) Chairman Volodymyr Groysman and parliamentarians from the Ukrainian Delegation to the Assembly for discussions that focused on the status of implementation of the Minsk Agreements and the country's ongoing reform process. "It is not just the security of Ukraine, but the security of Europe and the wider OSCE area which remains at stake in this conflict. Russia's breach of international norms has brought us to this point, but we must now focus on accelerating the mutually agreed steps to getting us out. The ceasefire is not total, but the situation is better than it has been, and this presents a vital opportunity for progress," President Kanerva said. "In my meetings today there was consensus that the withdrawal of heavy weapons in the east must happen as soon as possible. That step is clearly needed to improve the humanitarian situation and to allow for safe, legitimate elections in the temporarily occupied areas. "The issue of Ukraine's eastern border is also critical. Until the country regains full control of that border I am concerned that weapons and personnel may continue to flow in. I believe that OSCE monitors should be enabled to fully observe and help stabilize the situation along the full length of the border," he said. President Kanerva also underscored the importance of the Ukrainian government's reform initiatives and urged further efforts, particularly to combat corruption and to address the issue of decentralization.

<http://www.osce.org/pa/199331>

Rada recognizes genocide of Crimean Tatars, calls Russia's policy ethnocide, 12.11.2015

The draft resolution envisages recognition of the deportation of Crimean Tatars from Crimea in 1944 as genocide of the Crimean Tatar people. Day of Remembrance of the victims of genocide of the Crimean Tatar people will be May 18. In addition, the resolution says that the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine states that the system pressure on the Crimean Tatar people, the repression of Ukrainian citizens on a national basis, the organization of ethnically and politically motivated prosecutions of the Crimean Tatars, such bodies as the Mejlis of the Crimean Tatar people and the Kurultai of the Crimean Tatar people on the temporarily occupied territory of Ukraine by the public authorities of the Russian Federation, starting from the date of temporary occupation, are a conscious policy of ethnocide of the Crimean Tatar people.

<http://www.unian.info/politics/1180414-rada-to-vote-for-draft-resolution-recognizing-genocide-of-crimean-tatars.html>

http://www.fm-tv.kiev.ua/main_news/68059/view/

Groysman: Rada dismisses over 200 judges, 13.11.2015

"As of now, we have vacancies, for which we can introduce a completely open, public professional selection of judges; and that is a very important instrument for the return of [public] confidence in the judiciary." As reported earlier, the Supreme Council of Justice suggested dismissing 247 judges. At the same time, Chairman of the Verkhovna Rada committee for legal policy and justice Ruslan Kniazevych said that, according to the latest information, 23 judges had to be excluded from this list because, according to preliminary information, they were carrying out "justice" in the so-called Luhansk People's Republic. According to him, such judges should be dismissed for violation of the oath.

<http://ukrainianwall.com/english-news/groysman-rada-dismisses-over-200-judges/>

Two Ukrainians freed from militant captivity: Poroshenko, 15.11.2015

Two more Ukrainian soldiers were liberated from the captivity of pro-Russian militants in the Donbas. "Friends, we have good news: today two Ukrainians were freed from the captivity of the militants," he wrote. He revealed neither the details of the operation, nor the names of the freed POWs.

http://en.censor.net.ua/news/360755/two_ukrainians_liberated_from_terrorist_captivity_poroshenko

Second round of local elections starts in Ukraine, 15.11.2015

According to data published on the official website of the Central Election Commission, the second round of mayoral elections is being held in Kyiv and another 28 cities across Ukraine (18 regional centers and ten cities of regional importance). Today the city chairmen are elected in Vinnitsa, Lutsk, Dnipropetrovsk, as well as Dniprodzerzhinsk, Kriviy Rog, Nikopol and Pavlograd in Dnipropetrovsk region; Kramatorsk in Donetsk region; Zhitomir, Uzhgorod, Zaporizhia, as well as Berdyansk and Melitopol in Zaporizhia region, Ivano-Frankivsk, Bila Tserkva in Kyiv region; Kirovohrad and Severodonetsk in Luhansk region; Lviv, Mykolaiv, Poltava, Kremenchug in Poltava region; Rivne, Sumy, Kherson, Khmelnytsky, Cherkasy, Chernivtsi and Chernihiv.

<http://www.unian.info/politics/1183959-second-round-of-local-elections-starts-in-ukraine.html>

<http://uatoday.tv/politics/ukraine-local-elections-2015-poroshenko-mobilizes-support-for-regional-autonomy-534425.html>

<http://en.interfax.com.ua/news/general/304108.html>

<http://en.interfax.com.ua/news/general/304127.html>

SBU busts FSB recruiter of Ukrainian law enforcers, 16.11.2015

The Ukrainian national was recruited in May, 2015, by the Russian FSB operative who was operating under the guise of an officer of the self-styled "Interior Ministry" of the DPR [Donetsk People's Republic] terrorist organization. The main objective of the newly recruited asset was to create legal cover for the members of subversive groups in one of the non-governmental organizations, and also create an intelligence network among the Ukrainians law enforcement officials. The SBU launched criminal proceedings under Part 1 Article 258-3 (establishing of or participation in a terrorist group) of the Criminal Code of Ukraine.

<http://www.unian.info/society/1185309-sbu-busts-fsb-recruiter-of-ukrainian-law-enforcers.html>

EU completes all procedures for launching free trade area with Ukraine – Poroshenko, 17.11.2015

The European Union has informed the Ukrainian authorities that every procedure required for starting up the Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area (DCFTA) on January 1, 2016, has been completed, Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko said.

"The EU has just declared the readiness to launch a free trade area with Ukraine on January 1, 2016. We have received a note from the European Union Council attesting to the completion of every procedure required for starting up the DCFTA. There are no impediments now. We will get started after the New Year!" the Ukrainian president wrote on Tuesday.

<http://ukrnews.today/eu-completes-all-procedures-for-launching-free-trade-area-with-ukraine-poroshenko/>

Ukraine steps up customs control after Paris terrorist attacks, 17.11.2015

"The management of the State Fiscal Service hopes for understanding of entities engaged in foreign economic activity and citizens of a temporary need to introduce additional measures to strengthen customs control of goods, vehicles and personal belongings of citizens, as well as of the fact that those measures are aimed at maintaining peace and order in the country," the posting reads.

<http://ukrnews.today/ukraine-steps-up-customs-control-after-paris-terrorist-attacks/>

Yatsenyuk discusses prospects of cultural cooperation between Ukraine and EU, 20.11.2015

The parties welcomed a landmark event in relations between Ukraine and the European Union in the field of culture – an agreement between the Ukrainian Government and the European Commission on Ukraine's joining the Creative Europe program, which gives Ukraine access to the EU common cultural space, reads the report. It is reported that this large-scale program will open up new prospects and opportunities for the promotion of Ukrainian culture in Europe, access to EU means and opportunities for the development of, in particular, the creative sector, film production.

The Head of Ukrainian government noted the possibility of translating Ukrainian authors into the languages of the EU member-states, as well as works of European authors into Ukrainian. The Prime Minister of Ukraine also stressed the Creative Europe program was very important. Arseniy Yatsenyuk and Tibor Navracsics discussed concrete steps aimed at enhancing cooperation between Ukraine and the EU in the field of university and student exchanges. They noted the effectiveness of the Erasmus exchange program, which is already in place in Ukraine.

<http://www.unian.info/society/1189183-yatsenyuk-discusses-prospects-of-cultural-cooperation-between-ukraine-and-eu.html>

Ukrainian President Poroshenko Signs Bills on Visa-Free Regime With EU, 21.11.2015

"I have just signed off on a package of so-called visa-free laws, and the ink is still wet," Poroshenko said, as cited on his official website. "We have met key requirements and are waiting for the EU decision on the outlook of a visa-free regime for Ukrainians."

<http://sputniknews.com/europe/20151121/1030510189/ukraine-eu-visa-bill.html>

Poroshenko offers temporary halt to freight transport communication with Crimea, 23.11.2015

Poroshenko offers to ensure temporarily termination of road and railroad freight transport communication with Crimea in both directions before the adoption of respective decision, according to the official website of the President. The Head of State emphasizes that a priority for the Ukrainian government today is to determine a model of future relations with temporarily occupied Crimea. "Confrontation between public activists and occupational authorities of Crimea has been escalated recently. A series of criminal cases against the initiators of trade blockade of Crimea have been opened. The initiators demand full termination of trade relations with the occupied territory," Poroshenko said in his letter.

http://www.fm-tv.kiev.ua/main_news/68478/view/

Avakov proposes NSDC to terminate contracts for power supply to Crimea, 23.11.2015

"I will speak as member of the government, not as head of the Interior Ministry. To my mind, answering questions about the embargo against Ukrainian products, which the Russian Federation threatened us a few days ago, I think we should take a political decision on the level of the NSDC, at the level of the government, in order to terminate contracts for the supply of electricity. It's not a question of the damaged power lines, but it is a question of our position," Avakov said. Avakov also said that the repair works could be carried out only at one of the damaged power transmission lines in Kherson region, namely at a 220 kV Kakhovka-Tytan power transmission line, where the law enforcement officers had conducted mine clearance. "As for the other lines, we insist that the repair works cannot be carried out there until we complete the inspection of these lines in terms of the potential threats of other explosions and sabotage attacks," the minister said.

http://www.fm-tv.kiev.ua/main_news/68477/view/

SBU discloses info on training centers for enemy's terrorist groups, 23.11.2015

"The SBU has been taking all measures in order to prevent destabilization of the situation in Kherson region due to the events that are now being discussed," he said.

"We have received reliable information that the training centers for sabotage and reconnaissance groups are operating in the occupied territory of Crimea, the self-proclaimed Donetsk and Luhansk People's Republics and in Rostov region of the Russian Federation in order to train special groups to commit terrorist attacks on power plants, on roads and highways in Kherson and Mykolaiv regions," Deputy Chairman of the Security Service of Ukraine (SBU) Mykola Ishchenko said at a government meeting on Monday.

<http://www.unian.info/society/1191480-sbu-discloses-info-on-training-centers-for-enemys-terrorist-groups.html>

Ukraine temporarily bans freight transportation to Crimea, 23.11.2015

The Ukrainian government, at the initiative of Prime Minister Arseniy Yatsenyuk, has temporarily prohibited the freight transportation flows through the administrative border between Ukraine and Crimea. A relevant decision was approved at an extraordinary meeting of the Cabinet of Ministers on November 23. Yatsenyuk instructed the Cabinet of Ministers supervised by the Ministry of Economic Development and Trade of Ukraine, in line with the law, to elaborate a draft resolution of the government on a specific list of goods and services that can be delivered to the Autonomous Republic of Crimea. "In order this list of goods can meet the interests of Ukraine, first of all, I offer to involve the Mejlis of the Crimean Tatar People in order such a decision can meet the interests of our brotherly Crimean Tatar People as well," the premier stressed.

<http://www.ukrinform.net/rubric-economics/1919124-ukrainian-government-temporary-bans-freight-traffic-flows-to-crimea.html>

President at the meeting with Foreign Ministers of the Benelux Union: Consolidated position with the EU is crucially important for us, 23.11.2015

President of Ukraine Petro Poroshenko had a meeting with Ministers of Foreign Affairs of Belgium Didier Reynders, Luxembourg - Jean Asselborn, and the Netherlands - Bert Koenders. The main attention was paid to the situation in Donbas and fulfillment of the Minsk agreements. In this context, the parties expressed deep concern over the increasing number of provocations against Ukrainian servicemen. The Ministers reaffirmed support to the peace process. They noted the efforts of Ukrainian authorities that fulfill their obligations despite difficult situation on the touchline. In particular, the Ukrainian party has completed the withdrawal of tanks, artillery of caliber less than 100 mm and mortar launchers of caliber less than 120 mm.

<http://www.president.gov.ua/en/news/dlya-nas-vazhliva-konsolidovana-poziciya-z-yevropejskim-soyu-36354>

SBU busts pro-terrorist Novorossiia TV broadcasters in Kyiv, 24.11.2015

SBU in Kyiv raided early Tuesday the premises of individuals suspected of illegal online broadcast of militant Novorossiia TV, SBU spokesperson Olena Gitlyanska wrote.

<http://www.kyivpost.com/content/ukraine-abroad/unian-sbu-busts-pro-terrorist-novorossiia-tv-broadcasters-in-kyiv-402701.html>

<http://www.unian.info/society/1192055-sbu-busts-pro-terrorist-novorossiia-tv-broadcasters-in-kyiv.html>

EU, Moldova and Ukraine sign agreement to strengthen border cooperation, 25.11.2015

The EU, Moldova and Ukraine have signed an agreement to strengthen their cooperation in border and customs matters, the press service of the EU Delegation in Ukraine has reported.

<https://www.kyivpost.com/content/ukraine/eu-moldova-and-ukraine-sign-agreement-to-strengthen-border-cooperation-402837.html>

Yatsenyuk orders Naftogaz to stop buying Russian gas: EU price better, 25.11.2015

The Cabinet of Ministers has instructed NJSC Naftogaz Ukrainy to stop buying Russian gas for the needs of Ukrainian consumers, replacing it with the European fuel, Ukrainian Prime Minister Arseniy Yatsenyuk said at a government meeting on Wednesday.

"The total consumption of gas in Ukraine has already been reduced by 20%," Yatsenyuk said.

<http://www.qclub.org.ua/en/news/11886/>

Ukraine closes airspace to Russian airlines on November 26, 25.11.2015

"Due to the aggravation of military and political situation, the government has decided to ban all transit flights for all Russian airlines in Ukraine's airspace without an exception on 00:00 on November 26 this year. The decision was also motivated by systematic violation of safety rules and use of Ukrainian airspace by Russian air carriers. Intention of this decision is to prevent any possible provocations in the airspace of Ukraine", - says the message. Ministry of Infrastructure underlined that implementing flights to Crimea, Russian airlines violate the agreement between the Government of Ukraine and the Government of Russian Federation, as well as international agreements. "On behalf of the Cabinet of Ministers the State Aviation Service will inform the Russian side about the ban of Russian civil aviation in Ukrainian airspace. State Aviation Service through the Foreign Ministry sent a corresponding note to the Rosaviatsia today, November 25," - reported in the statement.

<http://112.international/russia/ukraine-closes-airspace-to-russian-airlines-on-november-26-1595.html>

Rada supports printing scientific, education, research programs on Russian aggression against Ukraine, 26.11.2015

Verkhovna Rada has backed a resolution entitled "On state support of printed science, education and research programs to cover impartial and reliable information regarding the ongoing Russia aggression against Ukraine." A total of 234 lawmakers voted for resolution No. 2233-a. The parliament instructed the Information Policy Ministry, Culture Ministry, Education and Science Ministry of Ukraine to draft a related state program within three months. The Education Ministry has been ordered to develop a state program of grants and scholarships to promote related programs within two months. The Cabinet of Ministers is to foresee expenses in the 2016 state budget to implement the resolution.

<http://ukrnews.today/rada-supports-printing-scientific-education-research-programs-on-russian-aggression-against-ukraine/>

Power lines repair in Kherson region stopped at protesters' demand,- Ukrenerho, 26.11.2015

On Thursday, Nov. 26, at around 10 a.m., an Ukrenerho repair crew who were conducting works at the damaged pylon of Kakhovska-Tytan line stopped their works as requested by the participants of the Crimea power blockade. According to Zinovii Butsio, the head of information policy administration of Ukrenerho state enterprise, the activists are expecting an answer from the activity's leaders regarding further coordination of their steps. One of the activists and leaders of the blockade, Lenur Isliamov, explained the request with the activists's demand from the Crimean occupational authorities to release political prisoners, and before they are released, the power would not be provided to Crimea. Isliamov noted that the activists continued their power and food blockade of Crimea.

http://en.censor.net.ua/news/362428/power_lines_repair_in_kherson_region_stopped_at_protesters_demand_ukrenerho

<http://uatoday.tv/society/crimea-power-latest-engineers-start-repairs-to-pylons-on-ukraine-s-de-facto-border-542780.html>

<http://www.unian.info/society/1197253-nearly-300-settlements-in-crimea-have-limited-power-supplies.html>

<http://www.unian.info/society/1197392-crimea-blockade-activists-allow-repair-of-damaged-power-lines.html>

Rada to consider bill on termination of citizenship for crimes against national security, 27.11.2015

On Nov. 27, the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine will consider the draft law on amendments to some legislative acts of Ukraine on the termination of citizenship for those persons who have committed crimes against the foundations of national security.

<http://ukrnews.co/unian-rada-to-consider-bill-on-termination-of-citizenship-for-crimes-against-national-security/>

Ukraine remembers victims of Stalin-era famine, 28.11.2015

Ukraine on Saturday held a day of mourning for the millions of victims of a Soviet-era famine (1932-33), with President Petro Poroshenko describing it as an episode in the "war waged by Russia against Ukraine." Poroshenko, accompanied by Prime Minister Arseniy Yatsenyuk and hundreds of Ukrainians, laid symbolic wheat ears and lit candles before the Holodomor -- or "death by hunger" -- monument in central Kiev. The famine happened as harvests dwindled

<http://www.globalpost.com/article/6695808/2015/11/28/ukraine-remembers-victims-stalin-era-famine>

President started a working visit to France, 29.11.2015

President Petro Poroshenko arrived in France on a two-day working visit. The Head of State will take part in the opening of the 21st session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. He will also meet with several heads of state, particularly Prime Minister of Canada Justin Trudeau, Chancellor of Germany Angela Merkel, President of Turkey Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, President of the European Council Donald Tusk and President of the European Commission Jean-Claude Juncker. The President will also communicate with media representatives

<http://www.president.gov.ua/en/news/prezident-rozpochav-robochij-vizit-do-franciyi-36381>

Ukrenergo head: Power supply to Crimea won't resume until final decision, 30.11.2015

"There will be no power supply at the moment. A cable wire of an anchor pylon's pillar is inoperative and will remain in this condition until the final decision has been made. Other work will be completed in full," he wrote. Ukraine's Energy Ministry Volodymyr Demchyshyn reported on Sunday that activists of the Crimea blockade had agreed to unblock access for power engineers to the destroyed 220 kV Kakhovska-Titan power line in Ukraine's Kherson region, which was used to supply the power to Russian-annexed Crimea.

<http://ukrainianlaw.blogspot.com/2015/11/ukrenergo-head-power-supply-to-crimea.html>

Ukrainian major Hrechanov (Rakhman) exchanged for captured Russian Army major Starkov, 30.11.2015

The head of state emphasized that a lot of people had struggled for the release of Chief of Intelligence Department of the 81st air assault brigade of the Armed Forces of Ukraine Andrii Hrechanov. After 18 attempts, he was finally liberated. The head of state reminded that he had called on Chancellor of Germany Angela Merkel and President of France Francois Hollande to put pressure on Putin in order to liberate the cyborg in the course of the meeting in Normandy format. Petro Poroshenko thanked everyone involved in the liberation of the Ukrainian soldier. "I know how hard it was and how many people were involved," president said.

http://en.censor.net.ua/news/363102/ukrainian_major_hrechanov_rakhman_exchanged_for_captured_russian_army_major_starkov

Terrorism / Separatism

ATO Headquarters: two Ukrainian servicemen blown on trip-wire, 01.11.2015

Two Ukrainian soldiers were killed on Saturday after an explosive device detonated in the forest between Avdiyivka and Donetsk bypass road, Head of the press center of the Anti-Terrorist Operation (ATO) headquarters, Colonel Oleksandr Motuzianyk said at a briefing. At this, no Ukrainian soldier was reported killed or wounded due to the clashes in Donbas in last day, according to Motuzianyk. "Yesterday no enemy provocations on the contact line have been reported. No Ukrainian soldiers were killed and injured due to the fighting," he said. In addition, Motuzianyk reported on the recorded case of use of an unmanned aerial vehicle of militants flying in the direction of Mariupol.

<http://www.unian.info/war/1170741-ato-headquarters-two-ukrainian-servicemen-blown-on-trip-wire.html>

ATO Headquarters: militants fire rocket-propelled grenades and heavy machine guns in Pisky, 01.11.2015

"Russian-backed mercenaries opened fire on the village of Pisky, just like a day earlier, using rocket-propelled grenades and heavy machine guns," a statement reads. The shelling had lasted from 11.10 to 11.40 the Kyiv time. Military engineers continue working in the town of Svatove. "Demining specialists are operating inside the warehouse where missile and artillery weapons are stored. A total of 700 explosive devices have been defused as of now," according to the statement. The Ukrainian servicemen on the front line have been provided with humanitarian aid, consisting of construction materials, underwear and food.

<http://www.unian.info/war/1170930-ato-headquarters-militants-fire-rocket-propelled-grenades-and-heavy-machine-guns-in-pisky.html>

Military sappers continue to defuse explosives in Svatove, 02.11.2015

"About 700 pieces of ordnance have already been defused," the report says.

The military are making every effort to restore infrastructure in Donbas. Repairs to school roofs in the villages of Myronivske and Luhanske are nearing completion. "Ukrainian servicemen together with the children's parents and residents are about to complete the replacement of radiators in the school in Myronivske," the press center said.

<http://www.unian.info/war/1171195-military-sappers-continue-to-defuse-explosives-in-svatove.html>

Russian soldiers refuse Donbas deployment, face prosecution – Ukraine Intelligence, 02.11.2015

"The Prosecutor's Office of the Russian Federation opened 80 criminal cases under Art. 337 of the Criminal Code of Russia (abandonment of military base) against the soldiers from the 33rd Separate Motorized Brigade (stationed in Maikop) of the 49th Army Southern Military District, who had filed reports in defiance of orders on deployment in Ukraine after undergoing special training at Kadamovsky training ground (Oktyabrsky district of Rostov region)," reads the statement published on the website of Ukraine's Ministry of Defense. According to authorities, in connection with the facts of disobedience and refusal to carry out orders by the commanders of certain units of the 6th Separate Motorized Regiment of the 2nd Army Corps, the Russian occupation command strengthens control over the Regiment's operations.

<http://ukrainianwall.com/english-news/russian-soldiers-refuse-donbas-deployment-face-prosecution-ukraine-intelligence/>

Lysenko: ATO forces to pull back mortars near Donetsk on Nov 5, 02.11.2015

"On November 1, the Ukrainian military withdrew artillery with caliber under 120mm at a 15-km distance from the contact line. The verification of artillery systems will last for another two days. On November 5, the Ukrainian troops will begin the withdrawal of mortars with caliber under 120mm in the area of Donetsk, which is to be completed on November 8," Lysenko said.

<http://www.unian.info/war/1171549-lysenko-ato-forces-to-pull-back-mortars-near-donetsk-on-nov-5.html>

One civilian killed, two soldiers wounded in Donbas conflict zone in last day, 02.11.2015

One woman is reported dead following the explosion of a booby-trap in Luhansk region. No Ukrainian soldiers were killed, but two were wounded in the Donbas conflict zone over the last 24 hours, presidential administration military spokesman Andriy Lysenko said.

<http://uatoday.tv/news/one-civilian-killed-two-soldiers-wounded-in-donbas-conflict-zone-in-last-day-525686.html>

SHOTS FIRED OUTSIDE PROSECUTOR GENERAL'S OFFICE IN KYIV, 03.11.2015

Head of Kyiv's Main Directorate of the Interior Ministry Oleksandr Tereshchuk is at the scene along with the investigative team. At the moment, there is no confirmed information on a type of firearms used by perpetrators when they fired at the building of the PGO on Reznytska Street, in particular, supposedly, at the Prosecutor General Viktor Shokin's office. No casualties reported as a result of the attack, according to the Security Service of Ukraine. Law enforcers are on duty around the building's perimeter, the Interior Ministry says. However, police officers remain outside the building, while the SBU officials are investigating at the site inside the PGO headquarters.

<http://x-news.com.ua/shots-fired-outside-prosecutor-generals-office-in-kyiv-85701/>

Russian proxies fire small arms on ATO forces near Pisky overnight, 03.11.2015

"From 23:15 to 23:50 local time on Monday, the militants were firing small arms on ATO forces near the village of Pisky. At midnight, the Russian-terrorist mercenaries started firing automatic grenade launchers on our troops near the town of Avdiyivka. Abiding by the Minsk agreements, the Ukrainian military did not open fire in response," the press center said. The press center also said that in the village of Zaitseve, not far from the militant-held town of Horlivka, representatives of civil-military cooperation together with volunteers were handing out food parcels, hygiene items, baby food, and stationery for school children.

<http://ukrainianwall.com/english-news/russian-proxies-fire-small-arms-on-ato-forces-near-pisky-overnight/>

Five Ukrainian soldiers wounded in Donbas conflict zone in last day, 04.11.2015

"Yesterday night, the militants intensified their attacks on ATO forces along the demarcation line. The fact that the militants intensified their attacks did not mean that they were preparing for active hostilities," he said. "The Russian proxies are trying to provoke Ukrainian military to open fire in response. But we do not respond to these provocations. Unfortunately, our soldiers have been injured, but we do not give up and do not give the opportunity to blame the Ukrainian side in violation of the Minsk agreements," Lysenko said.

http://www.fm-tv.kiev.ua/main_news/67697/view/

Russian proxies fire grenade launchers on ATO forces overnight, 05.11.2015

"The pro-Russian militants were firing on the villages of Opytne, Novhorodske, Pisky and the town of Avdiyivka. In addition, they were firing in the direction of Chemical and Cement plants, the village of Spartak, and the old terminal of the Donetsk airport, the village of Shyroka Balka and Putyivskiy park in the city of Donetsk," the report says.

After that, the night in the Donbas conflict zone was calm.

<http://www.unian.info/war/1174725-russian-proxies-fire-grenade-launchers-on-ato-forces-overnight.html>

Terrorists shell Krasnohorivka citizens with 82 mm mortars, 05.11.2015

The Ukrainian party observes the Minsk agreements, withdraws heavy weapons, meanwhile, the terrorists keep on shelling the residential quarters with forbidden arms. At 11:15 a.m., the terrorists shelled Krasnohorivka with 82 mm mortars. Fortunately, there are no casualties.

<http://www.mil.gov.ua/en/news/2015/11/05/press-centre-of-ato-hq-terrorists-shell-krasnohorivka-citizens-with-82-mm-mortars/>

OSCE reports rise in truce violations along Ukraine front lines, 05.11.2015

International monitors in eastern Ukraine have reported a sharp increase in gunfire along front lines near the airport of the rebel-held city of Donetsk, a senior official with Europe's main security and rights watchdog said on Thursday. The guns have been mostly silent since early September, prompting both sides to extend a pullback of lighter weapons, but recent accusations of ceasefire violations from both sides have underscored the fragility of the peace process. Renewed violence would also make it less likely that the European Union lifts sanctions against Russia based on a review before the end of the year, though Russia has repeatedly denied it is backing the rebels in east Ukraine. "Since Sunday, monitors noted a noticeable increase in violence in and around Donetsk airport, none of which we can attribute to demining or training," Alexander Hug, deputy chief monitor to the OSCE mission in Ukraine.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2015/11/05/us-ukraine-crisis-idUSKCN0SU1Z020151105#FYeUzFtELRHxOytO.97>

Russian proxies attack ATO forces 13 times overnight, 06.11.2015

"The militants fired six times on the town of Maryinka, twice on the town of Avdiyivka and the village of Troitske. In addition, they fired on the villages of Pisky and Opytne, as well as the town of Krasnohorivka. The last shelling was an attack on Avdiyivka, where the mercenaries were firing small arms on ATO forces and a sniper was working between 06:06 and 06:27 local time," the report reads. The press center also said that the military were making every effort to restore infrastructure in Donbas.

<http://ukrainianwall.com/english-news/russian-proxies-attack-ato-forces-13-times-overnight/>

<http://www.unian.info/war/1176034-two-ukrainian-soldiers-injured-in-booby-trap-blast-in-luhansk-region.html>

Militants stage large-scale bloody showdown in Donetsk – Ukraine Intel, 06.11.2015

"Armed clashes erupted in Donetsk between separatist groups resulting in 15 people being killed and nearly 20 wounded," said the report. It is also noted that the self-styled security forces of the so-called "DPR" detained more than 40 terrorists involved in the clashes. According to the Ukrainian Intelligence, the protest vibe has been spreading across the militant-occupied areas of Donetsk region, caused by the increased number of cases recorded of banditry and misuse of small arms by the troops from the 1st Army Corps caused by alcohol and drug abuse. At the same time the militant leaders are trying to hide these facts.

<http://ukrainianwall.com/english-news/militants-stage-large-scale-bloody-showdown-in-donetsk-ukraine-intel/>

One Ukrainian soldier killed, six wounded in ATO area in last day. 09.11.2015

"Over the last day, no Ukrainian soldiers were killed but one was wounded as a result of military clashes in the village of Maiorske. Yesterday morning, an armored personnel carrier of the Ukrainian Armed Forces overturned near the town of Kurakhove of Donetsk region, resulting in one soldier was killed and another five servicemen of the State Border Guard Service of Ukraine were injured," Lysenko said. According to, the pro-Russian militants have been firing at the Ukrainian positions on all fronts.

http://www.fm-tv.kiev.ua/main_news/67868/view/

Militants attack Ukrainian forces across conflict zone, situation most tense near Donetsk, 10.11.2015

"The enemy was firing 120mm mortars on our positions near the town of Popasna in Luhansk region, while several missiles directly hit the residential areas. The occupiers fired from the village of Molodizhne not far from the militant-occupied town of Pervomaisk," he said. According to Motuzianyk, in the north-western outskirts of the town of Horlivka, namely in the villages of Maiorske, Novhorodske and the town of Dzerzhynsk, the enemy opened harassing fire toward Ukrainian military, using small arms and grenade launchers. Enemy sniper was also active near Novhorodske. Read also Terrorists launch more attacks overnight in Donbas, use banned 120mm mortars In addition, the terrorists were firing on ATO forces from infantry fighting vehicles and anti-aircraft guns for about one hour near the village of Verkhniotoretske. "However, the situation is most tense in the western outskirts of Donetsk, between the towns of Avdiyivka and Maryinka. The militants have been attacking ATO forces throughout the day. By the evening, their activity has increased in this sector," Motuzianyk said.

<http://ukrainianwall.com/english-news/militants-attack-ukrainian-forces-across-conflict-zone-situation-most-tense-near-donetsk/>

<http://ukrainianwall.com/english-news/ukrainian-intelligence-spots-convoy-of-tanks-in-donetsk/>

ATO forces near Donetsk airport attacked with anti-aircraft, anti-tank guns, 10.11.2015

The enemy started firing on the Ukrainian positions from SPG-9 Kopye (Spear) 73mm calibre anti-tank guns, anti-aircraft systems, and infantry combat vehicles' guns after 21:30 local time on Monday, stated Head of the General Staff's press center Vladyslav Seleznev. They were shelling the Ukrainian positions near the ruined Donetsk airport, the town of Avdiyivka, and the Zenit position, which is the area of a former Ukrainian air defense missile battalion, which is a few kilometers from the village of Spartak in Donetsk region. The Butivka coalmine is not far from that area. Zenit is a strategic stronghold, as the road to Avdiyivka, and the villages of Opytne and Pisky is seen from it. The shelling lasted for an hour and a half, Seleznev said. He did not confirm reports that the enemy had used artillery systems to shell the Ukrainian forces.

<http://www.unian.info/war/1178652-ato-forces-near-donetsk-airport-attacked-with-anti-aircraft-anti-tank-guns.html>

The OSCE: a truce in the Donbass remains " extremely fragile ", 10.11.2015

From 1 September in the Donbass entered into force another truce, both parties and observers state that it is observed. At the end of September was signed the agreement about the withdrawal of weapons with a caliber of Not more than 100 millimeters and tanks from the frontline. This process takes place in 2 stages (Luhansk and Donetsk region). The drain in the Luhansk region has already been completed. "Unfortunately, the SMM observers in the last two weeks again and again established the presence of human victims. Not the result of an accident or landmine, and because of the continued conflict, With both sides. In recent days, the situation is a bit dead, but the fact that citizens are dying, evidence of extreme fragility of the truce ", - quotes the expression of Hg magazine. In addition, According to the Deputy head of SMM OSCE, a significant problem is also a mining site in the conflict area. "The areas near the demarcation line infested with mines and unexploded ordnance. The area near the Donetsk airport Shirokino, both banks of the river in the Village of Lugansk in this sense a problem, " he said.

<http://news.rin.ru/eng/news///137123/>

Ukrainian military repel two militant attacks near Novozvanivka, 11.11.2015

The militants used 82mm mortars, heavy machine guns and small arms firing on the villages of Maiorske and Zaitseve. According to the press center, at 22:00 Kyiv time, the Russian-terrorist mercenaries tried to attack our military positions in the area of the village of Novozvanivka. Read also Militants attack Ukrainian forces across conflict zone, situation most tense near Donetsk "When a sabotage and reconnaissance group of militants was approaching the Ukrainian troops, it was decided to return fire. The enemy retreated and tried to attack from the left flank. The Ukrainian troops opened fire on defeat. After taking away the dead and wounded, the invaders retreated," the report says. It is also reported that the occupiers fired small arms and grenade launchers on the towns of Avdiyivka and Maryinka, and the village of Pisky. The last shelling took place on Avdiyivka after 02:00.

<http://ukrainianwall.com/english-news/ukrainian-military-repel-two-militant-attacks-near-novozvanivka/>

Over 300 Russian mercenaries arrive in Horlivka, 11.11.2015

The militants of several units are in the second echelon, equipped with trucks and armored vehicles – there are at least 12 armored combat vehicles. The Russian proxies also continue to deploy heavy armor in the militant stronghold of Donetsk. For now, the Information Resistance Group has recorded seven main battle tanks (MBTs) in Kyiv district of the city, two MBTs near the Spartak stadium, and four MBTs in Petrovskiy district. The MBTs are camouflaged and scattered across the area. Three major warehouses of armored vehicles and artillery weapons of terrorists are set up near the town of Lutuhyne in Luhansk region. At the moment, each warehouse stores about 35-40 pieces of equipment, mainly MBTs.

<http://conspiracy-cafe.blogspot.com/2015/11/over-300-russian-mercenaries-arrive-in.html>

Pro-Russian Rebels Seek New Offensive In Ukraine, 11.11.2015

While the Russian proxies continue to mass near ATO headquarters near Donetsk, government officials stated that Ukraine must be prepared for new offensives in the Donbas region. "Russian occupation forces are doing everything they can to disrupt the peace process and prevent the peaceful resolution of those bloody Moscow-inspired events, which have been taking place in the East of our country," said Oleksandr Turchynov, Secretary of the National Security and Defense Council of Ukraine. SMM monitors have verified an expansion of rebels war efforts, reporting the sound of explosions and bursts of heavy arms fire while positioned in rebel-controlled territory. The monitors are often prohibited by rebel forces from going near any areas where heavy weapon placements are suspected to be in violation of the Minsk agreement.

<http://warmonitor.net/news/2015/11/11/pro-russian-rebels-seek-new-offensive-in-ukraine/>

The militants attacked Ukrainian positions from Grads and artillery, 12.11.2015

Last night the Russian-backed militants shelled on Ukrainian positions from 82mm mortars near Trekhizbenka on Lugansk direction, Joinfo.ua reports citing ATO press center. On Donetsk direction the militants conducted the unsighted fire from grenade launchers and small arms near Pisky, Avdiyivka and Troyitske. And near Mariupol – they opened provocative fire on Ukrainian positions near Bogdanivka. Several loud explosions were heard in the district of Gorlovka on the rebels-controlled territory in the morning. In Svatove, the military engineers continued to eliminate the consequences of the disaster in the military warehouse. For the last day they cleared about 1 hectare of the territory and destroyed 3418 explosive items. According to the reconnaissance data as of 20:20 of November 11, 2015, in the Lisove village, Makiyivka, Krasnoarmiyskyi district, the militants deployed multiple rocket launchers BM-21 Grad and self-propelled artillery on the local cemetery.

http://joinfo.com/world/1011099_ato-latest-news-the-militants-attacked-ukrainian-positions-from-grads-and-artillery.html

<http://www.unian.info/war/1182059-russian-proxies-shell-ukrainian-positions-in-donbas-11-times-on-thursday.html>

Russian proxies provoke Ukrainian military near Mariupol, explosions heard near Horlivka, 12.11.2015

The terrorists fired rocket-propelled grenades and small arms on the villages of Pisky, Troitske and the town of Avdiyivka. In the area of Mariupol, the pro-Russian militants carried out provocative attacks on our positions near the village of Bohdanivka. Early Thursday loud explosions were heard near the militant-controlled town of Horlivka, the press center said. At the same time, military sappers continue to eliminate the consequences of the disaster in the town of Svatove.

<http://ukrainianwall.com/english-news/russian-proxies-provoke-ukrainian-military-near-mariupol-explosions-heard-near-horlivka/>
<http://ukrainianwall.com/english-news/ato-hq-ukrainian-military-may-be-allowed-to-return-fire/>

Russia preparing provocation to file suit against Ukraine at The Hague – presidential administration, 12.11.2015

Russia is preparing falsified materials about Ukraine's supposed genocide of the Russia-speaking population in Donbas, specifically that Ukrainian military personnel supposedly killed 500 citizens of the village of Sokilnyky in Luhansk region in order to file a suit against Ukraine at The Hague, Ukrainian presidential administration spokesman on Anti-Terrorist Operation issues Andriy Lysenko has said. "To distract attention from the tragic events in Syria, where civilian deaths resulting from the actions of the Russian army are already being registered, the Russian leadership is preparing a provocation on an international scale against Ukraine. Its aim is to discredit the Ukrainian leadership, to get a reason to appeal to The Hague International Criminal Court (ICC) to file lawsuit against Ukraine, as well as for creating the grounds for Russia's exit from the Minsk process," he said at a briefing in Kyiv on Thursday.

<http://en.interfax.com.ua/news/general/303315.html?>

Russian-separatist forces violate ceasefire in eastern Ukraine, 13.11.2015

Militants opened fire at least 11 times as a provocative act against the Ukrainian army's positions in the operation area in Donbas on Nov. 12 evening and overnight into Nov. 13, the operation headquarters' press center has reported.

<http://www.kyivpost.com/content/ukraine/russian-separatist-forces-violate-ceasefire-in-eastern-ukraine-401970.html>
<http://www.unian.info/war/1183151-russian-proxies-attack-ato-troops-in-donbas-with-grenade-launchers-heavy-guns.html>

Almost one-hour firefight between militants, ATO troops in Donbas, 13.11.2015

"From 18:00 on November 12, the militants were firing grenade launchers, heavy machine guns and small arms four times on the town of Krasnohorivka, thrice on the village of Pisky, twice on the village of Opytne, as well as the village of Novoselivka Druha," the report says. In addition, at about 02:00 Kyiv time, the terrorists started firing mortars on Krasnohorivka, the press center said. "From 18:25 to 19:15, there was a firefight in the village of Zaitseve in the direction of Artemivsk. The mercenaries were also firing small arms on our positions in the town of Maiorsk.

<http://en.vnews.agency/news/politics/14156-almost-one-hour-firefight-between-militants-ato-troops-in-donbas.html>
http://en.censor.net.ua/news/356191/one_ukrainian_soldier_killed_three_wounded_yesterday_ato_speaker

Tymchuk: Luhansk militant units put on full alert, 13.11.2015

The militants of the Luhansk People's Republic (LPR) terrorist organization have been spreading rumors about the beginning of offensive by the Ukrainian Armed Forces, head of the Information Resistance Group and MP Dmytro Tymchuk wrote. According to these rumors, certain units of the Ukrainian army have already crossed the Siverskiy Donetsk River (along the demarcation line) near the village of Pionerske, and several columns of tanks are supposedly moving in the direction of the demarcation line from the village of Stanytsia Luhanska. "These rumors are presented as the official information — all military units of the LPR are on full alert," Tymchuk said.

<http://www.unian.info/war/1182290-tymchuk-luhansk-militant-units-put-on-full-alert.html>

Militants attack ATO forces in Avdiyivka, killing and wounding Ukrainian servicemen, 14.11.2015

The shelling is said to have been carried out with the use of 82-mm mortars, which should have been withdrawn according to the Minsk agreements, the head of state said.

The Ukrainian President does not believe that the escalation of the situation in the east of Ukraine is related to the expansion of the terror-related activity, according to an UNIAN correspondent. "I do not see any connection between the escalation in the east and the intensification of Islamic terrorists. But we do see an escalation within the country, we see increased risks and threats of terrorist attacks in Ukraine, therefore the appropriate measures are taken and security is enhanced," Poroshenko said.

<http://www.unian.info/war/1183723-militants-attack-ato-forces-in-avdiyivka-killing-and-wounding-ukrainian-servicemen.html>

Militants fire at school in east Ukraine's Donetsk region, 15.11.2015

It examined a fresh impact on the wall at the northern side of the building, 3.7 meters above the ground, and identified pieces of a 73mm round from a SPG-9 (Kopye) tripod-mounted recoilless gun. Some 19 meters north of the school boundary, the SMM detected another crater also caused by an SPG-9 projectile. After assessing both munitions the SMM concluded that they "have been fired from a north-north-easterly direction." The SMM examined three other craters in the range between 15 and 40 meters east from the school building and assessed them to likely have been caused by 120mm mortar rounds fired from a northerly direction," according to the report. The SMM observed that there was a "DPR" checkpoint 100 meters north of the school, and an infantry fighting vehicle (IFV) (BMP-1) parked 40m from the school buildings.

Armed individuals were also seen entering and exiting the school.

<http://uatoday.tv/news/militants-fire-at-school-in-east-ukraine-s-donetsk-region-534345.html>

Ukraine's Interior Ministry warns citizens about possibility of terrorist attacks, 15.11.2015

"According to the special services, destructive anti-Ukrainian forces will make several attempts to destabilize the situation in the country in the next few days. The Interior Ministry and the Ukrainian Security Service have information that terrorist attacks and provocations using firearms and explosive devices are being prepared in Kyiv, Kharkiv, Dnepropetrovsk, Lviv and some other cities of the country," he said on Sunday. In his message, the minister addressed the political forces and public organizations that plan to conduct rallies in the next few days. "Your forms of protest are now extremely vulnerable to provocations and terrorist risks. You are responsible for people's safety. I am asking you to make all necessary decisions to prevent the slightest opportunity to use your constitutional right to protest as a cover of a terrorist attack," the interior minister said.

<http://en.interfax.com.ua/news/general/304122.html>

Russian proxies shell Donetsk, Luhansk, Mariupol sectors overnight, 16.11.2015

From 18:00 local time on November 15 to the morning on November 16, Russian-backed militants were firing on ATO forces in the Donetsk, Luhansk and Mariupol sectors. "The militants were firing rocket-propelled grenades and small arms in the direction of the villages of Novhorodske, Opytne, Pisky, and the towns of Maryinka and Avdiyivka. At the same time, the invaders were firing mortars, rocket-propelled grenades, heavy machine guns and small arms on the villages of Novotoshkivka and Shyrokyne," the report says.

<http://www.unian.info/war/1184616-russian-proxies-shell-donetsk-luhansk-mariupol-sectors-overnight.html>

<http://www.unian.info/politics/1184905-ato-hq-osce-mission-doesnt-provide-any-report-on-militant-weapons-pullback.html>

Three Ukrainian soldiers killed in ATO area in last day, 16.11.2015

"Three Ukrainian soldiers were killed in a remote-controlledbobby-trap blast near the town of Zolote in Luhansk region," Lysenko said.

http://www.fm-tv.kiev.ua/main_news/68180/view/

Russian proxies fire Grad at areas near Krasnohorivka, Hirnyk last night, 17.11.2015

“Putin-backed mercenaries were firing anti-aircraft guns, mortars, rocket-propelled grenade launchers, heavy machine guns and small arms in the direction of the towns of Maryinka, Krasnohorivka and Avdiyivka, as well as the villages of Troitske, Verkhniotoretske, and Pisky [near the ruined Donetsk airport],” the ATO press center wrote. There were 20 attacks in the Donetsk sector alone. The terrorists also used mortars, rocket-propelled grenade launchers and small arms to directly shell the Ukrainian positions in the villages of Shyrokyne, Zaitseve and Novhorodske. From 20:00 to 21:00 local time on Monday, the militants were firing Grad multiple rocket launchers twice at civilian settlements near the towns of Krasnohorivka and Hirnyk.

<http://ukrnews.today/russian-proxies-fire-grad-at-areas-near-krasnohorivka-hirnyk-last-night/>

OSCE SMM observes new ceasefire violations in Donbas – report, 17.11.2015

The OSCE Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine (SMM) has observed ceasefire violations in Donetsk and Luhansk regions of Ukraine. The statement was made in the OSCE SMM report as of 19:30 on November 15, 2015. “The SMM recorded ceasefire violations in Donetsk and Luhansk regions. On 14 November, from its position at “Donetsk People’s Republic” (“DPR”)-controlled Donetsk railway station (6 kilometers north-west of Donetsk), the SMM heard a total of 14 bursts of light machine-gun at locations 3 kilometers north-north-west and 4 kilometers west-north-west. In three separate locations in the southern part of Donetsk region, “DPR”-controlled Telmanove (50 kilometers north-east of Mariupol), government-controlled Volnovakha (55 kilometers north of Mariupol) and “DPR”-controlled Novooleksandrivka (63 kilometers north-east of Mariupol), the SMM heard several undetermined explosions,” the mission said in the report. “On the same day, while at a checkpoint near “Luhansk People’s Republic” (“LPR”)-controlled Raivka (16 kilometers north-west of Luhansk), the SMM heard five undetermined explosions (possibly artillery fire) and one burst of heavy machine gun fire 2 kilometers north of its position,” the report said.

<http://ukrnews.today/osce-smm-observes-new-ceasefire-violations-in-donbas-report/>

<http://ukrnews.today/militants-firing-multiple-launch-rocket-systems-at-ukrainian-positions/>

<http://ukrnews.today/kyiv-ready-to-redeploy-weapons-to-donbas-frontline-in-event-of-enemy-offensive/>

<http://ukrnews.today/ukrainian-mission-to-iccc-tells-osce-smm-tensions-tend-to-escalate-along-donbas-contact-line/>

Latest from OSCE Special Monitoring Mission (SMM) to Ukraine, 18.11.2015

The SMM recorded fewer ceasefire violations than in previous days. While positioned at “Donetsk People’s Republic” (“DPR”)-controlled Donetsk railway station (6km north-west of Donetsk) between 08:35hrs and 14:00hrs[1], the SMM heard one undetermined explosion 3.5km to the north-west, saw and heard an impact of a 120mm mortar round 2.5km north-west of its position, and heard five bursts of heavy-machine-gun fire west-north-west of its position.[2] In government-controlled Trokhizbenka (33km north-west of Luhansk), the SMM heard four bursts of heavy-machine-gun fire to the north-west, which was assessed to be part of live-fire exercises by the Ukrainian Armed Forces.

In “DPR”-controlled Staromykhailivka (16km west of Donetsk), the SMM heard outgoing small-arms fire and then observed anti-aircraft fire impact a building 200m from the SMM’s position. At the same time, in nearby government-controlled Krasnohorivka (21km west of Donetsk), the SMM saw two anti-aircraft guns (ZSU 23). In government-controlled Krasnohorivka (21km west of Donetsk), the SMM found remnants of an 82mm mortar round and a fresh crater. Crater analysis carried out by the SMM showed the mortar was fired from the east. At a second location, the SMM was shown remnants of a BM-21 Grad rocket (assessed as unexploded), which the Ukrainian Armed Forces said had been fired the previous night. The SMM observed no evidence of impact or damage caused by the rocket.

<http://www.osce.org/ukraine-smm/201001>

<http://www.unian.info/war/1187939-osce-observes-at-least-30-trucks-with-coal-on-way-to-russia.html>

ATO HQ reports about skirmish with militants in Luhansk region, 18.11.2015

"At 22:00 Kyiv time, there was a skirmish between Ukrainian troops and a militant sabotage and reconnaissance group of about 20 people in the village of Orikhove-Donetske, Luhansk region. The enemy was repelled and forced to retreat," Matiukhin said. During the period under review, the Russian-backed mercenaries were firing small arms at the Ukrainian positions in the Luhansk sector. In Donetsk region, militants were using grenade launchers, heavy machine guns and small arms to shell the villages of Opytne, Pisky and Troitske, as well as the towns of Maryinka and Avdiivka. The condition of seven out of the 16 wounded Ukrainian soldiers who were rushed to an Odesa-based military hospital from the ATO zone on Tuesday evening is serious.

<http://ukrainianwall.com/english-news/ato-hq-reports-about-skirmish-with-militants-in-luhansk-region/>

Russian proxies attack ATO forces 30 times overnight, 19.11.2015

"The situation remains tense. The militants used infantry fighting vehicles, grenade launchers, heavy machine guns and small arms to attack the towns of Avdiivka and Krasnohorivka, and the villages of Nevelske and Troitske. They also used mortars in the Artemivsk sector. In addition, the occupiers fired heavy machine guns and small arms on the villages of Luhanske and Zaitseve, as well as the town of Maiorsk, where they used 82mm mortars," the report says. The pro-Russian mercenaries also fired 82mm mortars on the Ukrainian positions near Troitske, as well as small arms near the villages of Hranitne and Shyrokyne.

<http://www.unian.info/war/1187932-russian-proxies-attack-ato-forces-30-times-overnight.html>

<http://www.unian.info/war/1189083-russian-proxies-attack-ato-forces-36-times-overnight.html>

Russia sends another 'humanitarian convoy' to Donbas, 20.11.2015

Russia sent more than 100 trucks that Moscow claims are carrying aid for people in Ukraine's Donbas region — this is the 45th that is crossing into Ukraine without permission from the Ukrainian government. The Russian Ministry of Emergency Situations said the vehicles were delivering more than 1,100 tonnes of food and medicine in Donetsk and Luhansk regions. The Ukrainian Foreign Ministry has repeatedly asked Russia to stop violating Ukraine's sovereignty.

<http://world.korupciya.com/2015/11/20/russia-sends-another-humanitarian-convoy-to-donbas/>

Russian proxies in Donbas set for offensive, 20.11.2015

Ukrainian intelligence spots militants preparing for the offensive in eastern Ukraine's Donbas. That's according to Vadym Skybitsky, chief of the Main Directorate of Ukraine's Defense Ministry. "We have recorded a few signs indicating that the offensive is being prepared by the militants. Moreover, Russian military commanders of various ranks are permanently there, for example, those from the General Staff, the 12th Command of the Russian Armed Forces' reserve. It is a permanent core," he said. In addition, the intelligence was tipped that the deputy chief of the General Staff of the Russian Federation is now in Donetsk checking the militants' readiness to fight without the support of the Russian military. Meanwhile Ukrainian security officials continue to report to the OSCE on violations of the Minsk agreements by Russian-backed forces.

<http://uatoday.tv/news/russian-proxies-in-donbas-set-for-offensive-ukrainian-intelligence-538167.html>

500 people headed to Akhmetov's office after rally on Maidan in Kyiv, 22.11.2015

About 500 people gathered on Maidan Square for a rally on Sunday afternoon. Most of the speakers criticized the government for inaction in countering Russian aggression in the east of Ukraine and the annexation of Crimea, as well as for failure to meet the pre-election promises. In particular, the protesters believe that the authorities simulate implementation of the declared reforms in the country, while using the old corruption schemes in fact. After the rally ended, the protesters went to the office of the SKM holding controlled by oligarch Rinat Akhmetov.

http://en.censor.net.ua/news/361803/500_people_headed_to_akhmetovs_office_after_rally_on_maidan_in_kyiv

<https://ruptly.tv/vod/view/38401/ukraine-anti-poroshenko-rally-held-in-kyiv-on-maidan-uprising-anniversary>

http://www.ukrinform.net/rubric-politics/1580017-activists_raising_money_on_maidan_313398.html

Chief Ukrainian expert on MH17 and Ilovaisk tragedy attacked, 20.11.2015

The press service of the National Police of Ukraine in Kyiv told that the incident occurred in the city's Obolon district late Wednesday. The law enforcement officers found out that Ruvin arrived home by car. As soon as he got out of the car, an unknown person ran up to him and fired three shots from an unidentified weapon. When the victim fell, the assailant left the scene. The prosecutors opened criminal proceedings under Article 15 Part 1, Article 115 of the Criminal Code of Ukraine (attempt to murder). Law enforcers establish all the circumstances of the incident and the identity of the attacker.

<http://www.unian.info/society/1189245-chief-ukrainian-expert-on-mh17-and-ilovaisk-tragedy-attacked.html>

Russian proxies attack ATO forces in Donetsk sector overnight, 22.11.2015

The combined Russian-separatist forces attacked Ukrainian army positions in the Donetsk sector from 18:00 to midnight on November 21, the ATO press center reported. "The Russian-terrorist mercenaries fired mortars on the towns of Maryinka and Krasnohorivka, as well as rocket-propelled grenades, heavy machine guns and small arms on the town of Avdiivka and the village of Pisky," the report says. In addition, the militants fired heavy machine guns on the village of Lozove in the direction of Artemivsk. As for the Mariupol sector, the occupiers fired rocket-propelled grenades and small arms on the village of Shyrokyne.

<http://world.korupciya.com/2015/11/22/russian-proxies-attack-ato-forces-in-donetsk-sector-overnight-2/>

<http://www.unian.info/war/1190902-russian-proxies-attack-ato-forces-37-times-overnight.html>

Russia pulls tanks, Grads to Crimea-Kherson demarcation line in wake of blackout - MIA official, 23.11.2015

About 12 Russian main battle tanks have been deployed in the area close to the demarcation line between occupied Crimea and the Ukrainian mainland Kherson region as a result of the events around the explosions at the power transmission lines and subsequent blackout in Crimea, according to Ilya Kiva, head of drug enforcement department of the Interior Ministry.

<http://www.digitalnewsworld.com/news/russia-pulls-tanks-grads-to-crimeakherson-demarcation-line-in-wake-of-blackout-mia-official.html>

Donetsk resident tries to smuggle grenade on board at Kyiv airport, 23.11.2015

A 35-year-old resident of Donetsk Oblast tried to take explosive items on board in his hand luggage, the press service of the National Police in the city of Kyiv has reported. The man explained to police officers and airport security that he had "forgotten" to take the explosives out of his bag when he was packing up his personal belongings.

<http://www.kyivpost.com/content/ukraine/unian-donetsk-resident-tries-to-smuggle-grenade-on-board-at-kyiv-airport-402653.html>

Militants Completely Disregard Minsk Agreements – Military Intelligence, 24.11.2015

This was stated in a message posted on the website of the Main Intelligence Directorate of the Ministry of Defense of Ukraine. The leader of the "DPR" A. Zakharchenko personally ordered units of the 1st army corps to use any weapons available for the attacks on the positions of the Armed Forces of Ukraine", – reports the Military Intelligence. According to Ukrainian authorities, the situation in the ATO zone remains difficult with high risks of local combat engagements. Yesterday, November 23, the militants carried out 53 attacks with small arms, anti-aircraft systems ZU-23-2, BMP-2, 82-mm mortars. 43 attacks were conducted in the areas of Avdiivka, Krasnohorivka, Marinka, Novgorodske, Opytne, Pisky, Troitske (Donetsk area), 5 attacks near Zaitseve, Mayorske, three attacks near Shyrokyne, one near Bohdanivka, one attack near Schastia. Ukrainian side continues to inform OSCE on all instances of Minsk agreements violation by the opponent. Mission representatives are being provided with information about the presence of tanks, artillery systems caliber more than 100 mm and 122-mm MLRS "Grad" in areas Horlivka and Zymogiria. Militants continue to strengthen first-tier units of the 1 and 2 army corps in Sloviansk and Mariupol directions. Contrary to Minsk agreements terrorists did not withdraw weapons and military equipment from Novoaydarsk, Sloviansk and Volnovakha directions.

<http://ukraineunderattack.org/en/45524-militants-completely-disregard-minsk-agreements-military-intelligence.html>

<http://www.unian.info/war/1191231-donbas-militants-stealing-russias-funds-allocated-for-military-needs-ukraine-intel.html>

Two Ukrainian soldiers killed, two wounded in Donbas in last day, 23.11.2015

In the last day, we lost two Ukrainian soldiers, and another two were wounded as a result of military clashes," Lysenko said. Asked about where exactly the tragedies occurred, Lysenko said: "Two soldiers were killed by a landmine in the village of Stanytsia Luhanska, while another two soldiers were wounded in the village of Zaitseve and the town of Maiorsk."

http://www.fm-tv.kiev.ua/main_news/68475/view/

Pro-Russian German MPs pay another visit to Donbas militants, 24.11.2015

Two German MPs have yet again visited areas under Kremlin-backed militant control, providing both aid in the form of medication and dollops of pro-Russian, anti-Ukrainian propaganda. Their visit coincided with the 45th Russian humanitarian convoy to have entered and left Ukraine without permission or proper checks of what they are carrying. Neither the German MPs, nor Russia have expressed any criticism of the so-called 'DNR' and 'LNR' who over the last months have expelled western NGOs, thus stopping them from bringing critically needed aid to Donbas. In fact, the 'social disorientation' which the Kremlin's proxies claimed they were seeking to prevent by expelling western aid organizations appears to be ideological. It is Russia and its allies, including German deputies from the left-wing, who are presented as tackling the mounting humanitarian crisis caused by Russia's hybrid warfare.

<http://khpgg.org/en/index.php?id=1448220080>

Zakharchenko lets militants use any weapons to shell Ukrainian troops, 24.11.2015

"The militant leaders demonstrate complete disregard for the provisions of the Minsk peace agreements. DPR leader Oleksandr Zakharchenko has given an order in person to the First Army Corps, allowing the use of any type of weapons to shell the positions of the Armed Forces of Ukraine," the GUR reported. The intelligence department draws attention to the fact that members of the illegal armed groups in Donbas are interested in more intensive shelling of the Ukrainian troops as in that case, they get increased payments from the so-called 'command' for "participation in combat operations."

<http://www.unian.info/war/1193170-zakharchenko-lets-militants-use-any-weapons-to-shell-ukrainian-troops.html>

More Russian army units in Crimea amass near Ukraine border: NSDC, 24.11.2015

"Russia is quickly amassing its offensive forces in northern Crimea. On November 24, five Russian IL-76 military transport aircrafts transferred two battalion tactical groups of paratroopers, belonging to the Russian Airborne Armed Forces, from the city of Ivanovo (central Russia) to the Dzhankoy airfield in Crimea", the press service statement reads.

The 97th Russian Airborne Assault Regiment stationed in the Russian city of Novorossiysk has also been deployed 3km south-west of Dzhankoy, some 30 minutes' drive away from Ukraine's Chongar crossing. "Russian troops in occupied Crimea have significantly increased their offensive capabilities with well-trained units (who are) ready to launch attacks", the NSDC reports.

<http://uatoday.tv/politics/more-russian-army-units-in-crimea-amass-near-ukraine-border-nsdc-540906.html>

Latest from OSCE Special Monitoring Mission (SMM) to Ukraine, 24.11.2015

The SMM monitored the implementation of the "Package of measures for the implementation of the Minsk agreements", including the Addendum. Its monitoring was restricted by the parties and security considerations*. The SMM recorded a significant increase of ceasefire violations in Donetsk and Luhansk regions, including at Donetsk airport. Some of the explosions and gunfire observed were assessed as training or demining activities. The SMM observed long queues of civilian vehicles waiting at government-controlled checkpoints at the contact line and at border crossing points between Ukraine and the Russian Federation. SMM recorded more than ten undetermined explosions and several bursts of heavy-machine-gun fire south-south-east of its position. Residents informed the SMM that they had heard explosions and shootings since the morning, expressing concern and fear about the situation.

<http://www.osce.org/ukraine-smm/203866>

One Ukrainian soldier killed, eight wounded over past day, - ATO spokesperson, 25.11.2015

During the past day, one Ukrainian soldier was killed, eight others were injured in ATO area in the Donbas, PA representative on ATO matters, Colonel Andrii Lysenko said. According to him, the past day in ATO area saw the escalation of hostilities. According to the Defense Intelligence, terrorists carried out 43 attacks on ATO forces positions over the past day.

http://en.censor.net.ua/news/362250/one_ukrainian_soldier_killed_eight_wounded_over_past_day_ato_spokesperson
http://en.censor.net.ua/news/362341/militants_shelled_horlivka_with_mlrs_to_discredit_ukrainian_army_ato_presscenter
http://en.censor.net.ua/news/362341/militants_shelled_horlivka_with_mlrs_to_discredit_ukrainian_army_ato_presscenter
<http://www.unian.info/war/1194433-militants-firing-grad-missiles-at-horlivka.html>

Ukrainian military ordered not to fire back in response to militant provocations, 25.11.2015

Under the instruction of Chief of the General Staff of Ukrainian Armed Forces Viktor Muzhenko, ATO forces will not open fire in response to militant provocations, according to a Ukrainian envoy in Joint Center for Control and Coordination (JCCC). JCCC envoy General Major Borys Kremenetsky reported that militants in certain districts of Donetsk and Luhansk regions continue to break the ceasefire. "The terrorists aren't giving up their aimed and provocative attacks of the ATO positions with small arms, large-caliber machine-guns and grenade launchers, attempting to provoke the servicemen of Ukrainian Armed Forces to fire in response and violate the Minsk agreements," the ATO press centre quotes Kremenetsky as saying.

<http://en.interfax.com.ua/news/general/306691.html>
<http://en.interfax.com.ua/news/general/306553.html>
<http://www.nrcu.gov.ua/en/news.html?newsID=12653>

FSB blocking Ukrainian Internet traffic in eastern Ukraine, 25.11.2015

"Unfortunately, it's true," he said, when asked by Ukrainian Prime Minister Arseniy Yatsenyuk about possible blocking of the Ukrainian Internet traffic by the Russian FSB in the ATO area. Due to this fact, the Ukrainian Prime Minister asked the Information Policy Ministry to resolve this issue. "We should decide how we can operate the Internet network and what can we do to resume the Ukrainian Internet resources in Donetsk and Luhansk regions," he said.

<http://www.nrcu.gov.ua/en/news.html?newsID=12684>

Terrorists shelled anti-terrorist operation forces' positions 22 times in 12 hours using grenade launchers and machine guns, - HQ, 26.11.2015

Between 6 p.m. Nov. 25 and 6 a.m. Nov. 26, pro-Russian terrorists continued conducting provocative fire against Ukrainian troops at the Donetsk and Artemivsk directions. According to the HQ, the invaders were using grenade launchers, large-caliber machine guns, and small arms against Verkhniotoretske, Avdiivka, Pisky, and Opytne. At the Artemivsk direction the same weapons were used by terrorists to fire at Luhanske and Maiorsk. "Mercenaries were conducting adjusted fire against our positions near Avdiivka, using anti-tank automated grenade launchers and small arms. The total of 22 cases of shelling were recorded between 6 p.m. Nov. 25 and 6 a.m. this morning," the HQ noted.

http://en.censor.net.ua/news/362369/terrorists_shelled_antiterrorist_operation_forces_positions_22_times_in_12_hours_using_grenade_launchers
<http://ukrnews.today/militant-provocations-continue-22-attacks-on-ato-forces-overnight/>
<http://www.unian.info/war/1195507-ato-hq-reports-skirmish-between-russian-proxies-and-ukrainian-troops-today.html>

"LPR" militant leader wants to agree on "elections" with Kyiv, 26.11.2015

"I think that the elections will be held according to the law, which will be agreed in the course of compulsory direct negotiations between representatives of the LPR and DPR and Kyiv," Plotnytskiy said.

<http://ukrnews.today/lpr-militant-leader-wants-to-agree-on-elections-with-kyiv/>

Ukrainian MPs remain seated following 'bomb threat' in parliament, 26.11.2015

Ukrainian journalists have been evacuated from the parliament building in Kyiv due to a bomb threat. In an interesting turn of events parliament security officials asked all journalists to leave the press box while most MPs remained in the building. The speaker of Ukraine's parliament Volodymyr Hroysman announced that that there had been a bomb threat, then said 'Is anyone scared? I'm not, so let's keep on working'.

<http://uatoday.tv/news/journalists-asked-to-leave-ukraine-s-parliament-due-to-bomb-threat-542154.html>

Militants fire anti-aircraft guns, rocket-propelled grenades on ATO forces in Donetsk sector overnight, 27.11.2015

"The mercenaries were most active in the Donetsk sector. They fired grenade launchers, anti-aircraft guns, heavy machine guns and small arms on the town of Krasnohorivka and the village of Pisky. Krasnohorivka was also fired from 82mm mortars," the report says. The militants fired small arms once on the village of Chermalyk in the direction of Mariupol. From 23:00 to the early hours of November 27, the situation was calm in the Donbas conflict zone. <http://www.unian.info/war/1195757-militants-fire-anti-aircraft-guns-rocket-propelled-grenades-on-ato-forces-in-donetsk-sector-overnight.html>

Russian soldiers captured in conflict area crossed border 'by accident', 27.11.2015

Russian soldiers captured by Ukrainian forces crossed the border accidentally, a source from Russia's Defence Ministry claimed. SBU released video footage yesterday of 10 Russian paratroopers it claimed were captured by government forces while fighting alongside pro-Moscow rebels in the country east. The footage, which is likely to fuel allegations from Kiev and its Western allies of Russian involvement in the war, appeared on the day the Russian and Ukrainian leaders have met for talks in the Belarussian capital to try to end the conflict. <http://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/europe/ukraine-crisis-russian-paratroopers-captured-in-conflict-area-crossed-border-by-accident-9690752.html>

Russian proxies open fire in Donbas ten times overnight – ATO Staff, 28.11.2015

The terrorists opened unsighted fire near Avdiyivka, Maryinka, Zaytseve and Luhanske, according to the ATO press center. Firing from infantry fighting vehicles and small arms, the militants provoked the Ukrainian troops to return fire near Avdiyivka. The Russian proxies also used 82mm mortars near Maryinka. The terrorists fired automatic grenade launchers and heavy machine guns in the area of Zaytseve and Luhanske. <http://www.lifeinvest.com.ua/?p=3127>

Militants continue armed provocations and aimed shelling of settlements in Donbas, 29.11.2015

On Sunday the Russian-backed militants continued their armed provocations and aimed fire on the Ukrainian positions, according to ATO press service. <http://www.kyivpost.com/article/content/ukraine-politics/unian-militants-continue-armed-provocations-and-aimed-shelling-of-settlements-in-donbas-403089.html>

Militants fire grenades on Starohnativka, Pisky, Avdiyivka overnight, 30.11.2015

"The terrorists fired grenade launchers, heavy machine guns and small arms. They also fired 82mm mortars," the press center said. In addition, militants shelled the villages in the Artemivsk sector, using different types of weaponry. <http://www.unian.info/war/1197640-militants-fire-grenades-on-starohnativka-pisky-avdiyivka-overnight.html>

Forward Patrol Bases enhance monitoring along the Contact Line, says OSCE Chief Monitor in Ukraine Apakan, 30.11.2015

During a visit to the Luhansk region on 29 November 2015, the Chief Monitor of the OSCE SMM Ertugrul Apakan, said Forward Patrol Bases established by the Mission greatly enhance monitoring along the Contact Line in eastern Ukraine. He visited the SMM's Forward Patrol Base in Novoaidar and met monitors working in Sievierodonetsk while assessing the general security situation in Luhansk region. He also visited a Permanent Weapons Storage Site in the region. "Recently, the SMM established three Forward Patrol Bases in eastern Ukraine - two in government-controlled Novoaidar and Volnovakha, and one outside a government-controlled area of Luhansk region, in Stakhanov," said Apakan. "These Bases will enhance the Mission's monitoring by having monitors permanently present closer to the contact line." He said that the SMM is ready and willing to open more Forward Patrol Bases in eastern Ukraine as soon as it receives security guaranties from those in effective control of the concerned areas. "The priority for the Mission is to open a new Forward Patrol Base in an area that is not under government control in Donetsk region as soon as possible," Apakan added. <http://www.osce.org/ukraine-smm/204981>

Russian-backed militants massing weaponry in Donetsk region - Ukrainian MP, 30.11.2015

MP Dmytro Tymchuk reports that the combined Russian-separatist forces near the militant-occupied town of Horlivka in Donetsk region are relocating their weaponry and military equipment closer to the front line.

<http://uatoday.tv/politics/russian-backed-militants-massing-weaponry-in-donetsk-region-ukrainian-mp-544675.html>

Pilot Savchenko

Plotnytskiy says Savchenko acted as Aidar leader, ready to testify next week, 12.11.2015

Actually, I'll be in court next week," Plotnytskiy said in an interview. At the same time, asked about whether the militants attacked the Aidar Battalion and abducted Savchenko, Plotnytskiy said that the Ukrainian pilot was the actual leader of the battalion. "She headed the battalion during the first fighting near the village of Metalist in Luhansk region in June 2014, when the Ukrainian military wanted to enter Luhansk. Although the battalion had its appointed head, Savchenko had a significant influence. And everyone listened to her," Plotnytskiy said.

<http://www.unian.info/society/1181891-plotnytskiy-says-savchenko-acted-as-aidar-leader-ready-to-testify-next-week.html>

Savchenko's attorney published 40 volumes of documents on her case, 16.11.2015

Mark Feygin, who defends Nadia Savchenko in Russian court, stated in Twitter page that 40 volumes of materials on her case were released. "So, the case of Nadia Savchenko is available on my website! Please share it to the readers!" he wrote.

Today the court continues the trial of Savchenko in Rostov region, Russian Federation. Feygin also added that the leader of so-called Luhansk People's Republic Ihor Plotnytskyi, who is supposed to give testimony against the defendant, might not appear at the hearing today.

<http://112.international/politics/savchenkos-attorney-published-40-volumes-of-documents-on-her-case-1488.html>

Savchenko case: Sneak peek into LPR terrorist leader's "not-to-be-disclosed" testimony, 18.11.2015

The defense team of Nadia Savchenko, a high profile Ukrainian fighter pilot and MP who is being tried in a Russian court, release details of the courtroom interrogation of the "LPR" terrorist organization's leader Igor Plotnitsky despite the court ruling not to disclose his testimony to third persons. Igor Plotnitsky tried to be politically correct while giving testimony in court, according to Mark Feygin, Nadia Savchenko's lawyer who managed to flash-tweet the developments in the courtroom. In one of his tweets, Feygin said: "We were prohibited from disclosing Plotnitsky's testimony! Disclosing [them] verbatim!" According to another lawyer, Nicholai Polozov, Plotnitskiy called "political" the trial against Nadia Savchenko.

<http://world.korupciya.com/2015/11/19/savchenko-case-sneak-peek-into-lpr-terrorist-leader-s-not-to-be-disclosed-testimony/>

Lawyer: Witness in Savchenko's case impersonates another person, 26.11.2015

The court questioned Pochechuyev via video conference – the hearing was held in Moscow, while the FSB officer was in Voronezh. This man was sporting a wig and sunglasses. According to Novikov, the signature of Pochechuyev left on the form for witnesses in court differs from that in the protocols in Savchenko's case file. "We requested a handwriting expert study ... On Monday came the reply from the experts. The signatures are different. It's unbelievable," wrote Novikov. "Frankly, I didn't fully believe it at first. It so happens sometimes that the witnesses lie, but they lie under their real names. But neither I, nor my colleagues have ever seen such thing when a witness impersonates another person in court. It even outplays all other nonsense Savchenko's case is composed of," said the lawyer. Ilya Novikov went on to call this fact "a scandal."

<http://ukrnews.today/lawyer-witness-in-savchenkos-case-impersonates-another-person/>

National Minorities

Kiev anti-government demonstration descends into antisemitism, 24.11.2015

Far-right anti-government protesters in Kiev on Sunday called for the end of what they asserted is Jewish control over the Ukrainian government and accused Israel of seeking to colonise their country.

"Ukraine found itself in a grip of the world Zionist conspiracy. We are fed up with this power with President Valtsman and [Parliament] speaker Groisman and other Jew trash," one of the speakers asserted, referring to an antisemitic conspiracy theory that identifies President Petro Poroshenko as a hidden Jew.

Another speaker, who said he was wounded during the Maidan Revolution, called Poroshenko a "kike" and accused him of neglecting those who were injured for Ukraine. Antisemitic conspiracy theories abound online in both Russia and Ukraine, especially in regard to the current Ukrainian conflict, and more than one was advanced at Sunday's rally. "World Zionism wants to move all of Israel to Ukraine," former anti-Maidan activist Alexander Borozenets told the crowd. "All of this war is to settle Israel here. This is their goal and the blood of our sons is not worth anything to them."

<http://www.eurojewcong.org/ukraine/14168-kiev-anti-government-demonstration-descends-into-antisemitism.html>

Russian FSB summons Dzhemilev's wife for questioning, 26.11.2015

This Safinar Dzhemilev said: "summons sent over the towers felled in Kherson. I called (the management -KR FSB) asked said that the deal Dzhemileva brought it contributed to the attack, and I like his wife must indicate this attack, "- said Safinar. " I said that I do not participate in this case. Now a lawyer prepares the letter that I refuse to give evidence as a relative, "- she said. According to Dzhemilev Safinar, she had to appear for questioning in Simferopol on November 25.

<http://ukrainiancrisis.net/news/15456>

Mass Media

Crimean journalist: "Don't frighten my family and my people with guns", 03.11.2015

The journalist from ATR TV channel said she wouldn't like to comment on the search itself and the reasons behind it, saying only that it reflects present Crimean reality.

"My heart is bleeding when I only think about what is my 83-year-old mother guilty of, whom I was accompanying to the bathroom through the line of masked men with automatic guns? What is my 8-year-old granddaughter guilty of, who was awakened at the dawn by the words: "Do not be afraid, just do not be afraid." But still she was very scared. She asked: "Why do these men have guns? Are they going to shoot us? And her little legs were shaking..." Budzhurova wrote.

<http://uatoday.tv/society/crimean-journalist-don-t-frighten-my-family-and-my-people-with-guns-526244.html>

<http://www.unian.info/politics/1173325-poroshenko-condemns-abuse-of-ukrainian-journalists-in-crimea.html>

Ukraine Worldwide

PROSECUTOR: MH17 INVESTIGATION GOING WELL, 01.07.2015

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

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

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

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

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

Obama, Putin discuss Syria conflict on G-20 summit sidelines, 15.11.2015

President Barack Obama and Russian President Vladimir Putin traded views on Syria's civil war and broached the tense topic of Ukraine during an impromptu sit-down Sunday in Turkey, American and Russian officials said. The roughly 35-minute meeting played out on the sidelines of the Group of 20 economic summit, which brings together leaders from major rich and developing nations. The White House said they discussed a new proposal to end the Syrian conflict and Obama's hope that Russia's airstrikes in Syria will focus on IS, not opposition groups fighting Syrian President Bashar Assad.

<http://news.yahoo.com/obama-putin-huddle-sidelines-g-20-summit-142626062.html>

Obama, Putin Go Head to Head on G20 Sidelines, 16.11.2015

Russian President Vladimir Putin and U.S. President Barack Obama talked to each other for more than 30 minutes in an informal meeting on the sidelines of the Group of 20 summit in Turkey on Sunday. The presidents and two associates could be seen in an intense huddle in a group of chairs around a coffee table on the sidelines of the meeting of international heads of state. "President Obama and President Putin agreed on the need for a Syrian-led and Syrian-owned political transition, which would be preceded by UN-mediated negotiations between the Syrian opposition and regime as well a ceasefire," a White House official said.

<http://www.nbcnews.com/storyline/paris-terror-attacks/obama-putin-go-head-head-g20-sidelines-n463821>

Hollande seeks constitution changes to fight terrorism, 16.11.2015

Hollande said he wanted French law to allow dual nationals to be stripped of French citizenship if they were convicted of terrorism and dual nationals to be banned from entering France if they presented a "terrorism risk,". He pledged to increase budgets for security forces and the army.

<http://ukrnews.today/hollande-seeks-constitution-changes-to-fight-terrorism/>

Ukraine ranks 12th in Global Terrorism Index, 17.11.2015

The Australian Institute for Economics and Peace undertook a study, based on the results of which a rating of countries with the highest terrorist threat was compiled. Such countries as Iraq, Afghanistan, Nigeria, Pakistan and Syria, where terrorist attacks have become commonplace, are ranked in the top 5 positions. It should be noted that Ukraine taking the 12th position has become the most dangerous country for life among the countries of the former CIS (Russia took the 23rd place). Ukraine climbed to the 12th position due to the war in Donbas and Malaysian aircraft crash. "Only 3 deaths were recorded as a result of terrorism in Ukraine from 2000 to 2013, as compared with 665 deaths in 2014. Mostly they were caused by shelling carried out by 'Donetsk People's Republic', as well as by launch of a surface-to-air missile that hit the Malaysia Airlines aircraft," says the study.

<http://qha.com.ua/en/politics/ukraine-ranks-12th-in-global-terrorism-index/134903/>

Russia does not support UN resolution on IAEA because of Crimea stance, 18.11.2015

Russia did not support the UN General Assembly's resolution in support of the International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA] on Tuesday for the first time because of its stance on Crimea, whose nuclear facilities were defined as part of Ukraine in the final report. All in all, 10 countries abstained from the vote, including Russia, Bolivia, Venezuela, Zimbabwe, Cuba, Nicaragua, Syria, Sudan, Tanzania and Chad. A total of 99 countries supported the document, among them Belarus, Kazakhstan, the United States and Ukraine. Another 84 countries, including Armenia, Azerbaijan and Serbia, did not register themselves on the digital display for the voting. Elaborating on the decision to abstain from the vote, Russia's Ambassador to the UN Vitaly Churkin noted that the annex to the IAEA report "contained factually inaccurate assertions that Sevastopol during the entire period covered in the report [2014] had allegedly been part of Ukraine." "This is a false statement ignoring the fact that following the illegal coup in Kiev in February 2014, Crimea's population, including the city of Sevastopol, voted in the referendum for the secession from Ukraine and for the reunification with Russia," the diplomat said. According to him, Russia cannot agree with the agency's documents, which "contradict this objective reality." "For us they are negligible from the legal and practical points of view and have no content," Churkin said.

<http://tass.ru/en/politics/837357>

State of emergency introduced as Crimea loses electricity, 22.11.2015

A state of emergency has been declared in Crimea after pylons carrying electricity from Ukraine were blown up, cutting off power to almost two million people. Total blackouts have been reported in a number of major cities in the peninsula. The electricity pylons were damaged by explosions on November 20, as a result two of the four facilities were disabled. Several attempts have been made over the past two months to cut off electricity to the occupied peninsula. Ukrainian Tatars and volunteers have for months prevented overland truck and train shipments of food and other goods to Crimea.

<http://uatoday.tv/society/electricity-pylons-on-crimean-border-completely-destroyed-in-new-blast-539125.html>

Obama, Putin Discuss Syria, Ukraine During Climate Talks, 30.11.2015

Russia and the U.S. are both involved in a new diplomatic effort in Vienna to bring about a ceasefire, potentially within weeks. The White House said that Obama told Putin that Syrian President Bashar Assad must leave power as part of that transition, a long-held U.S. position that remains at odds with Russia's support for Assad. Obama also called on Russia to focus its airstrikes in Syria on Islamic State militants, not rebels fighting Assad, the White House said. The two leaders also discussed implementing a ceasefire in Ukraine.

<http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/obama-putin-huddle-sidelines-paris-climate-talks-35487270>