



Monitoring of Xenophobia and Extremism in Ukraine October 2016

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Introduction

Since the beginning of the antiterrorist operation in the Donbass in the fighting killed more than 2.5 thousand members of the Armed Forces of Ukraine. More than 280 thousand Ukrainians took part in the anti-terrorist operation during two and a half years.

Elimination in Donetsk Russian terrorist Arsen Pavlov, known as Motorola, can be a turning point in the war against Russia in Ukraine.

Experts point out that Motorola was the fifth "ranking" mercenary who was killed far from the line of fighting. Version that Pavlov was eliminated by Ukrainian special services does not withstands criticism, as the most likely scenario is the competition between gangs in the Donets Basin and the elimination of many militants who knows the secret services of Russia.

Another top theme began negotiations "Norman Quartet" in Berlin the fate of the occupied part of the Donbass.

In Ukraine is over the first stage of filing electronic tax returns of top officials of Ukraine for 2015. They were required to disclose their assets in accordance with the new law on combating corruption.

E-declaration is regarded as one of the priority reforms to Kiev could continue to enjoy the support of its Western partners.

More than 70,000 top government officials, including judges, politicians and civil servants, published their declaration.

GPU will analyze the Declaration of half of Ukraine deputies, who declared in cash of more than \$ 100 thousand.

Prognosis

30% of Ukrainians want to emigrate – poll, 24.10.2016

30% of Ukrainians would rather like to go abroad for permanent residence, nearly 65% rather wouldn't. This is evidenced by the research conducted by the sociological group "Rating" in September 2016. Increasingly show a desire to go abroad for permanent place of residence or work, residents of the Western and Central regions, men, people of younger age, with a high level of education and income. The main reasons – obtaining better conditions of life (53%), the desire to provide a better future for children (41%), lack of decent work in Ukraine (32%). In addition, for respondents with children under 16 years of age, the desire to provide a better future for children is the main motive (52%) travel abroad for permanent residence. Among other motives for departure abroad for permanent residence: 13% – to better fulfillment, 8% – from-for feeling in danger in Ukraine, 7% – with the aim of obtaining the best education or the best medical care, 5% for the best conditions for doing business abroad.

<http://x.true-news.info/30-of-ukrainians-want-to-emigrate-poll/>

Statements of officials

What Is Russia Up To, and Is It Time to Draw the Line?, 01.10.2016

The behavior of Russia in the last few weeks has echoes of some of the uglier moments of the Cold War, an era of proxy battles that ended in 1991 with the collapse of the Soviet Union. President Obama, fresh from a meeting with President Vladimir V. Putin this month, wondered aloud whether the Russian leader was content living with a "constant, low-grade conflict." His reference was to Ukraine, but he could have been addressing any of the arenas where Mr. Putin has reveled in his new role as the great disrupter of American plans around the globe. "It seems to me we have Mr. Putin's answer," said Richard Haass, the president of the Council on Foreign Relations and the author of a coming book, "A World in Disarray." "He's answered in the affirmative. Low-grade conflict is his thing. And the question is how directly or indirectly we introduce costs." None of these conflicts have, in fact, cost Mr. Putin very much. Cyber power in particular is tailor-made for a country in Russia's circumstances — a declining economy with the gross domestic product of Italy. It is dirt cheap, hard to trace to a specific aggressor and perfect for sowing confusion, which may be the limits of Mr. Putin's goals.

http://mobile.nytimes.com/2016/09/30/world/europe/for-veterans-of-the-cold-war-a-hostile-russia-feels-familiar.html?_r=0

Rada chairman Parubiy wants tougher sanctions, visas for Russia, 03.10.2016

Chairman of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine Andriy Parubiy proposes debates on the possibility of introducing a visa regime with Russia and expanding sanctions against that country. Addressing the coordination board of factions` and committees` chairmen on Monday, he recalled that in early 2016, he tabled a draft resolution in parliament, calling on the Cabinet of Ministers to terminate an agreement between the governments of Ukraine and Russia on visa-free travel. "Perhaps, today it makes sense to revisit the issue of the introduction of a visa regime with the Russian Federation," Parubiy said.

<http://uaposition.com/latest-news/rada-chairman-parubiy-tougher-sanctions-visas-russia/>

OSCE Protests Against Arrest Of Ukrainian Journalist Suschenko In Russia, 05.10.2016

The Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe has expressed its protest against the arrest of Ukrainian journalist Roman Suschenko of the Ukrinform national news agency in the Russian Federation and has called on the Russian authorities to release him. The mission of Ukraine in the OSCE has written this in Twitter. The statement gives no further details.

<http://ukranews.com/en/news/452816-osce-protests-against-arrest-of-ukrainian-journalist-suschenko-in-russia>

Ukrainian FM on Donbas: 'Security should be there and Russia should be out', 05.10.2016

"My fundamental point [is that] security should be there and Russia should be out, in order to get Donbas back into Ukraine," Klimkin told. He said Western sanctions on Moscow should remain in place until Russia is "literally out of Ukraine." Allowing Russia to attack an independent country would be like "opening Pandora's box." In an attempt to end the conflict in eastern Ukraine, both Kyiv and pro-Russian separatists from Donetsk and Luhansk signed the Minsk II settlement in February 2015. Today, key aspects of the agreement, such as the withdrawal of heavy weapons and the exchange of prisoners, have yet to be implemented. But Klimkin told DW's Tim Sebastian on Conflict Zone that these failures do not mean the agreement is dead, adding that "Minsk is simple and easy, if you want to implement it." "We have fundamental differences with Russia on how we understand Minsk," Klimkin said. "Russia wants to legalize [a] Russian protectorate in Donbas."

<http://www.dw.com/en/ukrainian-fm-on-donbas-security-should-be-there-and-russia-should-be-out/a-35955809>

Future war with Russia or China would be 'extremely lethal and fast', US generals warn, 06.10.2016

Any future war with Russia or China would be "extremely lethal and fast" and produce violence on the scale not seen for 60 years, according to US generals. Artificial intelligence and automated weapons systems will accelerate any future conflict, Major General William Hix has warned. "A conventional conflict in the near future will be extremely lethal and fast," he told a future-of-the-Army panel on Tuesday, Defense One reports. "And we will not own the stopwatch." General Hix described his vision of accelerated future warfare: "The speed of events are likely to strain our human abilities."

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/future-war-russia-china-us-extremely-lethal-fast-artificial-intelligence-cyber-warfare-a7347591.html>

EU to extend sanctions for six months over violation of Ukraine's sovereignty, 07.10.2016

"COREPER has confirmed the Council's intention to prolong by six months the application of the EU restrictive measures targeting action against Ukraine's territorial integrity, sovereignty and independence (until 15 March 2017)," the statement said. The statement added that the sanctions consist of an asset freeze and a travel ban against 146 persons and 37 entities. The Council of the European Union is due to formally adopt the relevant legal acts. "It is expected this will be done via written procedure," the statement said. No date has been set yet, but the legal act should to be adopted before September 15, the Council added.

<http://www.unian.info/politics/1508554-eu-to-extend-sanctions-for-six-months-over-violation-of-ukraines-sovereignty.html>

<http://www.unian.info/politics/1575623-ex-nato-secretary-general-rasmussen-states-most-vocal-in-favour-of-lifting-russia-sanctions-also-among-those-that-suffered-least-due-to-these-sanctions.html>

Germany's Steinmeier Says East-West Tensions 'More Dangerous' Than Cold War, 08.10.2016

German Foreign Minister Frank-Walter Steinmeier has called the current escalation of tensions created by souring relations between the United States and Russia "more dangerous" than the Cold War. In the German tabloid Bild, Steinmeier cited differences over Ukraine -- where Russia-backed separatists controlling swaths of territory -- cyberwarfare, the recently announced end of some cooperation to dispose of weapons-grade plutonium, and Syria -- where the United States this week suggested Russia might be guilty of war crimes and over which competing votes will be put before the UN Security Council on October 9. "It's a fallacy to think that this is like the Cold War," Steinmeier said. "The current times are different and more dangerous."

<http://www.rferl.org/a/russia-german-minister-steinmeier-cold-war-dangerous/28039883.html>

Russia says U.S. actions threaten its national security, 09.10.2016

"We have witnessed a fundamental change of circumstances when it comes to the aggressive Russophobia that now lies at the heart of U.S. policy towards Russia," Lavrov told. "It's not just a rhetorical Russophobia, but aggressive steps that really hurt our national interests and pose a threat to our security." With relations between Moscow and Washington strained over issues from Syria to Ukraine, Lavrov reeled off a long list of Russian grievances against the US which he said helped contribute to an atmosphere of mistrust that was in some ways more dangerous and unpredictable than the Cold War. He complained that NATO had been steadily moving military infrastructure closer to Russia's borders and lashed out at Western sanctions imposed over Moscow's role in the Ukraine crisis. He also said he had heard that some policy makers in Washington were suggesting that President Barack Obama sanction the carpet bombing of the Syrian government's military air fields to ground its air force. "This is a very dangerous game given that Russia, being in Syria at the invitation of the legitimate government of this country and having two bases there, has got air defense systems there to protect its assets," said Lavrov.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/us-russia-usa-idUSKCN1290DP?il=0>

Ukraine's Foreign Minister says other scenarios exist if Minsk implementation fails, 10.10.2016

"I've got ideas and scenarios of how to move further but I'm sure we're on the right track," Ukraine's Minister of Foreign Affairs Pavlo Klimkin said answering a question if there is a "plan B" if the Minsk implementation ends in deadlock. "We need to make Russia implement the Minsk [agreements]. Russia will anyway try to destabilize Ukraine. To achieve this, it will try to fragment it, creating political movements, parties here that will make us split," he said.

<http://uatoday.tv/politics/ukraine-s-foreign-minister-says-other-scenarios-exist-if-minsk-implementation-fails-782899.html>

"No blitzkrieg": EU rejects idea of Russia's quick return to PACE – Ukraine envoy, 10.10.2016

The PACE Bureau has rejected the initiative for the early introduction of amendments to the regulations, guaranteeing Russia unimpeded restoration of their rights in the Assembly, Chair of the Ukrainian delegation to PACE, President of the Committee for Culture and Media Volodymyr Ariev wrote on Facebook during a meeting of the Bureau. "The Bureau abandoned the idea of promoting illegitimate and quick procedure to change the rules of the Assembly in favor of the Russian Federation. The protests of the Ukrainian delegation have triggered," he said. Ariev claims that still there will be an attempt to make these changes to the regulations, but according to a standard long procedure. Also, another way to make changes might be used by PACE. "It was decided to hold a debate in the political groups of PACE. Depending on the results, the issue will be submitted to PACE Bureau on Friday. In such circumstances, the blitzkrieg planned by pro-Russian lobbyists becomes almost impossible." "So they begin to talk about a political moratorium on the denial of the powers of delegation, which is purely declarative and against which we must fight in the dialogue during the session," Ariev said.

<http://en.uazmi.com/news/post/exBzK7cwxYR3FVl8HDwwCu>

Disengagement in Donbas doesn't mean armistice - Ukraine's envoy, 11.10.2016

Simultaneous disengagement doesn't mean that the process is over – it's just the beginning of the [peace] settlement. As roads need to be cleared of landmines so that OSCE patrols can drive. The OSCE mission's mandate says that personnel security is a number one priority. If there are no guarantees that a road is clear, it is considered to be inadmissible," Marchuk told. He says militants continue shelling the town of Popasna, which is close to the Zolote checkpoint. Under such conditions, it is difficult to speak about the disengagement, therefore no further steps could be taken, he said.

The situation along the contact line in Donbas is relatively stable, and these are the features of static warfare, he added.

<http://uatoday.tv/politics/disengagement-in-donbas-doesn-t-mean-armistice-ukraine-s-envoy-783669.html>

Swedish Def.Minister: Russian missiles in Kaliningrad provocation, 11.10.2016

Minister of Defense of Sweden Peter Hultqvist commented on Russia's decision to move its nuclear-capable advanced Iskander missiles to Kaliningrad, considering this a provocative signal policy, according to Sydsvenskan. "This is something that we see as a provocative signal policy fundamentally, because it creates a sharper situation throughout the region. Especially considering possible nuclear carriers, which gives this an extra dimension," says Peter Hultqvist, Sydsvenskan reported citing TT news agency. The minister emphasized that Russia regards their move as a response against NATO's military presence in the Baltic states and Poland. "Then, one must remember that the military presence of NATO is based on the wishes of these countries," said Hultqvist. "And that, in turn, is a consequence of the annexation that took place in Crimea and the armed conflict taking place in Ukraine and the overall increase in training activities on the Russian side."

<http://uaosition.com/latest-news/swedish-def-minister-russian-missiles-kaliningrad-provocation/>

Ukraine MFA explains why diplomatic ties with Russia must be retained, 11.10.2016

Communication without intermediaries – this is the main reason why the Ukrainian diplomats do not break off relations with Russia, that's according to a Director-General for Policy and Communications at Ukraine's Ministry of Foreign Affairs Oleksii Makeiev. As an example, the official recalled that Georgia and the Russian Federation communicate only via Switzerland. If Kyiv breaks off diplomatic relations, it may lose the ability to protect and release its citizens from captivity. Makeiev has stressed that there are virtually no contacts with the aggressor state at the other levels. The exception is the communication in the Normandy format, aimed at the Donbas conflict settlement. Earlier, Ukrainian Foreign Minister Pavlo Klimkin suggested that Ukraine would have to introduce more stringent measures against Russia than the visa regime.

<http://www.unian.info/politics/1565737-ukraine-mfa-explains-why-diplomatic-ties-with-russia-must-be-retained.html>

Ukraine "has not received" formal invitation to Normandy Four summit – President's press service, 11.10.2016

"As of October 11, the Ukrainian side has not yet received a formal invitation to the Normandy Four summit," the press-service of the Presidential Administration of Ukraine said.

It should be recalled that according to Russian Ambassador to France Alexander Orlov, German Chancellor Angela Merkel has invited the other three leaders of the "Normandy Quartet" – Ukraine, France and Russia – for dinner in Berlin on October 19.

http://joinfo.com/world/1018718_ukraine-has-not-received-formal-invitation-to-normandy-four-summit-presidents-press-service.html

http://en.lb.ua/news/2016/10/11/2050_poroshenko_sets_condition.html

Gerashchenko: "First elections, then borders" quintessence of EU position; Ukraine thinks different, 12.10.2016

"I can see how the words of the French president on Donbas stirred the web. In fact, he did not say a single new word. This is the position of France and Germany, representing the position of the European Union: "security - elections in line with the Ukrainian legislation and international standards (which is important, and which is what Hollande said yesterday) – [control over] the border," Gerashchenko wrote. The first vice speaker noted that the position that Ukraine defends at all levels is somewhat different and also realistic. She stressed that Ukraine stands for "security (not just a week-long ceasefire but full implementation of the security bloc of measures, including the withdrawal of foreign weapons and equipment) - a humanitarian bloc (the release of all illegally detained persons, without any indecent blackmail with amnesty, which in turn should only enter into force along with the political bloc) - border (OSCE SMM should already be on the border by now!) – a political bloc (elections under Ukrainian law and with international supervision). This is what we stand for. The elections with European observers," wrote Gerashchenko.

<http://www.unian.info/politics/1568101-gerashchenko-first-elections-then-borders-quintessence-of-eu-position-ukraine-thinks-different.html>

'Election first, border control later' – Hollande, 12.10.2016

Hollande called the Minsk deal the only way out of the conflict, emphasizing the fact that priority is the local election, and not the Ukrainian-Russian border. 'Ukraine is to regain control of the border after the election', Hollande stated, saying this is what the Minsk agreements dictate. At the same time, the President stated that election shouldn't be held 'at all costs', they must follow certain steps, taken by the sides of the conflict, 'including the militants, influenced by Russia'.

<http://uatoday.tv/politics/election-first-border-control-later-hollande-783929.html>

http://en.censor.net.ua/news/410133/hollande_takes_too_much_upon_himself_avakov_on_french_presidents_statement_on_donbas

Ukrainian World Congress reacts to PACE president's statement on Russia return to Assembly, 12.10.2016

Highlighting PACE Resolutions 1990 (2014), 2034 (2015) and 2063 (2015) that specifically refer to the illegal annexation of Crimea, the violations of human rights on the peninsula including freedom of speech, and the RF military actions in Eastern Ukraine, "The Ukrainian World Congress maintains the position that there can be no constructive dialogue with the RF based on mutual respect until it fully implements the Minsk agreements, returns the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and city of Sevastopol to Ukraine's control, withdraws its troops from Eastern Ukraine, and addresses all of the issues that continue to be consequences of these blatant violations of international law and agreements," stated UWC President Eugene Czolij.

<http://www.unian.info/politics/1568041-ukrainian-world-congress-reacts-to-pace-presidents-statement-on-russia-return-to-assembly.html>

Putin says no Donbas settlement until Minsk II political provisions implemented, 12.10.2016

Russian President Vladimir Putin claims there will be no peace settlement in Donbas until the political provisions of Minsk II agreements have been implemented. "They always claim that all this [the political provisions of the Minsk II agreements] cannot be done as fighting is still on in the conflict zone in Donbas. But on September 9, the 'rebels' of Donbas unilaterally announced that they would not even respond to attacks from the Armed Forces of Ukraine. So what have we got?" Putin said at the eighth Russia Calling! Investment Forum organized by VTB Capital.

<https://www.kyivpost.com/ukraine-politics/unian-putin-says-no-donbas-settlement-minsk-ii-political-provisions-implemented.html>

<http://en.kremlin.ru/events/president/news/53077>

<http://www.unian.info/politics/1574147-putin-blames-ukraine-for-refusing-to-fulfil-political-part-of-minsk-agreements.html>

PACE passes two resolutions on Ukraine, 12.10.2016

The first resolution was supported by 82 PACE members, while the other was backed by 87 PACE members.

"We sincerely thank the rapporteurs, true defenders of PACE values – Zelenkova and Beck – on behalf of the Ukrainian delegates and all the colleagues. As we have seen commitments to PACE principles, high-class European policy and responsibility in their reports," First Deputy Speaker of Ukraine's parliament, member of Ukraine's delegation to PACE Iryna Gerashchenko wrote. She also informed that PACE President Pedro Agramunt was absent during the voting on the two resolutions.

<http://uaposition.com/latest-news/pace-passes-resolutions-ukraine/>

Donbas militants have more tanks and artillery than German army - President Poroshenko, 14.10.2016

The Russian-backed militants in the eastern region of Donbass have more tanks and artillery units than the German Bundeswehr, the Ukrainian president Petro Poroshenko claimed. Over 700 Russian battle tanks, 1250 artillery systems, 1000 armored personnel and 300 multiple launch rocket units are still pounding occupied zone of Donbass, according to Ukrainian secret services, says the article. Bloodshed in Donbass will go on as the Russian leader wishes it to be so, the Ukrainian president constitutes.

<http://uatoday.tv/politics/donbass-militants-have-more-tanks-and-artillery-than-german-army-president-poroshenko-786196.html>

<http://www.unian.info/politics/1572667-poroshenko-to-world-community-stop-being-nave-about-russias-intentions.html>

<http://www.president.gov.ua/en/news/teritoriyu-donbasu-viddaste-miru-ne-otrimayete-glava-derzhav-38474>

"Putin wants to pocket Crimea, nothing else": Hollande says new sanctions against Russia possible, 14.10.2016

New sanctions against Russia are possible in case of escalation in Donbas, while Ukraine can one day become a NATO member state, that's according to French President Francois Hollande who spoke with the authors of the book, published by Le Monde journalists, written based on conversations with the French president, 112 Ukraine TV channel reported referring to RFI. He also commented on the actions of the Russian President in respect of Ukraine. "I believe Putin's interest is to demonstrate sagacity, to calm the game down, pocket that what he has already taken [Crimea], and there's nothing else to do there [in Ukraine]," Hollande told the book's authors.

"If he does anything else there, more sanctions will come, arms will be supplied to Ukraine, and it will join NATO," said the French president.

<http://uaopposition.com/latest-news/putin-pocket-crimea-else-hollande-new-sanctions-against-russia/>

Continuous isolation of Russia may be dangerous for Ukraine - ex-Foreign Minister, 16.10.2016

"If there is nothing more to lose one may want to escalate the conflict, regardless of the consequences, since the West will exhaust all of its levers of influence and deterrence," the former minister said. The probability of a full-scale conflict between the Russian Federation and the United States poses a threat not only to Ukraine but also to Europe and, potentially, for the whole world, Gryshchenko noted. "The aggravation of the conflict, especially considering Moscow's firm support for the Assad regime in Syria, the termination of bilateral and multilateral agreements on arms control, the undermining of efforts to resolve conflict in the east of Ukraine – all can lead to the establishment of a broad consensus in the U.S. and Europe to extend economic sanctions and strengthen political pressure on Russia. The next U.S. president may see it beneficial to demonstrate commitment to a greater consolidation of the West to repel the Russian Federation, although not all European countries will be enthusiastic about this. In the mid-term perspective, this could significantly weaken Russia both politically and economically, as well as avert its current supporters," the publication quoted the ex-minister as saying.

<http://www.unian.info/politics/1573918-continuous-isolation-of-russia-may-be-dangerous-for-ukraine-ex-foreign-minister.html>

Gerashchenko explains why Putin avoids Normandy format meeting, 17.10.2016

First Deputy Chairperson of the Verkhovna Rada, Ukraine's representative in the humanitarian subgroup of the Trilateral contact group on Donbas settlement, Iryna Gerashchenko has told reporters why she believes Russian President Vladimir Putin avoids the meeting in the Normandy format. "As for the Kremlin's actions, it is clear that Putin is not set to leave Donbas, and neither is he willing to reach compromise. We see that he is hiding from the Normandy format because he is not ready to give answers to some very specific questions," "Putin is not ready to be held responsible for his crimes in Syria and for his crimes in Ukraine. In this context, the world needs to act appropriately, to call a spade a spade, to strengthen the sanctions, but not to debate on how to appease with a carrot someone who violates all international norms and is involved in the murders of thousands of Ukrainians and Syrians," she said.

<http://uaopposition.com/latest-news/gerashchenko-explains-putin-avoids-normandy-format-meeting/>

<http://www.unian.info/politics/1522998-kremlin-explains-why-it-refuses-from-holding-normandy-four-meeting.html>

https://www.google.com.ua/search?q=Normandy+Four+talks+%22lowered+risk%22+of+Russia%E2%80%99s+offensive+in+Donbas+-+diplomatic+source&rlz=1C1AOHY_ruUA709UA709&og=Normandy+Four+talks+%22lowered+risk%22+of+Russia%E2%80%99s+offensive+in+Donbas+-+diplomatic+source+&aqs=chrome..69i57.6136j0j8&sourceid=chrome&ie=UTF-8

Putin plans to take part in Normandy Four talks first time in a year, 18.10.2016

Russian President Vladimir Putin will visit Berlin on October 19 to take part in the meeting of the Normandy Four group, Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said.

"Tomorrow the president will go to Berlin where he will hold talks with Merkel, Hollande and Poroshenko," Peskov told.

<http://tass.com/politics/907077>

Ukraine to gain control over border only "at end of process" – Merkel, 20.10.2016

Speaking at a news briefing after the talks in Berlin, Merkel said that Ukraine would gain ultimate control over its border only at the end of the process, and before that the parties agreed that the OSCE observers could move freely up to the boundary. Sometimes it is possible, sometimes it is problematic, and the Russian president noted this. According to Merkel, the question of the OSCE armed mission should be raised only after the start of the electoral process in Donbas. If there is a law on the election process and the local elections are to be prepared, then we can speak about the OSCE armed mission, she stressed.

<http://www.unian.info/politics/1581421-ukraine-to-gain-control-over-border-only-at-end-of-process-merkel.html>

Russia refuses to return occupied Debaltseve under Ukraine control, 20.10.2016

"As for Debaltseve, here it's the situation when earlier reached agreements are interpreted in an absolutely different way. The Russian side absolutely disagrees with proposals on the issue voiced by its interlocutors. The issue remains uncoordinated, the work on the issue will be continued at the level of foreign ministers and aides," Peskov said.

<http://uaposition.com/latest-news/russia-refuses-return-occupied-debaltseve-ukraine-control/>

<http://uaposition.com/latest-news/russia-refuses-return-occupied-debaltseve-ukraine-control/>

Putin: There are no Ukrainian hostages in Russia, 20.10.2016

Putin strongly opposes the proposal by his Ukrainian counterpart Petro Poroshenko to include persons kept in Russia into the list of those subject to the POW exchange in Donbas, Peskov added. He described Kyiv's approach as unacceptable and out of place. "Of course, it [exchange of prisoners as a part of Minsk agreement] is only about the release of persons kept in Ukrainian territory and in Donbas," Peskov said.

<http://uatoday.tv/politics/putin-there-are-no-ukrainian-hostages-in-russia-789929.html>

<http://www.unian.info/politics/1583442-russia-refuses-to-return-sentsov-to-ukraine.html>

Schultz: Sanctions against Russia to be maintained until full implementation of Minsk deal, 20.10.2016

"Sanctions will be maintained and they will continue to be applied until Minsk agreements are completely fulfilled," - said Schulz in his doorstep statement before the start of the EU summit, adding that the Minsk deal must be implemented by all parties to the conflict. The president of the European Parliament said that he had already held separate meetings with the President of Ukraine Petro Poroshenko and German Chancellor Angela Merkel, both of whom took part in the Normandy Four talks in Berlin: "Now I feel that there is no sufficient progress, but I've been told the atmosphere was more constructive than expected," Schulz said. At a briefing after the talks, Poroshenko said that the Normandy Four leaders had approved French and German proposals for the base of the "road map" for the implementation of Minsk agreements. Also, the Ukrainian president said that Russia supported the need for the deployment of an armed OSCE police mission in Donbas.

<http://en.uazmi.com/news/post/b8NStdL2NShasWSaiFf5JS>

NATO welcomes Minsk road map – Stoltenberg, 20.10.2016

'I happy that you had a meeting yesterday in the 'Normandy Format' in Berlin. And I thank you for updating me on the outcome of that meeting and the discussions you just had, including the plan to create a new road map for implementing the Minsk Agreement,' Stoltenberg said.

According to the NATO chief, it is essential to implement the Minsk Agreement, because they are the "only viable way to a lasting, peaceful solution to the crisis in eastern Ukraine." 'All parties must fully implement the Minsk Agreement. Ukraine has responsibilities to implement its commitments, but Russia has a significant responsibility in this regard, because it continues to support the separatists,' Stoltenberg said.

<http://uatoday.tv/politics/nato-welcomes-minsk-road-map-stoltenberg-790319.html>

<http://www.unian.info/politics/1582781-poroshenko-stoltenberg-discuss-strengthening-ukraine-nato-cooperation.html>

Klimkin: elections in Donbass a distant prospective, 21.10.2016

"We are a long way from being able to start organization of the elections, since before that we must make sure that all the necessary security precautions are in place. The fulfillment of these conditions will be assessed both by us and the OSCE, in particular the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights," the minister stated. Klimkin confirmed that Ukraine has withdrawn from its earlier demand that the elections should be held only upon the return of control over the Russian-Ukrainian border. Ukraine has agreed that for the duration of preparation and holding of elections, the border will be monitored by the OSCE, he said. Ukraine must regain control over its border "on the second day after the elections." "First, there will be full monitoring [of the border] by the OSCE, the development of border control plans, and on the very next day after the elections – the transfer of the border under the control of Ukrainian border guards. Such logic was originally laid down in the Minsk agreements, and has never changed," said the minister.

http://en.lb.ua/news/2016/10/21/2145_klimkin_elections_donbass.html?utm_source=local&utm_medium=cpm&utm_campaign=news

Oleksandr Turchynov from the ATO zone: Over the past two weeks, the epicenter of Russian aggression has shifted towards Mariupol direction, 21.10.2016

According to the NSDC Secretary Mr. Turchynov, over the last week solely, Ukrainian positions in the Mariupol sector were fired with over 3000 shells and mines. The situation in the ATO zone remains tense, especially in the Mariupol direction. "Even during the negotiations in Normandy format, attacks on Ukrainian positions by the Russian aggressor did not stop", - he stated adding that during his stay in Vodyane and on the Ukrainian positions closest to Kominternovo, which is occupied by the aggressor, the Russian artillery was continuously firing our positions. "Such actions of Russian-terrorist groupings prove the meanness and blasphemy of Putin's statements during international negotiations on the ceasefire, and clearly delineate the boundaries of his "sincere desire to resolve the conflict", - Mr. Turchynov said.

<http://www.rnbo.gov.ua/en/news/2618.html>

Kremlin: Common language at Normandy Four talks is not often, 22.10.2016

"Common language is seen not that often as desired," he said. "At the same time, probably, as yet at this stage a lack of common language at least partially compensates for readiness of the Normandy Four leaders to continue working in that format. This is extremely important." Peskov told the audience about the talks, in the sense of command of foreign languages among the Normandy Four leaders. Russia's President Vladimir Putin, he said, "may be joking in German with Merkel, and then it becomes very complicated for his assistance who do not speak German." At the same time, Putin "can also speak English, he uses greatly the English language to talk 'briefly' with Hollande." The French president speaks English. Ukraine's President Pyotr Poroshenko "is trying to speak three languages." "Sometimes he begins speaking English, the parties are exchanging inquiring looks, but interpreters react masterly, translating both into Russian and Ukrainian. Some of phrases he says in Russian," Peskov said.

<http://tass.com/politics/908116>

<https://ukrainianlaw.blogspot.com/2016/10/russia-wants-to-see-united-ukraine.html?m=0>

<http://uatoday.tv/politics/normandy-four-leaders-did-not-discuss-armed-osce-mission-on-ukraine-russia-border-kremlin-792064.html>

<http://tass.com/politics/908309>

Poroshenko says he urged Putin to "stop shooting" in Donbas, 24.10.2016

President of Ukraine Petro Poroshenko has confirmed in an interview some earlier reports that during the Normandy Four meeting in Berlin October 19 he urged Russian President Vladimir Putin to cease fire in the Ukrainian Donbas. "I never raise my voice during talks. But regarding the request to stop shooting – indeed, I addressed such a request to Putin," Poroshenko said. Following the meeting, the reports claiming President Poroshenko had raised his voice while debating with Putin, telling him: "No, you just stop shooting!"

<http://uatoday.tv/politics/poroshenko-says-urged-putin-to-stop-shooting-in-donbas-791804.html>

Poroshenko names conditions for Donbas elections, 24.10.2016

"When will the elections [in Donbas] be held? There are two positions: first – security provisions shall be fulfilled, second – the [Ukrainian] parliament shall vote for it [the law on elections in certain regions of Donetsk and Luhansk regions]," he said. "First, security conditions must be created, first the security part of the [Minsk] agreements needs to be fulfilled, ceasefire must first be ensured as well as the withdrawal [of weapons], the functioning of and the access for the OSCE, including to the [Ukrainian-Russian] border, technical inspection must first be ensured and the release of the hostages, many things... And only can the question be put forward on passing legislation on elections," said the president. "First comes security component – then comes political component," said the Head of State.

<https://toinformistoinfluence.com/2016/10/24/poroshenko-names-conditions-for-donbas-elections-read-more-on-unian-httpwww-unian-infopolitics1586122-poroshenko-names-conditions-for-donbas-elections-html/>

<http://www.unian.info/politics/1589556-poroshenkos-office-expects-osce-to-step-up-measures-to-protect-freedom-of-expression-journalists-in-crimea.html>

"The Normandy format" really need to Putin – Russian expert, 24.10.2016

"Normandy format" allows Russian President Vladimir Putin to withdraw from the conflict in Eastern Ukraine to "not be enemy of all mankind". This opinion was expressed by the expert of Anatoly Sobchak, Sergei Stankevich. "The format was revived, as it allows Moscow to get out of this chilling hopeless conflict in the East of Ukraine to go this way, not to be an enemy of all mankind", – said Stankiewicz. He noted that before the meeting in Berlin "Normandy format", according to many experts and journalists, was "buried". "This capability is restored and it is in favor of Russia and Moscow", – said Stankiewicz. He stressed that the fighting in Donbas became a "chilling conflict" for Russia, from where she needs to go faster.

<http://www.meganewsweb.com/en/news/breaking-news-normandskij-format-ochen-nuzhen-putinu---rossijskij-ekspert>

<http://www.unian.info/politics/1587966-russia-wont-leave-donbas-the-very-next-day-the-crisis-may-last-for-decades-russian-expert.html>

Stoltenberg: Russia still has its troops in Donbas, 25.10.2016

Speaking at a press conference on the eve of the meeting of NATO Defense Ministers in Brussels, Stoltenberg said that he had assured President Poroshenko that NATO would provide "strong political and strong practical support to Ukraine". According to Stoltenberg, practical assistance is provided through trust funds; the Allies are also encouraged to provide support on a bilateral basis, and a comprehensive package of assistance for Ukraine was adopted at the NATO summit in Warsaw. "Then we support Ukraine by calling on Russia to make sure that the Minsk agreements are fully implemented. And Russia has a great responsibility because Russia continues to support the separatists in Donbas. They [Russia] continue to be present and therefore they have a special responsibility to make sure that the Minsk agreements are fully implemented," Jens Stoltenberg said.

<http://uatoday.tv/politics/stoltenberg-russia-still-has-its-troops-in-donbas-792804.html>

<http://uawire.org/news/ukrainian-mission-to-nato-ukraine-must-participate-in-strengthening-the-alliance-s-presence-in-the-black-sea>

<http://www.unian.info/politics/1591722-strengthening-nato-presence-in-black-sea-would-be-incomplete-without-participation-of-ukraine-georgia-diplomat.html>

U.S. intelligence names main goal of Putin's actions, 26.10.2016

U.S. National Intelligence Director James Clapper explained the motives of Russian President Vladimir Putin: "I think he is somewhat of a throwback not so much to the... Communist era or the Soviet Union but rather a throwback to the Czar era. I think he has this vision of a great Russia as a great power... It's extremely important to him that Russia be treated, respected as a global power on par with the United States," Clapper said during the meeting in the Council on Foreign Affairs in New York, answering the host's question on what is really driving Vladimir Putin. The head of the National Intelligence also said that Russia had tried to affect the outcome of the U.S. presidential election in the past. At the same time, Clapper pointed out that he considers this a minor impact, since the electoral process in the United States is decentralized and operates at the level of states and districts.

<http://uatoday.tv/politics/u-s-intelligence-names-main-goal-of-putin-s-actions-793314.html>

Poroshenko: ICRC not allowed to Ukrainian hostages contrary to Berlin agreements, 26.10.2016

Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko has announced that the International Committee of the Red Cross has not been allowed to visit Ukrainian hostages contrary to the recent agreements reached by the Normandy Four leaders in Berlin, according to the presidential press service.

<http://www.breakingnewspoint.com/story/3813735/poroshenko-icrc-not-allowed-to-ukrainian-hostages-contrary-to-berlin-agreements.html>
<https://www.kyivpost.com/ukraine-politics/unian-bezsmertny-assesses-prospects-osce-police-mission-donbas.html>

Expert: nobody had sway over Putin during the grab of Crimea, 27.10.2016

"Nobody will oppose Putin now. Putin says what to do and people do. While Putin does not consider himself a specialist in economy, so there are at least ten people, whom he gives his ear to," Professor Vladislav Inozemtsev said. At the same time, Putin is not going to listen to anyone as for the foreign policy. "As for his foreign policy, Putin is not going to listen to anyone. People from a number of businessmen came to him during the "referendum" in Crimea and said: "Vova (short for Russia name Vladimir), what are you doing?" and he replied: "I am making history, and you are telling your money". No one can influence Putin on the issue of Ukraine," summed up the Russian economist.

<http://en.sobytiya.info/expert-nobody-had-sway-over-putin-during-the-grab-of-crimea.html>

Russia is not a superpower, but a superproblem - Lithuania's FM, 27.10.2016

The European Union and NATO should timely react and respond to the aggressive actions of Russia, while in recent years, such steps were mostly delayed. Such a statement was made by the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Lithuania Linas Linkevicius at one of the panels of the Warsaw Security Forum. "When we talk about the problem countries, Russia comes to mind first, but not as a super power, but as a superproblem. It is important to react timely and not wait until it is too late, which sometimes happens. It concerns not only Lithuania but all other countries and world safety in general. It is about the values we stand for," Linkevicius said.

<http://uatoday.tv/politics/russia-is-not-a-superpower-but-a-superproblem-lithuania-s-fm-794314.html>

Donbass — Putin's tool for control over all Ukraine, Klimkin stressed, 28.10.2016

«It is clear that Putin's ambitions are not limited to the Donbass, he wants prolonged destabilization of the democratic Ukraine. Donbass is just a tool to achieve this goal,» the Minister said. Meanwhile, according to him, the Kremlin is 100% in control of the actions of the separatists and in each unit there is a Russian professional officer. «The only way to force Russia to comply with Minsk agreement is the continuous pressure, including through sanctions. Test that the Kremlin wants is a full withdrawal from the Donbass Russian troops, weapons, release hostages and return to us control over Ukrainian-Russian border. In this case, no compromise, intermediate States can not be» — said Pavlo Klimkin.

<http://en.reporter-ua.ru/donbass-putins-tool-for-control-over-all-ukraine-klimkin-stressed.html>

Poroshenko, Erdogan agree to step up on FTA, discuss procedure for further ties at highest level, 28.10.2016

President of Ukraine Petro Poroshenko and his Turkish counterpart Recep Tayyip Erdogan as part of a telephone conversation have agreed to step up negotiations on a free trade area (FTA), and discussed the procedure for further ties at the highest level, the press service of the Ukrainian state's head said. Poroshenko informed the Turkish leader on increasing the period of visa-free stay from 60 to 90 days during the 180-day period for Turkish citizens on the territory of Ukraine. A similar decision the Turkish government earlier adopted with regard to Ukrainian citizens. Poroshenko called it an important step in the development of interpersonal relations and economic ties between the two countries. The two sides condemned the human rights violations in the occupied by Russia Crimea. President Erdogan once again stressed he doesn't recognize the results of Russian parliamentary elections in the occupied peninsula.

<http://en.interfax.com.ua/news/general/379761.html>

Actions of Ukrainian Authorities

Ukraine names specific units of Russian army who seized Crimea in 2014, 02.10.2016

"The investigation established and found enough evidence for me to claim with confidence what units [of the Russian army] there were," Military Prosecutor Ruslan Kravchenko said. "In particular, it was the 31st Separate Air Assault Brigade of the Russian Airborne Troops, 45th Detached Special Forces Regiment of the Russian Airborne Troops (military unit 28 337), 18th Separate Motorized Rifle Brigade, 58th Army of the Southern Military District of the armed forces of the Russian Federation, the 98th Airborne Division of the Russian Airborne Troops (military unit 65 451), 76th Air Assault Division of the Russian Airborne Troops, 15th Separate Motor Rifle Brigade of Russia's peacekeeping forces (military unit 90 600)." Also, the prosecutor noted that in the process of preparation and conduct of aggressive warfare, all tactical signs and insignia had been removed in advance from military equipment and uniform of the Russian soldiers who participated in the annexation of Crimea.

<http://www.unian.info/politics/1550497-ukraine-names-specific-units-of-russian-army-who-seized-crimea-in-2014.html>

Ukrainian Deputy Parliament Speaker calls Council of Europe, OSCE and Dunja Mijatovic to respond to Ukraine journalist's detention, 03.10.2016

First Deputy Chairperson of the Verkhovna Rada and Ukraine's envoy to the Trilateral Contact Group's humanitarian subgroup on the Donbas settlement Iryna Gerashchenko insists on appropriate reaction from the OSCE, CE and other international organizations to the detention of a Ukrainian journalist, Roman Sushchenko, who has been detained in RF on charges of espionage. "The Ukrainian government demands the immediate release of the journalist," she said.

<http://uaposition.com/latest-news/ukrainian-deputy-parliament-speaker-calls-council-europe-osce-dunja-mijatovic-respond-ukraine-journalists-detention/>

Ukraine's National Police chief announces creation of special 'enforced' patrol units in Kyiv, 03.10.2016

Special "enforced" patrol units of the National Police are set to be set up in the Ukrainian capital, according to the National Police Chief Khatia Dekanoidze. "Before year-end, we really want to equip patrol police in order to cover additionally the international and national highways. This is also very important. That's because I'm getting a lot of complaints if some patrol vehicle is parked in the bushes along the road. People do not want to see such a body as DAI, said Dekanoidze.

<https://www.kyivpost.com/ukraine-politics/unian-ukraines-national-police-chief-announces-creation-special-enforced-patrol-units-kyiv.html>

Maidan killings probe – more Berkut police troops detained, 04.10.2016

The law enforcers detained part of the former troops of the Berkut police special forces after the exposing testimony of one of their ex-colleagues, who is already a suspect in the case, according to Oleksandr Kovalchuk of the Prosecutor General's Office of Ukraine. Commenting on the fact that one of the former Berkut troops pled guilty on part of charges revealing the names of his fellow officers who had taken cartridges with lead buckshot instead of rubber, the prosecutor said that part of the named persons had been detained.

<https://www.kyivpost.com/ukraine-politics/unian-maidan-killings-probe-berkut-police-troops-detained-new-evidence-unearthed.html>

SBU catches Russian spy in Rivne, 10.10.2016

Counterintelligence officers of the SBU detained in the Ukrainian city of Rivne an agent of the Main Intelligence Directorate of the General Staff of the Russian armed forces (GRU). A Ukrainian citizen, who resides in Russia was reportedly tasked by the Russian intelligence to recruit a senior staff officer of the Land Forces of the Armed Forces of Ukraine. The spy was overseen by the FSB employee Alexander Ilyukhin. In exchange for the classified documents, including top secret papers, regarding combat training, weapons, mobilization deployment and military cooperation between the Armed Forces of Ukraine and its foreign partners, the GRU agent was to offer Russian citizenship to the Ukrainian officer and his family, as well as financial compensation. The sum would depend on the relevance and importance of military secrets revealed.

<http://en.uazmi.com/news/post/e0MwiRScqz5mYWrovEyZqm>

Ukraine may press for early removal of PACE president for support of Russia, 11.10.2016

Ukrainian delegates are probing the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE) regulations to officially raise the question about the early removal of PACE President Pedro Agramunt, according to media outlet Evropeiska Pravda.

<http://www.breakingnewspoint.com/story/3743008/ukraine-may-press-for-early-removal-of-pace-president-for-support-of-russia.html>

Threat of destabilization in Kharkiv remains – chief of Poroshenko's staff, 11.10.2016

"If no measures are taken and nothing is done, then, of course, there is," he said, answering the question whether there is a threat of destabilization in Kharkiv today. "As for the Kharkiv region, we have adopted three programs – "Anti-Terror", (civil) security program, and the program of territorial defense," said Rainin. "Kharkiv is a strategic region, Kharkiv region – is an area with 600 km of borders: 300 - with Russia and another 300 - with the ATO zone, both with the Donetsk and Luhansk regions. The largest number of IDPs resettled in Kharkiv region, every tenth IDP is there. This is the outpost not only of Ukraine, but only of the whole Europe, because this is the farthest peaceful spot in the east," he said.

<http://www.unian.info/politics/1567796-threat-of-destabilization-in-kharkiv-remains-chief-of-poroshenkos-staff.html>

Poroshenko, Biden Discuss Implementation of Minsk Agreements – Kiev, 12.10.2016

According to the press service, Poroshenko and Biden also discussed Ukrainian reforms. "President Petro Poroshenko had a phone conversation with U.S. Vice President Joseph Biden. The parties discussed the elements of the 'road map' on the implementation of the Minsk agreements for the de-occupation of Donbas. Petro Poroshenko and Joseph Biden agreed that sanctions against Russia must be continued," the statement read.

<https://sputniknews.com/politics/201610121046273720-biden-talks-poroshenko-minsk/>

Persecution of Crimean Tatars the purposeful policy of occupiers – Ukraine's Foreign Ministry, 12.10.2016

Ukraine's Foreign Ministry has once again called on Russia to stop violation of human rights in the occupied Crimean peninsula. "Persecution of Crimean Tatars is the purposeful policy of the occupiers," the Foreign Ministry's spokesperson Mariana Betsa wrote. On October 12, Russian security forces (FSB) have conducted new searches in the houses of the Crimean Tatars. The reason for the raid was not specified, but it resulted in the arrest of two people. Local activists wrote that two Crimean Tatars, Emil Dzhemadenov and Ayder Saledinov, were taken to the FSB department for questioning.

<http://uatoday.tv/politics/persecution-of-crimean-tatars-is-the-purposeful-policy-of-the-occupiers-ukraine-s-foreign-ministry-784789.html>

<http://www.unian.info/politics/1571643-russia-steps-up-persecution-of-crimean-tatars-following-meilis-ban-mfa-ukraine.html>

President introduced new Kharkiv RSA Head, 15.10.2016

President Petro Poroshenko introduced new Kharkiv RSA Head Yulia Svitlychna at the meeting with leadership of the region. The Head of State signed Decree №462/2016 on the appointment of Yulia Svitlychna Kharkiv RSA Head. The President noted that a "very strict and competitive contest" had been held under the new law on civil service in order to appoint a person to that post. According to the Head of State, this fact brings in a serious adjustment to the gender content of the staffing policy of Ukraine. Petro Poroshenko emphasized that the given appointment symbolized the emergence of a new generation formed in times of Ukrainian independence.

<http://www.president.gov.ua/en/news/prezident-predstaviv-novu-qolovu-harkivskoyi-oblasnoyi-derzh-38482>

Ukraine Def. Minister discusses with U.S. congressmen prospects of lethal aid, 18.10.2016

Ukraine's Defense Minister Stepan Poltorak held talks with representatives of the US Congress Mr William Florence and Mr Andrew P. Harris. The parties discussed the situation in Donbas and the progress of troops' disengagement, the press service reported. Poltorak said RF failed to cease its aggression and observe the achieved agreements. General Poltorak presented the facts of attacks. The parties discussed the issue of lethal weapons provision to Ukraine.

<http://uaposition.com/latest-news/ukraine-def-minister-discusses-u-s-congressmen-prospects-lethal-aid/>

Poroshenko to hold meeting with Hollande, Merkel before Normandy Four talks, 19.10.2016

"A separate meeting between Poroshenko, the French President and the German Chancellor will be held ahead of talks in the Normandy format," the report says. As reported earlier, on October 18, during his visit to Norway, Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko held a telephone conversation in a trilateral format with the participation of French President Francois Hollande and German Chancellor Angela Merkel. The parties agreed to hold a meeting of heads of state in Normandy format in Berlin October 19. The Russian president's spox Dmitry Peskov confirmed Putin's participation in the negotiations "to coordinate positions". According to Peskov, it is too early to talk about any specific agreements.

<http://uaposition.com/latest-news/poroshenko-hold-meeting-hollande-merkel-normandy-talks/>

President introduced new head of Chief Directorate of Intelligence of Ministry of Defence of Ukraine Vasyl Burba, 24.10.2016

The Head of State emphasized that over the past two years, the activity of the intelligence directorate had been improved significantly. He also noted drastic change in quality of information provided by the intelligence officers. The Head of State drew special attention to the improvement of the level of interaction between scouts and other security structures, as well as to the exchange of information with respective structures of Ukraine's states-partners. "I have no doubt that this appointment will give a new impetus to the activity of military intelligence of Ukraine," Petro Poroshenko said. The President emphasized the importance of intensifying the work of scouts to ensure the efficient activity of both Ukrainian military and diplomats.

<http://www.president.gov.ua/en/news/prezident-predstaviv-novogo-nachalnika-golovnogo-upravlinnya-38554>

Ukraine's Nadiya Savchenko Returns to Russia After Pardon, 26.10.2016

Savchenko, who posted a video message from Moscow on Wednesday, explained that she saw many parallels between the case of the two men, Stanislav Klykh and Nikolay Karpyuk, and hers. Prior to their appeal the men were sentenced to 20 and 22 years in prison respectively but the Ukrainian government has asked for their extradition.

"I know firsthand that how important it is that when you are in the courtroom, where you are behind bars, there are Ukrainians there," she said. "It is important for me to be there. I will support them with my presence." Attorney Ilya Novikov posted an image of Savchenko standing outside the gates of Moscow's Supreme Court, taken on Wednesday.

<http://europe.newsweek.com/ukraine-nadiya-savchenko-russia-pardon-trial-513782?rm=eu>

<http://www.unian.info/society/1592322-russia-supreme-court-doesnt-free-ukrainians-karpiuk-klykh.html>

<http://uaposition.com/latest-news/poroshenko-calls-farce-russian-trial-karpiuk-klykh/>

Ukraine Trolls Russia Hard With New Military Intelligence Logo, 31.10.2016

Russia's vice prime minister called the logo "idiotic" and said it reminded him of Nazi propaganda in the 1930's. The logo is doubly offensive to Russia, because the owl is a creature which hunts bats. The bat is the official logo of Russia's military intelligence unit, the GRU.

"Russian media became very excited about the photo of Ukraine's President presenting a new chief of the Defense Intelligence. They saw there the emblem where an owl 'piercing Russia with a sword.' Let us tell them: an owl in the wild eats bats, and a bat is a symbol of the Russian military intelligence," Ukrainian journalist Dmytro Tymchuk said in a Facebook response to Russian criticism. Russia and Ukraine remain in a contentious proxy war in Eastern Ukraine. Russia continues to support Ukrainian separatist militias, often with non-uniformed Russian troops. Russia also illegally annexed Ukrainian Crimea in 2014, after a sham referendum supporting annexation passed.

<http://dailycaller.com/2016/10/31/ukraine-trolls-russia-hard-with-new-military-intelligence-logo/>

<http://uatoday.tv/politics/moscow-is-outraged-by-a-new-logo-of-ukraine-s-defense-intelligence-795969.html>

Terrorism / Separatism

Latest from OSCE Special Monitoring Mission (SMM) to Ukraine, 01.10.2016

The SMM noted an increase in the number of ceasefire violations recorded in Donetsk region on 1 October followed by a decrease on 2 October. In Luhansk region the number of ceasefire violations recorded dropped on 1 October but increased on 2 October. The Mission continued to monitor the disengagement process in Stanytsia Luhanska, Zolote and Petrivske. The SMM was able to patrol on a road between Zolote and Pervomaïsk through a section of the disengagement area. The SMM did not have full access in all disengagement areas and was restricted in its freedom of movement in the area of Stanytsia Luhanska and Petrivske. The SMM monitored three border areas not controlled by the Government. The SMM noted an increase in the number of ceasefire violations recorded in Donetsk region on 1 October, followed by a decrease on 2 October.[1] On 1 October the SMM recorded 473 explosions in Donetsk region compared with 255 the previous day. On 2 October the SMM recorded 280 explosions.

<http://www.osce.org/ukraine-smm/271496>

"Ceasefire" in Donbas: Russian proxies attack Ukraine 34 times in last day, 01.10.2016

In the Luhansk sector, militants violated the ceasefire mode eight times. The enemy resorted to armed provocations using small arms and machine guns near the villages of Novo-Oleksandrivka and Novozvanivka. In addition, a sniper is reported to be working in Novo-Oleksandrivka, while the village of Stanytsia Luhanska has been attacked with grenade launchers, machine guns and small arms. In the Mariupol sector, ten attacks have been reported. Militants violated the "silence mode" near Pavlopil, Shyrokyne, Starohnativka, Maryinka, having used small arms to carry out attacks. They also fired rocket-propelled grenades in the village of Bohdanivka. "In the Donetsk sector, 16 attacks have been recorded. The militants fired grenade launchers, machine guns and small arms to attack Avdiyivka, Kamianka, Verkhniotoretske and Zaitseve. In addition, the occupiers opened fire from 122mm artillery on Avdiyivka, and applied 120mm and 82mm mortars to shell Verkhniotoretske and Avdiyivka," the ATO headquarters reported.

<http://www.unian.info/war/1549931-ceasefire-in-donbas-russian-proxies-attack-ukraine-34-times-in-last-day.html>

<http://www.unian.info/war/1550261-stanytsia-luhanska-crossing-point-closed-due-to-political-reasons-not-repairs-militants-get-caught-in-lie.html>

'Ceasefire' in Donbas: almost 50 militant attacks overnight, 02.10.2016

Ukraine's ATO headquarters report 47 separatist attacks in Donbas for the past 24 hours. 10 ceasefire violations were recorded in the Luhansk direction. In particular, they fired with grenade launchers, machine guns and small arms in the area of Stanytsia Luhanska, Novooleksandrivka and Novozvanivka. Enemy snipers were active near Novozvanivka, where they also used 82-mm mortars.

<http://uatoday.tv/crime/ceasefire-in-donbas-almost-50-militant-attacks-overnight-778478.html>

Number of enemy attacks remains high in last day, 03.10.2016

Combined Russian-separatist forces attacked Ukrainian army positions in eastern Ukraine 48 times in the past 24 hours, including 20 times in the Mariupol sector, 12 times in the Donetsk sector and 16 times in the Luhansk sector, according to the press center of the Anti-Terrorist Operation (ATO) headquarters.

<https://www.kyivpost.com/ukraine-politics/unian-number-enemy-attacks-remains-high-last-day.html>

'Slave labour' in the prisons of eastern Ukraine, 03.10.2016

Human rights activists in eastern Ukraine say they have evidence that slave labour camps reminiscent of Soviet gulags are operating in rebel-controlled areas. A newly published report alleges that 5,000 people in the self-declared Luhansk People's Republic are held in solitary confinement, beaten, starved or tortured if they refuse to carry out unpaid work.

<http://www.bbc.com/news/magazine-37512356>

Two Russian trucks, bus with troops arrive in Donbas – Ukraine intel, 04.10.2016

Two trucks and a bus carrying members of the armed forces of Russia have arrived in the Russian-occupied town of Novoazovsk in Donetsk region, Ukraine, according to a Ukrainian intelligence agency. "The command of the Russian armed forces continues to transfer personnel and supply materiel stocks and equipment from Russia to the subordinate formations and units of the 1st and 2nd Army Corps to the following destinations: two trucks and a bus with soldiers of the Russian armed forces to Novoazovsk and six barrels with diesel fuel (300 tonnes) to the village of Kuteinykove," the Main Directorate of Intelligence of Ukraine's Defense Ministry wrote.

<http://uaposition.com/latest-news/russian-trucks-bus-troops-arrive-donbas-ukraine-intel/>

Number of attacks in Donbas increased to 68 in last day, 05.10.2016

In Luhansk direction, 36 ceasefire violations were recorded. Terrorists shelled Novooleksandrivka, Novozvanivka, Trokhizbenka, Stanitsa Luhanska, and Popasna using small arms, grenade launchers and machine guns. Also, Russian-backed militants used 120-mm and 82-mm caliber mortars to shell Ukrainian army strongholds near Novooleksandrivka and Novozvanivka. Enemy snipers were recorded in Novooleksandrivka, Popasna and Stepne. Terrorists also used self-propelled anti-air defense in Novooleksandrivka. In Donetsk direction, 13 ceasefire violations were recorded. Militants used small arms, grenade launchers, machine guns to shell Ukrainian troops near Avdiivka, Zaitseve, Novhoroske and Kamianka. Also, terrorists shelled Novoselivka Druha and Avdiivka using 120-mm caliber mortars.

<http://www.ukrinform.net/rubric-defense/2095605-ato-headquarters-number-of-attacks-in-donbas-increased-to-68-in-last-day.html>

Ukrainian rebel leaders divided by bitter purge, 05.10.2016

After Russian-backed rebels proclaimed the creation of the Luhansk People's Republic in 2014, a paratrooper-turned-entrepreneur was swept to power as the prime minister of the breakaway state in eastern Ukraine. Gennady Tsytkalov, with a background in the oil pipeline industry and rumored links to organized crime, had gained a reputation as a discreet, well-connected man you could do business with — a pro-Russian pragmatist rather than an extreme separatist ideologue. He "was neither a hillbilly nor a gentleman," said a former colleague who spoke on the condition of anonymity out of concern for his own safety. "Sure, he had some romantic notions of the Red Army and the glories of the Soviet Empire. But first and foremost, he was a businessman."

Ousted a year ago, he was arrested in mid-September and accused of plotting a coup. Today he is dead.

https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/europe/ukrainian-rebel-leaders-divided-by-bitter-purge/2016/10/03/2e0076ac-8429-11e6-b57d-dd49277af02f_story.html

Major escalation in Donbas: 68 militant attacks, artillery and armour used, 05.10.2016

Donbas sees a serious escalation of heavy shelling in the Luhansk sector, press centre of the Ukrainian Anti-Terrorist Operation HQ reports. Russian proxies attacked Ukrainian army positions in Donbas 68 during the day, hitting Luhansk region 36 times, Mariupol sector – 19 times, Donetsk sector – 13 times. The Luhansk sector, which was to be the scene of disengagement of the troops according to the latest agreement, turned into a major battlefield. Russian proxies used small arms, machine guns, grenade launchers, anti-aircraft guns, 120mm and 82mm mortars, 122mm artillery and infantry fighting vehicles to attack Ukrainian troops. In the Donetsk sector, Russia's hybrid military forces attacked with light arms and heavy 120mm mortars, the hottest point in the area was the town of Avdiivka. In the Mariupol sector militants attacked with anti-tank rockets, and commenced firing on the villages of Talakivka and Lebedynske using 82mm mortars and infantry fighting vehicles. Ukrainian troopers also spotted one Russian UAV over Donbas.

<http://uatoday.tv/crime/major-escalation-in-donbas-68-militant-attacks-artillery-and-armour-used-780148.html>

Mandate of OSCE Observer Mission at Russian Checkpoints Gukovo and Donetsk extended to 31 January 2017, 05.10.2016

The mandate of the Mission remains unchanged. Operating under the principles of impartiality and transparency, the observers will monitor and report on the situation at the two Russian checkpoints, as well as on the movements across the border. The Observer Mission is composed of 20 Border Observers including the Chief Observer. The Mission is supported administratively by the OSCE Secretariat in Vienna.

Flavien Schaller, the Chief of the Observer Mission, will continue to provide regular reports through the Chairmanship to the Permanent Council. The Mission has been on the ground since 29 July 2014 following a consensus decision of the OSCE Permanent Council.

<http://www.osce.org/om/271866>

A step towards ceasefire: Forces disengaged in one more Donbas area, 07.10.2016

The disengagement of forces and hardware has been successfully held near the villages of Bohdanivka and Petrivske close to the contact line in Donetsk region, according to Ukrainian Defense Ministry spokesman for ATO issues Andriy Lysenko. According to Lysenko, the ATO forces withdrew one kilometre to the west and took new, earlier prepared positions.

<http://uatoday.tv/politics/a-step-towards-ceasefire-forces-disengaged-in-one-more-donbas-area-photos-781839.html>
<http://www.unian.info/war/1560061-russian-proxies-attack-ukraine-30-times-in-last-day-fire-artillery-on-avdiyivka.html>

Dates for Ukrainian forces' withdrawal near Stanytsia Luhanska postponed because of shelling by LPR militants, 10.10.2016

"Eight instances of shelling, the last one on October 6, have taken place at this sector in the past week," the ministry said. The Armed Forces of Ukraine "had to postpone the dates for the withdrawal of their forces and means at the sector near Stanytsia Luhanska" because of the other side's non-implementation of the Trilateral Contact Group's framework decision on the disengagement of forces and means and because of systematic shelling of Ukrainian military positions, it said. The number of strikes on Ukrainian army positions, including instances of artillery shelling, has increased", the Ukrainian Defense Ministry said.

<http://en.interfax.com.ua/news/general/375516.html>
<http://uacrisis.org/48018-mod>

Latest from OSCE Special Monitoring Mission (SMM) to Ukraine, 11.10.2016

The SMM recorded a higher number of ceasefire violations in Donetsk region compared with the previous day, whereas in Luhansk region the SMM recorded fewer ceasefire violations compared with the previous day. The SMM followed up on reports of shelling and civilian casualties in "DPR"-controlled Sakhanka. The Mission continued to monitor the disengagement process in Stanytsia Luhanska, Zolote and Petrivske; the SMM was restricted in its freedom of movement in all three areas. The SMM monitored the situation of civilians queuing at entry-exit checkpoints and observed a demonstration in Luhansk city against the deployment of an international armed mission. The SMM recorded more ceasefire violations in Donetsk region, including 329 explosions compared with 127 explosions on 9 October.

<http://www.osce.org/ukraine-smm/274011>

Ukraine says ceasefire fails in Stanytsia Luhanska, names withdrawal conditions, 12.10.2016

"The ceasefire in Stanytsia Luhanska did not last a week. Yesterday, the militants again fired on our positions from the opposite side of the Siverskiy Donets River," he told reporters. Answering the question regarding possible conditions for disengagement of forces and hardware in Stanytsia Luhanska, Lysenko said: "First of all, there shall be a ceasefire for seven straight days. After that; one more day to notify the OSCE SMM, which monitors this area, on paths and new sites of redeployment of forces and hardware; and up to three days for the redeployment of personnel and equipment."

<http://www.unian.info/war/1568482-ukraine-says-ceasefire-fails-in-stanytsia-luhanska-names-withdrawal-conditions.html>

OSCE monitors again denied access to disengagement area near Petrivske in Donbas, 12.10.2016

"Today again only limited access for OSCE SMM to Petrivske/Bohdanivka disengagement area - UAF [Ukrainian armed forces], 'DPR' [the self-proclaimed Donetsk People's Republic] have failed to guarantee SMM's security (possible mines)," the SMM said on Facebook on Wednesday. "SMM is ready/able to monitor, but needs access," it said. "UAF JCCC [Joint Ceasefire Control and Coordination Center] representative is present on the ground in Bohdanivka however cannot guarantee security for the SMM. RF AF [the Russian Federation's armed forces] JCCC rep is not present in Petrivske. JCCC should assist in ensuring safe & unhindered access for SMM, co-ordinate demining," the report says. The members of the Trilateral Contact Group for settling the crisis in eastern Ukraine on September 21 signed an agreement on the separation of the forces in some populated areas along the line of contact in Donbas. The document envisions the establishment of three pilot security zones in the village of Petrivske on the line of contact with the DPR and in the villages of Zolote and Stanytsia Luhanska on the line of contact with the self-proclaimed Luhansk People's Republic (LPR).
<http://en.interfax.com.ua/news/general/376253.html>

Situation hot in Mariupol sector, Ukraine forces fire back due to threat of breakthrough, 12.10.2016

Combined Russian-separatist forces attacked Ukrainian army positions in eastern Ukraine 44 times in the past 24 hours, including 34 in the Mariupol sector, 7 barrages in the Luhansk sector, and 3 in the Donetsk sector, according to the press center of the Ministry of Defense of Ukraine.
<http://uaposition.com/latest-news/situation-hot-in-mariupol-sector-Ukraine-forces-fire-back-due-to-threat-of-breakthrough/>

Ukraine army attacked 36 times in last day, most of barrages near Mariupol, 13.10.2016

Combined Russian-separatist forces attacked Ukrainian positions in eastern Ukraine 36 times in the past 24 hours, including 20 barrages in the Mariupol sector, 14 in the Luhansk sector, and two in the Donetsk sector, according to the press center of the Ministry of Defense of Ukraine.
<http://www.breakingnewspoint.com/story/3749785/ukraine-army-attacked-36-times-in-last-day-most-of-barrages-near-mariupol.html>

Latest from OSCE Special Monitoring Mission (SMM) to Ukraine, 13.10.2016

The SMM recorded more ceasefire violations in Donetsk region compared with the previous reporting period, with most concentrated in areas north-east and east of Mariupol and in the Avdiivka-Yasynuvata area. In Luhansk region the SMM also recorded more ceasefire violations compared with the previous reporting period, most of which occurred south-west of Katerynivka. It followed up on reports of a civilian casualty in Krasnohorivka. The Mission continued to monitor the disengagement process in Stanytsia Luhanska, Zolote and Petrivske; the SMM was restricted in its freedom of movement in all three areas. The SMM observed heavy weapons in violation of the withdrawal lines. It monitored one border area not under government control. The Mission monitored long queues of pedestrians at entry-exit checkpoints at Stanytsia Luhanska and the situation of internally displaced persons in Odessa.
<http://www.osce.org/ukraine-smm/274606>

Two Ukrainians detained in Crimea for "plotting sabotage" transported to Moscow, 14.10.2016

Ukrainian citizens Yevhen Panov and Andriy Zahtey, who had earlier been arrested by Russian occupying authorities in Crimea on charges of plotting sabotage, were transferred to Moscow's Lefortovo pre-trial detention facility, according to the activists of the Civil Monitoring Commission of Moscow Zoya Svetova and Yeva Merkacheva, who visited the facility for a scheduled inspection October 13. Panov and Zahtey said they had been transported from Simferopol pre-trial detention facility overnight October 7 (three days prior to the Simferopol court's ruling to extend their arrest). The reasons for the transfer of Panov and Zahtey to Moscow remain unknown. In their own words, no investigative actions have been carried out with them in Moscow yet.

<http://uaposition.com/latest-news/ukrainians-detained-crimea-plotting-sabotage-transported-moscow/>

ATO HQ report: Militants attack Ukraine 42 times in last day, continue using heavy weapons, 15.10.2016

In the Mariupol sector, the enemy continues using heavy weapons, UNIAN reports. In particular, the militants fired 122mm artillery systems on the Ukrainian positions near the villages of Lebedynske, Vodiane, Shyrokyne and Pavlopil. The enemy fire in Vodiane was intensified by shelling from 152mm artillery systems, and in other areas – with the use of 120mm mortars. The occupiers also fired from tanks, infantry fighting vehicles and mortars on the Ukrainian positions in the towns of Krasnohorivka and Mar'inka. In the Luhansk sector, Russia's hybrid military force fired 152mm artillery systems on ATO forces near the village of Novozvanivka, machine guns and grenade launchers of various systems near the village of Novo-Oleksandrivka, as well as small arms in the village of Stanytsia Luhanska.

http://joinfo.com/world/1018744_ato-hq-report-militants-attack-ukraine-42-times-in-last-day-continue-using-heavy-weapons.html

Russian warlord killed in Donetsk – both sides confirm, 17.10.2016

Russian officers and their local collaborators are still dying in militant-held territory of Donbas during the ceasefire. This time the most notorious warlord, the head of 'Sparta' militant battalion died in explosion in Donetsk elevator along with his personal guard, numerous sources say. A Russian citizen, Pavlov was born in Ukhta, Komi Autonomous Republic of Russian Federation. He lived in Rostov-on-Don and spent some time in the Russian army, taking part in Second Chechen war. According to a newspaper report by Georgian Journal he had serious problems with Rostov's police while working there at a car wash, since he allegedly went on a drunken joyride in a stolen car. Instead of going to prison he chose to go to fight in Donbas.

<http://uatoday.tv/crime/russian-warlord-killed-in-donetsk-both-sides-confirm-787116.html>

<http://www.unian.info/society/1574732-russia-may-resort-to-terrorist-acts-on-ukraine-controlled-territory-after-liquidation-of-motorola-expert.html>

Militants launch offensive on Ukraine positions: fighting sparks in Avdiyivka early Monday – source, 17.10.2016

The chaplain serves in the unit of civil-military cooperation of the Armed Forces of Ukraine (AFU), which is based in Avdiyivka. According to Volodymyr Shved, it is the older part of Avdiyivka that is being shelled. "The most surprising thing is that, despite the attacks, people are still trying to get to work in short runs," Shved said.

<http://www.unian.info/war/1574558-militants-launch-offensive-on-ukraine-positions-fighting-sparks-in-avdiyivka-early-monday-source.html>

<http://uaposition.com/latest-news/russian-troops-increase-number-of-attacks-on-ukraine-to-61-times-in-last-day/>

Russian proxies attack Ukraine 29 times in last day, mostly in Mariupol sector, 18.10.2016

In the Mariupol sector, the enemy used 122mm cannon artillery systems and mortars of both calibers, 120mm and 82mm mortars and infantry fighting vehicles, as well as grenade launchers and small arms. In the Luhansk sector, Russia's hybrid military force fired 82mm mortars, grenade launchers, machine guns, and small arms near. In the Donetsk sector, the occupiers opened fire from 82mm mortars, infantry fighting vehicles, grenade launchers, heavy machine guns and small arms.

<http://uatoday.tv/politics/russian-proxies-attack-ukraine-29-times-in-last-day-mostly-in-mariupol-sector-787956.html>

<http://www.osce.org/ukraine-smm/275366>

Bomb Kills Pro-Russian Rebel Commander in Eastern Ukraine, 18.10.2016

A prominent commander of the Russian-backed separatist forces in eastern Ukraine has been killed by a bomb, rebel leaders and Russian news reports said. Arsen Pavlov, the commander, who went by the nom de guerre Motorola after the brand of walkie-talkie he preferred, was blown up as he rode the elevator in his apartment building on Sunday in Donetsk, the larger of the rebels' two urban strongholds in eastern Ukraine, Russian news accounts said. Each side blames the other for the killing: Ukrainian officials said Russian special forces had been purging the charismatic but unpredictable early leaders of the rebel movement, while the separatists said Ukrainian assassins were operating behind their lines. Mr. Pavlov is the latest of about half a dozen commanders from the 2014 insurgency to be killed far from the front line.

http://mobile.nytimes.com/2016/10/18/world/europe/ukraine-rebel-arsen-pavlov-motorola-killed.html?_r=0

Russian proxies double number of attacks on Ukraine's Independence Day, 19.10.2016

In the Donetsk sector, the enemy fired 122mm artillery systems at the villages of Troyitske and Luhanske until dawn. Along the demarcation line – Nevelske, Avdiyivka industrial area and Svitlodarsk bridgehead – the militants fired 120mm and 82mm mortars, grenade launchers of various systems, heavy machine guns and small arms. They fired tank shells at the town of Avdiyivka and used infantry fighting vehicles against the village of Luhanske. Close to midnight, the occupiers fired 152mm artillery systems and launched about six dozen artillery shells at the village of Semyhirria.

<http://uatoday.tv/politics/russian-proxies-double-number-of-attacks-on-ukraine-s-independence-day-733567.html>

OSCE SMM Deputy Chief elaborates on procedure of armed mission deployment in Donbas, 21.10.2016

The decision to deploy in Donbas the armed police mission of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe should be taken by the organization's Permanent Council, that's according to First Principal Deputy Chief of the OSCE SMM in Ukraine Alexander Hug, who spoke at a Kyiv briefing Friday. Hug said that, as the OSCE stated earlier, the SMM is an unarmed civilian mission, the monitoring mission, which is regulated by the OSEC mandate approved by 57 member states. If necessary, all of these 57 countries must unanimously support the corresponding changes to the mandate, and this decision should be made by the OSCE Permanent Council in Vienna, he said, commenting on the likelihood of deployment of an armed police mission of the OSCE in Donbas in the context of the Normandy Four agreements.

<http://uaposition.com/latest-news/osce-rep-elaborates-procedure-armed-mission-deployment-donbas/>

<http://uaposition.com/latest-news/osce-reports-new-obstructions-observers-activity/>

Russian proxies attack Ukraine forces 34 times in last day, Mariupol sector remains hot spot, 25.10.2016

Combined Russian-separatist forces attacked Ukrainian army positions in eastern Ukraine 34 times in the past 24 hours, including 24 in the Mariupol sector, five barrages in the Luhansk sector, and five in the Donetsk sector, according to the ATO press service HQ.

<http://www.breakingnewspoint.com/story/3810451/russian-proxies-attack-ukraine-forces-34-times-in-last-day-mariupol-sector-remains-hot-spot.html>

"Motorola" killing may be turning point in Russia's war against Ukraine, 26.10.2016

According to analysts, the version of the elimination of Motorola by the Ukrainian special services does not hold water, while the most likely scenario is that of an internal war between different gangs in Donbas or the elimination by the Russian special services of militants who "know too much". The first version is based on the fact that there has been a recent "reshuffle" in the structures of the DPR/LPR terrorist organizations, and the leader of Luhansk militants Ihor Plotnytskiy "lost control over the safety issues." Analysts write that shortly before the murder, Pavlov was reportedly sent to Luhansk, "to restore order" so this could push Plotnytskiy to organize his murder. The second version involving the Russian trace says that Moscow intends to gradually get rid of both the most notorious and poorly controlled warlords, as well as of those who might testify as witnesses of the Kremlin's war crimes in Donbas – in particular, a missile attack on the Malaysian Boeing MH17 flight in 2014.

<http://www.unian.info/politics/1590741-motorola-killing-may-be-turning-point-in-russias-war-against-ukraine.html>

Another Russian 'aid convoy' arrives in Donetsk and Luhansk regions, 26.10.2016

Another Russian so-called humanitarian convoy has crossed Ukrainian border, controlled by the Russian-backed separatist forces, arriving in the Donetsk and Luhansk regions. According to Russia's Emergency Ministry, the column, consisting of 60 trucks, were carrying more than 600 tons of food, medicine building materials. The Kremlin says, Ukrainian customs and border patrol officers 'were present' during the inspection of the cargo.

<http://uatoday.tv/news/another-russian-aid-convoy-arrives-in-donetsk-and-luhansk-regions-751558.html>

<http://en.uazmi.com/news/post/rYhPVAZv0JbpSKR3un96Y>

Warlords in Donbas turned to 'smuggling kingpins' – media probe, 26.10.2016

The first dimension of war exists in geopolitics and TV-propaganda space. The clash of 'Russian world' and free Ukraine goes on here. The second dimension is regular war – it's dirty, it's brutal, it's mainly harmful to the civilians who equally suffer from shelling, terror, famine, plundering and violence. The third dimension is fighting for money. Donetsk and Luhansk were always the regions where people used to make money in different, not necessarily legal ways. During the last quarter of century, a peculiar economical mode formed up in this area, administrative, financial and openly criminal interests tightly intertwined within it. For the local elites, both Maidan and 'Russian spring' (propaganda name for Russian invasion of Ukraine – UT) were equally disturbing developments which had shifted the balance and led to the grand redistribution that certainly was and still is followed by lots of deaths. The current situation – neither peace nor war – is practically perfect for the region turned into a giant criminal enclave. Within this version all the recent scandalous killings can easily be explained.

<http://uatoday.tv/crime/warlords-in-donbas-turned-to-smuggling-kingpins-media-probe-792954.html>

U.S. Mission to OSCE: Russia continues sending troops, equipment into Ukraine, 28.10.2016

"Despite combined-separatist forces' restrictions, the SMM continues to document evidence that Russia is sending troops and equipment into Ukraine," the report says.

"On October 17, the SMM spotted a minivan with military license plates carrying personnel in camouflage as it crossed from Russia into separatist-held Ukraine. The minivan did not transit the border at an official crossing point, as would have been the case if it had been carrying a routine rotation of Russian officers to the Joint Center for Coordination and Control," writes the U.S. Mission to the OSCE. Also last week, monitors spotted a bus with at least 20 persons in camouflage crossing from separatist-held parts of Ukraine back into Russia. Taken together with the ramp up in access restrictions, this evidence is indicative of Russia's continued and active support of combined separatist forces in Ukraine.

<http://uaposition.com/latest-news/u-s-mission-osce-russia-continues-sending-troops-equipment-ukraine/>

<https://osce.usmission.gov/russias-ongoing-violations-ukraine-statement-pc-5/>

Ukrainian troops in Avdiyivka being shelled heavily – media, 29.10.2016

Ukrainian troops stationed in the town of Avdiyivka, Donetsk region, are being shelled heavily; the attack began at about 23:00 local time, according to the Ukrainian-language service of Radio Liberty, which cites local residents.

<http://www.worldwideliveneews.com/story/3373075/ukrainian-troops-in-avdiyivka-being-shelled-heavily-media.html>

Ukraine reports 53 Russian attacks on its troops in Donbas in past day, 30.10.2016

28 attacks were reported in the Mariupol sector alone with the use of banned 120mm mortars. There were 15 attacks in the Donetsk sector and 10 attacks in the Lugansk sector.

<http://uaposition.com/maps/ukraine-reports-53-Russian-attacks-on-its-troops-in-donbas-in-past-day/>

<http://uaposition.com/latest-news/russian-troops-attacked-ukraine-55-times-in-past-24-hours/>

Ukrainian positions came under terrorist fire 54 times yesterday, - Staff, 31.10.2016

In Mariupol direction, 31 truce breaches were recorded. "In Luhansk direction, five cease-fire violations were recorded. The enemy resorted to armed provocations near Lopaskyne with the use of grenade launchers, in Krymske - with 82 mm mortars, grenade launchers, and small arms. Russian occupation troops fired at Troitske with 120 mm mortars, and at Kalynovo-Popasna with 122 mm artillery," the report reads. There were 18 attacks in the Donetsk sector

http://en.censor.net.ua/news/412890/ukrainian_positions_came_under_terrorist_fire_54_times_yesterday_staff

National Minorities

Russian Supreme Court's Illegitimate Decision To Ban the Mejlis of the Crimean Tatar People, 01.10.2016

The United States does not recognize the legitimacy of the Russian Supreme Court's ruling to uphold the ban of Crimean Tatars' self-governing body, the Mejlis. We reject the characterization of the Mejlis as an 'extremist' organization and condemn the suspension of this democratic institution. This decision is particularly troubling given Russia's systematic and unjust mistreatment of Crimean Tatars. Russia continues to subject Crimean Tatars to arbitrary arrests, abductions, politically motivated prosecutions, restrictions on freedom of movement, and police raids on their homes and mosques. We call on Russia to cease these unacceptable practices immediately.

We do not recognize Russia's attempted annexation of Crimea, and we reiterate our call on Russia to return control of the peninsula to Ukraine. Our Crimea-related sanctions will remain in place until Moscow returns control over Crimea to Ukraine.

<http://www.state.gov/r/pa/prs/ps/2016/09/262627.htm>

Mass Media

Russia arrests Ukraine's journalist on espionage charges, 03.10.2016

"The Federal Security Service of the Russian Federation has detained an officer of the Defense Intelligence of Ukraine Sushchenko Roman Vladimirovich while conducting an espionage operation in Moscow. The Ukrainian national was purposefully collecting information on the Russian Armed Forces and National Guard, constituting state secrets, the disclosure of which could have undermined Russia's defense capabilities," TASS reports with reference to the FSB.

<http://belsat.eu/en/news/u-maskve-zatrymali-ukrainskaga-zhurnalista-fsb-nazyvae-yago-palkounikam-razvedki/>

<http://www.interpretermag.com/day-959/>

<https://www.kyivpost.com/ukraine-politics/unian-ukrinform-journalist-detained-russia-lawyer-arrives-moscow-jail.html>

http://joinfo.com/world/1018657_only-international-pressure-can-help-release-ukrinform-journalist-detained-in-russia-lawyer.html

Ukrinform journalist left without food, water on first day of arrest in Moscow, 10.10.2016

"We have asked Roman if any physical pressure was applied to him. Sushchenko answered 'no.' But on the first day there was psychological pressure. And he was left without food and water on that first day. He received something to eat only in Lefortovo [a pre-trial detention center in Moscow] for the first time after his detention," Novaya Gazeta journalists wrote after they had visited Sushchenko in Levortovo. Sushchenko told them he had lost about six kilograms. In Lefortovo, Sushchenko got his personal belongings back, but he had to return the borrowed clothes, thus he has no second pair of clothes now, his Russian colleagues wrote. The Ukrainian journalist also told them he did not drink tap water and he was not provided by bottled water, therefore he drank tea served twice a day. Novaya Gazeta journalists say that Sushchenko is still kept in an isolation unit. "The room is absolute ascetic. The utensils include a metal plate, a spoon, a mug. There are three books: [by Russian writers Mikhail] Bulgakov, [Valentin] Pikul and a Russian-French dictionary; a few sheets of paper and a pen," they wrote.

<http://www.unian.info/society/1563101-ukrinform-journalist-left-without-food-water-on-first-day-of-arrest-in-moscow.html>

Lawyer of Ukrainian journalist not allowed to leave Russia, 14.10.2016

Mark Feygin, the Russian lawyer of Ukrainian journalist Roman Suchchenko, was not allowed to leave the Russian Federation for a business trip to attend a forum in Vilnius.

"Well, that's what I was trying to say. I am not allowed to leave the country for a Free Russia Forum in Vilnius. They say I am in some kind of database..." the lawyer wrote.

<http://uaposition.com/latest-news/lawyer-of-Ukrainian-journalist-not-allowed-to-leave-russia/>

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 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 him, 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>

Moscow Summons Dutch Ambassador To Complain About MH17 Findings, 04.10.2016

Moscow summoned the Dutch ambassador on October 3 to complain about a criminal investigation last week that concluded that a missile brought in from Russia shot down a passenger jet flying over eastern Ukraine. Criminal investigators from the Netherlands, Australia, Belgium, Malaysia, and Ukraine said they had "irrefutable evidence" that a Buk missile hit the plane and was fired from a part of eastern Ukraine then controlled by pro-Russian rebels. Russia reacted angrily to the allegations and sought to shift the blame onto Ukraine for not closing its airspace during intense fighting -- prompting Dutch Foreign Minister Bert Koenders to summon Russia's ambassador last week to complain about Moscow's "unacceptable" comments.

<http://www.rferl.org/a/moscow-summons-dutch-ambassador-complain-mh17-findings/28030423.html>

Is Putin preparing for WW3? Russia begins evacuation of FORTY MILLION PEOPLE in huge drill, 04.10.2016

The huge four-day "civil defence" drill has set alarm bells ringing in Washington and London, with tensions already high over disagreements in Syria. Following a breakdown in communication between the USA and Russia, the Kremlin has now organised the huge emergency practice drill - either as a show of force or something more sinister. The drill will prepare Russian citizens for "large natural and man-made disasters", according to the country's Ministry for Civil Defence, Emergencies and Elimination of Consequences of Natural Disaster.

<http://www.express.co.uk/news/world/717446/russia-evacuate-40-million-people-emergency-drill-vladimir-putin-ww3>

A possible violation of Finnish airspace, 06.10.2016

A possible violation of Finnish airspace by a Russian SU-27 fighter has been detected in the Gulf of Finland south of Porvoo on Thursday October 6th at about 16.43 pm.

It continued approximately one minute, and sided Finnish airspace for about 13 kilometers at a maximum of about one kilometer depth. The Air Force conducted an identification flight. The Finnish Border Guard will investigate the matter. Further information is given by Director of Communication Max Arhipainen, at the Finnish Ministry of Defence.

http://www.defmin.fi/en/topical/press_releases?588_m=7995

Russia moving nuclear-capable missiles into Kaliningrad: U.S. intelligence official, 07.10.2016

Russia is moving nuclear-capable missiles into Kaliningrad, a tiny Russian enclave sitting between Poland and Lithuania, a U.S. intelligence official said Friday, confirming Estonian news reports. Russia's reasons for shipping the 500-kilometer-range Iskander-M missiles to Kaliningrad "could be innocuous," said the official, who spoke on condition of anonymity. "They moved a similar missile system to Kaliningrad in 2014 for a military exercise. It could also be a political gesture - a show of strength - to express displeasure with NATO," said the official.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/us-russia-usa-missiles->

idUSKCN1272EH?feedType=RSS&feedName=worldNews&utm_source=Twitter&utm_medium=Social&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+Reuters%2FworldNews+%28Reuters+World+News%29

7 Ways Russia Is Telling People to Prepare for War, 16.10.2016

With tensions between Russia and the United States at their highest since the Cold War, there have been alarming signs coming out of Moscow that suggest the country is ready for war. Almost no one believes the Kremlin is actually preparing for a military conflict with the United States. Most analysts instead see it as a show, intended to boost support at home and to deter Western countries from intervening militarily in Syria. As the confrontation between the United States and Russia has worsened over Syria, and amid speculation Washington might launch airstrikes against Syrian government forces, Russian state-controlled media has gone into high gear, asking Russians whether they are prepared for nuclear war. "If that should one day happen, each of you must know where the nearest bomb shelter is," a report on the state-controlled network, NTV, noted, before taking viewers on a tour of a nuclear bunker in Moscow.

<http://abcnews.go.com/International/ways-russia-telling-people-prepare-war/story?id=42800992>

Putin's hope to ignite a Eurasia-style protest in the United States, 17.10.2016

In the fall of 2004 Vladimir Putin suffered a blow he has never forgotten. The fraudulent election of a pro-Kremlin Ukrainian president, which Putin had directly and brazenly engineered, was overturned by a massive popular uprising. What came to be known as the "Orange Revolution" created a model for resistance to rigged elections in autocracies across Eurasia — in Kyrgyzstan, Belarus, Azerbaijan and, in 2012, Russia itself. Most of the rebellions didn't succeed. But Putin developed an obsession with "color revolutions," which he is convinced are neither spontaneous nor locally organized, but orchestrated by the United States — and in the case of the Moscow protests four years ago, by Hillary Clinton herself.

https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/global-opinions/putins-hope-to-ignite-a-eurasia-style-protest-in-the-united-states/2016/10/16/Of271a60-90a4-11e6-9c85-ac42097b8cc0_story.html?utm_term=.967d6755b590

"Stop Putin!": Rally against Russian aggression in Ukraine held in Athens, 17.10.2016

The protesters of the rally "StopPutin, Stop War" spoke up against Russian aggression in Ukraine. Representatives of the Ukrainian and Georgian diaspora, as well as Greeks, demanded strengthening of the presence of the OSCE Mission in Donbas and the release the illegally detained Ukrainians from the Russian Federation. It is noted that the activists explained the people on the streets the actual situation in Ukraine handed out info leaflets in English and Greek.

<http://www.unian.info/politics/1574747-stop-putin-rally-against-russian-aggression-in-ukraine-held-in-athens.html>

Ukrainian citizen Klykh convicted in Russia gone mad due to torture – human rights activists, 22.10.2016

"As of today, Stanislav Klykh is in a very serious condition. He is a person involved in the so-called "case of Chechen militants" of Ukrainian origin... Stanislav Klykh is a person who has gone mad because of the torture, which was applied to him during the arrest and during the preliminary investigation. It is absolutely unclear how this person will be in prison, where he must be sent in the near future," she said. According to Svetova, it is necessary to conduct him a forensic psychiatric examination in the Serbsky State Scientific Center for Social and Forensic Psychiatry and to send him to Ukraine as soon as possible, putting him in a psychiatric hospital. "He's really a terrible victim of Russia's repressions against Ukrainian citizens. He was detained by accident when he arrived from Ukraine to the Russian city of Orel," she added. At the same time, according to Svetova, a forensic psychological examination of Klykh showed that he was mentally healthy and could participate in the trial.

<http://www.unian.info/society/1584927-ukrainian-citizen-klykh-convicted-in-russia-gone-mad-because-of-torture-human-rights-activists.html>

International monitor quietly drops drone surveillance of Ukraine war, 31.10.2016

The European security organization tasked with monitoring deadly violence between government forces and Russian-separatists forces in eastern Ukraine has lost its most effective surveillance tool in the conflict: long-range unmanned aerial vehicles, or drones, according to the Foreign Policy (FP) website. "The long-range drone program was crucial for spotting armed

attacks, the stationing of prohibited weapons, and countless other cease-fire violations. But it was nixed two months ago, Foreign Policy has learned, after several of the aircraft were targeted by surface-to-air missiles and military-grade electronic jamming," senior reporter at Foreign Policy John Hudson wrote in the article titled "International Monitor Quietly Drops Drone Surveillance of Ukraine War,". "Long-range UAV operations were suspended in August following a series of hostile acts," said Natacha Rajakovic, a spokeswoman for the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), the group authorized by world powers to observe the conflict. "The mission`s UAV strength has been severely undermined."

<http://uaposition.com/latest-news/international-monitor-quietly-drops-drone-surveillance-of-ukraine-war/>