



Monitoring of Xenophobia and Extremism in Ukraine September 2016

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Introduction

In the Russian-Ukrainian conflict, Ukraine's responses traditionally reflect the developments. It seems that the recognition of the Verkhovna Rada of the Russian State Duma elected on Sept 18 as illegitimate was a generally expected move. The step is unprecedented, but in a situation of ongoing Russian aggression and, as usual, just "deep concern" from the West, the decision saw no alternative. Since Russia has decided to hold the Duma elections on the territory of Crimea, the protest against this step had to be as strong as possible, but no one would have done it for Ukraine. Ukraine is boosting its efforts in a campaign for non-recognition of the outcome of the elections to the State Duma considering voting in the occupied Crimea. Foreign ministers of France and Germany visited Kyiv and Donbas. The EU is in a state of crisis, according to its political leaders. However, that is no reason for refusing to grant Ukrainians a visa-free travel across the European Union.

A Trilateral contact group in Minsk agreed to disengagement of forces and hardware in three areas on the demarcation line in Donbas. In case of successful implementation, this step can demonstrate good will and on the other hand give European politicians new reasons to put pressure on Kyiv to speed up the process of resolving the crisis in the east of Ukraine. However, the Ukrainian authorities do not intend to compromise their own interests, at least, due to the instinct of self-preservation.

The offender, who shot two patrol in the Dniper city, once again reminded Ukrainians about their insecurities and forced to look for the culprit in this tragedy. According to the ex-deputy head of the SBU, the chairman of the Union of Officers of Ukraine, Alexander Skipalsky in the death of police officers from the criminal hands indirectly guilty Interior Ministry, which released on the streets their employees without the proper level of training.

75th anniversary of Babi Yar tragedy was commemorate on the governmental level. It was officially declared that Babi Yar Memorial Museum would be opened in Kiev in 5 years in Kiev.

Prognosis

Poll: 36% of Ukrainians know nothing about EU assistance to Ukraine, 08.09.2016

About one-third of respondents believe that the EU provides assistance to Ukraine in the fight against corruption, about 22% in the sphere of defense and security and 19.3% in reforms of public administration. At the same time, more than one-third of respondents do not know about the EU's help to Ukraine, according to a study by the Center for Social and Marketing Research "Socis" and commissioned by 1+1 TV channel. Regionally, the residents of Kyiv more often point out that the EU provides assistance in the field of energy efficiency. Respondents in the West of Ukraine demonstrate better awareness of EU assistance in business, as well as defense and security. Also, in the north of Ukraine, people more often indicated that the EU helps in reforming the nation's judicial system.

<http://www.unian.info/society/1510463-poll-36-of-ukrainians-know-nothing-about-eu-assistance-to-ukraine.html>

More than 80% of Russians are not ready to protest, Poll, 16.09.2016

Only 12% of respondents foresee the possibility of mass demonstrations in Russia against falling living standards, and 10% suggest protests are likely over the political demands, Vedomosti citing results of a survey "Levada Centre." 82% and 85% of respondents said they are not willing to participate in such events,

The deputy director "Levada centre" Alexei Grazhdankin said: "History of the protests of 2011-2012 showed that nothing has changed in the country, there is the fear of the events in Ukraine and protests are not perceived as peaceful actions. "In addition, people are concerned that the government sees the protests as an unacceptable form of dialogue with the society: they remember the terms of Bolotnaya case," he added.

<http://en.vnews.agency/news/society/28271-more-than-80-of-russians-are-not-ready-to-protest-poll.html>

Recent poll reveals how many Ukrainians support Donbas' special status, 28.09.2016

However, 22.7% of respondents support such an idea and 27.3% found it difficult to answer the question, according to the findings of the poll "Citizens' Attitude to the Situation in Donbas," posted on the Razumkov Centre's website. The special status for Donbas is not supported by most of residents of western and central regions and a relative majority of residents of southern regions. In eastern regions and government-controlled part of Donbas the number of supporters and opponents is almost the same. Further, 50.6% of respondents do not support holding local elections in the occupied areas in Donbas before their return under control of Ukrainian government. Some 23.9% advocate the elections before this happens, while 25.4% have found difficult to answer this question. Most of respondents in the west and central areas of the country, as well as a relative majority in southern regions are against the local elections in Donbas. In eastern regions and Ukrainian-controlled areas of Donbas, the share of respondents who are for and against this idea is nearly equal. A total of 38.5% of those polled are against the amnesty of members of separatist movements, who have not committed grave crimes, while 34% support such amnesty. Some 42.1% of the poles support the termination of all economic relations between Ukraine and the self-proclaimed republics in Donbas until Ukraine retakes these territories. A total of 36% are against such economic blockade, while 21.9% have found difficult to answer the question. What is more, 44.2% of respondents support the idea of holding a nationwide referendum on the status of the temporarily occupied areas in Donetsk and Luhansk regions, while 32.8% are against it. The poll also included a question about the implementation of the Minsk peace agreement on Donbas. Some 39.1% of respondents do not deem the Minsk agreements as efficient, while 11.9% speak positively about them. A total of 21.1% are neutral about the agreements.

<http://www.unian.info/society/1545541-recent-poll-reveals-how-many-ukrainians-support-donbas-special-status.html>

Statements of officials

Poland says lifting Russia sanctions now would weaken EU authority, 01.06.2016

The European Union must not ease sanctions on Russia until the so-called Minsk peace agreement is fully implemented, as this would weaken the bloc's position in its relations with Moscow, Poland's Deputy Foreign Minister Konrad Szymanski told.

Szymanski's comments come amid suggestions that the EU may begin to ease its sanctions on Russia later this year. While diplomats in Brussels expect the 28-nation bloc to extend the sanctions, which were introduced over Moscow's role in the conflict in Ukraine and expire in July, they also say that intensifying high-level contacts with Russia two years after it annexed Crimea from Ukraine may signal a thaw. European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker's plans to meet President Vladimir Putin in June in Russia. Juncker wrote to Putin in November suggesting closer trade ties between the EU and the Russian-led Eurasian Economic Union. Moscow may have also given EU states advocating sanctions relief more arguments by last week returning to Kiev jailed Ukrainian military pilot Nadezhda Savchenko in a prisoner exchange welcomed by Western politicians.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/us-ukraine-crisis-russia-poland-idUSKCN0YM1OS>

Merkel, Hollande worried about Ukraine conflict ahead of meeting with Putin, 01.09.2016

German Chancellor Angela Merkel and French President Francois Hollande spoke ahead of an expected meeting next week with Russian President Vladimir Putin.

In a joint statement, Merkel and Hollande strongly endorsed a ceasefire deal to take effect at the start of the new school year that was brokered by the trilateral contact group. The group is made up of Ukraine, Russia and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe.

Merkel and Hollande said the accord should lead to a lasting stop to the fighting that began in 2014. Merkel, Hollande and Putin agreed earlier to meet to discuss the situation in Ukraine on Sept. 4-5 in China on the sidelines of the G20 summit, the Kremlin said last week. A recent surge in fighting in eastern Ukraine and fresh tension in Crimea, the Ukrainian region annexed by Russia in 2014, have raised concern that a much violated truce agreed in Minsk in February 2015 could collapse irretrievably.

[http://www.reuters.com/article/us-ukraine-crisis-france-](http://www.reuters.com/article/us-ukraine-crisis-france-idUSKCN1174YX?feedType=RSS&feedName=worldNews&utm_source=Twitter&utm_medium=Social&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+Reuters%2)

[idUSKCN1174YX?feedType=RSS&feedName=worldNews&utm_source=Twitter&utm_medium=Social&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+Reuters%2FworldNews+%28Reuters+World+News%29](http://www.reuters.com/article/us-ukraine-crisis-france-idUSKCN1174YX?feedType=RSS&feedName=worldNews&utm_source=Twitter&utm_medium=Social&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+Reuters%2FworldNews+%28Reuters+World+News%29)

Ukraine's envoy to CE responds to Putin's statement: Crimea is Ukraine, 03.09.2016

Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the Council of Europe Dmytro Kuleba has commented on Russian President Vladimir Putin's statement on Crimea, saying that the peninsula belongs to Ukraine and no more debates are appropriate. "The issue of Crimea is closed indeed.

Crimea is Ukraine. The issue of the form of the Russian leaders' responsibility for the annexation [of Crimea] is open," he tweeted on Saturday. As UNIAN reported earlier, Putin announced on Saturday, September 3, that Russia is not going to return the annexed Crimea. "The people of Crimea made up their mind and voted. The issue is historically closed. There is no return to the previous system," Putin said.

<http://www.unian.info/politics/1501704-ukraines-envoy-to-ce-responds-to-putins-statement-crimea-is-ukraine.html>

Britain, Russia hope to improve strained relations, 04.09.2016

Britain and Russia said on Sunday they hope to improve their relations through dialogue following the first meeting between new British Prime Minister Theresa May and Russian President Vladimir Putin. Relations between London and Moscow have been strained by differences over Ukraine and Syria in addition to Britain's complaint that flights by long-range Russian bombers near British air space have increased. May said she hoped for an open dialogue with Russia even though the two countries have serious differences, speaking at the start of a meeting with Putin on the sidelines of a G20 summit in Hangzhou city in China.

<http://uk.reuters.com/article/uk-g20-china-britain-russia-idUKKCN11A08Z?il=0>

Germany's foreign minister eyes regulation to keep Ukraine ceasefire in weeks, 04.09.2016

"We are working with the OSCE for a new regulation to keep the ceasefire," German Foreign Minister Frank-Walter Steinmeier said. "We are now in preparation which will allow us to soon meet again on the foreign ministers' level." Steinmeier said implementation of the Minsk accord by Russia and Ukraine remained disappointing, and the security situation in eastern Ukraine was "really insufficient."

<http://uk.reuters.com/article/uk-ukraine-crisis-germany-idUKKCN11A0XU>

Shenderovich: Putin will continue to torment Ukraine, he has resources, 04.09.2016

"Putin is a loser in peace time, who lost all that is possible, both in the economy and in foreign policy. In peace time, he is a "lame duck," with little legitimacy as a leader, who seized power, brought down the currency, brought the economy into stagnation, provoked leakage of Russian capital and brains... The only political chance for Putin is: "Russia surrounded by enemies." The enemies are constantly reproduced, he cannot live without them," Shenderovich said, adding that Putin needs to feed the population with this fear, "to distract and maintain tension: It's a war, my comrades – no talking about the economy now!" According to the journalist, it is difficult to say what can come into Putin's mind and what will be the size of his new provocations. But it is clear that he will not stop, and intends to maintain the tension in Ukraine. "There is also a PR moment here. Russia is not able to make itself a prosperous country, the economic situation of Russians is getting worse, and in this situation, Putin needs a good diversion. Torn, impoverished and dependent Ukraine is an ideal diversion," Shenderovich said.

<http://www.unian.info/politics/1502268-shenderovich-putin-will-continue-to-torment-ukraine-he-has-resources.html>

http://en.censor.net.ua/news/404421/torn_apart_impoverished_and_dependent_ukraine_is_perfect_background_for_putin_russian_writer_shenderovich

Churkin: Talks on UN peacekeeping mission in Donbas are 'red herring', 05.09.2016

"The United Nations peacekeeping operation is not necessary in order to adopt a law on the special status of Donbas and the amnesty. Discussions by the Ukrainian side about this are a red herring," Churkin said. The OSCE plays the leading role in resolving the crisis in Ukraine, he added. "A special monitoring mission established by this organization is working there," Churkin noted. Volodymyr Yelchenko, Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the United Nations, said that Ukraine had prepared documents calling for the United Nations to send a peacekeeping force to the Donbas region.

<http://www.unian.info/politics/1503118-churkin-talks-on-un-peacekeeping-mission-in-donbas-are-red-herring.html>

Putin says supports Normandy format after meeting with Merkel, Hollande – media, 05.09.2016

"Well, we were mostly talking about the Ukrainian crisis. As for the Normandy format, whether it is good or bad, there is no other option at least to make an attempt to reach settlement. So, of course, Russia will support this format," Putin said. He also said that he had not communicated with Petro Poroshenko for a while, noting that "there is no point in just marking the very fact of the meeting." "Well, I guess there's no other choice. We'll have to talk. But I have told both the Federal Chancellor and the French President that it's not about whether we should meet or not. It's about these meetings to lead us to some positive path of settlement. I believe there is no point in just marking the very fact of the meeting," Putin said.

<http://www.unian.info/politics/1504364-putin-says-supports-normandy-format-after-meeting-with-merkel-hollande-media.html>

<http://www.unian.info/politics/1504603-russian-satirist-shenderovich-putin-will-continue-to-torment-ukraine-we-have-resources-for-that.html>

Poroshenko comments on Inter TV channel arson attack, 05.09.2016

On September 4, TV Inter's news department office was set on fire, nobody was seriously hurt but several people were treated for smoke inhalation and another one suffered a broken leg. "It is unacceptable that somebody breaks into the building and commits an arson attack. I am confident that this situation has nothing to do with patriots. Today, it is even more harmful for Ukraine than any contacts with provocateurs," Petro Poroshenko, the President of Ukraine, noted, and ordered the Prosecutor General's Office to conduct a thorough probe into the incident.

<http://uatoday.tv/society/poroshenko-comments-on-inter-tv-channel-arson-attack-740580.html>

<http://www.unian.info/kyiv/1504504-us-embassy-responds-to-arson-at-inter-tv-channel.html>

Clinton Says Possible Russian Meddling a Serious Concern, 06.09.2016

Calling it "almost unthinkable" that a foreign adversary would attempt to manipulate the American political system, Clinton said it appears that Russian President Vladimir Putin and his aides believe they will get some benefit. "We have to be doubly on guard to protect our electoral system at all levels and we have to make it clear that we're not going to let anyone interfere with the decisions of the American people," she said. Clinton didn't outline any specific steps she would take to warn Russia or block the nation from interfering. She cited President Barack Obama's remarks on Monday in China that the U.S. has extensive capabilities, both for defense and offense, but that all nations should guard against igniting a cyber cold war.

<http://www.bloomberg.com/politics/articles/2016-09-05/clinton-says-potential-russian-election-meddling-serious-issue>

Poroshenko wants to spend Yanukovich's assets on defense, security, 06.09.2016

Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko called upon the Ukrainian parliament to consider a draft law as a priority allowing for the special confiscation of assets belonging to ex-President Viktor Yanukovich and his allies, urging the seized assets be reassigned for the nation's future needs, particularly defense and security. Poroshenko announced this amid an annual address to the Verkhovna Rada. "The stumbling block, unfortunately, is a law on special confiscation, which is an important source of financing of defense orders in the current year. This is not only your, but my commitment to the nation, and I once again urge you to vote for the bill with the wording that removes all your cautions," Poroshenko said on Tuesday.

<http://uatoday.tv/politics/poroshenko-wants-to-spend-yanukovich-s-assets-on-defense-security-741185.html>

<http://www.unian.info/society/1505489-poroshenko-on-ukraines-combat-readiness-just-let-them-try.html>

https://www.1492news.com/news/37276_1473162088

<http://www.unian.info/politics/1505589-poroshenko-russia-wont-be-allowed-to-establish-donbas-protectorate.html>

Czech PM: No diplomacy with self-proclaimed Donbas republics, 07.09.2016

Ukrainian Prime Minister Volodymyr Groysman informed his Czech counterpart, at a meeting on the sidelines of the 26th Economic Forum in Krynica-Zdroj, Poland, held September 6-8, about Ukraine's concerns over the establishment of the so-called "honorary consulate" of the self-proclaimed Donetsk People's Republic (DPR) in the Czech city of Ostrava. "In turn, Prime Minister Bohuslav Sobotka said that this office cannot be considered a diplomatic mission, and none of the so-called 'self-proclaimed republics' will open a diplomatic mission in the Czech Republic," the office said.

<http://www.unian.info/politics/1507734-czech-pm-no-diplomacy-with-self-proclaimed-donbas-republics.html>

Putin plans no meetings with Poroshenko — Kremlin, 07.09.2016

"I don't know that any bilateral contacts are planned", Russian presidential press secretary Dmitry Peskov said. Speaking about the possibility of the two presidents' meeting in the Normandy format, with the participation of the leaders of Germany and France, he recalled Putin's words that to this end, "major efforts of the ministries are needed." "It makes sense to meet only after this work has been done, and the meeting's possible results are clear," Peskov said. "We have not advanced this far yet," he added. Peskov also said that "in the interests of implementing the Minsk agreements, the Russian president will be ready for such a contact." "But the conditions must be ripe for this and the homework should be done," he said.

<http://tass.com/politics/898356>

Donbas, annexed Crimea become unfeasible for Russia – expert, 07.09.2016

The expert stressed that more and more, the Russian leadership limits its possibilities of having sanctions eased with each passing day. In particular, annexed Crimea and Donbas have become unfeasible for Russia, he added. "Putin's corridor of opportunities narrows every quarter," he said. "The country must be fed, as well as Crimea.

"They have to leave Donbas because it is too expensive to finance it. "It is impossible to start a war as well, because all are ready for it, everyone is waiting for it and much more rigid and harsh penalties will follow after it," he added. "But, at the same time, it's necessary to keep a victorious face," Oreshkin concluded.

<http://uaposition.com/latest-news/donbas-annexed-crimea-unfeasible-russia-expert/>

Trump in TV event with Clinton, says Putin better leader than Obama, 08.09.2016

Donald Trump declared on Wednesday that Russia's Vladimir Putin had been a better leader than U.S. President Barack Obama, as the Republican presidential nominee used a televised forum to argue he was best equipped to reassert America's global leadership. Trump suggested at the event in which he and Democratic rival Hillary Clinton made back-to-back appearances that U.S. generals had been stymied by the policies of Obama and Clinton, who served as the Democratic president's first secretary of state. "I think under the leadership of Barack Obama and Hillary Clinton the generals have been reduced to rubble. They have been reduced to a point that's embarrassing for our country," Trump said at NBC's "Commander-in-Chief" forum in New York attended by military veterans. It was the first time Trump and Clinton had squared off on the same stage since accepting their parties' presidential nominations in July for the Nov. 8 election.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/us-usa-election-commander-idUSKCN11D12K>

Stoltenberg: Despite Russia's criticism, NATO will continue to support Ukraine, 08.09.2016

"Russia criticizes our support of Ukraine. But Ukraine is an independent state and it asked for support. This is absolutely the legitimate right of every country, to ask for support and receive it. So there is no reason for criticism of the fact that we support a democratic government," said Stoltenberg. He recalled that NATO is providing support to Ukraine through a number of trust funds in the fields of logistics, management and reform of the military sector. "We established a Commission Ukraine-NATO, which is a platform for our political and practical cooperation. But, of course, you can always do more. We work with the Ukrainians [to determine] what kind of support we can provide, policy and practice," he added. Stoltenberg noted that one of the biggest achievements of the summit in Warsaw was the fact that NATO formulated its policy towards Russia: a military fortification but also political dialogue. "In my opinion, there is no contradiction between the strengthening of defense and dialogue. On the contrary, when we are sure of our deterrence forces in defense, then we can engage in political dialogue with Russia. We must engage in dialogue with Russia because it remains our largest neighbor and in order to avoid incidents similar to what happened in Turkey," said the NATO secretary general.

<http://uawire.org/news/stoltenberg-despite-russia-s-criticism-nato-will-continue-to-support-ukraine>

Kobolev: Russia and Ukraine in gas war, 09.09.2016

Andriy Kobolev, the CEO of Ukraine's state-owned oil and gas company Naftogaz, says Russia's president, Vladimir Putin, is using gas as a weapon against Ukraine.

"Gas is a very powerful weapon and Mr Putin is a very dangerous, experienced and efficient opponent," Mr Kobolev. There is a protracted dispute around Russia's energy supply to Ukraine, which is also used as a transit route for natural gas exports to western Europe. Kobolev said that President Putin had a "long-lasting and successful track record" of using gas as weapon against Ukraine and that the task of Naftogaz was "to try to resist in this war and to win this war".

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p0473qth>

No discussions on police mission in Donbas so far – OSCE chief, 09.09.2016

Mr Zannier said that at the moment, no discussion was held about the police mission, adding that the approval of all parties involved is necessary for the deployment of such mission. Only when general consent is reached, the discussion can be launched, according to the OSCE chief. Earlier, in late August, Germany, which chairs the OSCE in 2016, addressed to the organization's member states about their vision of the practical aspects of the deployment of the OSCE police mission in Ukraine. "As of now, negotiations have been held at the level of permanent representatives in Vienna, and four rounds of informal consultations involving all of the OSCE participating states on the practical aspects of establishing this initiative," said Ukraine's permanent representative to the international organizations in Vienna Ihor Prokopchuk.

<http://uaposition.com/latest-news/discussions-police-mission-donbas-osce-chief/>

Crimea Cannot Be Returned to Ukraine, Czech President Says, 09.09.2016

Russia annexed Crimea, which includes the strategic port of Sevastopol where its Black Sea Fleet has been based, in 2014, prompting the European Union and United States to impose economic and political sanctions on various Russian companies and officials.

Zeman has spoken out against the EU sanctions and has regularly expressed pro-Russian views. He was the only Western leader to attend the May 2015 celebrations in Moscow to mark the end of World War Two. "An annexation means breaching international agreements and it is doubtless that agreements guaranteeing Ukraine's territorial integrity were breached," Zeman said in a response to a reader's question published by www.parlamentnilisty.cz. "On the other hand, I agree with you that (Soviet leader Nikita) Khrushchev made an unforgivable silly thing and world's politicians acknowledge today that Crimea cannot be given back to Ukraine," Zeman said. He did not specify who those politicians were.

http://www.nytimes.com/reuters/2016/09/09/world/europe/09reuters-ukraine-crisis-crimea-czech.html?_r=3

Savchenko: Russia Sanctions Must Remain, 09.09.2016

The comments by Savchenko, made to RFE/RL in Brussels, came amid growing talk in some Western capitals about easing the economic measures imposed following Moscow's annexation of the Black Sea peninsula in 2014, and the subsequent insurgency it backed in the region known as the Donbas. Savchenko, who currently is a member of Ukraine's parliament and the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, said September 9 that the European and U.S. sanctions against Moscow had been introduced "under certain conditions" that have never been met. "Crimea is still occupied, Donbas is occupied by Russia," Savchenko said. "I think that it is too early [to lift sanctions] because the usurper did not learn its lesson yet."

<http://www.rferl.org/content/savchenko-russia-sanctions-must-remain/27977998.html>

Former U.S. envoy says Russia tries to legitimize Crimea occupation, 10.09.2016

Moscow may use the presence of official Western observers at the Russian military exercises Caucasus-2016 in the occupied Crimea to legitimize the illegal attempt of the annexation of the Ukrainian peninsula, former U.S. Ambassador to Ukraine, an expert at Brookings Institution Stephen Pifer wrote on Twitter, Voice of America reports. Pifer's comment came as the Russian Defense Ministry had invited the Western military attachés to observe the large-scale military exercises in the Southern Military District of Russia. "Transparent Russia effort to get Western diplomats to Crimea, which some in Moscow would then claim constituted 'recognition'," Pifer tweeted.

<https://googlefindit.blogspot.com/2016/09/former-us-envoy-says-russia-tries-to.html>

OSCE will not mention Crimea in report on elections to Russian parliament, 12.09.2016

OSCE observers will not put occupied Crimea in the report on the observation of elections to the State Duma of the Russian Federation. This was stated by the Head of Mission of the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) Jan Petersen. "Our report will not contain anything about the peninsula", — Petersen said, when asked whether the OSCE would recognize the elections in Crimea. According to him, OSCE observers are distributed throughout the territory of the Russian Federation. But as the work of the OSCE is "based on the consensus of all OSCE member states", Crimea is not part of the observation. Let us remind, on September 8 the Verkhovna Rada adopted a decree which asked the foreign parliaments and international organizations to refrain from participating in observation of elections for the State Duma of Russia on the territory of annexed Crimea and not to recognize the results. Elections will be held in Crimea on September 18. The candidates of "Edinaja Rossiya" on the peninsula are the "head" of Crimea Sergei Aksionov and "prosecutor" Natalia Poklonskaya.

<http://krymsos.com/en/news/obsye-ne-budut-zgaduvati-krim-v-zviti-pro-vibori-do-rosiiskogo-parlamentu/>

Klimkin explained why the OSCE does not see Russian military in the Donbass, 13.09.2016

"In fact, all perfectly understand that Russian regular troops there (in the Donbas – ed.) is. We know that according to our intelligence. And our partners and allies know it, too. But really, when is SMM OSCE in the Donbas – there are not Russian troops in Russian uniform and with their weapons – because SMM formally do not see Russian troops there. Zannier (OSCE Secretary General Lamberto Zannier EDS.) mean that there are Russian troops, they are usually disguised, they direct the actions in the Donbas, starting from small operations to those that actually all militaristic leadership from Rostov and Moscow, and we know well", – said Klimkin. He noted that Russia is trying to block the work of the OSCE.

[http://www.meganewsweb.com/en/news/breaking-news-klimkin-objasnil-pochemu-obse-ne-vidit-voennyh-rf-na-donbasse-](http://www.meganewsweb.com/en/news/breaking-news-klimkin-objasnil-pochemu-obse-ne-vidit-voennyh-rf-na-donbasse)
<http://uatoday.tv/politics/occupational-elections-crisis-grows-ukraine-threatens-to-boycott-pace-comments-745845.html>

"Required" laws in exchange for safety: Kremlin starts talking on new Donbas "road map", 14.09.2016

"We are convinced of the need to move the implementation of the Minsk agreements from the dead point. To do this, both Kyiv and the proclaimed Donetsk and Luhansk People's Republics should pass their parts of the way and to fulfill the obligations taken 1,5 years ago," Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov said at a joint press conference with Foreign Minister of Luxembourg Jean Asselborn in Moscow. He said that Russia was seeking from the Ukrainian colleagues the implementation of the constitutional reform in order to permanently fix the special status of Donbas, granting amnesty and organizing local elections in "the territories of the "DPR" and "LPR". According to Lavrov, these issues should be solved through direct dialogue with Donetsk and Luhansk in the framework of the Contact Group, of which Kyiv has recently "tried to pull away." "We are deeply convinced that Kyiv's line to first provide a ceasefire for a month and only then begin to discuss the political aspects of the Minsk agreements aims to delay the process indefinitely," Lavrov said.

<http://www.unian.info/politics/1518658-required-laws-in-exchange-for-safety-kremlin-starts-talking-on-new-donbas-road-map.html>

Ukraine`s representative calls "shame" situation with blocking release of hostages, 15.09.2016

"It is a shame that release of the hostages is being blocked. We expect the OSCE countries, including the Normandy format countries, to have a clearer and more active position. The human rights issues and the fate of people have to be crucial issues for these countries," she wrote. According to Gerashchenko, "the Ukrainian part is ready for an extensive compromise for releasing the hostages. We see this issue as the humanitarian one. The progress can be achieved if there is consent on the other side. It can be achieved by putting more pressure on the Russian Federation from the whole world and the Normandy format states that talk only about the political issues and the law on the elections and do not pay attention to the humanitarian items."

<http://uaposition.com/latest-news/ukraines-representative-calls-shame-situation-blocking-release-hostages/>

No Donbas ceasefire promises given to Germany as Russia "not party to conflict" – Kremlin, 15.09.2016

The Kremlin has stated it did not promise Germany ensuring the ceasefire in Donbas as Russia "is not a party to the conflict", and it is "the armed forces of Donbas" that oppose Ukraine, Russia's presidential spokesman Dmitry Peskov said. "There is a ceasefire, which is violated... In this wording, Moscow could not promise it, because Moscow is not a party to the conflict. Moscow cannot declare a ceasefire," Peskov said, answering the question, whether Russian officials had promised Germany the establishment of ceasefire in the east of Ukraine. "On the one hand, the Armed Forces of Ukraine are on the demarcation line, and on the other hand, there are 'the armed forces of Donbas', i.e. 'militants'," Peskov said.

<http://uatoday.tv/politics/no-donbas-ceasefire-promises-given-to-germany-as-russia-not-party-to-conflict-kremlin-747495.html>

Klimkin: No status quo in Donbas, Russian troops must leave, 15.09.2016

Ukrainian Minister of Foreign Affairs Pavlo Klimkin says that no status quo will be maintained in Donbas, eastern Ukraine, as Ukrainian citizens must have their normal life back. "Donbas is an integral part of Ukraine – these are millions of citizens of Ukraine. The status quo virtually means a protectorate of the Russian military, the Russian special services, but Ukrainian citizens must have peace and just their normal life back, so that they could have civilization there. Now they don't feel civilized there," he said.

<http://uatoday.tv/politics/klimkin-no-status-quo-in-donbas-russian-troops-must-leave-747315.html>

<http://www.unian.info/politics/1523089-klimkin-german-french-fms-dont-force-ukraine-to-give-special-status-to-donbas.html>

Poroshenko: Sanctions only mechanism to keep Putin at negotiating table, 16.09.2016

"Perhaps it is time to respond to Russia's actions in the occupied territories, including in relation to Crimean Tatars. This means that it is necessary to introduce new sectoral sanctions. We'll accomplish nothing without the sanctions," Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko said at the annual meeting of Yalta European Strategy (YES) in Kyiv. He has added that Ukraine is not a NATO member state and it defends itself with its own weapons. "But the sanctions are the only mechanism to keep Putin at the negotiating table. And we count on this," Poroshenko said.

<http://uaposition.com/latest-news/poroshenko-sanctions-mechanism-putin-negotiating-table/>

<http://www.unian.info/politics/1525169-poroshenko-to-discuss-further-us-support-at-meetings-with-obama-clinton-trump.html>

<http://www.unian.info/politics/1526174-poroshenko-no-more-step-further-until-russia-honors-donbas-commitments.html>

Putin Says Crimea Not Annexed By Russia, It Was 'Reunified', 17.09.2016

Russian President Vladimir Putin says Moscow did not annex the Ukrainian peninsula of Crimea in 2014 but claimed it was "reunified" with Russia. Putin said at a Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) summit in the Kyrgyz capital on September 16 that actions by the Ukrainian government were the "root cause" for what happened to Crimea. "Russia did not annex anything," he said, in response to comments made by Ukrainian Ambassador to Kyrgyzstan Mikolay Doroshenko. "Whatever happened with Crimea is the result of unlawful actions of certain political forces in Ukraine who had brought the situation to a state coup." Moscow forcibly annexed Crimea shortly after thousands of unmarked Russian soldiers landed on the peninsula in early 2014. The action was widely condemned by many Western countries and in an overwhelming vote by the UN General Assembly. Doroshenko, who represented Ukraine at the CIS summit in Bishkek, raised objections to two items on the bloc's agenda, including handing the CIS presidency to Russia because he said Moscow's annexation of Crimea had breached international laws.

<http://www.rferl.org/content/putin-says-crimea-not-annexed-was-reunified-with-russia/27996702.html>

Putin says ready to become "guarantor of agreements" between Kyiv, militants, 18.09.2016

"What we can do is to create the conditions for the negotiation process and participate in it as mediators and guarantors of the agreements reached. That is what we can, want, and will do if our partners in Kyiv want it," RIA Novosti quoted Putin as saying.

<http://uaposition.com/latest-news/putin-ready-guarantor-agreements-kyiv-militants/>

EU does not recognize Russian elections in occupied Crimea – statement, 19.09.2016

"The European Union has not recognised the illegal annexation of Crimea and Sevastopol by the Russian Federation and therefore does not recognise the holding of elections in the Crimean peninsula," the statement reads. The EU also notes that the OSCE/ODIHR Election Observation Mission did not conduct any activities in the illegally-annexed territories of Crimea and Sevastopol. "Participation of EU Member States' diplomats in observation activities within the framework of the OSCE/ODIHR monitoring mission was also limited to the recognised territory of the Russian Federation, which does not include the illegally-annexed territories. The European Union remains unwavering in its support for the territorial integrity and sovereignty of Ukraine," reads the statement.

<http://uaposition.com/latest-news/eu-recognize-russian-elections-occupied-crimea-statement/>

<http://www.meganeewsweb.com/en/news/breaking-news-v-evroparlamente-ne-primut-ni-odnogo-deputata-gosdumy-rf-iz-brannogo-po-krymu---deputat-ep>

<http://www.unian.info/world/1529596-eu-does-not-recognize-russian-elections-in-occupied-crimea-statement.html>

Lethal aid for Ukraine way to resolve Donbas conflict – MEP, 19.09.2016

The Minsk agreements are initially ineffective, according to the MEP. Stetina added that it was necessary to strengthen sanctions against Russia. Jaromir Stetina holds the position of deputy head of EP's Subcommittee on Security and Defence. He and two other MEPs, Rebecca Harms and Michel Boni, on Monday visited Maryinka checkpoint in Donbas, using an opportunity to talk to those crossing the demarcation line.

<http://www.unian.info/war/1529133-lethal-aid-for-ukraine-way-to-resolve-donbas-conflict-mep.html>

OSCE official confirms agreement on disengagement in Donbass signed, 21.09.2016

"I would like to share good news," the OSCE special representative in the Contact Group, Martin Sajdik has told reporters in Minsk. "A document on the disengagement of manpower and materiel has just been signed by the representatives of Ukraine and Russia and initialed by Donetsk and Lugansk delegates. A security zone will be created in three disengagement sections: Zolotoye, Petrovskoye and Luganskaya. The text of the document will be published later today on the website of the country that holds the OSCE presidency."

<http://tass.com/world/901252>

OSCE to monitor situation in Donbas round the clock – Ukrainian security envoy, 22.09.2016

"For the first time, and it is very important, the OSCE has undertaken to monitor the situation round the clock. This means that we will know absolutely exactly who has broken the [Minsk] agreements and when," Marchuk said. The disengagement agreements between the parties to the Donbas conflict foresee "the blocking of violations," he said. "After three months` work and numerous approvals, we have listed absolutely all types of violation, including the ones that are not connected with war," Marchuk said. "These are, for example, the presence of unauthorized persons in the zone of disengagement and obstacles to OSCE monitors` work when they are denied access to a facility where and when they want to," he explained.

<http://uaposition.com/latest-news/osce-monitor-situation-donbas-round-clock-ukrainian-security-envoy/>

PACE report: "War" in Ukraine, not "conflict", 22.09.2016

"PACE Migration Committee has agreed to a proposal to change the title of its report. Now, instead of a faceless term "conflict in Ukraine" there comes a clear recognition of the fact: 'war in Ukraine'," the deputy wrote on Facebook. According to the MP, it is not just a word game, but a clear, and also legal, statement of the objective realities of the events in Ukraine.

<http://www.unian.info/politics/1535656-pace-report-war-in-ukraine-not-conflict.html>

Russia "gets hysterical" whenever talks touch upon border issues: Ukraine representative in Minsk, 22.09.2016

Russia categorically opposes the creation of the fifth working subgroup on border issues, Ukraine's envoy to the security subgroup in the Trilateral Contact Group to resolve the Donbas conflict Yevhen Marchuk has told reporters during a Rada briefing Thursday.

<http://www.businessnewsworld.com/news/russia-gets-hysterical-when-ever-talks-touch-upon-border-issues-ukraine-representative-in-minsk.html>

<http://www.unian.info/world/1535756-putin-appoints-ex-duma-speaker-chief-of-foreign-intel.html>

<http://www.unian.info/politics/1535576-russia-gets-hysterical-when-ever-talks-touch-upon-border-issues-ukraine-representative-in-minsk.html>

Biden warns Ukraine on reforms, says EU sanctions on Russia at risk, 22.09.2016

"We know that if they give an excuse to the EU, there are at least five countries right now that want to say 'We want out' of sanctions against Moscow, Biden said, speaking to the Council on Foreign Relations in New York. Biden's comments came a day after he met with Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko at the United Nations, pushing on reforms in Ukraine's energy and justice sectors, while saying conditions had been met for a third U.S. sovereign loan guarantee of up to \$1 billion. Biden said he has spent two to three hours a week on the phone with Ukrainian leaders since the crisis began, urging them to persist with reforms, while also pressuring Germany, France and Italy to hold fast on sanctions.

[http://www.reuters.com/article/us-ukraine-crisis-biden-](http://www.reuters.com/article/us-ukraine-crisis-biden-idUSKCN11S059?utm_campaign=trueAnthem:+Trending+Content&utm_content=57e3586e04d30170f8ae80dd&utm_medium=trueAnthem&utm_source=twitter)

[idUSKCN11S059?utm_campaign=trueAnthem:+Trending+Content&utm_content=57e3586e04d30170f8ae80dd&utm_medium=trueAnthem&utm_source=twitter](http://www.reuters.com/article/us-ukraine-crisis-biden-idUSKCN11S059?utm_campaign=trueAnthem:+Trending+Content&utm_content=57e3586e04d30170f8ae80dd&utm_medium=trueAnthem&utm_source=twitter)

<http://uaposition.com/latest-news/biden-poroshenko-steps-1-blm-loan-guarantee/>

<http://www.reuters.com/article/us-usa-ukraine-reforms-idUSKCN11R03P>

<http://www.cfr.org/united-states/future-us-foreign-policy-conversation-vice-president-joe-biden/p38292>

Turkey does not recognize Russian elections in Crimea, 23.09.2016

Turkish Foreign Ministry said Friday that it does not recognize the results of Russia's parliamentary elections recently held in Crimea. "The results of the elections in Crimea are not legitimate for us," spokesman Tanju Bilgic said in a statement, adding Turkey would continue to support the territorial integrity of Ukraine including Crimea. Elections to the State Duma, Russia's 450-seat lower house of parliament, took place on Sep. 18.

<http://aa.com.tr/en/politics/turkey-does-not-recognize-russian-elections-in-crimea/651228>

Ukraine says peace process at risk without EU sanctions, 23.09.2016

Next month, EU leaders are set to discuss the sanctions on Russia's energy, financial and defense sectors, which were imposed after Moscow annexed Crimea in 2014. Countries with closer ties to Russia, including Cyprus, Italy and Hungary, are pushing to lift some measures or even allow them to expire in January. "The Minsk peace deal is under threat. If there are no sanctions, there is no way to pressure Russia to respect the process in any way," Vadym Prystaiko said of the accord sealed in 2015 in the capital of Belarus. "For now, Russian-backed separatists have agreed to a ceasefire. But with one telephone call, Moscow can reverse the situation," Prystaiko told.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/us-ukraine-crisis-sanctions-idUSKCN11T10A>

Poroshenko's office: Anti-Russia sanctions, EU visa-free travel for Ukraine not correlated, 23.09.2016

"There is no correlation between the sanctions [against Russia] and a visa-free regime [for Ukraine with the EU]. I would like to remind that the sanctions were introduced because Russia had grossly violated international principles, international law and the UN Charter," Deputy Head of the presidential administration Kostiantyn Yeliseyev said "The sanctions should be lifted only when those principles are respected, when Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity is restored. In particular it concerns Donbas and Crimea. That's why the sanctions are in no way associated with either the visa-free regime, or with the progress of domestic reforms in Ukraine," he said.

<http://www.unian.info/politics/1537551-poroshenkos-office-anti-russia-sanctions-eu-visa-free-travel-for-ukraine-not-correlated.html>

<http://uaposition.com/latest-news/crimea-outpost-deploying-russian-arms-syria-poroshenko/>

National Police chief Dekanoidze urges Ukrainians to trust in police, 26.09.2016

"The most important thing I'd like to tell you... Every person living in our country should be aware of the importance of police officers' work, as the young people's lives are put at risk every day. We must trust in them, for sure. And it should be such trust so that they could feel the great strength of our state and society behind them," she said in Dnipro: "Support the police ... They risk their lives to protect the rule of law. It is very important," she added.

<http://www.unian.info/society/1539277-national-police-chief-dekanoidze-urges-ukrainians-to-trust-in-police.html>

Poroshenko: the Lie is the trump card of Putin, 26.09.2016

"Russia is living in a parallel world. Lying is the trump card of Putin. This behavior is almost impossible, or very difficult to negotiate. If you about something agreed with Putin that it means nothing. Because he is not sticking to its word. And this is not characteristic of a strong leader. A strong leader is responsibility. A strong leader is a positive Outlook for the country. A strong leader is to keep his word. To implement reforms and improve the lives of people," he said, wishing Putin a great leader in all these values. "The main enemy of Russia – United Europe. All parties, who act from a position of euroscepticism, receive financing from Moscow", – he said. The President also drew Parallels between the war in Syria and the Donbass. Poroshenko believes that Russia is using Syria tactic that has been tested before in Ukraine. "First, Russia bombed a UN convoy, which shows that it is a convoy of the UN and not a civilian or a soldier, and all pilots know about it... And then we see Lavrov, and his specific higher school of Russian diplomacy," he said.

<http://x.true-news.info/poroshenko-the-lie-is-the-trump-card-of-putin/>

<http://dailynewsposts.info/poroshenko-trumps-words-on-possible-recognition-of-crimea-as-russian-territory-nothing-but-campaign-rhetoric>

<https://www.kyivpost.com/ukraine-politics/unian-poroshenko-tells-cnn-russia-brings-700-tanks-occupied-donbas-poroshenko-tells-cnn.html>

"Putin playing really tough, long game": Clinton, 27.09.2016

"I think cyber security, cyber warfare will be one of the biggest challenges facing the next president, because clearly we're facing at this point two different kinds of adversaries. There are the independent hacking groups that do it mostly for commercial reasons to try to steal information that they can use to make money. But increasingly, we are seeing cyber attacks coming from states, organs of states," Clinton said during the first televised debate with her opponent from the Republican Party Donald Trump. "We need to make it very clear – whether it's Russia, China, Iran or anybody else – the United States has much greater capacity. And we are not going to sit idly by and permit state actors to go after our information, our private-sector information or our public-sector information," Clinton added.

<http://www.unian.info/world/1541691-putin-is-playing-really-tough-long-game-clinton.html>

Israel's president accused the Ukrainians and the OUN in the murder of Jews during the Second World War, 27.09.2016

Israeli President Reuven Rivlin accused the Ukrainians and the Organization of Ukrainian Nationalists (OUN) in the massacres and persecution of the Jews during the Second World War. He stated this at the parliamentary hearings in the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine, devoted to the 75th anniversary of the Babyn Yar tragedy.

"About 1.5 million Jews were killed in the territory of modern Ukraine during the Second World War, at Babi Yar, and many other places. They were shot in the forest near the gullies and ditches, pushed into mass graves. Many Ukrainians were accomplices of the crime. And among them are particularly distinguished fighters of the OUN, which mocked Jewish, killed them, and in many cases, were given to the Germans, "- said Reuven Rivlin.

"It is true that there were more than 2.5 thousand Righteous among the Nations - those few sparks that burned brightly during the dark twilight of humanity. However, most silent, - said Rivlin.

<http://newsme.com.ua/en/ukraine/politic/3546595/>

Israeli President's speech is 'spit on the soul' – Ukraine's Nationalists' Leader, 28.09.2016

Bohdan Chevach, the leader of the Organization of Ukrainian Nationalists, has slammed Israeli President Reuven Rivlin's recent speech on the organization's involvement in the Holocaust.

'What Israeli President did was spit on the souls of Ukrainians. To blame the OUN of a Holocaust, to do it during the Parliament's session dedicated to the 75th anniversary of the Babi Yar tragedy, it means to disdain the Ukrainian nation', Chevach posted on Facebook.

He also presented a list of the OUN members, who he said 'had died for Ukraine' in 1941-1943 and were buried in the Babi Yar.

'They are heroes to us. We live in our own country thanks to them. Nobody should vilify their memory', he said, calling on the Ukrainian Jews to 'convince Rivlin' not to read and watch Russian media.

<http://uatoday.tv/politics/israeli-president-s-speech-is-spit-in-the-soul-ukraine-s-nationalists-leader-755053.html>

Marchuk on Minsk accords: better to have imperfect agreement than nothing, 28.09.2016

"Even when there is no final decision yet about the end of war in Donbas and the withdrawal of Russian troops, all steps, and agreements on at least a partial "unloading" of the front line should be implemented, as they significantly reduce the number of dead and wounded – both military and civilians," Marchuk wrote on FB. "The Minsk agreements are really imperfect, and I have repeatedly criticized them, especially the Minsk-2. There are critical situations, when it is much better to have an imperfect agreement than to have nothing. Especially when the other party is much stronger than you," he said. "Russia does not officially recognize itself as an aggressor state and does not recognize that its regular forces are in the territory of Ukraine. Russia does not accept and will not accept for consideration any draft contractual document, which will have the slightest hint of its participation in the war in Donbas, as long as Putin denies everything. However, no deal on this issue has any real value without the participation of Russia," Marchuk stressed.

<http://www.unian.info/politics/1543931-marchuk-on-minsk-accords-better-to-have-imperfect-agreement-than-nothing.html>

Director of World Jewish Congress: "Millions of Ukrainians fought against Nazis", 28.09.2016

"We came here today to remember the terrible tragedy that befell the Jews of Kyiv and surrounding areas – it is Babii Yar, the 75th anniversary of the events," Weinbaum said at a briefing in Kyiv, adding that "it was Germany's plans to destroy the Jewish people." He noted that there were many difficulties in Ukraine today. "A lot of obstacles. And it will be very difficult to overcome these problems," he said and thanked the Ukrainian authorities for the organization of ceremonies. Weinbaum noted that millions of Ukrainians had fought against Nazism. "Millions of Ukrainians fought in the armies against the Nazis. And we also have to remember them," he said adding that there were also some local people, who played a negative role, contributing to the worsening of the situation.

<http://www.unian.info/kyiv/1544306-director-of-world-jewish-congress-millions-of-ukrainians-fought-against-nazis.html>

Ukraine gets U.S. diplomatic note on \$1 bln loan guarantees – Poroshenko, 28.09.2016

"Ukraine has received from the U.S. State Department a diplomatic note regarding the loan guarantees worth \$1 billion," the Ukrainian president wrote. According to a copy of the document published on Poroshenko's official Facebook page it speaks of the loan guarantees of the U.S. Government in favor of the Government of Ukraine, which warranted placing Eurobonds September 22 worth \$1 billion at the lowest rate in the history of Ukraine at 1,471% per annum. "All the steps necessary for the entry into force of the Loan Guarantee Agreement between Ukraine and the United States have been completed," Poroshenko said.

<http://uaposition.com/latest-news/ukraine-u-s-diplomatic-note-1-bln-loan-guarantees-poroshenko/>

Kremlin gives no comment whether Russia ready to extradite those responsible for MH17 downing if needed, 28.09.2016

"Hypothetical reasoning in such a serious case is irrelevant. Let's wait for the report," Russian presidential spokesman Dmitry Peskov said answering whether Moscow is ready to hand over for trial in the West its citizens if they are accused by the international investigation. However, he claims that Moscow has always insisted on objective investigation of the MH17 disaster. "In this case, we cannot operate with media reports... it is necessary to wait for the [official] report in order to see the phrasing and what conclusions are made. Russia has been and will remain very open and insist on impartial and thorough investigation of this tragedy," he said.

<http://uaposition.com/latest-news/kremlin-gives-comment-russia-ready-extradite-responsible-mh17-downing-needed/>

<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-37498448>

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2016/sep/28/flight-mh17-shot-down-by-missile-brought-in-from-russia-ukraine-malaysia-airlines>

Tusk tells when EU plans to discuss prolongation of anti-Russian sanctions, 29.09.2016

The president of the European Council Tusk said the EU would continue to discuss ways to ensure full implementation of the Minsk agreements, to be able to reach the actual cease-fire and peace. He added that his role in Europe was to explain to all that Ukraine was a victim of the situation. Europe must continue to support Ukraine. He had suggested to his colleagues to discuss a common strategy in dealing with the situation in October. Tusk expressed hope that as early as this December, the European Council we will be able to continue its policy on the introduction and implementation of sanctions.

<http://www.unian.info/politics/1546106-tusk-tells-when-eu-plans-to-discuss-prolongation-of-anti-russian-sanctions.html>

Merkel, Putin Speak About Ukraine Conflict, Syria, 29.09.2016

The Kremlin said Merkel and Putin had agreed on a schedule for future contacts about Ukraine's conflict under a format that would bring together the leaders of Ukraine, Russia, Germany, and France. The Kremlin said the two discussed the conflict in eastern Ukraine within the framework of "reactivating work for a full implementation of the Minsk agreements." The German government spokesman said Merkel had urged Putin in a September 29 phone call to continue to implement the Minsk peace accord of 2015, which is designed to end the conflict between Ukrainian government forces and Russia-backed separatists in eastern Ukraine.

<http://www.rferl.org/a/germany-russia-putin-merkel-minsk-accord-ukraine/28022946.html>

Speech of the President of Ukraine Petro Poroshenko during the mourning ceremony for commemorating the Babyn Yar victims, 29.09.2016

We gathered today to cast our minds, with a deep pain, back again and feel the tragedy of the past. Not so old past... One could hardly believe that so mass and brutal massacre happened not in the Dark Ages, but in the middle of a civilized, educated, European XX century.

The events, which we are paying tribute to today, belong to several great books simultaneously: the history of Ukraine, the history of the World War II and the history of Jewish nation.

"Babyn Yar is the tragedy of the entire mankind; however it happened on the Ukrainian land.

Therefore, a Ukrainian may not forget it as well as a Jew. Babyn Yar is our common tragedy, the tragedy, primarily, of the Jewish and Ukrainian peoples" – this is the opinion of the great Ukrainian, Ivan Dziuba.

Babyn Yar is a common grave of innocent civilians of various national origins: Jews, Ukrainians, Russians, Roma and others.

However, all of us understand that Babyn Yar is one of the deepest wounds, one of the hardest memoirs about Holocaust... this unprecedented catastrophe in the history of mankind... the attempt to exterminate physically the nation having its roots in the Bible.

During the World War II, the Ukrainians suffered multimillion losses. So, we know well how hearts bleed for the deceased near and dear ones for years and decades. Therefore, Holocaust Memorial will be established in Babyn Yar – we have announced this initiative today.

Talmud says "Whosoever destroys a single life destroys an entire universe, whosoever saves a single life, saves an entire universe." Therefore, we will remember, primarily, numerous examples of solidarity with our Jewish neighbors and fellow countrymen. Yad Vashem have assigned the title of Righteous among the Nations to over two and a half thousand Ukrainians. Everyone rescuing the Jews was under the threat of death punishment.

We, Ukrainians, have people to be proud of. At the same time, we have people to be ashamed of and it is painful, however this can't be razed from the national memory. Zeyev Zhabotynsky wrote about them: "every nation has the right for their scoundrels". In this respect, I expressed my unambiguous opinion last year in my speech to the Knesset, and my evaluations remain in force! Collaborators have left their marks almost in all Nazi-occupied European countries, at the same time they do not represent their people!

So, the Babyn Yar tragedy is a warning to the entire mankind: any regime that sets human rights and freedoms at naught threatens humanity. Our moral duty is to prevent the repeat of crimes against humankind and humanity.

The Jewish community of Ukraine side by side with other citizens of Ukraine stood firmly in defense of our common Homeland. We, Ukrainians, really appreciate and will never forget this fact.

Harmony – this is the word laconically describing present-day relations between the Jews and other ethnicities in Ukraine as well as our country's relations with Israel. That is why we have taken to heart the news about the death of Shimon Peres – a good friend of our state and a world-level politician. In several hours, I am departing to Israel to pay tribute to this foremost statesman of modern times.

Never again – this is our joint position.

Today we only start the memorial events. In the coming two years we will be commemorating and paying tribute to everyone who died on this soil: the Jews, the Roma, the Ukrainian national liberation movement representatives and the captive Red Army soldiers.

I invite you now to bow heads paying tribute to the memory of Babyn Yar victims!

May the memory of the innocent victims live forever.

Glory to the heroes, Righteous among the Nations who risked their lives to rescue the people whose lives were in danger.

May peace and harmony reign forever on the earth of free Ukraine, Europe and the world!

<http://www.president.gov.ua/en/news/vistup-prezidenta-petra-poroshenka-na-zhalobnij-ceremoniyi-z-38337>

President: Prohibition of Mejlis in Crimea is continuation of Stalin's policy, 29.09.2016

"Today, on the day of commemoration of victims of the Babyn Yar tragedy, the Supreme Court of Russia adopted xenophobic decision to ban the Mejlis. The policy of Stalin is alive," Petro Poroshenko said during the mourning ceremony of commemorating the victims of the Babyn Yar tragedy. He noted that only the death of Stalin had saved Jews of the USSR from deportation similar to that experienced by the Crimean Tatars and other ethnic groups. The President emphasized that the Soviet authorities had been suppressing the tragedy of the Babyn Yar for many years and then tried to dissolve its Jewish component in the overall martyrology of the World War II. "Isn't it because Stalin in the depths of his black soul supported the so-called final resolution of the Jewish issue? Immediately after the victory over Nazism the guillotine of repression was launched again. The Jewish Anti-Fascist Committee, the so-called "rootless cosmopolitans" and "doctors-saboteurs" were its first victims," he said.

<http://www.president.gov.ua/en/news/prezident-zaborona-medzhlisu-v-krimu-prodovzhennya-spravi-st-38339>

MH17 'killers' will be brought to justice, says Australian PM Malcolm Turnbull, 29.09.2016

A two-year investigation found close to 100 people were linked to the transport and firing of the missile, and that it had been driven from Russia into an area of eastern Ukraine controlled by Moscow-backed rebels. All 298 people aboard the flight, including 38 Australian citizens or residents, died in the attack. Turnbull said that Australia would continue to pursue Russia over the tragedy. "The perpetrator, the criminals, the killers that did this should be brought to justice," Australia's prime minister, Malcolm Turnbull stated.

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2016/sep/29/mh17-killers-will-be-brought-to-justice-says-australian-pm-malcolm-turnbull>

<http://www.reuters.com/article/us-ukraine-crisis-mh-idUSKCN1201CI?il=0>

"Political game underway": ex-intel chief forecasts possible scenario of Russia, militants in Donbas, 30.09.2016

"There is an ongoing political game: the militants and the Russian government adopted a strategy to blame the Ukrainian side. They have accused us of violating the agreements and they use this in global bargaining regarding the implementation of the Minsk agreements on the Russian scenario. In particular, this is about recognizing the militants as the official party to the talks, adopting legislation in respect of these areas, and holding elections under control of the RF. These are the basic conditions that encourage them to abandon further negotiations regarding three disengagement lines, even more so in a broader group," said Malomuzh. "They blackmail the Ukrainian side. It's mostly about continuing attacks, which they boost, particularly in Luhansk region in the past days. If we go for concessions, there will be less attacks, if we don't – there will be more. This is the tactic of coercing us to follow the scenario they have plotted in relation to these areas," said the ex-chief of Ukraine's intelligence Malomuzh.

<http://www.unian.info/war/1548447-political-game-underway-ex-intel-chief-forecasts-possible-scenario-of-russia-militants-in-donbas.html>

Obama, Merkel urge all sides to start disengagement in Donbas ASAP, 30.09.2016

U.S. President Barack Obama and German Chancellor Angela Merkel have called on all sides to the Donbas conflict to start the process of disengagement of forces and hardware along the contact line as soon as possible, according to the White House press service. President Obama spoke by phone with Chancellor Angela Merkel of Germany on the situations in Ukraine and Syria, according to the statement. "Regarding Ukraine, President Obama expressed strong support for the ongoing efforts of the Normandy Group, led by Germany and France, to determine a way forward that leads to rapid and full implementation of the Minsk Agreements," the statement reads.

"Both leaders urged the parties to continue respecting the cease-fire, begin the disengagement of forces along the line of contact as quickly as possible, and provide international monitors unfettered access to the entire conflict zone," the White House reports.

<http://uaposition.com/latest-news/obama-merkel-urge-sides-start-disengagement-donbas-asap/>

<http://www.unian.info/politics/1548966-kremlin-spo-x-names-conditions-for-holding-normandy-four-meeting.html>

Mejlis ban: Chubarov says Russia to be sued in ECHR, 30.09.2016

"The lawsuit will be filed in the near future, as soon as the lawyers prepare the relevant documents," Chubarov said at a briefing on Friday. According to him, the ban on the Mejlis is a gross violation of fundamental international instruments - the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. Chubarov said that Ukrainian authorities had shown their tough stance on the decision of the Russian Supreme Court. "Today, we expect the statement of the relevant international human rights organizations," he said. Speaking on the Mejlis activity under these conditions, Chubarov said that it was decided in April to coordinate the activities of the Mejlis of the Crimean Tatar people in an emergency mode, therefore eight Mejlis members and the leader of the Crimean Tatar people Mustafa Dzhemilev were given authority.

<http://www.unian.info/politics/1548756-mejlis-ban-chubarov-says-russia-to-be-sued-in-echr.html>

Actions of Ukrainian Authorities

President congratulated intelligence officers on professional holiday: intelligence officers have always been in trouble spots, 07.09.2016

The Head of State noted that military intelligence took an important place in the history of national defense of Ukraine being a stronghold of our statehood and an instrument to defend our national interests from foreign threats. In present complicated conditions, intelligence managed to accumulate its capacities, efficiently redistribute forces and allocate them to the fulfillment of the most important tasks in the struggle against the aggressor. Risking their lives every day, demonstrating resilience, courage and heroism, intelligence officers perform military tasks and methodically reveal criminal activities of Russian occupation troops in Donetsk and Luhansk regions and the Autonomous Republic of Crimea. "Intelligence officers are the elite of nation, elite of the Armed Forces and it is a pity that we cannot show your face to people. This is the price you pay for a very important work for the state," Petro Poroshenko said. The President informed that 162 intelligence officers had been killed and 632 had been wounded during the ATO. The attendees honored memory of the fallen heroes with a moment of silence.

<http://www.president.gov.ua/en/news/tam-de-bulo-garyache-zavzhdi-buli-voyini-rozvidniki-preziden-38099>

U.S. agrees to help enhance Ukrainian forces, dispatches adviser, 08.09.2016

The US and Ukraine agreed to cooperate on defense technology and improve Ukraine's forces in a move aimed at boosting Ukrainian defense and enhancing U.S. assistance, the Pentagon said. U.S. Defense Secretary Ash Carter and Ukrainian Defense Minister Stepan Poltorak signed the partnership agreement at a meeting in London in which they also discussed the conflict in eastern Ukraine, where Ukrainian government forces confront Russian-backed separatists. The partnership aims "to enhance the defense capacity of Ukraine's forces, advance critical Ukrainian defense reforms, improve resource management processes and boost defense technology cooperation," the Pentagon said in a statement following the meeting.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/us-usa-ukraine-defense-idUSKCN11E1MS>

President meets with OSCE Secretary General: We must fully use OSCE potential for restoration of peace in Donbas and de-occupation of Crimea, 10.09.2016

"Today, the OSCE faces unprecedented challenge when the aggression of one state-participant against Ukraine has virtually invalidated heritage of the Helsinki Final Act," Petro Poroshenko said. The parties discussed the intensification of the international presence in the region, first of all, through the deployment of the OSCE armed police mission in Donbas. The President drawn attention to continuous Russia's supply of military equipment, armament, regular troops and mercenaries across the uncontrolled part of the Ukraine-Russia state border. Thus, the key value is attached to the fulfillment of the Minsk agreements' provisions regarding the establishment of constant monitoring over the temporarily uncontrolled area of the state border by the OSCE.

<http://www.president.gov.ua/en/news/neobhidno-maksimalno-zadivati-potencial-organizaciyi-dlya-vi-38111>

http://en.censor.net.ua/news/405375/poroshenko_dismisses_head_of_kyiv_regional_state_administration_maksym_melnychuk

<http://ukraine.timesofnews.com/poroshenko-instructs-klimkin-notify-russia-it-impossible-to-hold-state-duma-elections-in-ukraine.html>

Deputy Chairman of Kyiv Regional Administration Ihor Liubko was detained for bribing, 10.09.2016

“September 9, the officers of the National Police of Ukraine and the Prosecutor General’s Office of Ukraine detained Deputy Chairman of Kyiv Regional Administration Ihor Liubko, who through the mediator – head of healthcare department of Kyiv Regional Administration Yuri Pudenko – demanded and received a UAH 200,000 bribe from his subordinate for an unhampered transfer of her to another public agency,” he wrote. The Minister added that a month ago Liubko jointly with governor Melnychuk received unconfirmed information that the head of the agricultural department of the administration had paid UAH 15 million as compensation under a budget-funded program to farmers. “They believed that this sum could not be paid without a kickback and they demanded a part of the sum that allegedly the head of the department received and they threatened to fire her,” the minister said.

<http://www.ukrinform.net/rubric-crime/2080888-deputy-chairman-of-kyiv-regional-administration-detained-for-bribing.html>

Poroshenko asks G7, EU to keep sanctions against Russia until Ukraine`s full sovereignty, 12.09.2016

Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko stresses the need for maintaining sanctions against Russia until Ukraine`s sovereignty and territorial integrity have fully been restored, according to the presidential administration`s press service. “Sanctions-based pressure on Moscow demonstrates its effectiveness and must continue until the full restoration of sovereignty and territorial integrity of our state,” he said at a meeting with G7 and European Union ambassadors on Monday, the press service said. He reaffirmed Ukraine`s commitments to political and diplomatic ways of the settlement of the Donbas crisis. At the current stage, its efforts should be aimed at making the Russian side implement the security provisions of the Minsk agreement, he said.

<http://uaposition.com/latest-news/poroshenko-asks-g7-eu-sanctions-russia-ukraines-full-sovereignty/>

Lutsenko told about the criminal case against Avakov and the conflict with NABU, 14.09.2016

According to him, the reason for this was a letter from the head of the Center of counteraction of corruption Vitaly Shabunin. «I get a day (letters) from several dozen people, including from Shabunina, according to the letter which similarly opened a criminal case, you will not believe who, the Minister of internal Affairs Avakov, because all the same. All addresses in the GPU have the same procedural status,» — said Lutsenko. On the eve of Secretary of national security Council and defense of Ukraine Oleksandr Turchynov denied the rumors about his possible appointment as Minister of internal Affairs is Arsen Avakov – according to him, they are the next planned provocation. According to him, September 12, via a separate media were committed another information sabotage of the Russian propaganda machine on Ukrainian territory: «the work Style of the Kremlin provocateurs and their preparation remain the same — to destabilize Ukraine from within, to create artificial conflicts and to sow distrust». Turchynov noted that recently, using the same tactics of Russian agents shook the government coalition, pitting the previous Prime Minister with his possible successors, «Then «analysts» sent me over the Government.»

<http://en.reporter-ua.ru/lutsenko-told-about-the-criminal-case-against-avakov-and-the-conflict-with-nabu.html>

9,000 convicts released from Ukrainian prison under "Savchenko law" – police, 16.09.2016

A total of 34,000 prisoners will be released under the so-called "Savchenko law" during 2016, while 9,000 people have already left penitentiary facilities, Deputy Chief of the National Police Vadym Troyan wrote. According to him, one in ten of those, who had been released from prison under "Savchenko law", were detained, and half of them were arrested again. The National police stressed that the Verkhovna Rada had to urgently make legislative changes to the law. "The most important thing is to choose the category of criminals to whom this law will not apply (murderers, rapists, repeat offenders, etc.)," the report says.

<http://uaposition.com/latest-news/9000-convicts-released-ukrainian-prison-savchenko-law-police/>

Zhemchuhov and Suprun released from captivity, - Poroshenko, 17.09.2016

"Yurii Suprun and Volodymyr Zhemchuhov were released from the captivity. They will be provided with necessary medical assistance. We continue to struggle for the liberation of all Ukrainians," Poroshenko wrote. Zhemchuhov, who is not a military, was held by militants since fall of 2015. Zhemchuhov was captured after tripping a mine and accused of subversive activities; "DPR" militants were reluctant to exchange him. Zhemchuhov's hands, eyes, abdomen and thighs were wounded in the explosion. Militants have also accused him of undermining railway tracks and power lines. Apprehension of Yurii Suprun, personal representative of the UN in Donetsk, was announced on April 13. According to "DPR" militants, he entered into the occupied territory without permission and was involved in battles in the Donbas. The United Nations has called on militants to immediately release Suprun.

http://en.censor.net.ua/video_news/406460/zhemchuhov_and_suprun_released_from_captivity_poroshenko_video_in_russian

SBU official specifies prisoner swap formula, 22.09.2016

The Russian-backed militants in the occupied Donbas confirmed their readiness to hand 47 hostages over to Ukraine, according to Yuriy Tandit, the adviser to the head of the SBU Security Service of Ukraine, LIGA.net reports. "Luhansk and Donetsk have confirmed that they are ready to give back 47 people," said Tandit. According to him, 618 people were identified from the list, whom the militants want Ukraine to return. "It would be incorrect to say that there will be a 618 for 47 exchange because we will only hand over those whom we can, according to laws," said Tandit. He clarified that the status of all 618 individuals and their location are being established. "Some of them do not want to go back there [to the occupied Donbas]," he said. The adviser to the SBU chief said that on August 3, an agreement was reached to swap prisoners according to an all-for-all formula.

<http://uaposition.com/latest-news/sbu-official-specifies-prisoner-swap-formula/>

Ukraine's ambassador asks London to tackle Kremlin-backed propagandist Phillips, 23.09.2016

Ambassador of Ukraine to the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland Natalia Galibarenko has posted an open letter, asking London to tackle Kremlin-backed propagandist, British national Graham Phillips after his attempt to verbally attack and abuse a Ukrainian handicapped hostage amid a swap operation with self-proclaimed republics in Donbas.

<http://www.breakingnewspoint.com/story/3654554/ukraines-ambassador-asks-london-to-tackle-kremlinbacked-propagandist-phillips.html>

Poroshenko signs decree on demobilization of sixth wave of Ukraine troops, 26.09.2016

President of Ukraine Petro Poroshenko has signed a decree on the demobilization of servicemen, who were mobilized during the sixth wave. "The servicemen, who were mobilized during the so-called 'sixth wave', will return home until the end of October. I have signed the relevant decree," Poroshenko wrote.

The President emphasized that as soon as the servicemen of "the sixth wave" were dismissed, only contractor soldiers would remain on the front. "This is another step towards a professional army," the Head of State noted.

<http://www.ukrinform.net/rubric-defense/2090359-poroshenko-signs-decree-on-demobilization-of-servicemen-of-sixth-wave.html>

SBU exposes attempt of 'silent federalization' in Lviv region, 27.09.2016

The SBU with the National Police and the prosecutor's office in Lviv region detained a perpetrator who had tried to give a \$50,000 bribe to a high-ranking official of the Lviv Regional Council, according to the SBU's press center. "The money was proposed in exchange for submission to the council's vote of a draft resolution to appeal to the president of Ukraine, prime minister, and Rada speaker on granting Lviv region a special economic status and transferring powers to set utility tariffs to local governments. Such appeals are an integral part of the project of the so-called "concealed federalization of Ukraine," the report says.

<http://strichka.com/article/52845476>

Judicial reform launched in Ukraine, 30.09.2016

According to the amendments, the Parliament is now authorized to create and eliminate judicial institutions, instead of the President of Ukraine. Higher specialized courts will be abolished, but the Supreme Court will remain – all of its judges will be changed, according to Ukrainian news service TSN. Judges will also see an increase in wages but their immunity will be limited. However, this will only apply to committing a crime, such as a bribe, or an accident, but not the rulings issued. The High Council of Justice will be replaced by the High Council of Jurisdiction. It will give consent to the detention, arrest and dismissal of judges. The "violation of the oath" will be excluded from the possible reasons for dismissal.

<http://www.unian.info/politics/1548196-judicial-reform-launched-in-ukraine-today.html>

General Viktor Muzhenko held talks with Alexander Hugh, 30.09.2016

General of the Army of Ukraine Viktor Muzhenko, Chief of General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine, held talks with Mr Alexander Hugh, Chief Monitor, OSCE Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine. The parties discussed the issues of implementation of agreements on parties and weapons withdrawal achieved by participants of the Trilateral Contact Group during meeting in Minsk on September 21. "We praise the efforts of the OSCE for conflict settlement in the east of Ukraine. Meanwhile, withdrawal of troops and heavy weaponry is possible in case of the complete ceasefire. The Ukrainian troops observe the truce, but the enemy keeps on shelling and executing provocations," Gen. Muzhenko said.

<http://www.mil.gov.ua/en/news/2016/09/30/general-viktor-muzhenko-held-talks-with-alexander-hugh/>

Terrorism / Separatism

Latest from OSCE Special Monitoring Mission (SMM) to Ukraine, 01.07.2015

The SMM monitored the implementation of the "Package of measures for the implementation of the Minsk agreements". Its monitoring was restricted by third parties and security considerations*. The fighting at and around Donetsk airport continued with increased intensity compared to previous days. The security situation within Shyrokyne deteriorated during the day. The fighting at and around Donetsk airport continued with increased intensity compared to the previous days. Between 9:03 and 13:00hrs, at the Joint Centre for Control and Co-ordination (JCCC) observation point at Donetsk central railway station ("Donetsk People's Republic" ("DPR")-controlled, 8km north-west of Donetsk city centre), the SMM heard and saw 168 explosions consistent with mainly mortar and tanks rounds. Of those, 109 explosions occurred north and north-west of Spartak and of Donetsk airport (both "DPR"-controlled), in the area between government-controlled and Opytne, Butrovska mine and Muraveynyk (both government-controlled) at a distance of 3-7km from the SMM position. Another 39 explosions occurred 10-15km north-east of the SMM position.

<http://www.osce.org/ukraine-smm/168011>

Russia 'plans troop surge in Ukraine', 02.09.2016

Russia is preparing to increase the number of troops it has deployed to east Ukraine by a third as part of a long-term strategy to destroy the country, according to a senior Ukrainian commander. In an interview with The Times, Colonel-General Viktor Muzhenko said that the Kremlin was funnelling more soldiers over the border while amassing tens of thousands of new troops in Crimea and in the southwest of Ukraine. "We are not talking about weak and uncontrolled insurgent groups," he said. "There is a military hierarchy among them with a robust command and control system.

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/world/russia-plans-troop-surge-in-ukraine-ftj9pwzf3>

Ukraine intel names fifty Russian officers fighting for militants in Donbas, 04.09.2016

Ukrainian intelligence officers have established the identity of Russian officers serving in the 5th separate motorized rifle brigade (military unit 08805, Makiyivka) of the 1st Army Corps of Donetsk of the Center of regional forces in Novochoerkassk of the Southern Military District (Rostov-on-Don) of the armed forces of the Russian Federation. According to the report, these Russian military officers directly supervise the preparation and conduct of military operations in the Volnovakha area that are aimed at disrupting the Minsk agreements, along with the destruction of the civilian infrastructure in Donbas.

Further, intelligence has determined that on June 9, 2016, a tank unit from the 5th separate motorized rifle brigade fired upon the village of Novotroyitske, resulting in fires and the destruction of civilian homes. Eighteen Russian officers have been identified as being part of the 1st tank battalion of the brigade.

<http://uatoday.tv/politics/ukraine-intel-names-fifty-russian-officers-fighting-for-militants-in-donbas-photos-739885.html>

"No casualties in Ukraine's army for three days straight," - ATO spokesperson, 04.09.2016

"No Ukrainian soldier was killed or wounded yesterday," Presidential Administration spokesperson on ATO matters Andrii Lysenko said. "The situation in the ATO area remains stable. No casualties have been reported in Ukraine's army for three days in a row, the number of cease-fire violations by the enemy remains low," the official said. As also noted, no heavy weaponry has been employed since Sept. 1.

http://en.censor.net.ua/news/404423/no_casualties_in_ukraines_army_for_three_days_straight_ato_spokesperson

Russian proxies attack Ukraine 20 times in 24 hours amid "truce", 05.09.2016

Combined Russian-separatist forces attacked Ukrainian army positions in eastern Ukraine 20 times in the past 24 hours: 13 times in the Mariupol sector, six times in the Donetsk sector and once in the Luhansk sector, according to the ATO press center HQ. In the Donetsk sector, the Russian-backed forces carried out provocative attacks from heavy machine-guns and small arms.

<http://uatoday.tv/politics/russian-proxies-attack-ukraine-20-times-in-24-hours-amid-truce-740330.html>

General Staff Preparing Reservists For Full Scale Russian Military Aggression, 05.09.2016

"The General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine has set up an operational military reserve of 85,000 people with combat experience and a high level of psychological readiness (80%) to defend the Ukrainian nation. We are starting the drills with reservists in nine combat brigades of all operational command of the Armed Forces of Ukraine," Muzhenko wrote. Some 8,000 people will be fulfilling training and combat tasks as part of their units, along with contracted troops. It is noted that the purpose of the drills is to maintain combat readiness and skills of the reservists, to develop approaches and mechanisms for rapid resupply of combat brigades with manpower in case of the full-scale Russian aggression. The chief of General Staff added that there was an urgent need for an exchange of experience between reservists and contractors.

<http://newstrendz.net/news/General-Staff-preparing-reservists-for-full-scale-Russian-military-aggression/>

<http://www.unian.info/war/1506288-general-staff-reveals-structure-of-russian-occupation-forces-in-donbas-infographics.html>

38 vessels were fined in Ukraine for visiting Crimea, 07.09.2016

"The crews of 38 vessels suspected of entering the ports of the temporarily occupied territory of Crimea have been already prosecuted totaling almost 240 thousand UAH," said the statement of the Border Guard Service of Ukraine. At that, the Border Guard Service does not specify when those ships visited Crimea. It was previously reported on an investigation carried out by Ukrainian law-enforcement bodies of four criminal cases concerning illegal visits the annexed Crimea by seagoing vessels. According to the State Hydrographic Service of Ukraine, the Ministry of Infrastructure of Ukraine and the NGO Maidan of Foreign Affairs, the Crimean ports were visited by 631 vessels as of August 2016. Most of them — 352 were vessels under the Russian flag or with the Russian registration. Total 97 ships with the Ukrainian registration and flag and 28 under the flags of EU countries entered Crimea.

<http://en.sobytya.info/38-vessels-were-fined-in-ukraine-for-visiting-crimea.html>

Russia hit problems recruiting for war in Donbas, Tymchuk says, 08.09.2016

Russia's military commanders over the "LNR" and "DNR" regimes are increasingly concerned about the inability of the two to recruit reliable people from the local population, but the view of these officials that local people are little more than "cannon fodder" is a major reason why the Russians now face difficulties in recruitment, Dmytro Tymchuk says. The coordinator of the Information Resistance group says Russian curators are worried not only about recruiting more people but also about the low quality, alcoholism, drug abuse and desertion among those already serving in the "militias."

Efforts by the "LNR" and "DNR" to institute a draft have failed Tymchuk says. And as a result, "the Russian curators of the illegal 'republics' have organized so-called contract service," a euphemism for those who will agree to fight for the military units of these two "republics" for money from Moscow. But that program too has suffered from "big problems," given that forming militia bands is one thing while forming a real military force is something else and that the kind of skills needed for many types of military units are far beyond the capacity of those who are recruited in this way.

<http://euromaidanpress.com/2016/09/10/97383/>

Ukrainian border guards accuse Russian Black Sea Navy Fleet's ships of 'dangerous maneuvers', 08.09.2016

The Ukrainian State Border Guard Service has reported the incident with the Podillia marine security guard ship and Russian Armed Forces combat ships and aircraft, which, according to the service, occurred in the northwestern area of Ukraine's exclusive naval economic zone on Wednesday. "The representatives of Naftogaz Ukrainy, Chornomornaftogaz, the State Ecology Inspection and other agencies were on the Ukrainian ship for the purpose of collecting the evidence "on the facts of aggression, seizure of objects and property of Ukraine and Russia's illegal activities in the vicinity of Holytsynske and Odeske gas fields," the Ukrainian State Border Service said. "During Podillia's passing from the Karkinit Bay and further approach to the Holytsynske and Odeske gas fields, the Russian Armed Forces combat ships and aircraft conducted dangerous maneuvers in violation of generally accepted principles, provisions and rules of international law, preventing the lawful actions of the marine security ship. Thus, a Russian Sukhoi Su-24 fighter plane flew over the Podillia ship dangerously close several times," the report said.

<http://en.interfax.com.ua/news/general/368646.html>

"Ceasefire" in Donbas: Militants fire 120mm mortars in Mariupol sector, 09.09.2016

In the Mariupol sector, the militants fired 120mm and 82mm mortars at the villages of Shyrokyne, Talakivka and Vodiane. In addition, they fired artillery at Shyrokyne. "In the Donetsk sector, provocative attacks by Russian-occupation forces occurred near the town of Avdiyivka, and the villages of Verkhniotoretske and Novhorodske, where the enemy used machine guns, small arms and rocket-propelled grenades," the report says. In the Luhansk sector, Russia's hybrid military force fired small arms, machine guns and rocket-propelled grenades on the villages of Novo-Oleksandrivka and Novozvanivka. A sniper also attacked Ukrainian positions near the town of Popasna and the village of Novo-Oleksandrivka. Despite the militant's provocative actions, the Armed Forces of Ukraine unswervingly adhere to the Minsk agreements.

<http://www.unian.info/war/1511959-ceasefire-in-donbas-militants-fire-120mm-mortars-in-mariupol-sector.html>

LPR militants block OSCE access to two villages – Ukraine intel, 09.09.2016

The militants of the so-called Luhansk People's Republic terrorist organization have denied the OSCE SMM observers access to the villages of Pionerske and Mykolaivka in the temporarily occupied territory of Luhansk region. "The command of the 2nd Army Corps (Luhansk) of the Armed Forces of the Russian Federation continues to hamper the activities of the OSCE SMM. On September 8, the observers of the mission were denied access to the villages of Pionerske and Mykolaivka (liability lane of the 2nd separate motorized rifle brigade (Luhansk) of the 2nd Army Corps)," the Main Directorate of Intelligence of Ukraine's Defense Ministry reported.

<http://uaposition.com/latest-news/lpr-militants-block-osce-access-villages-ukraine-intel/>

Russian proxies violate "ceasefire" 30 times in past 24 hours, 10.09.2016

"In the Luhansk sector, the enemy fired machine guns, small arms and rocket-propelled grenades. In addition, a sniper was active in Novo-Oleksandrivka," the headquarters said. "The militants also fired 120mm and 82mm mortars. The Russian-occupation forces used rocket-propelled grenades and small arms," the report says. The Ukrainian army spotted 12 enemy drones in the Donbas conflict zone. "Despite provocative militant actions, the Armed Forces of Ukraine unwaveringly adhere to the Minsk agreements," the press center said.

<http://www.unian.info/war/1514068-russian-proxies-violate-ceasefire-30-times-in-past-24-hours.html>

<http://www.unian.info/war/1514989-russian-soldier-detained-in-donbas-testifies-ukraine-intel.html>

Donbas heating up: Militants increase number of shellings, 12.09.2016

The shellings were mostly unsighted, only aiming to provoke the return of fire by the Armed Forces of Ukraine, but Ukrainian defenders steadily adhered to the Minsk agreements. 20 violations of the "silence" were recorded in the Mariupol direction. The enemy resorted to armed provocations outside Vodiane, where it fired on the Ukrainian strongholds from 122-mm artillery, banned under the Minsk agreements, while shooting at the defenders of Shyrokyne from 80-mm mortars. Also, the militants opened fire from a BMP-2 infantry fighting vehicle in Shyrokyne, while Hranitne, Mariinka, Starohnativka, Shyrokyne, and Talakivka were fired upon from grenade launchers, machine guns, and small arms. Nine ceasefire violations were recorded in the Luhansk direction. The occupants shelled Oleksandrivka from infantry combat vehicles, an anti-tank missile system, grenade launchers, also firing machine guns and small arms.

<http://www.unian.info/war/1515654-donbas-heating-up-militants-increase-number-of-shellings.html>

Ukrainian forces attacked in Donbas 35 times in 24 hrs, shelled with heavy artillery, 13.09.2016

"Over the 24 hours, the Russian occupation forces opened fire on Ukrainian defenders' positions 35 times," the ATO HQ wrote. Nine violations were reported in the Mariupol sector. Militants used 122mm artillery systems, which are banned by the Minsk agreement, to shell ATO forces in the village of Chermalyk. Ukrainian troops in the village of Shyrokyne and the town of Krasnohorivka came under 82mm mortar fire. Further, grenade launchers, machine-guns and small arms were used to fire on the villages of Hranitne, Shyrokyne, Starohnativka, and the town of Maryinka.

<http://en.interfax.com.ua/news/general/369583.html>

<http://www.newshubspot.com/update/2282443/jccc-ukraine-ready-to-observe-donbas-truce-with-no-time-limit.html>

"Ceasefire" in Donbas: militants increase number of attacks, sniper groups involved, 14.09.2016

In the Donetsk sector, the enemy fired rocket-propelled grenades, machine guns, and small arms on the Ukrainian positions in the town of Avdiivka, and the villages of Novoselivka Druha, Verkhniotoretske, Zaitseve, Novhorodske and Luhanske. In addition, the occupiers opened fire from 120mm and 82mm mortars on the town of Svitlodarsk and the villages of Luhanske, Zaitseve, Pisky, and Butivka coal mine. Also, to inflict moral and psychological pressure on the ATO forces, enemy sniper groups were involved near Avdiivka and Verkhniotoretske. In the Luhansk sector, the militants resorted to armed provocations near the villages of Novozvanivka and Novo-Oleksandrivka where they fired rocket-propelled grenades, machine guns, and small arms. They also opened fire from infantry fighting vehicles on Novozvanivka. Sniper groups were active there as well. In the Mariupol sector, Russia's hybrid military forces resorted to armed provocations and fired from infantry fighting vehicles and grenade launchers on the village of Shyrokyne, as well as grenade launchers and small arms on the villages of Pavlopil, Novotroyitske, Shyrokyne, and Starohnativka. At about 23:00 Kyiv time, the occupiers started firing 120mm mortars on the villages of Lebedynske and Berdianske. A sniper was active in the town of Maryinka.

<http://uaposition.com/latest-news/ceasefire-donbas-militants-increase-number-attacks-sniper-groups-involved/>

Russian proxies attack Ukraine 50 times in last day, use 152mm artillery, MBT, 15.09.2016

Combined Russian-separatist forces attacked Ukrainian army positions in eastern Ukraine 50 times in the past 24 hours, including 20 times in the Mariupol sector, 26 times in the Donetsk sector and four times in the Luhansk sector, according to the ATO press center HQ.

<http://www.technewscoverage.com/news/russian-proxies-attack-ukraine-50-times-in-last-day-use-152mm-artillery-mbt.html>

No full ceasefire: Donbas militants open fire in Avdiyivka, 15.09.2016

The militants fired rocket-propelled grenades twice on the Avdiyivka industrial zone since the beginning of the day, the press officer of the Donetsk sector Oleksandr Zavtonov said. "Since 00:00 Kyiv time, the situation in the area of responsibility of the Donetsk operational-tactical group has calmed down sharply, though not for a long time. As of 06:00, we have recorded two shots from rocket-propelled grenades, a heavy machine gun, and small arms near the Avdiyivka industrial zone," he said.

<http://uaposition.com/latest-news/full-ceasefire-donbas-militants-open-fire-avdiyivka/>

<http://www.unian.info/war/1524513-ato-hq-russian-proxies-attack-ukraine-30-times-in-last-day.html>

30 Russian attacks, snipers active outside Donetsk, Mariupol – ATO report, 17.09.2016

Russian militants started engaging more often the snipers armed with long-range sniper rifles in the Donetsk and Mariupol directions, the ATO Headquarters wrote. Over the past 24 hours, the Russian-occupation forces opened fire 30 times on positions of Ukrainian defenders, with no heavy weaponry use recorded, according to the report.

In particular, 16 violations of ceasefire were recorded in the Donetsk direction. The enemy fired small arms and machine guns in the areas of Avdiyivka, Kamyanka, Novoselivka Druha, and Zaitseve. Grenade launchers were fired on Dutivka Mine, Toretske, and Avdiyivka. 10 violations of "silence regime" were recorded in the Mariupol direction. The enemy opened fire from machine guns and small arms in the areas of Maryinka, Starohnativka, Novotroitske, Shyrokyne and Talakivka.

<http://uaposition.com/latest-news/30-russian-attacks-snipers-active-donetsk-mariupol-ato-report/>

Russian embassy in Kyiv attacked with firecrackers overnight, 17.09.2016

A group of unidentified persons threw fireworks at the building of the Russian embassy in Kyiv in the early hours of Saturday. A video showing the group "firing" at the embassy was published on Reuters Youtube channel. The video shows masked protesters holding a poster saying "Russian pigs, you are not welcome here. Today, it's fireworks, tomorrow it'll be 'Grads'." Some 20 people can be seen outside the building, that including reporters and law enforcers. As reported earlier the Russian diplomats are planning to open a polling station for the elections to the State Duma on Sunday, September 18, despite the ban imposed by the Ukrainian authorities on such a move. Earlier Ukraine's Foreign Minister Pavlo Klimkin said that Ukraine may recall its delegation from PACE if the elections held in Crimea are recognized.

<http://www.unian.info/kyiv/1526439-russian-embassy-in-kyiv-attacked-with-firecrackers-overnight.html>

<http://www.unian.info/politics/1526724-incident-outside-russian-embassy-in-kyiv-reactions.html>

Ukraine reports 26 attacks in Donetsk region in last day amid lull in Luhansk, 19.09.2016

In the last day, there were 12 instances of the violation of the ceasefire in the Donetsk sector alone, the ATO HQ wrote. The enemy used 120mm mortars, grenade launchers, machine-guns, and small arms to attack areas near the town of Avdiyivka. The villages of Verkhniotoretsky, Nyzhne Lozove and Novhorodske came under fire from grenade launchers and small arms. What was more, the enemy used an 82mm mortar and an anti-aircraft gun to shell Nyzhne Lozove. The Mariupol sector, which is also in Donetsk region, saw 14 barrages. The enemy opened fire from grenade launchers, machine-guns, small arms near the villages of Talakivka, Pavlopil, the town of Maryinka and the village of Shyrokyne. An infantry fighting vehicle was also used to shell Ukrainian troops near Talakivka. There was a lull in Luhansk sector.

<http://uaposition.com/latest-news/ukraine-reports-26-attacks-donetsk-region-day-lull-luhansk/>

<http://uatoday.tv/crime/ceasefire-ukrainian-troops-attacked-18-times-sniper-groups-reported-749495.html>

ATO HQ reports skirmish with enemy special forces group in Donbas, 20.09.2016

"There was a skirmish with a special forces unit of the Russian occupation forces near the village of Novozvanivka from the side of the village of Kalynove," the ATO HQ wrote in an update for the past day. "In the Luhansk sector, four instances of the violation of the ceasefire were registered. The enemy resorted to armed provocations near the villages of Novo-Oleksandrivka and Novozvanivka, where militants opened fire from small arms and rifle-attached grenade launchers," it said. The ceasefire in the Donetsk sector was violated 10 times. Ukrainian troops were attacked by the enemy, which used grenade launchers, machine-guns and small arms near the town of Avdiyivka, the villages of Luhanske, Mayorsk, Novoselivka, and Verkhniotoretske. What is more, the occupiers used 82mm mortars to shell Avdiyivka. Eight instances of the violation of the ceasefire on Monday were reported in the Mariupol sector.

<http://www.unian.info/war/1530586-ato-hq-reports-skirmish-with-enemy-special-forces-group-in-donbas.html>

Ukraine reports de-escalation in Donbas: 13 attacks in last day, 21.09.2016

The combined Russian-separatist forces opened fire on Ukrainian positions in Donbas 13 times in the last day, according to the Anti-Terrorist Operation (ATO) headquarters.

Five attacks were reported in the Donetsk sector alone. The occupiers used infantry fighting vehicle to shell the villages of Luhanske and Zaitseve. The latter also came under 120mm mortar fire. Grenade launchers, machine-guns, and small arms were used to attack the villages of Mayorsk, Luhanske, and Zaitseve.

<http://uatoday.tv/news/ukraine-reports-de-escalation-in-donbas-13-attacks-in-last-day-750778.html>

Ceasefire" in Donbas: 14 attacks on Ukrainian troops in past day, 22.09.2016

This is reported by the ATO Headquarters press center. In particular, terrorists violated ceasefire five times in Donetsk direction. The militants shelled Avdiyivka (18km north of Donetsk), using grenade launchers, heavy machine guns, and small arms. One ceasefire violation was recorded in Luhansk direction. The terrorists shelled Novooleksandrivka (65km west of Luhansk), using small arms. In Mariupol direction, eight ceasefire violations were spotted. The militants used grenade launchers and small arms to shell Marinka (35 km south-west of Donetsk).

<http://www.ukrinform.net/rubric-defense/2087917-militants-launch-14-attacks-on-ukrainian-troops-in-donbas-in-last-day.html>

"Silence" gets louder in Donbas: 21 shellings recorded in past 24 hrs, 23.09.2016

The occupiers fired rocket-propelled grenades, machine guns, 82 mm. mortars, and small arms. Seven violations of the "silence regime" were recorded in the Mariupol direction. The militants resorted to harassing fire from small arms. The enemy sniper group was active outside Taramchuk. In Luhansk direction, four violations of ceasefire were recorded. The militants fired from grenade launchers, machine guns, and small arms.

<http://www.unian.info/war/1536061-silence-gets-louder-in-donbas-21-shellings-recorded-in-past-24-hrs.html>

OSCE monitors in Donbas report threats to be detained, handcuffed by Russian militants, 23.09.2016

Armed members of the self-proclaimed DPR have threatened to detain and handcuff monitors of the OSCE Special Monitoring Mission (SMM) to Ukraine. The OSCE SMM also said it had been denied access near the villages of Bila Kamyanka and Novolaspa in Donetsk region. OSCE observers also said that the Ukrainian side did not let them patrol near the checkpoint of Bohdanivka for security reasons, as land mines might be planted in the area.

<http://uaoposition.com/latest-news/osce-monitors-donbas-report-threats-detained-handcuffed/>

<http://www.unian.info/war/1538022-russian-proxies-violate-ceasefire-28-times-in-past-24-hours.html>

"Ceasefire" in Donbas: Russian proxies attack Ukraine 14 times in last day, 26.09.2016

Combined Russian-separatist forces attacked Ukrainian army positions in eastern Ukraine 14 times in the past 24 hours, including three times in the Mariupol sector, five times in the Donetsk sector and six times in the Luhansk sector, according to the ATO HQ press center.

<http://www.businessnewsworld.com/news/ceasefire-in-donbas-russian-proxies-attack-ukraine-14-times-in-last-day.html>

"LPR" militants deny OSCE SMM access in area of planned disengagement, 26.09.2016

Russian-backed militants from the so-called "Luhansk People's Republic" denied access to OSCE monitors in the area of Pervomaisk-Zolote, according to the OSCE report. "LPR deny SMM access in Pervomaisk-Zolote area. Without access, SMM can't verify sides' compliance with Minsk. SMM ready and able to monitor," the OSCE Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine wrote. As reported earlier, after the signing on September 21 of the Framework Decision of the Trilateral contact group on disengagement of forces on the demarcation line, the Donbas militants have continued to hamper the work of the OSCE SMM. On September 25, the speaker of Ukraine's Ministry of Defense on the ATO Andriy Lysenko said that the militants denied access to the OSCE SMM monitors in the town of Zolote, where disengagement of forces and hardware from the contact line was planned.

<http://uaposition.com/latest-news/lpr-militants-deny-osce-smm-access-area-planned-disengagement/>
<http://www.financeneWScoverage.com/news/osce-chief-monitor-lists-hottest-spots-in-donbas.html>

Two police officers shot dead in Dnipro, Ukraine police storm flat with suspect, 26.09.2016

Police in Dnipro have stormed a flat with an alleged killer after two patrol police officers were shot dead in that city on the morning of Sunday, September 25. The killer reportedly got barricaded in a flat in a residential building at the junction between Chicherin and Sverdlov Streets, which was stormed by an Alfa SWAT group. However, there was no criminal inside the flat. Press Secretary of Dnipropetrovsk region's police Hanna Starchevska said that the suspect had not taken anybody hostage. At the same time, TV Channel 112 Ukraine said with reference to the National Police that the suspected killer of the two police officers had been detained. He was injured. Ukrainian Interior Minister Arsen Avakov later confirmed this information on Facebook and posted the suspect's images.

<http://uaposition.com/latest-news/police-officers-shot-dead-dnipro-ukraine-police-storm-flat-suspect/>

Purging in Donbas: militant "interior minister" and "parliament speaker" arrested – journalist, 26.09.2016

The wave of arrests caught separatist 'ministers' and officials, some have been detained by FSB in Russia. The arrests of 'top officials' in the Kremlin's 'Luhansk people's republic' puppet state continue on an ever growing scale, Censor.NET reports, referring to journalist and blogger Denys Kazanskyi. He informs, activists of pro-Russian movements discuss reports about arrest of 'LPR's' 'interior minister' Igor Kornet and the 'head of the National assembly' Alexei Karyakin. The information about new arrests are still shaky, unlike the confirmed 'suicide' of 'LPR's' ex-'prime minister' Tsytkalov. That caused today's rumors on death of local 'republican' armed forces Vitaliy Kiselev, who later appeared to be alive, but in custody.

<http://uatoday.tv/crime/purge-underway-in-donbas-militant-interior-minister-and-parliament-speaker-arrested-journalist-754083.html>

"Ceasefire" in Donbas: Militants triple attacks in last day, 27.09.2016

Combined Russian-separatist forces attacked Ukrainian army positions in eastern Ukraine 40 times in the past 24 hours, including 18 times in the Mariupol sector, 12 times in the Donetsk sector and 10 times in the Luhansk sector, according to the ATO press center HQ..

<http://ukrainianlaw.blogspot.com/2016/09/ceasefire-in-donbas-militants-triple.html>

New Russian military base 100 km from Ukraine border "almost ready", 27.09.2016

The base consisting of three military facilities is the latest in a chain of new military sites, part of what the Kremlin sees as an important counterpoint to NATO.

Up to 10,000 service personnel are expected to be deployed at the site which will reportedly house a motorised rifle division. Western observers have been nervous about recent increased Russian military movements and drills near the Ukrainian border over the summer. Large numbers of troops and tanks have reportedly moved into several bases. Some analysts see the permanent nature of the facilities being built as evidence that Russia's long-term plan is to keep Ukraine in check – but with the ability to respond quickly if necessary.

<http://www.euronews.com/2016/09/26/new-russian-military-base-100km-from-ukraine-almost-ready>

Latest from OSCE Special Monitoring Mission (SMM) to Ukraine, 27.09.2016

The SMM recorded more ceasefire violations in Donetsk region, including 187 explosions compared with 24 in the previous reporting period, with most of them concentrated in the Avdiivka-Yasynuvata-Donetsk airport triangle area. In Luhansk region the SMM recorded a single ceasefire violation (one burst) compared with the previous reporting period (five explosions). The Mission continued to monitor the disengagement process near Petrivske, Stanytsia Luhanska and Zolote and noted a calm situation. The Mission was restricted in its freedom of movement, including in disengagement areas near Petrivske and Zolote.* The SMM monitored one border area currently not under government control. The SMM recorded more ceasefire violations [1] in Donetsk region, including 187 explosions compared with the previous reporting period (24 explosions). Most of the ceasefire violations were recorded in the Avdiivka-Yasynuvata-Donetsk airport triangle area, including 180 explosions.

<http://www.osce.org/ukraine-smm/269886>

"Ceasefire" in Donbas: Russian proxies attack Ukraine 35 times in last day, 28.09.2016

In the Luhansk sector, the enemy resorted to armed provocations from rocket-propelled grenades and small arms near the villages of Novo-Oleksandrivka, Novozvanivka and Stanytsia Luhanska. In the Mariupol sector, the militants opened fire from small arms, machine guns and grenade launchers near the town of Maryinka, and the villages of Vodiane, Shyrokyne, Talakivka and Pavlopil. A sniper was also active in Shyrokyne. Additionally; the militants fired from infantry fighting vehicles on Talakivka. In the Donetsk sector, the occupiers fired 82mm and 120mm mortars and opened fire from small arms, machine guns and rocket-propelled grenades on the town of Avdiivka. A sniper was working in Avdiivka as well. Despite these provocations, the Armed Forces of Ukraine unswervingly adhere to the Minsk agreements, the headquarters said.

<http://uaposition.com/latest-news/ceasefire-donbas-russian-proxies-attack-ukraine-35-times-last-day/>

"We expect this offender to be extradited," - Avakov on ex-Traffic Police Chief Makarenko detained in Russia, 28.09.2016

Minister of Internal Affairs of Ukraine Arsen Avakov expects ex-Chief of Kyiv's Traffic Police Mykola Makarenko detained at Moscow's Domodedovo airport to be extradited in Ukraine. "What an unexpected gift from the Russian law enforcers who we are currently not in a regular contact with. We expect the offender to be extradited. Apparently, he's so useless that they do not need him there even as a traitor," The minister also said that a group of officials involved in corrupt practices during issuing registration plates and bills of sale was detained about six years ago, back in the days when the Driver Licensing Offices of the traffic police were part of the Interior Ministry. "The chief of that traffic police directorate fled from Ukraine through Belarus the day before. He was probably warned by his colleagues," Avakov wrote.

http://en.censor.net.ua/news/408088/we_expect_this_offender_to_be_extradited_avakov_on_extraffic_police_chief_makarenko_detained_in_russia

"Ceasefire" in Donbas: Russian proxies once again increase number of attacks, 30.09.2016

In the Luhansk sector, the enemy resorted to armed provocations using grenade launchers, machine guns and small arms near the villages of Novo-Oleksandrivka and Novozvanivka, and the town of Popasna. The militants also opened fire from 82mm mortars and an anti-aircraft gun on Novo-Oleksandrivka. In the Mariupol sector, the occupiers violated the "ceasefire" near the town of Maryinka, and the villages of Talakivka, Starohnativka, Shyrokyne and Pavlopil, using grenade launchers, machine guns and small arms. Additionally, the militants fired from infantry fighting vehicles on the Ukrainian defenders of Pavlopil. In the Donetsk sector, the Russian-backed mercenaries fired grenade launchers, machine guns and small arms near the town of Avdiivka and the village of Novhorodske. They also opened fire from 82mm mortars on Avdiivka. Furthermore, a sniper was active in the village of Verkhniotoretske.

<http://www.unian.info/war/1548017-ceasefire-in-donbas-russian-proxies-once-again-increase-number-of-attacks.html>

<http://www.unian.info/war/1549656-ukraine-warns-butivka-mine-being-gradually-besieged-by-hybrid-forces.html>

Mass Media

Inter TV Channel blockade ends: peace deal reached, 06.09.2016

Inter TV Channel insists it did not have any talks with rally organisers. The channel rejects activists claims about reaching a deal. Earlier one of the rally coordinators and a member of St. Maria battalion, Oleksiy Serdiuk, reported that the activists and the TV Channel representatives have come to an agreement. According to him, within five days the channel has to change its editorial policy and dismiss Ihor Shuvalov who is the Deputy Director on developing the company "National Informational Systems", which is a news department of "Inter". Oleksiy Serdiuk said, "if the channel fails to observe the deal, the blockade will be resumed in a more radical way."

<http://uatoday.tv/society/inter-741405.html>

Ukraine Worldwide

PROSECUTOR: MH17 INVESTIGATION GOING WELL, 01.07.2015

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

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

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

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

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

EU to decide on sanctions against supporters of Crimea and Donbas occupiers Sep 6, 06.09.2016

The European Union on Wednesday, September 7, will take a decision regarding sanctions applicable to 146 individuals and 37 companies for violation of the territorial integrity and sovereignty of Ukraine. The decision will be taken at the meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives in the European Union. As previously reported, March 9, the EU extended for another six months the sanctions imposed on March 17, 2014 by the EU Council against individuals and legal entities in view of "the continuing undermining or threatening of the territorial integrity, sovereignty and independence of Ukraine." Among the 146 individuals on the list is the so-called head of the Russian-occupied Crimea Sergey Aksnov, other so-called officials of Crimea and Sevastopol, terrorist leaders Denis Pushilin, Andrey Purgin, Alexander Boroday, Arseny Pavlov (aka Motorola), and Igor Girkin, ex-MP Oleg Tsarev.

<http://uaposition.com/latest-news/eu-decide-sanctions-supporters-crimea-donbas-occupiers-sep-6/>

US adds 81 entities to list of companies sanctioned over Crimea, Donbas, 07.09.2016

Measures taken to ensure efficiency of sanctions against Russia over 'fueling Ukrainian conflict', document says. The Bureau of Industry and Security (BIS) of the U.S. Department of Commerce has amended the Export Administration Regulations (EAR) by adding eighty-one entities under eighty-six entries to the Entity List subject to sanctions over Crimea and Donbas. 'The eighty-one entities who are added to the Entity List have been determined by the U.S. Government to be acting contrary to the national security or foreign policy interests of the United States. BIS is taking this action to ensure the efficacy of existing sanctions on the Russian Federation (Russia) for violating international law and fueling the conflict in eastern Ukraine,' the document reads.

<http://uatoday.tv/politics/us-adds-81-entities-to-list-of-companies-sanctioned-over-crimea-donbas-741760.html>

<https://s3.amazonaws.com/public-inspection.federalregister.gov/2016-21431.pdf>

Crimean Tatar leader Umerov released from Simferopol psychiatric ward – lawyer, 07.09.2016

Deputy Chairman of the Mejlis of the Crimea Tatar People Ilmi Umerov has been released from a psychiatric hospital in the Russian-occupied city of Simferopol, Crimea, according to his lawyer. "I've arrived in Crimea. Umerov has just been released from a psychiatric ward in Simferopol," lawyer Mark Feygin tweeted. "The release of Ilmi Umerov is only part of that important mission set by the defense. Now we need to press for the dismissal of charges brought against Ilmi under Article 280.1," he wrote.

<http://uaopposition.com/latest-news/crimean-tatar-leader-umerov-released-simferopol-psychiatric-ward-lawyer/>

Shoigu arrives in Crimea for key stage of Caucasus-2016 drills, 09.09.2016

Russian Defense Minister Sergey Shoigu has arrived in Crimea that is due to host one of key stages of the Caucasus-2016 strategic command and staff drills on Friday, Russia's Defense Ministry official spokesman Igor Konashenkov told reporters.

"The defense ministry's head will personally inspect the actions of staff and forces during the Caucasus-2016 strategic drills," Konashenkov said. During the drills the joint force grouping will train to repel attacks of a simulated enemy at the Opuk firing ground of the Southern military district, the spokesman said. "All types and branches of forces involved in the exercises will be engaged during this stage of maneuvers," he added.

<http://tass.com/defense/898797>

Russian occupation forces threaten Crimeans with layoffs if they boycott Duma elections - human rights activists, 11.09.2016

"We've received several complaints stating the fact that the de facto "Crimean authorities" use the so-called administrative resources to force people to go to these elections," said Skrypnyk. "For example, there are threats of dismissal or wage cuts," she said. The human rights activist has added that her organization is now accumulating such reports and, if there are several confirmed facts, they will elaborate. "From the point of view of international law, these elections are illegal, they can't be considered legitimate," she said. At the same time, the activist believes that Russia is unlikely to listen to Ukraine's opinion on the impossibility of holding elections in the occupied territories. "Russia once again is trying to legalize its presence in Crimea," she said.

<http://www.unian.info/politics/1515224-russian-occupation-forces-threaten-crimeans-with-layoffs-if-they-boycott-duma-elections-human-rights-activists.html>

Elections to State Duma in Crimea could trigger new wave of repression – human rights activist, 12.09.2016

The electoral process in Russia-annexed Crimea could lead to a new wave of repression in case Crimeans publicly refuse to vote, Chairman of the Crimean Human Rights Group Olga Skrypnyk has told. "The so-called electoral process in Crimea could trigger a new wave of repression if people publicly refuse or write that they disagree with these elections, or urge not to go to the elections. This may cause a new wave of administrative and criminal persecution," she said. According to her, the Article of the Criminal Code of the Russian Federation on "encroachment on territorial integrity" can be applied in this case. Skrypnyk also said that human rights defenders would not monitor the electoral process due to the illegal nature of the elections to the State Duma in the territory of the annexed Crimea. The human rights activist said that the Russian-controlled authorities in the temporarily occupied Crimea were forcing people to go to the elections to the State Duma, threatening them with layoffs and wage cuts.

<http://uaopposition.com/latest-news/elections-state-duma-crimea-trigger-wave-repression-human-rights-activist/>

Ukraine called the cause of death, Deputy head of the administration Poroshenko, 18.09.2016

The head of the presidential administration Igor Rainin reported the cause of death of his colleague – Deputy head of the presidential administration of Ukraine Andriy Taranov, Ukrainian media reported. According to Rainin, Andrey Taranov died from chest injuries he received during a collision with another watercraft. We are talking about what the Deputy head

of the presidential administration of Ukraine Andriy Taranov, cactas on his water bike on the Dnieper river in the center of the Havana bridge in Kiev, lost control of his jetski at high speed crashed into another watercraft. According to some, jetski Andrey Taranov collided with the barge, however, official confirmation of this information yet. It is also known that Andrey Taranov at the time of his death was on leave and in the morning, 19 September, Monday had to go to work. As previously reported IA «National news», «the Deputy head of administration Poroshenko crashed to death, riding on a water motorcycle.

<http://en.news-original.ru/ukraine-called-the-cause-of-death-deputy-head-of-the-administration-poroshenko.html>

Russian President Vladimir Putin Reportedly Planning Reforms to Effectively Resurrect KGB, 19.09.2016

President Vladimir Putin is planning a major restructuring of the country's security services that would effectively mean a rebirth of the KGB, according to a report in the Russian media. Respected business paper Kommersant quoted anonymous officials as saying that a new body called the "Ministry for State Security" would be established before Russia's 2018 presidential elections that, in its powers and roles, appears to closely resemble the Soviet-era KGB. The new body would be known by the acronym "MGB." The reforms would restore most of the KGB's functions to its successor service, the FSB, while also returning the foreign intelligence gathering to the same body, according to the newspaper. The result would be a single powerful security structure, sitting at the heart of the state's enforcement machinery, much as the KGB once did in the Soviet Union.

<http://abcnews.go.com/International/russian-president-vladimir-putin-reportedly-planning-reforms-effectively/story?id=42190514>

U.S. Officials Say Russia Probably Attacked U.N. Humanitarian Convoy, 21.09.2016

Russia was probably responsible for the deadly bombing of a United Nations humanitarian aid convoy in Syria, American officials said Tuesday, further shredding what remained of a severely weakened agreement between the United States and Russia aimed at halting the war. Aghast at the attack on Monday night, United Nations officials on Tuesday suspended all aid convoys in Syria, describing the bombing as a possible war crime and a cowardly act.

<http://mobile.nytimes.com/2016/09/21/world/middleeast/syria-cease-fire.html?hpw&rref=world&action=click&pqtype=Homepage&module=well-region®ion=bottom-well&WT.nav=bottom-well>

British Man Appears In U.K. Court On Ukraine Terrorism Charges, 29.09.2016

British prosecutors have charged a man with terrorism offenses related to the war between Russia-backed separatists and Kyiv's forces in eastern Ukraine. Benjamin Stimson, 41, faces what are believed to be Britain's first terrorism charges involving offenses allegedly committed in the conflict, which erupted shortly after Russia forcibly annexed Ukraine's Crimean Peninsula in March 2014. Police in Manchester said in a statement on September 28 that Stimson was charged with two offenses: the intention of committing acts of terrorism and engaging in conduct in preparation for giving effect to this intention, and the intention of committing acts of terrorism and assisting acts of terrorism.

<http://www.rferl.org/a/british-man-uk-court-ukraine-terrorism-charges/28019082.html>