



CIVIC SECTOR OF EUROMAIDAN GRASSROOTS MOVEMENT

EuroMaidan Newsletter # 55

EU bans investment to Crimea US adopts Ukraine support Act

On December 19, Security Service of Ukraine prevented a terrorist action which was to be carried out on Maidan Nezalezhnosti, Kyiv's central square. December 19th is St. Nicholas Day, a special Christmas season holiday for children. On this day, Maidan was full of children going to celebrations with their parents. (video) <http://goo.gl/zkZDHx>

Obama Signs Ukraine Aid Bill, Won't Immediately Impose Russia Sanctions. The Ukraine Freedom Support Act authorizes -- but does not technically require -- defensive lethal aid for Kyiv and sanctions against Russian defense and energy sectors. <http://goo.gl/AXBBe8>

Statement by the President of the USA on the Ukraine Freedom Support Act. <http://goo.gl/lhq9CJ>

Analysis of Ukraine Freedom Support Act after amendments. <http://goo.gl/6yf6Z8>

European Union agrees on new sanctions against Russia and new measures to bar European investment in Crimea. <http://goo.gl/xWliJU>

European Council President Donald Tusk says the European Union needs a strategy for dealing with Russia that lasts for years, not months. "The biggest challenge today is the Russian approach, not only to Ukraine but also to the EU,"

said Tusk, a former Polish prime minister.

<http://goo.gl/7kVwQo>

New York's Metropolitan Opera has no plans to cancel the concerts of Anna Netrebko, a world-renowned soprano who also supports the terrorist organization responsible for downing Malaysian airliner MH17 as well as for the nine-month war in Eastern Ukraine carried out with overt Russian assistance. <http://goo.gl/GWHgWl>

The Chinese Red Cross donates \$3+ million in aid for Donbas refugees. <http://goo.gl/TEBRR1>

The European Union is on the brink of dropping sanctions against many officials in Viktor Yanukovich's administration, nearly 10 months after the former president and his cronies fled power amid allegations of murder and massive corruption. The reason? <http://goo.gl/1PFpXR>

Russian President Vladimir Putin showed no signs of changing his uncompromising stance on the Kremlin's war against Ukraine during his 3.5-hour press conference on Dec. 18. <http://goo.gl/anxkcP>

Ukrainian journalist tackles Putin on Russian aggression in Donbas and on Savchenko. <http://goo.gl/4oY82D>

OPEN LETTER to The Metropolitan Opera from the "Arts Against Aggression" initiative. Opera Singer Anna Netrebko donated money to Russia-led and financed insurgents in Ukraine and was photographed holding the insurgent flag. <http://goo.gl/zDdDyV>



Ukraine's 3 priorities for 2015: stabilize the economy, reduce corruption, end the conflict

Timothy Snyder: The authoritarian right in Russia is infinitely more dangerous than the authoritarian right in Ukraine. It is in power, for one thing. It has no meaningful rivals, for another. It does not have to accommodate itself to domestic elections or international expectations, for a third. <http://goo.gl/SYjf1i>

Mychailo Wynyckyj: By the End of the Spring We Will Be Living in a New Ukraine. <http://newpathway.ca/?p=2585>

Postponing the Trade Agreement With Ukraine: Bad Move, EU. <http://goo.gl/Q1rt4T>

Expert: Gazprom's new scheme to "suffocate" Ukraine and blackmail the EU. <http://goo.gl/4GRp5H>

On Holodomor denial, and debunking a denialist Russian professor of history. <http://goo.gl/XocmFP>

Expert: Russia crisis is a chance for Ukraine <http://goo.gl/renBzW>

Ukraine will have three priorities in 2015: restoring economic stability; reducing the levels of corruption, and ending the conflict in the east. <http://goo.gl/7FWyay>

Fighting continues at front line despite ceasefire

Army of volunteers facilitate Ukraine military success

Dec 21. The situation in the Eastern regions of Ukraine.

<http://goo.gl/5zrfKi>

21.12. Ukraine LiveBlog Day 306: Fighting Continues at Front Line Despite Ceasefire; 1 Child Killed.

<http://goo.gl/fUvY5E>

Embarrassment for Russia after their soldiers captured in Ukraine. <http://goo.gl/AXCzFz>

Crimean “cyborg” (Part 1): **“I cannot remember a day without shelling”**. <http://goo.gl/OCEMSV>

Since the start of the conflict in Eastern Ukraine nine months ago, the Kremlin has denied any direct involvement, including sending Russian troops. But there are Russian fighters on the ground who are proud to announce their presence and to discuss their ideas about a “holy war”. <http://goo.gl/TstNfh>

OSCE SMM continues to monitor the implementation of the provisions of the Minsk Protocol and Memorandum and the work of the Joint Centre for Control and Co-ordination (JCCC). The SMM observed no shelling or use of fire-arms, although the JCCC did report on a number of such occurrences. <http://goo.gl/v0UII1>

Russian journalist interviews “Azov” voluntary battalion commander Andrii Biletskyi. The core of “Azov” was

formed from activists of the right wing group Social-National Assembly, although currently the regiment is ostensibly more ideologically and ethnically diverse.

<http://goo.gl/SWcBmr>

Underfunded Ukraine soldiers get helmets with Christmas pies. The Ukrainian army is heavily dependent on volunteer help. <http://goo.gl/GeC94s>

An army of volunteers facilitate Ukraine military success. (Video) <http://goo.gl/3m6dGV>

Refugees find food and comfort at volunteer-run center in Kyiv. <http://goo.gl/8r9YOW>

Unique volunteer movement that prepares dry borshch helps soldiers of over 15 brigades in one month.

<http://goo.gl/Ab9Hud>

Life in occupied Lugansk – a story by a resident.

<http://goo.gl/zil4NI>

Oleksiy Svyetikov, head of the Luhansk Regional Branch of the Committee of Voters of Ukraine (CVU), paints a grim picture of the situation in Luhansk oblast and is blunt in rejecting the Human Rights Watch definition of events as an ‘internal conflict’. <http://goo.gl/oMvIvT>

DNR terrorists open fire on people in aid queue, girl dead. <http://goo.gl/FxOnUG>

Left: UNICEF Ukraine

Right: Ukrainian soldiers help local citizens near Mariupol with food and medication. (video)

<http://goo.gl/BV5CV8>



Local population in the conflict zone lacks basic food and services

Crimea becomes a Russian military base

The humanitarian situation in the Donbas is becoming increasingly difficult for the inhabitants who remain in the territory occupied by pro-Russian militants. Among many hardships, the most pressing problems facing locals is access to basic goods and services, medical care, and security. <http://goo.gl/r3KOnm>

Crimea becomes a Russian military base. See infographic at <http://goo.gl/BZOGxd>

Crimeans come daily to mainland Ukraine from the occupied peninsula in order to obtain Ukrainian documents. <http://goo.gl/HjBJHR>

Sevastopol parliament speaker says preparations for Crimean takeover started in 2004. <http://goo.gl/omQp1Z>

Special service of Russian Federation torments Crimean Tatars. <http://goo.gl/PC1O05>

Occupation regime’s detentions in Crimea carried out with serious infringements. <http://goo.gl/8Dx0r0>

Russia continues to force its citizenship on Crimean political prisoners . <http://goo.gl/xF5RVk>

Crimea's Drug Users in a Predicament. <http://goo.gl/AOGx8n>

Documentary about legendary Crimean Tatar leader Dzhemilev launches crowdfunding campaign. <http://goo.gl/F4nVAX>

Poster series "Our manifesto" by Andrii Prymachenko.

Left: "Against all the devils. The Ukrainians."
Right: "Against all destiny lines. The Ukrainians."

See more posters at <http://goo.gl/ZkcnP1>



ATO costs about 100 million UAH (6 mln USD) per day Ukraine to undergo 3 waves of mobilization in 2015

The anti-terrorist operation in East Ukraine costs about 100 million UAH per day, says president Poroshenko. <http://goo.gl/xOp9wI>

Ukraine will hike military spending and undergo further mobilization in 2015, according to President Petro Poroshenko. <http://goo.gl/4hbf0S>

The bills for reforming the Ministry of Internal Affairs will be ready in January 2015. Minister Arsen Avakov proposes to begin with getting rid of spare human resources. <http://goo.gl/TzrCV8> (this article is poorly written. I could not find any other news about this during a Google search)

Secretary of the Ukrainian National Security and Defense Council Oleksandr Turchynov: three waves of the military mobilization are planned for 2015 - in January, April and June. <http://goo.gl/9R7MB5>

Defense Ministry Spokeswoman: "Support the Ukrainian Army" campaign collected over 152 million UAH. <http://goo.gl/ST2RZ9>

There must be a full-scale lustration of the officials that served in the regime of ousted former Ukrainian President Viktor Yanukovich, according to the Venice Commission. <http://goo.gl/tUiEK1>

Venture investments in Ukrainian startups decreased twofold in 2014. <http://goo.gl/xVNvNZ>

Coal-rich Ukraine turned into an importer of the fuel this year as Russia's war against the country interrupted supplies from Donbas to the nation's power plants. The country needs up to 12 million tons to see it through until April, but only has 1.2 million left. <http://goo.gl/JD5Uzf>

Ukraine's restaurant sector is suffering. Some 120 restaurants closed in Kyiv alone while the overall number of eateries around the nation fell by 30 percent, to 15,200 outlets. <http://goo.gl/VuMHMF>

Aviation Service puzzles nation by closing three airports, reopening two. <http://goo.gl/WsTIwB>

Former Ukrainian Foreign Minister: Ukraine ready to buy weapons from Poland. <http://goo.gl/Q3FwGn>

Draft bill in parliament suggests relaxing rules for gun ownership in Ukraine. See infographic at <http://goo.gl/U3WWdq>

NBU seeks 28 billion UAH from budget to recapitalize, nationalize banks. <http://goo.gl/6n6Hin>

Italy's Got Talent features a modern story of Ukraine in dance and shadows. See video at <http://goo.gl/9XBrRc>



Mobile games in the Russia-Ukraine conflict

Ukrainian breakthrough in astronomy

“Defend Ukraine!” A mobile game to support the country under Russian attack. <http://goo.gl/1Y8YwY>

Russian children are now playing a video game called “The Liberation War in Novorossiya” in which to win, they are required to kill “Ukrainians, soldiers, militiamen, and the civilian population,” a disturbing message being implanted in the minds of the rising generation. But more tellingly, the game may disturb the Kremlin as well. That is because it calls for not two players but three: the Ukrainian army, the Novorossiya militants, and Russian forces — which aren’t even in Ukraine, according to Russia’s version of events. <http://goo.gl/KPzGmc>

Two months ago hardly anyone outside a narrow circle of astronomers had ever heard of a comet called 67P/Churyumov–Gerasimenko. But on Nov. 12, the comet topped the headlines. On that day, the Rosetta probe launched by the European Space Agency successfully landed a robotic lander on it, making it the first comet landing in history. Ukrainian scientist Klim Churyumov and his assistant Svitlana Gerasimenko discovered the comet in 1969. <http://goo.gl/BXbGXu>

Dear newsletter subscribers!

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

May winter holidays and the whole next year bring peace and safety for you and your loved ones.

Please pray for



CONTACT INFORMATION

Press-center of Civic Sector of EuroMaidan
 Kateryna Maksym +38(066) 6906927
katerynamaksym69@gmail.com

www.facebook.com/hrom.sektor.euromaidan
<http://euro-revolution.org>

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