



CIVIC SECTOR OF EUROMAIDAN GRASSROOTS MOVEMENT

Special Edition

**The first Forum of EuroMaidan was successful
despite numerous provocations from authorities**

Forum
of
Maidan
in
Kharkiv



The first official forum of EuroMaidan representatives was held on January 11 and 12 in Kharkiv, a regional centre in the eastern Ukraine. The aim of the forum was to establish a mechanism for horizontal cooperation between Maidan activists from all over Ukraine that would enable future nation-wide activities. The forum gathered 45 delegations - each representing local EuroMaidans, 125 delegates and over a hundred of Ukrainian and international observers. The forum was held despite many provocations. The provocateurs who disrupted the work of the forum and who attacked peaceful demonstrators in Kharkiv during past few months are managed by Arthur Marabian, head of one of the most influential organized crime groups in the city. There is evidence that Mr. Marabian is in close contact with Gennadiy Kernes, Mayor of Kharkiv.

I. The Forum

On January 11-12, 2014, 45 delegations from local EuroMaidans (self-organized groups leading protests on regional levels) from all over Ukraine gathered in Kharkiv for two-day forum to coordinate their objectives and activities.

The main goal of the EuroMaidan: To change the existing system, not just faces in politics. To prevent power usurpation in the future.

During the forum, it was decided to take the following actions:

- To establish a mechanism for horizontal cooperation and mutual support between all EuroMaidans around Ukraine.
- To establish an educational training centre in Kyiv for all civil society. Locally, to create permanent structures responsible for civic education of all activists.
- To establish a mechanism and a network for collective self-defence and protection.
- To develop a mechanism that will enable development of joint projects of cooperation between all EuroMaidans in the future.
- To establish a mechanism that will facilitate information sharing in order to prevent misinformation and disinformation.
- To create a system for fundraising and usage of resources based on principles of decentralization, transparency, security and budgeting.
- To engage public and artistic opinion leaders to create mobile groups that will participate in Maidan protests around Ukraine
- To widen educational and informational activity of all EuroMaidans

It was established to turn this Forum into a re-occurring event. The next forum is planned to be held in Kyiv. Date: To be determined

Arthur Marabian, leader of the group of provocateurs in Kharkiv



II. Provocations and their organizers

There were a few provocations on January 11 and 12 in Kharkiv that attempted to prevent the forum from taking place.

Forum organizers booked and confirmed eight locations for the event. The organizers predicted that there could be cancellations resulting from significant pressure from the authorities on the owners of the venues. On the day of the event, all eight locations refused to hold any events related to the forum. As a result, the forum was held in the building of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of St. Dimitry and in the offices of local human rights NGOs.

On January 11, as soon as the meeting started in the Church, unknown people surrounded the Church and tried to enter using force. They were later taken away by the police, but were released a few blocks away. Later, in one of the book stores, where another working group was meeting, unknown threw smoke bombs, broke the windows and attacked people at the entrance. One person was hospitalized. More similar attacks happened during both days when the forum participants were meeting.

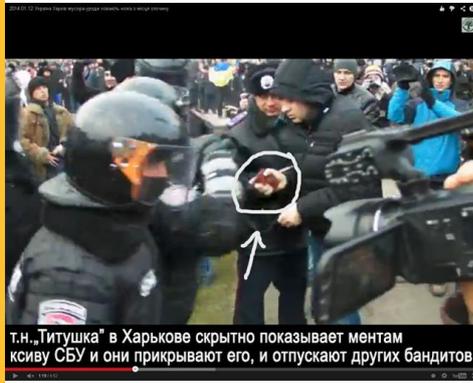
The activists of the Kharkiv EuroMaidan stated that paid provocateurs and hooligans who disturbed the work of the forum and attacked peaceful demonstrators during the past two months, are managed by Arthur Marabian, also known as “Saint”. Mr. Marabian is heading one of the most influential organized crime groups in the city. He is an Honoured Master of Sports, President of the Kickboxing Association, and a founder of a fighting club in Kharkiv called “Oplot.” Arthur Marabian is known to be in close contacts with Kharkiv Mayor Gennadiy Kernes.

On January 12, Mr. Marabian was photographed in Kharkiv when he led a group of provocateurs at the Maidan (see Photo 1 above. Arthur Marabian is on the left). The activists stated that not long before the Church of St. Dmytriy was attacked, a group of 10 to 15 cars with hooligans gathered not far from the “Oplot” fighting club. These are assumed to be the same people that later attacked the Church. The news that followed revealed that Mr. Marabian brought people to the main city square where they created provocations, threw smoke bombs and started numerous fights.

The EuroMaidan in Kharkiv is the one of the most dangerous in Ukraine. Since the end of November, a number of actions were taken against EuroMaidan activists. Dmytro Perepelytsa, one of the activist, was attacked and suffered stab wounds. Five vehicles used for organization of the local EuroMaidan were set on fire. The office of Kharkiv EuroMaidan was robbed and vandalized.

The current situation in Kharkiv is becoming more and more dangerous, and requires immediate attention from both Ukrainian and international media, national and international government representatives, as well as all EuroMaidan activists around the country.

On the left provocateur shows ID of interior services to police. On the right, smoke bombs activated by provocateurs



Official: Arthur Volodymyrovych Marabian, 36, resident of Kharkiv, is an Honored Master of Sports in kickboxing, an Honored trainer in Ukraine, President of the Ukrainian Kickboxing Association WKA. He is a founder of a sport club called “Oplot” (Kharkiv). Married, with 4 children

Unofficial: Arthur Marabian is heading one of the biggest organized crime groups in Kharkiv. In 1998, he was prosecuted (Lenin Police Department in Kharkiv oblast, 1998) under the article 102 of the Criminal Code (edition of 1960, “Intentional Infliction of Bodily Harm”), case № 64980450. Believed to be involved in criminal activity since 1994. Started as a leader of a prostitution ring. Later, organized a criminal group that racketed factories in Kharkiv. Is close to Gennadiy Kernes, Kharkiv’s Mayor. It is believed that Mr. Marabian inflicted pressure and destroyed property on numerous opponents of Mr. Kernes.

Information received from Volodymyr Chystylin, EuroMaidan spokesman, Kharkiv tel. no: +38050 401 83 23

Some additional information and photos can be found on:

http://cripo.com.ua/?sect_id=4&aid=37065

http://texty.org.ua/pg/news/devrand/read/51017/Aktivisty_vyznachyly_khto_keruvav_kharkivskymy_titushkamy