



CIVIC SECTOR OF EUROMAIDAN GRASSROOTS MOVEMENT

EuroMaidan Newsletter # 78

Russian FSB prosecutes those calling Crimea Ukrainian Kremlin uses fake satellite photos to support MH17 claims

The International Republican Institute (IRI) released a poll taken in Ukraine in which 57% of respondents would choose to join the European Union (versus 13% who would choose the Russia-led Customs Union), while 47% would vote yes in a referendum about joining NATO (versus 29% who would vote no). <http://goo.gl/EbS9Sj>

Russia introduced legal amendments that classify as state secrets any casualties sustained during peacetime special operations. Such a declaration seems further confirmation of Russia's direct involvement in the Ukraine conflict. <http://goo.gl/4SwB7y>

Euromaidan SOS and other civic organizations and lawyers have issued a damning report on the lack of progress in investigating crimes against Euromaidan activists, and have identified systemic failings that urgently need to be rectified. <http://goo.gl/enKGF4>

After invading and banishing Crimean Tatar leader Refat Chubarov from his native Crimea, Russia has now initiated criminal proceedings against him. He is accused of encroaching upon Russia's territorial integrity by denying that what Russia illegally grabbed is its territory. <http://goo.gl/7my4JK>

A team of independent investigators from Britain has determined that Russia's Defense Ministry released doctored satellite photos with falsified dates as evidence to support its claim that Ukrainian government forces shot down Malaysia Airlines flight MH17 in eastern Ukraine in July 2014. <http://goo.gl/rzLm18>

74-year-old Ludmila Bogatenkova, head of a Soldiers' Mothers committee in Russia, is facing charges potentially carrying a six-year sentence after she probed the deaths of nine Russian soldiers who were almost certainly killed in Ukraine. <http://goo.gl/cwW5EX>

Scathing report says Russia at war with Ukraine Putin is preparing for "hybrid war"

A Washington-based think tank on international affairs has released a scathing report on Russia's "direct military intervention" in eastern Ukraine, concluding that Russian President Vladimir Putin has led his country into war and lied about it. <http://goo.gl/8oVbk0>

The decision by President Putin to classify all information about military personnel who die in peacetime remains one of the most important topics of the past week. Why did Putin sign this decree? Is he preparing for war or is he simply irritated by the constant search for the graves of soldiers who have died in Ukraine, by articles in opposition media, and by the claims of human rights activists? The answer can be found in the text of the decree. Putin is not preparing for war. He is preparing for "hybrid war." <http://goo.gl/tmWVTd>

Hiding in Plain Sight: Putin's War in Ukraine and Boris Nemtsov's Putin. <http://goo.gl/iZmj9>

Mykola Sunhurovskyi: Ukraine should be ready for attack from Belarus. <http://goo.gl/XKBX9H>

Death of Novorossia: Why Kremlin Abandoned Ukraine Separatist Project. <http://goo.gl/ECIKd1>

Russia's national coat of arms depicts an eagle with two heads. Russian propaganda, too, is a two-headed beast. A two-faced Janus, it looks in opposing directions. V.Yermolenko. <http://goo.gl/C5ubhY>

"The Ukrainian-Russian conflict is to a significant degree a conflict between the heirs of Kyivan Rus [Ukraine] and the heirs of the Golden Horde [Moscow]", according to Andrey Piontkovsky, and one of its key results will be "an intensification of the swallowing of Russia by China." <http://goo.gl/AjLeVA>

Germany Must Lead in Europe. A.Motyl. <http://goo.gl/nac1pf>

Separatists in Donbas have more tanks than Germany, France, and the Czech Republic combined

Jun. 1. Two Ukrainian soldiers killed, one taken captive, in militant attack outside Maryinka.
<http://goo.gl/laC1Om> ; (Ru, interactive map)
<http://goo.gl/LbU8iw>

May 31. Militants stirred up combat activity in Luhansk region. Ukrainian border guards outflanked pro-Russian raiders in nearby Tryokhizbenka.
<http://goo.gl/UdW7nF>

The armed forces of the self-proclaimed “Luhansk and Donetsk People’s Republics” (“LNR” and “DNR”) have accumulated significant reserves of heavy weapons. According to Deputy Commander of the Anti-Terrorist Operation Col. Valentyn Fedychiev, as of 8 April 2015, Russia’s hybrid army in Donbas has 700 tanks, over 1,100 ACVs, 600 artillery systems, and 380 MRLS.
<http://goo.gl/k0WZaR>

May 28. The Russian Army moved large numbers of troops and hundreds of pieces of military hardware to an area near the Ukrainian border, a Reuters correspondent reports. <http://goo.gl/3uOCu0>

Ukrainian soldiers say they receive belated orders to return fire at Russian-separatist forces, partly because Ukraine is trying hard to show it is adhering to the Minsk cease-fire agreement reached in February. <http://goo.gl/204SNG>

May 26. Ukraine says separatists, after killing civilians in Horlivka, tried to pin blame on Kyiv forces. <http://goo.gl/d0LsKD>

May 24. RFE/RL has recorded dramatic evidence of cease-fire violations, with pro-government forces coming under sustained shelling in Shyrokyne village. (Video) <http://goo.gl/7ohuwT>

The SMM monitoring was restricted by third parties and security considerations. The SMM observed a continuing increase in the number of ceasefire violations in and around Donetsk airport. They remained unable to travel to Shyrokyne due to security considerations. The SMM observed discrepancies of recorded heavy weapons at a number of Ukrainian Armed Forces, “DPR” and “LPR” holding areas. <http://goo.gl/bc8An2>

The city of Mariupol on the Azov Sea was controlled by Kremlin-backed separatists in April-June 2014 and ran the risk of being captured again in August, when regular Russian troops invaded eastern Ukraine. The danger remains today.
<http://goo.gl/cF1fVD>

Prosecutors: Corrupt Ukrainian officials on border with separatist territories sell passports, help draft dodgers. <http://goo.gl/rW8XZG>

Left: Russian Troops in Ukraine: Captured soldiers give an interview. (Video)
<http://goo.gl/FXYIzB>

Right: “Militants! Leave our Severodonetsk alone! It was, it is and it will be Ukrainian!” Almost no support for militant ‘republics’ in Donbas cities. (Poll) <http://goo.gl/WEoaTG>



Donetsk's lawlessness makes people afraid to stay out at night

‘In the Donbas, there is a war; but in Crimea, there is terror,’ Crimeans say

Donetsk's lawlessness makes people afraid to stay out at night. <http://goo.gl/0UucRj>

Many believe that the situation in Russian-occupied Crimea is “not so terrible” because there is no war going on there, Abmezhit Suleymanov says. But in many ways, the situation in Crimea is even worse: in the Donbas, “you know who your enemy is;” in Crimea, there are enemies “all around you” and residents live in a state of terror.
<http://goo.gl/7AnPem>

FSB opens criminal probe against Chubarov to disrupt World Crimean Tatars’ Congress.
<http://goo.gl/CvJiH2>

Over 10 Ukrainian citizens are political prisoners in Russia, facing trumped-up charges sometimes for the sole reason of being Ukrainian. Some of them, according to human rights activists, were simply kidnapped. <http://goo.gl/Dftquh>

May 24, 2015 “One year ago, I was kidnapped and tortured... and let go.” Sergey Kosyak.
<http://goo.gl/IxWwl2>

Saakashvili confirmed as governor of Ukraine's Odesa region

IMF projections worsen for Ukrainian economy in 2015

Former Georgian President Mikheil Saakashvili has been appointed governor of Ukraine's south-western Odesa region, a move that could exacerbate tensions between Kyiv and Moscow amid Ukraine's shaky cease-fire with Russian-backed separatists.

<http://goo.gl/H34hIr>

Hours after entering his office as Odesa governor, Mikheil Saakashvili, the ex-Georgia reformist president, announced massive cleansing of corrupt Odesa administration. <http://goo.gl/EzTsgI>

The International Monetary Fund (IMF)'s mission has revised projections for the decline in Ukraine's 2015 GDP to 9% from 5.5% . <http://goo.gl/MpBj93>

One predictable and damaging consequence of the war in the East and the general uncertainty in Kyiv has been a near total collapse in foreign direct investment (FDI) to Ukraine. According to recent UN estimates, net FDI into Ukraine amounted to negative \$300 million in 2014, signalling that more investment money left Ukraine than entered.

<http://goo.gl/B17E19>

Kyiv to have a new police force on July 1. New officers average 25 years in age. They are all newcomers, coming from various occupations. New police will first patrol the streets on foot. Later they will patrol in cars. Their salaries will be high by Ukrainian standards, between 8,000 and 10,000 hryvnias (\$360 and \$450). <http://goo.gl/m8w7f0>

At May 26-27 Ukrainian Telecoms Forum 2015, Dmytro Shymkiv, the deputy head of the Presidential Administration, expressed his disappointment with the lack of feedback from the telecom and IT businesses on what needs to be done by government to improve the market conditions.

<http://goo.gl/VEVb0A>

Environmental civic groups are among the strongest in Ukraine. These activists had a clear sense of the

changes they wanted to see after the 2014 Euromaidan revolution and subsequent election of a new government. Many are dissatisfied with the pace of reforms and have even called for replacing the Minister for Ecology and Natural Resources only a few months into his tenure.

<http://goo.gl/Z2ZfsY>

President Petro Poroshenko has signed legislation granting Ukraine's cash-starved government the right to stop payments to foreign debt holders.

<http://goo.gl/CVY0Ag>

One Year of Poroshenko's Presidency: Is the Public Love Gone? <http://goo.gl/avwpQ3>

According to a global ranking, Russia and Ukraine have seen their economic competitiveness plummet over the past year. The annual ranking released on May 27 by the Swiss-based Institute for Management Development (IMD) showed that Ukraine nose-dived 11 spots, landing at 60th place, ahead of Venezuela. <http://goo.gl/QVw7Ss>

Once the single largest source of hard currency, accounting for 38% of Ukraine's export revenues in 2011, steel, iron ore and other metal exports have plummeted 24.5% since Russia's war on Ukraine began last year. <http://goo.gl/eYw8Zf>

Metinvest CEO works both sides of war front.

<http://goo.gl/hO9pmU>

In Ukraine too much emphasis and hope is put in hands of the doctors who mostly deal with those who are already sick. However, the public health can be improved through policies in all areas which affect preventive health and healthy behavior.

<http://goo.gl/2F31Rh>

The SBU uncovered abuse of office by officials of Ukrtransnafta, costing UAH 500 million in lost revenue to the State. <http://goo.gl/ml97Zm>

Left: Ukrainian Natalya Zhukova wins European Chess Championship.

Right: Ukrainian children from war-torn Luhansk perform traditional folk dance at school year end.(Video)

<http://goo.gl/4KTZup>



Some foreigners still happily visit Ukraine

Ukrainian Natalya Zhukova wins European Chess Championship

Lotte Leming Rognsas from Norway became a huge fan of Kyiv when she came to Ukraine in 2013 for a year of volunteer work. Now she wants to come back to Ukraine to revisit Lviv and the Carpathian Mountains, and plans to do so this summer despite Russia's war in the eastern

Donbas. Rognsas is one of a few foreign tourists who have not been scared off by the conflict. <http://goo.gl/N2uuZ5>

Ukrainian Natalya Zhukova wins European Chess Championship. <http://goo.gl/7DAHBZ>

A trailer announcing the start of a series titled “A #FreeSavchenko Space Odyssey” has appeared on YouTube. Created by Alex King (known as @GlasnostGone), the Star Wars remake seeks to highlight the kidnapping and illegal imprisonment of Nadiya Savchenko, a Ukrainian pilot kept in Russian captivity for almost a year now. (Video) <http://goo.gl/3ed5QW>

Princess Nadiya Savchenko has been kidnapped by the evil Ruskii Empire

Outrage spreads across the universe, with the #FreeSavchenko Alliance calling for her immediate release

Fearful of attempts to rescue her, Nadiya's transferred to the Empires Farce Star

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