



# CIVIC SECTOR OF EUROMAIDAN GRASSROOTS MOVEMENT

## EuroMaidan Newsletter # 14

### Exit poll shows 93% voted to join Russia at the illegal “referendum” held on March 16 in Crimea

Ukrainian troops in Crimea to be declared delinquent

The voting on the so called Crimean “referendum” occurred on March 16. Shortly after 8 p.m., exit polls showed 93 percent of voters opted for Crimea to become a part of Russia, with voter turnout exceeding 85 percent, according to Kryminform, the commission responsible for holding the referendum. Read more at <http://bit.ly/1fBhDdY>

Read about the course of voting at <http://goo.gl/Z4w1W1>

Crimean activists report about multiple violations during the illegal “referendum”. Even before the start of voting, ballots were found already marked with the “correct” answers. See photo proofs at <http://goo.gl/OMxxNV>

Crimean Tatars are boycotting the “referendum” and have affirmed their right to self-determination within Ukraine. Read more at <http://goo.gl/9PgbAL>

Russian soldiers in Crimea received clear orders from Moscow concerning the Ukrainian Army. After the “referendum” the Ukrainian military units will be declared delinquent formations. Ukrainian soldiers would be provided with two options: either to serve outside Crimea or to accept Russian citizenship. Read more at <http://goo.gl/xral2R>

On March 15, a Russian marine unit landed near Strelkove village Kherson region (Southern Ukraine, outside the territory of Crimea) and seized control over a gas station. Ukrainian troops blockaded the unit within the perimeter of the gas station. Watch

video at <http://goo.gl/EvoqGt>

Read possible scenarios for Russia’s intervention in Ukraine at (Eng) <http://goo.gl/TcEJJx> and (Eng) <http://goo.gl/N2IXJF>

On March 9 two Automaidan activists and three journalists from Kyiv were kidnapped by armed men at the crossing on to the Crimean peninsula. After two days of reported torture and harassment, they were released. Read more at <http://goo.gl/sLRPrZ>

On March 11, 2014, a citizen of Simferopol and civic activist Mikhail Vdovychenko disappeared in the center of Simferopol as he was returning home from an anti-war protest. Read more at <http://goo.gl/ew21DJ>

On March 14, another 3 AutoMaidan activists - Alexey Gritsenko, Sergey Suprun and Natalia Lukyanchenko - disappeared in Crimea. Read more (Rus) at <http://goo.gl/uweqz8>

After the abduction of the Ukrainians in Simferopol (Crimea), it has become apparent that supporters of Ukraine’s integrity are being targeted.

Crimean Ukrainians who make up 23% of the autonomous republic’s population are the least protected ethnic group in the Autonomous Republic of Crimea, state Crimean human rights activists. Read more at <http://goo.gl/oUL6Jh>

Read more about the attacks on Ukrainian and foreign journalists and the mass violations of freedom of speech in Crimea at (Eng) <http://goo.gl/TB2Vvu>

### On the eve of the illegal Crimean “referendum” activists and journalists abducted and harassed in Crimea



#### CAPTURED BY ARMED MEN NEAR CRIMEA!



Oleksandra Ryazhtseva Olena Maksymenko Kateryna Butko

Automaidan activists Oleksandra Ryazhtseva and Kateryna Butko and ‘Ukrainian Week’ journalist Olena Maksymenko were detained by armed men while trying to enter Crimea near Kherson. They are now MISSING! Car: White Citroen Ukrainian plate AK CE 4646

## Putin isolated in the UN, the world Russian people protest against war

March 15, six hours of talks between US Secretary of State John Kerry and Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov failed to produce a settlement to Ukraine's crisis. US Secretary of State John Kerry expressed concern about "hooliganism" and "provocations" coming from pro-Russian forces inside Ukraine and "others who have crossed the border" from Russia into Ukraine. Read more (Eng) <http://goo.gl/BdqW77>

On March 15, Russia vetoed a draft UN resolution criticizing Sunday's secession referendum in Ukraine's Crimea region. The country was the only Security Council member to vote against the measure. Read more at (Eng) <http://goo.gl/mnj2Xn>

The European Court of Human Rights has applied Rule 39 against Russia to prevent it from taking "measures which might threaten the life and health of the civilian population on the territory of Ukraine." Read more at (Eng) <http://goo.gl/1zEzrR>

On Saturday March 15 20,000 to as many as 100,000 protesters (accounts vary) participated in a March of Peace in Moscow to protest against the military aggression in Crimea and against the interference in Ukraine's affairs. People marched with Ukrainian flags and chanted "Glory to Ukraine! Glory to Heroes!" in Ukrainian.

At the same time, a pro-Putin demonstration was held in support of the Russian invasion of Crimea. Read more at <http://goo.gl/FBojdz>

Photos from both marches are available here <http://goo.gl/PrOXdZ>

Anti-war statements have been made by many prominent Russians: PEN Club writers; the Human Rights Council which unites the heads of the most well-known human rights organizations; cinematographers; academics; environmentalists; Russian rock stars (Boris Grebenshchikov; Andrei Makarevych; Yury Shevchuk; and Viacheslav Butusov) and many others. Read more at (Eng) <http://goo.gl/rZPeJc>

See infographic on the state of the Russian economy in the anticipation of EU and US sanctions at (Eng) <http://goo.gl/mkJKWo>

Opinion: Russia has lost the war in Ukraine. After the world price for oil dropped to \$98 per barrel, which is devastating for the Russian economy, Russian President Putin has changed his rhetoric regarding "the Ukrainian crisis": "*The problems around Ukraine and Crimea were started not from our side. We have been involved into them, unfortunately. I need to stress that this crisis is primarily a Ukrainian internal crisis. Let us think together how we will establish relations with our friends and partners from Ukraine, EU and the US*", – the Kremlin press-service reported on March 13, 2014 after an emergency meeting between Putin and the Russian Security Council. Read more (Eng) at <http://goo.gl/s1aevX> and (Rus) <http://goo.gl/EgKFT3>

The anti-war March of Peace in Moscow held on March 15, 2014 gathered more than 20 000 people. (Left) Woman holding a banner "Russia is us, not Putin" (Right)



## Tensions spread across Eastern regions of Ukraine New victims of pro-Russian provocations in Donetsk, Kharkiv

March 15 – The Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine dissolved the Parliament of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea, which organized an unlawful referendum on separating Crimea from Ukraine. Read more at (Ukr) <http://bit.ly/1maHoKI>

On March 12, Ukrainian billionaire Dmytro Firtash was arrested and taken into custody in Austria at the request of the U.S. Federal Bureau of Investigation on suspicion of bribery and creating an organized crime group. Read more at (Eng) <http://goo.gl/iyzccP>

On March 14, two people were killed and more than 50 injured during an attack on a peaceful anti-war demonstration in Donetsk by pro-Russian provocators. Witness accounts and video clearly shows the attackers and the event, but Russian media reported that Russian-speaking activists were attacked by “banderites” Read more at (Eng) <http://goo.gl/fVfn4J>. Also watch video at <http://goo.gl/fZb1Co>  
A well-known “professional” Russian provocator

was spotted in the crowd of pro-Russian protesters in Donetsk. See more at <http://goo.gl/nu2b7k>

The next day another two victims were shot dead and 5 injured in shootings in downtown Kharkiv, the local MediaPort agency reported. “The events that occurred on Rymarskay street in the center of Kharkiv were a well-planned provocation by pro-Russian chauvinists.” – Igor Baluta, head of Kharkov Regional State Administration, commented on the situation. Read more at (Eng) <http://goo.gl/ICwMyV>

On March 16 demonstrators in Kharkiv and Donetsk holding Russian and USSR flags were demanding local referendums for the regional sovereignty of Eastern Ukraine. Read more (Ukr) and see photos at <http://goo.gl/SOZLF0>  
In Donetsk pro-Russian separatists have seized the regional prosecutor’s office and the building of the State Security Service. At the rally the protesters addressed Putin asking for protection of the Russian-speaking population. Read more at (Ukr) <http://goo.gl/XDeqdT>

## The “Crimean factor” of Russian politics “Referendum” as a matter of power, not legitimacy

Scholarly opinion: Why Crimea is so important for the Russian Orthodox Church. Read at (Eng) <http://goo.gl/se5Q3c>

The American Bar Association made a statement on the deceitful policy of Russia regarding the Ukrainian language policy. Read more at (Eng) <http://goo.gl/RhJom4>

During their visit to Ukraine on March 14-15, U.S. Senators John McCain and Dick Durbin said they will urge U.S. President Barack Obama to immediately send arms and other military supplies to Ukraine's government for defense against a broader invasion of the nation beyond the already Kremlin-occupied Crimea. Read more at (Eng) <http://goo.gl/HcTLh6>

Prof. Oleksiy Haran calls on the international community not to believe Russian propaganda: *“Don't believe the Russian propaganda about Ukraine's 'fascist' protesters. The Euromaidan was a place of multi-ethnic national solidarity in the face of repression – Putin only seeks to justify*

*his aggression”*. Read more at (Eng) <http://goo.gl/2BDlfx>

Why the Crimean referendum is illegal. An international law perspective: *“Make no mistake: what matters to Vladimir Putin about Crimea is not the thousands of Russian speakers living there, who allegedly might suffer at the hands of the new Ukrainian government. What matters is the land – the port and its value to the Russian fleet. No referendum is going to transfer valid title to that land to Moscow. Everyone knows that the territory in question is Ukrainian.”* Read more at (Eng) <http://goo.gl/eQUVfF>

As Russia invades Crimea and looks poised for more, politicians have **dusted off the 1994 Budapest Memorandum** and called on Russia to respect the security assurances it gave Ukraine in exchange for the latter’s denuclearization. Yet what exactly are these security assurances worth and what mechanisms are available for their enactment? Read the whole article at (Eng) <http://goo.gl/WuFwDm>

## Civil society sets two major objectives for the new Ukrainian government: systemic reforms, lustration of the former corrupt dictator and his clique

MPs in the Verkhovna Rada have created the “Platform for Reforms”, a foundation for realizing judicial and legal reforms, introducing anti-corruption and administrative reforms, and restructuring and improving the healthcare and education systems. The ‘Intensive Reforms Package’ initiative was launched by the Euromaidan Public Sector and ‘New Citizen’ partnership. 120 experts and public activists have been working on the reform proposals and draft bills. Read more at (Eng) <http://goo.gl/JS2VXc>

Yegor Sobolev, a journalist-turned-EuroMaidan-revolution activist, now heads the newly formed Lustration Committee. On March 12, he stated that he wants deposed President Victor Yanukovich and six other members of his regime to be banned from government for life. Read more at (Eng) <http://goo.gl/GRqfbb>

The concept framework for the law on lustration developed by the prominent Ukrainian lawyers is available for viewing at (Eng) <http://goo.gl/1CzgMw>

Which European countries have frozen Yanukovich’s assets and what will come of it? Read an article at (Eng) <http://goo.gl/WaEU5w>

Read about the Jewish Division of Maidan’s Heavenly Hundred at (Eng) <http://goo.gl/RauB22>

The documentary *Revolution of Dignity* about EuroMaidan is now available online with English subtitles at <http://goo.gl/9Pke8q> (*Feel free to contact us if you would like higher quality video for public screening and or in other languages*).



Georgian pop stars have recorded a song to support Ukraine: “WE ARE UKRAINIANS”. Watch video at <http://goo.gl/vDSpju>

The video appeal by the 24 year-old Ukrainian graduate student Yulia Marushevka “I am Ukrainian” has been watched on YouTube by 7,8 million viewers! Watch the video at <http://goo.gl/4R3S9j>

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