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Vladimir Sungorkin

Person

All actors • Russia

Official position/function regarding the conflict

Editor-in-chief and director of [Komsomolskaya Pravda \(KP\)](#) publishing house. Sungorkin is one of the main Russian actors of information influence or propagandists. He has been working in KP since 1975. [Despite the fact that the KP is a non-state publication, it stresses its closeness to the authorities in every possible way \("The current President is exactly the person who needs to be supported in all his undertakings"\)](#).

With the victory of Euromaidan, the beginning of the annexation of Crimea and the outbreak of a conflict in Donbas, the newspaper's narrative under the leadership of Sungorkin aims at public mobilization. In 2014, he talked about it as follows:

"M. KOROLYOVA: Our listeners are asking you: "In your opinion, do our federal media objectively cover the events taking place in Ukraine?"

SUNGORKIN: Well, of course, they are on the positions of the Russian state and Russian interest, therefore ... certainly you cannot speak of such complete objectivity, right? I think they are playing along with the Russian state.

KOROLYOVA: So, as the editor-in-chief of Komsomolskaya Pravda, are you ready, for example, to provide a tribune to the other side?

SUNGORKIN: I'm not ready! In this situation, I am absolutely not ready. What for? Why should I provide them with a possibility to have their say? How can I give him [Bandera] the floor, if today they are zombified by their Goebbels so that we never dreamed of?". ([From an interview with Echo of Moscow](#)).

This position is reflected in a special, one-sided selection of news and information, coverage of events, and interpretation of facts. Unverified or knowingly falsified information often appears on the pages of the newspaper; there is no room for equilateral discussions with a neutral discussion of different positions.

Actions regarding the conflict region

Creation of fakes, misinformation, manipulation of facts. Sungorkin often gives interviews and speaks out on Ukraine. Some specific examples:

- [Creation of a myth about "Captain Voloshin" who allegedly shot down a Malaysian Boeing](#). Sungorkin personally took part in the video interview with the "eyewitness" in the KP studio. Following the KP, this legend was disseminated as "verified information" by the Russia-1 TV channel and other propagandist media. [In subsequent years, KP already said that Boeing was shot down by Ukrainian Buk](#).
- Propaganda of hatred against Ukraine, maintaining the myth "Ukraine is not a state" and "it will soon collapse".

Examples:

- ["Vladimir Sungorkin: In Ukraine, everything will be even worse than under Poroshenko"](#),
- ["Vladimir Sungorkin: Ukraine is definitely on the eve of another Maidan, with a predictable result,"](#)
- ["Editor-in-chief of Komsomolskaya Pravda Vladimir Sungorkin: The Ukrainian authorities continue to go crazy!"](#)