



CIVILM+

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№ 6, May 2018

PULSE OF PEACE IN DONBASS

Results of monitoring actual occurrences, related to the hybrid war in Eastern Ukraine

On 4th December 2017 in Vienna, civil society organizations and activists from Ukraine, Russia and other European countries founded a joint international [platform CivilM+](#) to push for peace and the rule of law in eastern Ukraine.

The platform's aim is to streamline civic actors' efforts in spheres like human rights protection, peacebuilding, education and information, humanitarian work, and to work on rebuilding the territories of Donetsk and Luhansk as peaceful, integrated and developed regions of a democratic Ukraine and united Europe. CivilM+ seeks to promote the involvement of the regions' population as well as refugees and displaced persons in these activities. CivilM+ offers its participants opportunities for cooperation, elaboration of joint positions, mutual support and solidarity, improvement of qualification and close coordination of work.

The newsletter is devoted to the work carried out by civil society organizations and initiative groups from Ukraine, Russia, as well as international organizations, to overcome the consequences of the hybrid military conflict in the eastern regions of Ukraine.

You can send your information for the newsletter or ask any questions at: newsletter@civilmplus.org

The selection of news presented in the Newsletter is subjective. The opinions expressed in the published materials may not coincide with the opinion of the authors and participants of CivilM+.

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1. Political processes and the situation in the conflict zone

- [Oleg Sentsov, Ukrainian political prisoner in Russia, announced an unlimited hunger strike](#) with the sole demand of the release of Ukrainian political prisoners in the Russian Federation. Olexander Kolchenko, also a political prisoner, [declared his](#)

[readiness](#) to support this hunger strike (*text in Russian*)

- May 2, 2018 - [Ukraine imposed new sanctions against Russia](#), including sanctions against those involved in data and cyber aggression (*text in Ukrainian*)
- May 2, 2018 - the leader of the so-called “LPR” [stated that the conflict in Donbass has shifted into “a hot phase”](#) (*text in Russian*)
- May 2, 2018 - an official [briefing was given by Serhiy Nayev, the Joint Forces Commander](#) (*video in Ukrainian*)
- May 7, 2018 - the Bellingcat team [announced that Russian military involved in the bombardment of Mariupol](#) in 2015 have been identified (*text in Russian*)
- May 7, 2018 - Serhiy Hrytsak, the head of the Security Service of Ukraine [confirmed the direct participation of the Russian military in the bombardment of Mariupol](#) in January 2015, according to the SBU investigation (*text in Ukrainian*)
- May 10, 2018 - Petro Poroshenko, the President of Ukraine, held a [meeting in Aachen with Angela Merkel, the Chancellor of Germany, and Emmanuel Macron, the President of France. An analysis of the meeting was prepared by the German political scientist Stefan Meister](#) (*text in Ukrainian*)
- May 16, 2018 - Martin Sajdik, the OSCE Chairperson's Special Representative to the Trilateral Contact Group, [expressed his concern over ceasefire violations](#) and the consequences for civilians (*text in English*)
- May 19, 2018 - [the official meeting of Angela Merkel, the Chancellor of Germany and Vladimir Putin, the President of Russia](#), was held. According to media reports, the issue of the settlement of the Donbass conflict was also discussed (*text in Russian*)
- Kurt Volker, [the U.S. special representative for Ukraine, stated he expects Russia to join the negotiations](#) on the settlement of the Donbass conflict (*text in Russian and English*)
- Petro Poroshenko signed a [decree on Ukraine's withdrawal from a number of international treaties](#) concluded within the framework of the CIS (*text in Ukrainian*)
- [Russia should pay compensation to Ukrainian companies for the loss of assets in Crimea](#), according to the decision of the International Court of Arbitration in the Hague. The text of the decision is [here](#) (*text in Russian*)
- The head of the OSCE SMM [stated that the ongoing violations of Minsk agreements threatens the work of the Donetsk filtering station](#) and puts civilians at risk (*text in Ukrainian*)
- Yuri Hrymchak, the Deputy Minister for Temporarily Occupied Territories and Internally Displaced Persons of Ukraine [reports that the current shelling is more intense now than ever since the beginning of 2018](#) (*text in Ukrainian*)
- [Three armed insurgents have been captured](#), according to the headquarters of the Joint Forces Operation, who are being held under the strategic leadership of the General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine (*text in Russian*)
- [Oleg Mamiev aka “Mamay”, the commander of the illegal armed formation “Pyatnashka”, was killed](#), according to a statement from the so-called “DPR” (*text in Russian*)
- “Proliska” Humanitarian Mission [documented a number of shellings of apartment buildings and civilians](#) deaths in the frontline zone during May 2018 (*text in Russian*)

- Volodymyr Balukh, [a Ukrainian political prisoner held in Russia](#), made a statement (*text in Ukrainian*)
- [At least 355 civilians were killed by mines during the conflict in the east of Ukraine](#), stated the Ministry for Temporary Occupied Territories and Internally Displaced Persons (*text in Ukrainian*)

2. Public initiatives dedicated to overcoming the consequences of war and searching for opportunities for dialogue

- The planned [meeting of mothers of killed and missing Ukrainian soldiers and those who fought on the side of the so-called “L/DPR” was not held](#) in Marinka. OSCE proposes to organize it in occupied Donetsk (*text in Russian*)
- Ukrainian film director [Serhiy Loznytsia received Cannes film festival prize for the best director with his “Donbass” movie](#). The film depicts the life of the so-called “LPR” and “DPR” (*text in Ukrainian*)
- At the beginning of May 2018, the [volunteer group of the “Black Tulip” Humanitarian Mission from Slovyansk met with relatives of R. Plohodko and O. Saboda, the Ukrainian soldiers](#) who were killed in 2014 (*text in Russian*)
- May 13, 2018 – a meeting with anthropologist Vadim Lurie and a [presentation of his photographs “Journey to Donbass and back”](#) took place in Saint Petersburg (*text in Russian*)
- May 22, 2018 – a street [action demanding state action in the release process of Ukrainian political prisoners](#) in Russia and occupied Crimea was organized in Kyiv, near the Presidential Administration (*text in Ukrainian*)
- “Journalism during the war and political turbulence”: a [meeting with the Estonian film director and journalist Ilmar Raag](#) took place in Kyiv (*video in Russian*)
- [The “May, 32nd” festival will take place in the town of Shchastya](#). This festival has taken place in Luhansk for several years now and is well-known there. The organizers are going to prepare the program based entirely on the requests of local residents and are going to bring a feeling of peaceful life and free creativity to the town, which is located near the contact line (*text in Ukrainian*)

3. Legal initiatives and analytics on war conflict

- May 16, 2018 – Petro Poroshenko had [recalled the draft law “On amendments to the Law “On Ukrainian citizenship”](#)”, which had included few regulations with potential grounds to discrimination of particular social groups, including those living in temporarily occupied territories. Human rights NGOs [opposed](#) this law (*text in Ukrainian*)
- Petro Poroshenko announced [introduction of a draft law “On collaborators”](#). Radio Liberty about the consequences of this bill (*text in Ukrainian*)
- Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine adopted the [legal act on financial aid to Ukraine national political prisoners](#) in Russian Federation. The legal act is being [analysed](#) by the Hromadske TV (*text in Ukrainian*)
- Petro Poroshenko had signed the [law posting the regulation that foreign nationals serving in Ukrainian army](#) will have same rights as Ukrainian nationals in case of death or severe disability (*text in Ukrainian*)

- Ukrainian parliament had registered the draft [bill “On amendments to particular legal acts of Ukraine on issues of ensure of protection of IDP's rights”](#). This law will allow notary registration of agreements on realty remaining on the occupied territories (*text in Ukrainian*)
- [Interview with the analyst from “Democratic initiatives named after Ilka Kucherina” Foundation, Maria Zolkina](#): the state has to discuss compromises with the Ukrainian people in order to get Donbass conflict in order (*text in Russian*)
- [“Connection with civilians of the occupied territories: to keep impossible to loose”](#) - research of Kalmius group was published (*text in Ukrainian*)
- UHHRU together with Truth Hounds published the [report “Torture chambers are talking: military crimes against the captives and facts of presence of Russian military forces on Donbass”](#) (*text in Ukrainian*)
- [Research “Four years of the war: labor crisis on Donbass”](#) published by “Foundation 101” and “Ukrainian Institute of the Future” (*text in Ukrainian*)
- April issue of the [bulletin “Human rights on the southern east of Ukraine”](#) published by Coalition of NGOs “Justice for peace in Donbass”. Bulletin analyses state of human rights on the occupied and controlled territories (*text in Ukrainian*)
- Analysis of the [potential role of the private business in conflict resolution in Donbas](#) published by Carnegie Foundation (*text in Russian*)
- Attorney Alexey Skorbach – on possible [migration amnesty for foreigners serving](#) in Ukrainian army (*text in Ukrainian*)
- “Vostok-SOS” published a [monitoring of human rights violations](#) in particular regions of Donetsk and Luhansk regions in April 2018 (*text in Russian and English*)

4. Assistance to internally displaced persons (IDPs), refugees and affected civilians

- [Civilians from uncontrolled territories miss first-need products](#) – says vice minister on issues of temporarily occupied territories and IDPs Yuri Grymchak (*text in Russian*)
- [“Between the seaside and the frontline”](#) - [coverage](#) on “GogolFest” festival in Mariupol (*text in Russian and Ukrainian*)
- On [plans of check-point reconstruction in Donbas](#) (*text in Russian*)
- Head of UN Monitoring mission in Donbass [reports that humanitarian needs of the region are covered by 4% only](#) (*text in Ukrainian*)
- Alexey Nozdrached, head of Department on military and civil cooperation of the Ukrainian military forces, [speaks on conflicts between military and civilian population in Eastern Ukraine](#) (*text in Ukrainian*)
- Number of Ukrainian schools with [online education available for kids from uncontrolled territories](#) will be increased. At the moment about 2500 kids are willing to apply for such learning (*text in Russian*)
- [Opinions](#) of Ukrainian civil servants, political analysts and Mps on humanitarian aid in Donbass (*text in Ukrainian*)

5. Interviews and opinions

- Frontline fastfood, massage and looking after the graves: new types of [small](#)

[business in Donbass](#) (*text in Russian*)

- [Interview with Eugeny Kravtsov, acting head of “Ukrainian railways”](#) on transport connections with Eastern Ukraine (*text in Russian*)
- [From Brazilian poster boy for Ukraine's separatists to “Man of God”](#) - story of Rafael Lusvarghi (*text in English*)
- Radio Liberty analyses [interactions between so-called “DPR” and Russian Federation](#) (*text in Russian*)
- Donbass.realii – on [Russian TV-propaganda](#) by the contact line (*text in Russian*)
- Donbass's war [effect on the nature and national parks](#) (*text in Russian*)

supported by the government of Germany as a part of the DRA project "Dialogue for mutual understanding and rule of law: European NGOs together to overcome the Donbass conflict"



Federal Foreign Office

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