



CIVILM+

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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.

This newsletter will be published regularly; the next issue will be published in November 2018.

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

- November 25, 2018 – [Russian navy ships have fired at a Ukrainian ship](#) causing the detention of 3 Ukrainian ships and injuring of 6 sailors. 23 sailors have been [arrested](#) for the illegal crossing of the state border of Russia. *(text in English)*
- November 26, 2018 – [martial law](#) has been [introduced for 30 days](#) in 10 regions of Ukraine that border with Russia and Transnistria. A detailed chronicle can be found [here](#). *(text in Ukrainian, English, Russian)*
- November 26, 2018 – more than one hundred Ukrainian civil society organizations have issued a joint [statement on the Russian blockade of the access to the Sea of Azov and the capture of 23 Ukrainian sailors](#). *(text in Ukrainian and English)*
- November 1, 2018 – [Mark Etherington became the](#) new deputy head of the OSCE Special Monitoring Mission *(text in Russian and English)*
- November 1, 2018 – [sanctions](#) against 322 Ukrainian [citizens](#) and 68 companies have been introduced in Russia. Moscow Carnegie Center [comments](#). *(text in Russian)*
- November 1, 2018 – joint [statement by France and Germany was published regarding the responsibility of Russia](#) and Russian-supported forces in “L/DPR” for the downed OSCE drone *(text in Russian)*
- November 8, 2018 – the acting chair of OSCE, Italian Foreign Minister, [Enzo Moavero Milanese expressed his concern](#) regarding the upcoming “elections” in certain districts of Donetsk and Luhansk regions *(text in English)*
- November 10, 2018 – the [law on the criminal responsibility](#) of Russian citizens for the unlawful crossing of the Ukrainian state border came into force *(text in Russian)*
- November 11, 2018 – [“elections” took place in the “L/DPR”](#). Radio Liberty explains why they should only be considered as window-dressing *(text in Ukrainian)*
- November 12, 2018 – OSCE SMM has published a [report about the security monitoring conducted on the “elections” day](#) on the territory, uncontrolled by Ukrainian state authorities *(text in Ukrainian)*
- November 17, 2018 – a bilateral [meeting of Minister of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine Pavel Klimkin and US State Secretary Mike Pompeo](#) took place. The situation in the Sea of Azov was discussed there among other topics *(text in Ukrainian)*
- November 19, 2018 – [soldiers of private Russian military companies and war and combat veterans have appealed to the International Criminal Court](#) asking to open an investigation against the organizers of the private military companies and those assisting them *(text in Russian)*
- November 22, 2018 – [Eugeny Marchuk has been appointed as the new representative of Ukraine in the Trilateral Contact Group on Ukraine](#). Marchuk has replaced Leonid Kuchma on this position. First vice-speaker of Rada, Irina Feraschenko, [comments](#) on this appointment *(text in Russian)*
- November 26, 2018 – Martin Sajdik, Special Representative of the Acting OSCE Chairman in the Trilateral Contact Group and Ertugrul Apakan, Head of OSCE SMM in Ukraine have [called all parties to refrain from any actions](#) that may

deteriorate the situation after the events in the Sea of Azov (*text in English, Ukrainian, Russian*)

- November 26, 2018 – Rebecca Harms, MEP, [comments on the potential new sanctions against Russia](#) (*text in Ukrainian*)
- November 27, 2018 – Dmitri Peskov, spokesperson of President of Russian Federation made a [statement about the risk of conflict escalation in Donbas](#) after martial law was introduced in Ukraine (*text in Russian*)

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

- November 14, 2018 – “[Berlin Autumn Talks](#)”, organized by DRA e.V. took place with the main focus on local conflicts in Europe as well as on spectrum of possible ways out from crisis, and on European experience concerning transitional justice. The following talks were part of the meetings: “[How to overcome the consequences of conflict through civil society? Possibilities and limitations for European cooperation in post-Soviet space](#)” and “[Document, accuse, reconcile? Concepts and tasks of comprehensive conflict management](#)” (*video in Russian and English*)
- November 15-24 2018, [Kyiv hosted a tour of Teatr.doc](#) – Russian documentary theater group. The tour included performances about the Donbass, the case of Oleg Sentsov, torture in the Russian penitentiary system and the history of the Russian human rights movement. Every performance was followed by an open talk with actors and directors of the Teatr.doc (*text in Russian*)
- November 21, 2018 – A round-table on the situation in Donbass was conducted in Prague. [Participants share its main conclusions](#) (*text in Ukrainian*)
- November 23, 2018 – PEN-Moscow and the Free Word Association conducted a [public evening to support the exchange of political prisoners between Ukraine and Russia](#). Participants discussed perspectives on negotiations, trials facing Crimean Tatars and other current challenges. More than 55 thousand roubles had been raised during this year in aid of political prisoners (*text in Russian*)
- The foundation “Library country” began a crowdfunding [campaign to raise money to buy books for 18 universities that moved out from the Donbass region](#) to other regions of Ukraine (*text in Ukrainian*)

3. Legal initiatives and analytics on war conflict

- Danish Refugee Council published a [bulletin on issues of martial law](#), its analysis as well as potential consequences for the humanitarian situation and human rights in the conflict zone (*text in English*)
- Experts [comment on potential human rights limitations](#) due to the introduction of martial law in Ukraine (*text in Ukrainian*)
- About the [list of 22 detained Russian citizens who can potentially be exchanged](#) for Ukrainian political prisoners held in Russia and Crimea (*text in Russian*)
- [The volume of trade between Russia and “L/DPR” in the last 6 months has been around 150 million USD](#). All the transactions were made through a payment center in South Ossetia called “International Settlements Bank”, according to an investigation by The Washington Post (*text in English*)
- [“European Platform for Democratic Elections” found 81 international observers](#)

[visiting the “elections” in the “L/DPR”](#). Almost half of them happened to be politicians or state officials, others were businessmen, students, journalists, far-right and far-left activists as well as conspiracy theorists (*text in English*)

- Monthly [bulletin for October on human rights violations](#) in the occupied territories of Luhansk and Donetsk regions has been published by the “East-SOS” (*text in Ukrainian, Russian and English*)
- Kharkiv Human Rights Group has published a [report “Human Rights in South-Eastern Ukraine”](#) of October (*text in Ukrainian*)
- The report by Institute for Religious Freedom [“Religious freedom at gunpoint: Russian terror in the occupied territories of Eastern Ukraine”](#) (*text in Ukrainian, English and Russian*)
- The [report on situation at checkpoints in Donbass in October](#) was published by the charitable foundation “Right to Protection” (*text in English*)
- Kyiv International Institute of Sociology together with “Detector Media” has conducted sociological [research on the efficiency of the state policy on informational security](#). A majority of the respondents think that Ukrainian officials should not make any concessions to Russia for peace in Donbass (*text in Ukrainian and English*)
- [More than 16.000 people are being kept in 28 penal institutions in the occupied parts of Donbass](#). Hunger, lack of medical help and no possibility for release are [reported](#) by human rights defenders (*text in Ukrainian and English*)
- Preliminary [report “Current events in the “People’s Republics” of eastern Ukraine”](#) has been published by DRA e.V. within the framework of the project “Human rights monitoring in the Eastern Ukraine” (*text in English*)
- [The vision of the peace-building mission in Donbass by the Ministry of Temporarily Occupied Territories](#) is discussed in the analysis by “Radio Liberty” (*text in Ukrainian*)

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

- November 2, 2018 – Ukraine has started the application process for state aid for those who have been held captive, political prisoners and their families. The Ministry of Temporarily Occupied Territories has conducted a [briefing, presenting the rules for provision of this aid](#). “East--SOS” [comments](#) on the regulation of the commission that takes applications (*text in Ukrainian*)
- November 16, 2018 – Osnat Lubrani, UN Humanitarian Coordinator in Ukraine [said that only 36% of planned humanitarian support to the occupied regions had been financed](#) (*text in Russian*)
- November 17, 2018 – during the press-conference “The Pope to Ukraine” announcement was made, that [European Catholic churches followed the call made by Pope Francis and raised more than 15 million euros](#) for civilians affected by the conflict (*text in Russian*)
- November 23, 2018 – the [meeting of the national platform “Dialogue on peace and safe reintegration” took place in Kyiv](#). The topic of the meeting was “Our own and others: how to interact with Ukrainian citizens in the uncontrolled territories?” (*text in Ukrainian*)

- [Problems for Ukrainian citizens extending their refugee status and temporary asylum in Russia](#) have become more frequent (*text in Russian*)
- “East-SOS” tells about their 51st [humanitarian trip](#) to the liberated parts of the Donbass, where humanitarian aid had been delivered to inhabitants of 9 localities (*text in Russian*)
- “East-SOS” [comments on problems of the state rehabilitation program](#) for former captives (*text in Ukrainian*)

5. Interviews and opinions

- Alexander Hug, former Deputy Head of the OSCE monitoring mission in Ukraine speaks in an [interview about the difficulties of his work in SMM](#) (*text in English*)
- Historian Ralf Possekel on the [problems of reconciliation between Ukraine and Russia](#) and on the danger of repeating the mistakes of the mid 20th century (*text in Russian*)
- [Interview with Yaroslav Zhilkin, chairman of Ukrainian search mission “The black tulip” on the difficulties faced by volunteers](#) who are searching for the bodies of people who have died during the armed conflict, on cooperation with authorities, and on main risks for the volunteers (*text in Russian*)
- “Russia is making little effort to disguise its leadership role in the self-proclaimed people's republics in eastern Ukraine. Putin needs the regions to blackmail Kiev” – says the [essay of Christian Neef, Moscow correspondent of Der Spiegel](#) (*text in English*)
- A [publication on the violation of freedom of conscience](#) in the occupied territories of Donbass (*text in Ukrainian*)
- [Swissinfo](#) on the work of OSCE SMM (*text in Russian*)
- Besides the problematic mines, each of the cities of Gorlovka-Yenakievo-Toreck also have multiple warehouses of chemicals waste, highly dangerous factories, mercury mines and underground capsules with radioactive contents – Radio Liberty on the [ecological catastrophe in Donbass](#) (*text in Russian*)
- [Photo project by Paula Bronstein \(USA\) on elderly people](#) living in Donbass (*text in English*)
- American photographer Brendan Hoffman, who [used to film armed conflict in Eastern Ukraine, tells about his first steps in military photography, his most important pictures and professional aims](#) that are worth taking risk (*text in Russian*)
- Dana Kavelina, an artist from Kyiv, has produced a [cartoon “About Mark Tulpanov, who spoke with the flowers”](#), speaking about the need for peace through the story of one family. The cartoon has won several prizes at international festivals (*video in Russian and English*)

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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