



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 January 2019.

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 30, 2018 - [Ertuğrul Apakan, Chief Monitor of OSCE SMM in Ukraine said](#) during the meeting of the Permanent Council that lasting peace in Eastern Ukraine requires political solutions (*text in English, Russian, Ukrainian*)

- November 30, 2018 - [Ukraine has banned entry for male Russian citizens](#) aged 16 to 60 years for the period of martial law (*text in Ukrainian*)
- December 4, 2018 - Martin Sajdik, Special Representative of OSCE Chairperson-in-Office and in the Trilateral Contact Group, made a [press statement after the regular meeting of the Trilateral Group stating that tensions in the conflict zone have not declined](#) (*text in English and Russian*)
- December 4, 2018 - Petro Poroshenko, President of Ukraine, [blamed Russia for not following the requirements of the ECHR decision](#) concerning the detained sailors (*video in Ukrainian*)
- December 4, 2018 - Viktor Muzhenko, Commander of the Armed Forces of Ukraine, [stated that the threat from Russia is at its highest level](#) since 2014 (*text in English*)
- December 5, 2018 - The ICC has published the [Report on Preliminary Examination Activities regarding the crimes committed in Ukraine](#) since November 21, 2013 (*text in Russian*)
- December 6, 2018 – the Verkhovna Rada has adopted the [Law on the Termination of the Treaty of Friendship, Cooperation and Partnership](#) between Russia and Ukraine (*text in Ukrainian*)
- December 6, 2018 – the court-hearing against the Ukrainian citizen accused of the murder of journalists Andrey Mironov and Andrea Rocelli in May 2014 continues in Italy. [Surviving journalist William Roguelon testified in court](#) (*text in Russian*)
- December 8, 2018 - [briefing of Federal Security Service took place in Moscow](#) to discuss the reconstruction of events in Kerch Strait (*text in Russian*)
- December 10, 2018 - the Council of the European Union introduced individual [sanctions against 9 people for participation in the organization of so-called “elections” in the “L/DPR”](#) (*text in English*)
- December 12, 2018 - Martin Sajdik, Special representative of OSCE Chairperson-in-Office and in the Trilateral Contact Group, [welcomed the transfer of prisoners from the “L/DPR” territory to Ukraine](#) (*text in Russian*)
- December 13, 2018 - the Council of the European Union unanimously [voted to prolong sanctions against Russia](#) due to “zero progress in the implementation of the Minsk agreement” (*text in Russian*)
- December 15, 2018 – [the United Orthodox Church of Ukraine was established in Kyiv](#). How this will influence the Ukraine-Russia relations in an [analysis](#) by Carnegie foundation (*text in Ukrainian and Russian*)
- December 16, 2018 - President Petro Poroshenko [said](#) during a press conference, that the liberation of Ukrainian political prisoners and prisoners of war held in Russia depends solely on Vladimir Putin (*video in Ukrainian*)
- December 16, 2018 - around 43.000 residents of the settlements in Donetsk region near the demarcation line remained without access to clean water as the water pipeline “[Horlivka - Toretsk](#)” [had been damaged](#) during the military actions (*text in Russian*)
- December 17, 2018 - Kurt Volker, US State Department Special Representative on Ukraine, [spoke of possible new sanctions against Russia](#) due to the incident in the Kerch Strait (*text in Russian*)

- December 17, 2018 - Sergey Lavrov, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Russia, [said in the interview that Russia is ready to reply to any possible military actions](#) of Ukraine by the Crimean border. In response to that the Ukrainian Ministry of Foreign Affairs [commented](#) that Ukraine's sovereignty over Crimea and Donbass will only be fought back in a political, diplomatic and international legal battle, but not in a military conflict (*text in Russian and Ukrainian*)

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

- Street protests took place in [Volgograd](#) and [Moscow](#) (Russia) calling for the release of Ukrainian sailors. One of the protests in Moscow was [disrupted](#) by pro-Kremlin activists (*text in Russian*)
- December 8, 2018 – a [round-table “Potential of civil diplomacy in modern conflict resolution”](#) took place in Moscow within the All-Russian Civil Society Forum (*text in Russian*)
- December 10, 2018 - [workshop “What can we do for peace during the war”](#) took place in Kyiv within the Human Rights NonConference (*text in Ukrainian*)
- December 10, 2018 - a [statement by the member organizations of CivilM+](#) platform was published on the dangerous tension between Russia and Ukraine due to the events in the Kerch Strait on November 25, 2018 (*text in Russian and English*)
- December 15, 2018 – a demonstration in support of Ukrainian prisoners of war and political prisoners held in captivity in the so-called “L/DPR” took place in Kyiv. [The demonstration “The ticket to freedom”](#) was organized by former prisoners and the Media Initiative on Human Rights. Currently the list of hostages numbers 102 people (*text in Ukrainian*)
- December 18, 2018 - a [round-table “Justice in Eastern Ukraine during the Russian aggression”](#) based on the results of 2 years of research on how the conflict has influenced the Ukrainian justice system (*text in Ukrainian*)
- In December 2018, Russian citizens faced massive limitations and a ban on entering Ukraine due to the introduction of martial law. This included [journalists from independent Russian media](#), who were not allowed into Kyiv on their way to visit civil society initiatives on a blogging tour in Donbass (*text in Russian*)
- Students of Luhansk National University now working in exile in Starobilsk, developed a [project “Literature map of Luhansk”](#) aimed at breaking Ukrainians' stereotypes about the people living in Eastern Ukraine (*text in Ukrainian*)

3. Legal initiatives and analytics on war conflict

- December 7, 2018 - the [draft law “On mine action in Ukraine”](#) was adopted at the second reading and generally by the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine. According to the law, a national mine control authority will be created (*text in Ukrainian*)
- December 13, 2018 - the results of the [survey of the National Monitoring System](#) were presented, according to which more than a third of IDPs do not plan to return, even after the end of the conflict. The survey was conducted by the International Organization for Migration (*text in Ukrainian*)
- December 17, 2018 - a [law to simplify the acquisition of Russian citizenship](#) was adopted by the State Duma of the Russian Federation. As it was noted by Vyacheslav Volodin, the Chairman of the State Duma, the law “will support our compatriots in Ukraine” (*text in Russian*)

- The [UN report on the human rights situation in Ukraine](#) has been published. According to it, 3020 civilians, including 147 children, have been killed in Donbass since April 2014 (*text in [Ukrainian](#), [Russian](#) and [English](#)*)
- The Institute for the Study of War (Washington, USA) [predicts a military escalation of Russia's actions towards Ukraine](#), including the possibility of a chemical attack. See abstracts of the report in the “Radio Liberty” [publication](#) (*text in English and Ukrainian*)
- The analytical [report “Rehabilitation of the Victims of the Conflict. Does the state offer anything besides disability confirmation and crutches?”](#) was published by the Ukrainian Helsinki Human Rights Union (*text in Ukrainian*)
- The analytical [report on freedom of movement for the elderly and those with disabilities](#) in the east of Ukraine has been released by Human Rights Watch (*text in English*)
- [“The Story of a City: Clearing operation according to the list in Peremohzne” report](#) was published by the Documentation Center of the Ukrainian Helsinki Human Rights Union (*text in Ukrainian*)
- The [report “Violent crimes committed during the armed conflict in the east of Ukraine in 2014-2018.”](#) prepared by the Kharkiv Human Rights Group and the NGO “Myrny bereh” was published (*text in Ukrainian*)
- Most Ukrainians don’t support the potential special status of Donbass and support a potential UN peacekeeping mission, according to the results of the [study “Public perceptions of identity, war and transnational relations in Ukraine”](#) conducted by the German Center for Eastern and International Studies (ZOiS) together with Kiev International Institute of Sociology (*text in Russian*)
- See the November issue of the [bulletin “Human Rights in the South-East of Ukraine”](#), prepared by the Kharkiv Human Rights Group, here (*text in Ukrainian*)
- See the analytical [report on the situation of prisoners in so-called “L/DNR”](#), prepared by the Kharkiv Human Rights Group, here (*text in Ukrainian*)
- See the [review of human rights violations in the occupied parts of Luhansk and Donetsk](#) regions in November, prepared by the “East-SOS” Charitable Foundation, here (*text in Ukrainian, Russian and English*)
- An [interview with Elena Semerkina](#), analyst of the Ukrainian Helsinki Human Rights Union, about issues of transitional justice (audio in Russian)

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

- November 30, 2018 – The press [briefing “What are the reasons for the detention of wages for Kremlin captives?”](#) was held in Kyiv. The representatives of human rights organizations who reported on violations in the course of the work of the Commission of the Ministry of the Temporarily Occupied Territories took part in the event (*text and video in Ukrainian*)
- December 7-8, 2018 - the [forum “Security of the East of Ukraine During Hybrid War – Challenges of 2019”](#) was held in Kharkov, organized by the Local Democracy Foundation and the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung in Ukraine (*text in Ukrainian*)
- December 9, 2018 - new criminal cases for violating immigration laws and registering migrants and refugees were [initiated against Russian human rights activist Tatyana Kotlyar](#) (*text in Russian*)

- December 10, 2018 - The “Lights of Eirene” Russian anti-war initiative started a [fundraising campaign to provide children living on both sides of the contact line with gifts](#) (*text in Russian*)
- December 12, 2018 - [42 prisoners were returned](#) from the territory of the so-called “LNR” to the territory controlled by the Ukrainian authorities (*text in Ukrainian*)
- December 13, 2018 - [13 prisoners were returned](#) from the territory of the so-called “DPR” to the territory controlled by the Ukrainian authorities (*text in Ukrainian*)
- December 13, 2018 - the “[Geneva Call](#)” NGO launched its activity in Ukraine to protect civilians from military aggression (*text in Russian*)
- December 13, 2018 - The EU Delegation has allocated an additional [EUR 4 million to provide humanitarian assistance](#) to the population of eastern Ukraine due to the onset of the winter season (*text in English*)
- December 2018 - Russian civil activists [collected items and sent them to the detention center for detained Ukrainian sailors](#) (*text in Russian*)
- “East-SOS” Charitable Foundation on the [52nd](#) and [53rd humanitarian visits](#) to the east of Ukraine and the [assistance](#) provided to eight rural ambulance stations near the contact line (*text in Russian*)
- [More than 5000 children participated in children’s camps with military agendas, according to Pavlo Lysyansky](#), Commissioner of the Ukrainian Parliament for Human Rights in Luhansk and Donetsk regions (*text in Ukrainian*)

5. Interviews and opinions

- [Online-briefing from Kurt Volker](#), US State Department Special Representative on Ukraine, in material from Donbass.Realii (*text in Russian*)
- People’s friendship behind barbed wire. Associated Press [report](#) and [video from the villages of Chertkovo and Milove](#) where the state border goes down the street (*text in English, video in Russian*)
- [Violations of human rights and international humanitarian law – in an interview with Vyacheslav Likhachev](#), coordinator of the documentation department of the “East-SOS” charitable foundation (*text in Russian*)
- [On the perspectives of investigation into violent crimes in Eastern Ukraine](#) - an interview with Yevhen Zakharov, head of Kharkiv Human Rights Group (*text in Russian and English*)
- December 20, 2018 - documentary series “[Heroes of Ukrainian Donbass](#)” will be [presented](#) in “Zhovten” cinema in Kyiv. The series tell the story of civic and military resistance in Eastern Ukraine (*text in Russian and Ukrainian*)
- “[The distant barking of dogs](#)”, a documentary on life of people on the frontline in Donbass by Danish director Simon Lereng Willmont, has been shortlisted for an Oscar (*text in Ukrainian*)
- [How is Holodomor remembered in Donbass, and how is this memory saved](#) – in an article by Donbass.Realii (*text in Russian*)
- [What helps to survive captivity and how can we support those in captive - stories](#) told by people who faced detention in Crimea and Donbass (*text in Ukrainian*)
- Reportage on daily life in villages near [Donetsk](#) and [Luhansk](#) (*text in Ukrainian*)
- [On the HIV situation in the occupied territories](#) of Donetsk and Luhansk regions as told by the workers of HIV-service organizations in Ukraine (*text in Russian*)

- Historian Alexey Baikov [reflects on the perspective of the Russian anti-military musical movement](#) (*text in Russian*)

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