

Eastern Ukraine: One Year After the Odessa Massacre

Global Research News Hour Episode 102

By [Michael Welch](#)

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Region: [Russia and FSU](#)

Theme: [GLOBAL RESEARCH NEWS HOUR, Media Disinformation](#)

"Should the central government lose effective control over the east, the program will need to be re-designed."

-From a [Staff report](#) on the \$17 billion International Monetary Fund bailout for Ukraine (May 1, 2015)

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Saturday May 2 marks the anniversary of the Odessa massacre, when the Ukrainian Black Sea Port city's House of Trade Unions was set ablaze condemning dozens of people who had taken refuge there to a fiery demise.

Early reporting by the international press painted the incident as violent clashes between well-armed pro-unity protesters, who had organized a march, and "pro-Russian separatists" who had set up a protest camp for several weeks. A [London Telegraph article](#) depicted the anti-Maidan contingent as having initiated violence when individuals adorned with the black and orange ribbons of St. George started attacking the pro-unity demonstrators.

Bricks, petrol bombs, and even firearms were used during the melee. The Anti-maidan side retreated after being outnumbered. The Pro-Maidan side destroyed the anti-government camp, setting fire to the tents.

The Anti-Maidan faction made their last stand in the House of Trade Unions. The official record however is murky on whether the inferno was deliberate or an accident inadvertently started by the Anti-Maidan group.

These events took place soon after statements from the [International Monetary Fund warning of a possible change](#) to the IMF bail-out package should Ukraine lose control of the east of the country.

As the Global Research website has [revealed over the past year](#), there are good reasons to question the official Western account. Videos have surfaced revealing the use of Agents Provocateurs at the outset of the conflict, as well as clear use of molotov cocktails on the Pro-Maidan side.

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Nevertheless, Russian President Putin gets the blame for everything befalling the people of the Donbass, including apparently, the Odessa Massacre.

This week's episode of the Global Research News Hour puts this year old tragedy in context with two interviews.

[Stephen Lendman](#) is an author and blogger, and the host of the Progressive Radio News Hour on the Progressive Radio Network. He is also the editor of the recent book [Flashpoint in Ukraine: How the US Drive for Hegemony Risks World War III](#) from Clarity Press. Lendman contributed a chapter on the Odessa Massacre and shares his thoughts in the first half hour of the program.

[Roger Annis](#) is a retired aerospace worker, trade union activist and editor of [newcoldwar.org](#). He recently went on a fact-finding mission in the Donbass region including the hotspots of Donetsk and Lugansk. He shares what he witnessed in the war zone and discusses his most recent posts in the second half hour of the program.

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