

Ukrainian Army Continues its Advance into Donbass

OSCE Observers Became Victims of Another Ukrainian Armed Forces Diversion in the Donbass

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Global Research, April 25, 2017

Region: [Europe, Russia and FSU](#)

Theme: [Military and WMD](#)

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The Ukrainian army continues to increase its activity in the east of the country in the combat zone between the Ukrainian armed forces and the Luhansk People's Republic's units. Thus, in the morning of April 23 a patrol vehicle of the OSCE Special Monitoring Mission (SMM) blew up on a mine in not controlled by Kiev Slavyanoserbsky district of the Lugansk region. As a result of the explosion, a US citizen working as a medical officer of the mission was killed and two mission employees were injured.

Being unable to conduct active armed actions, Kiev focused its efforts on asymmetric combat operations against the Donbass insurgents through sabotage actions.

A. Marochko, an official representative of the People's Militia of the Luhansk People's Republic, said that the undermining of the cars of the OSCE mission is a terrorist act of Ukrainian special services that was committed by saboteurs of the 8th Special Regiment of Special Forces of the Special Operations Forces of the Ukrainian Armed Forces. The possibility of execution of such terroristic acts was previously officially announced by the Minister of State Security of the Luhansk People's Republic L. Pasechnik.

On February 4, 2017, he noted that the the People's Militia of the Luhansk People's Republic had information concerning the Ukrainian special services attempts to assassinate international mission personnel working in the Luhansk People's Republic. S. Ivanchuk and I. Deyev, servicemen of the 8th Special Purpose Regiment of the Special Operations Forces of the Ukrainian Armed Forces arrested in February being interrogated confirmed the fact that the Ukrainian Special Forces had the representatives of the OSCE shadowed. Major Ivanchuk, the head of the Ukrainian Group of Diversions and Reconnaissance confirmed during the interrogation that he had shadowed the movements of the OSCE staff and then had passed this information to the Ukrainian Security Service. He also admitted that the corresponding task was assigned to him by Colonel Sandursky known by the call sign "Khutor", his curator from the Security Service.

In the course of the engineering reconnaissance of the area conducted on April 24, 2017 by the units of the People's Militia of the Luhansk People's Republic at the zone of the diversion aimed at the crew of the OSCE, a so-called "lying place" organized by the Ukrainian Group of Diversions and Reconnaissance was identified at a distance of 500-700 meters from the indicated location. Based on the evidences found and the nature of the actions it was established that the group consisted of three people. The senior serviceman of the group was Major Goluzyak Sergey Vyacheslavovich from the 8th separate special regiment of the Special Operations Forces of the Ukrainian Armed Forces.

It is noteworthy that at present units of the Ukrainian Armed Forces are being trained by military instructors from Poland, Lithuania and Denmark at the Yavoriv training ground in the Lviv region. The training of the Armed Forces is led by Colonel David Jordan of the US Armed Forces, who may become the head of the "OSCE peacekeeping mission" in the Donbass region.

Undermining of the OSCE vehicle is another attempt to disrupt the Minsk settling process within the South-East of Ukraine which goal is to create preconditions for the unarmed OSCE troops entry to the territory of the unrecognized republics. The question is who from the Ukrainian governance will be able to provide guarantees for their security?

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