

Malcontent News Ukraine SITREP

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SUMMARY – DAY 40

There was very little change in Ukraine today. Russian forces have left Kyiv, Chernihiv, and most of the Sumy Oblasts. Some scattered forces remain still attempting to retreat. In Sumy, Russian troops still hold Konotop as the evacuation winds down.

Fighting continues in Mariupol with little information from the city. Given the lack of new news stories from Russian

state media, it is doubtful that Russian and Chechen forces have made significant gains in the last 24 to 48 hours.

Heavy fighting along an axis that centers on Severodonetsk also continued today, with Russian, LNR, DNR, and Chechen forces suffering heavy losses.

Russian forces are consolidating forces in Izyum, preparing to attack the strategic city of Sloviansk. This is the next critical battle for Ukraine and could decide the fate of the eastern third of the nation. A broader offensive from the Izyum is expected this week.

With Russian forces retreating from almost half of the area they controlled only ten days ago, the discovery of war crimes and atrocities across Ukraine has become a tidal wave.

ASSESSMENT: The next major battle will likely be in Sloviansk and start this week. Russia is moving several Battalion Tactical Groups (BTG) into the region and has made some sent units to probe Ukrainian lines. Russia will attempt to encircle Ukrainian forces in the Donbas to better their negotiation position for peace talks.

CHERNIHIV REGION

Organized Russian units have withdrawn from the Chernihiv Oblast, with Ukraine winning the battle of Chernihiv. Russian forces suffered significant equipment losses.^{1 2 3 4 5 6 7}

The main highway from Kyiv has been cleared of mines, and aid is flowing into the city.⁸

Russian forces have moved into Belarus and Russia and are attempting to reconstitute into combat-effective BTG for redeployment into eastern Ukraine.

¹ <https://twitter.com/RALee85/status/1511022141608710150>

² <https://twitter.com/UAWeapons/status/1510648528699281413>

³ <https://twitter.com/UAWeapons/status/1510616852220710919>

⁴ <https://twitter.com/RALee85/status/1511024129184608260>

⁵ <https://twitter.com/MrOlmos/status/1510662252537552901>

⁶ <https://twitter.com/MrOlmos/status/1510663316305231882>

⁷ <https://twitter.com/ukrainianwar24/status/1511051885268148232>

⁸ https://twitter.com/ignis_fatum/status/1511020555939495942

KHARKIV & SUMY REGION

Russian forces have shelled Kharkiv for three days straight, resulting in civilian casualties.⁹ (NSFW, viewer discretion is advised) Shelling of civilians and civilian infrastructure continued into the night of April 4.¹⁰

Russian forces shelled the town of Chuhuiv, southeast of Kharkiv. There are reports of civilian casualties,¹¹ and the settlement was heavily damaged.¹²

Russian troops are attempting to keep Ukrainian forces from moving on Izyum, where an offensive to take Slovyansk is being prepared. Due to heavy Russian troop and equipment losses during March, the reconsolidation and resupply have been challenging.¹³ Five destroyed command vehicles indicate that up to five BTGs lost senior officers in the battle for Izyum.

Russia is preparing for an offensive push from Izyum to attempt to capture the strategic city of Slovyansk. This will

⁹ <https://twitter.com/visegrad24/status/1511060862907387909>

¹⁰ https://twitter.com/no_itsmyturn/status/1511117980171751424

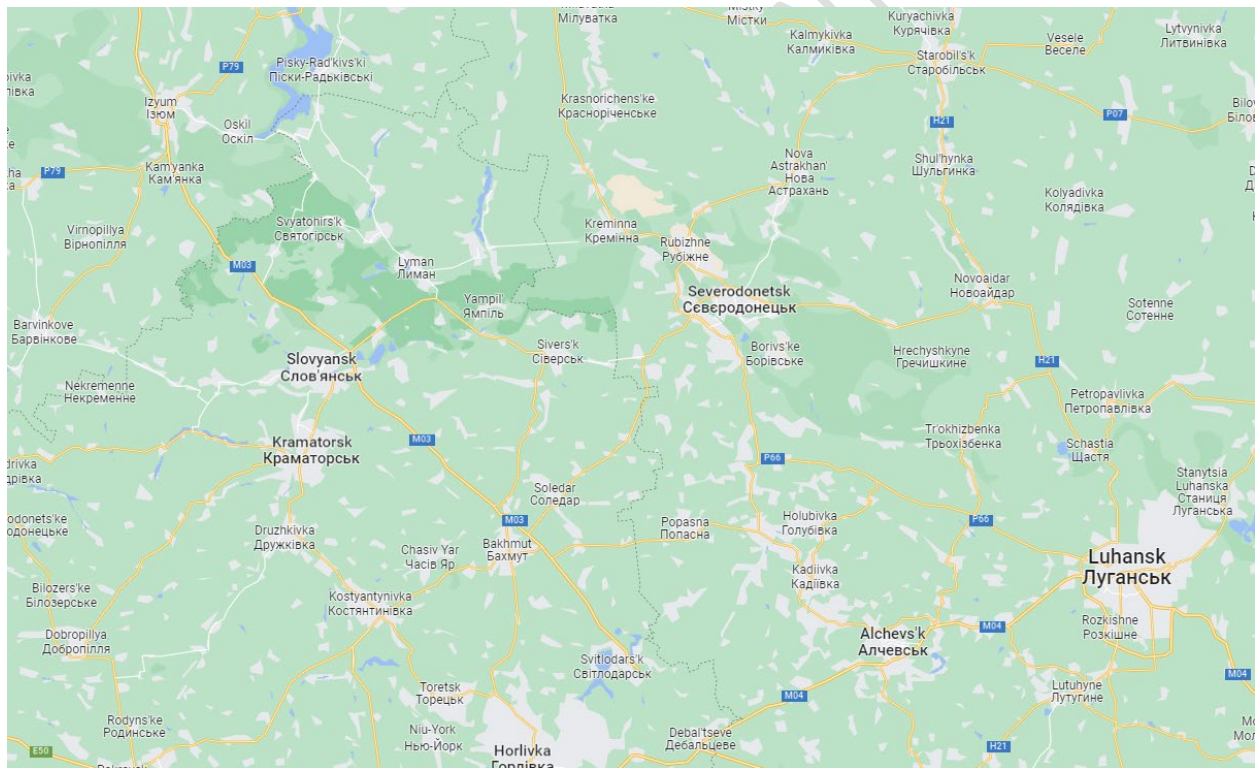
¹¹ https://twitter.com/ignis_fatum/status/1511021338785366017/photo/1

¹² <https://twitter.com/realzaidzayn/status/1511051520258842627>

¹³ <https://twitter.com/UAWeapons/status/1511010864211664904>

be the next major battlefield in Ukraine and is key to the success of Russia's eastern strategy.

If Russia can secure Slovyansk and Severodonec to the east, they can surround a significant number of Ukrainian forces holding a defensive line from Rubhizhne to Popasna. If Russian troops fail to secure Slovyansk, it will represent a defeat in what is now a Phase 2B of the ongoing war.



ASSESSMENT: It is unlikely Russia has the equipment or manpower to maintain a threatened siege of Kharkiv. If Russian and Russia backed DNR and LNR militias suffer

heavy losses in the battle for Slovyansk, they would be forced to withdraw troops from the region to support the offensive in the Donbas.

Organized Russian units have withdrawn from almost all of the Sumy Oblast, with a small group in Konotop. Like in Chernihiv, disorganized groups of troops remain, attempting to retreat through Konotop or any available route to Russia.

ASSESSMENT: The withdrawal from Sumy leaves the north flank of Russian forces in Kharkiv exposed. Ukrainian forces could harass these lines, forcing Russian troops to move further south, leave the Kharkiv area, or take a defensive posture outside Kharkiv along the north and eastern flanks.

KHERSON & MYKOLAIV REGION

Fighting around Oleksandrivka, northeast of Kherson continued.¹⁴ Ukrainian and Russian forces pushed in different directions in the Kherson Oblast, with Russian

¹⁴ <https://twitter.com/EuromaidanPress/status/1511090610995961860>

forces shelling recently liberated villages in the northwest region.

Mykolaiv was hit by Smerch rockets with cluster munitions, which landed in civilians areas.¹⁵ Mayor Oleksandr Senkevich reported that two hospitals were damaged, with ten people killed¹⁶ (viewer discretion is advised) and 46 wounded.¹⁷

ASSESSMENT: With Ukrainian forces being released to new fronts from the northern axis, we now believe the Ukrainian General Staff may have more interest in liberating Kherson. The Oblast is strategically important for a land bridge to Crimea.

DONBAS REGION

There is no verifiable information out of Mariupol today. There is a lot of Russian disinformation, which indicates that fighting continues and the city has not been occupied. A few pictures emerged, but nothing that showed troop

¹⁵ <https://twitter.com/NotWoofers/status/1511001994563043346>

¹⁶ <https://twitter.com/NotWoofers/status/1511002001320071180>

¹⁷ <https://twitter.com/KyivIndependent/status/1511082966008672260>

positions. There were no Russian state media reports from within the city showing combat.

ASSESSMENT: Given the eagerness of Chechen forces and Russian state media to display their war gains, it seems unlikely the battlefield situation has changed in Mariupol.

A video has emerged showing an estimated 250 Ukrainian marines being captured as prisoners of war. The video claims they surrendered in Mariupol. We have not been able to geolocate the video and question the weather conditions compared to the weather in Mariupol over the last five days.¹⁸ We are not questioning the veracity of the video, only the geography.

The Red Cross was denied access to Mariupol for the fifth day in a row. Its relief workers were “held” by Russian military police in Manhush, 20 kilometers from the western edge of the port city.¹⁹ The Red Cross clarified that this was not a “hostage situation” but would not elaborate on why the occupation authorities are holding the team.

¹⁸ <https://twitter.com/Osinttechnical/status/15111059121067511814>

¹⁹ [Reuters](#)

ASSESSMENT: Given the circumstantial evidence of continued fighting, we maintain that the city is still contested. The resistance has held the city for 34 days. If the city is bisected, we believe Mariupol will be occupied in the next one to 12 days.

Russian, Chechen, DNR, and LNR militias concentrated their attacks on Rubizhne,²⁰ Popasna,²¹ Marinka,²² and Krasnogorivka. Russian artillery shelled Severodonetsk, causing damage in civilian areas.^{23 24}

The Ukrainian general staff reported there was no change in areas of control along the front and Russian forces continue to suffer heavy losses.

Russian state media has made no claims on capturing any towns in the region for the last two days.

²⁰ <https://twitter.com/visionergeo/status/1511012180552036358>

²¹ <https://twitter.com/Osinttechnical/status/1511081033554436100>

²² <https://twitter.com/Wolltigerhueter/status/1510261355760267269>

²³ <https://twitter.com/theragex/status/1511072020922093583>

²⁴ <https://twitter.com/MaximEristavi/status/1510256614716198920>

BLACK SEA & ODESA REGION

There weren't any significant military operations in this region.

ASSESSMENT: We believe the possibility of military action from Transnistria into Ukraine is extremely low. The occupation force is roughly the size of two BTGs, and lightly armed. It is more likely that some of the Russian troops in Transnistria are being mobilized to fight in eastern Ukraine and will be transferred via aircraft.

ASSESSMENT: An amphibious assault on Odesa would be audacious and disastrous for the Russian military. Russia does not have the available ground forces or air support. Most naval infantry BTGs have been deployed within Ukraine and have suffered heavy losses.

KYIV REGION

There weren't any significant military operations in the Kyiv region.

ASSESSMENT: An unknown number of disjointed Russian forces remain in the regions north of Kyiv. These forces were left behind when the retreat collapsed into disarray.

WEST REGION

There wasn't any significant military activity today.

ASSESSMENT: We believe there is no longer a threat of a Belarusian invasion into Western Ukraine.

THEATERWIDE & EXTERNAL DEVELOPMENTS

BMP-1s and T-72 tanks were seen on trains leaving Czechia. It is believed these armored vehicles are destined for Ukraine as part of a United States brokered deal.²⁵

ASSESSMENT: The equipment is very old and appears to be part of the Czechia reserve material. It is not likely to have high value in direct combat.

²⁵ <https://twitter.com/sentdefender/status/1511131033902755844>

The State Department has signed off on a deal to sell Bulgaria 8 F-16s.²⁶ The former Soviet Bloc nation has 11 airworthy MiG-29s in inventory.²⁷

ASSESSMENT: Interesting.

The United States confirmed that the state-of-the-art switchblade combat drones would include the man-carriable 300 model and the tank destroying 600 model.²⁸

The first four Australian Bushmaster light armored vehicles have been prepared for airlift on a C-17 to Europe.²⁹

United States Marine Corps F/A-18 Super Hornet fighter jets arrived at Lask Air Base in Poland as part of a growing NATO presence in the region.³⁰

²⁶ <https://twitter.com/AnAthenianToLDN/status/1511072340284788737/photo/1>

²⁷ <https://twitter.com/paulmcleary/status/1511062026294071296>

²⁸ [Bloomberg](#)

²⁹ <https://twitter.com/AndrewBGreene/status/1511148955954184193>

³⁰ <https://twitter.com/theragex/status/1511023420884111362>

Russia is reportedly activating officers from their military training academies for military duty to replace leadership losses in Ukraine.³¹

WAR CRIMES AND HUMAN RIGHTS

Editor's Note: All links in the footnotes should be considered NSFW, viewer discretion is advised. We have stopped geolocation confirmation with widespread reports being investigated and confirmed by major news organizations.

On March 31, Russian forces attacked a civilian convoy of aid workers attempting to reach Chernihiv, destroying five vans. One was killed, and four were wounded. The charred body of the person killed was still at the attack site.³²

FULL DISCLOSURE: One of our contacts in Ukraine was connected to the person killed in this attack.

³¹ <https://www.facebook.com/GeneralStaff.ua/posts/287763906870028>

³² <https://twitter.com/EmineDzheppar/status/1509608163976355846>

Russian troops shelled a cancer hospital in Chernihiv during the city's siege, causing significant damage.³³

A woman in the village of Kalyta³⁴ in the Chernihiv oblast alleges the commander of a Russian BTG raped her on March 8, when they occupied the settlement.³⁵

Authorities recovered the burned body of a civilian who was shot on the road in Nova Basan.³⁶

Russian troops held over 150 people hostage in a basement in the Chernihiv Oblast, including children. During the ordeal, people died from a lack of medical care, and Russian troops would not permit the bodies to be removed.³⁷

A motorcoach carrying refugees from Kharkiv was attacked by a Russian Su-25, severely damaging the vehicle. There were casualties.³⁸

³³ <https://twitter.com/lesiavasylenko/status/1510724538287460360>

³⁴ <https://goo.gl/maps/ARPRmFjFMraR1j2V7>

³⁵ <https://twitter.com/KSergatskova/status/1511083194392715276>

³⁶ [@ignis_fatum Twitter](#)

³⁷ <https://twitter.com/olgatokariuk/status/1510919258158551040>

³⁸ https://twitter.com/ukraine_world/status/1511008584791994371

The Russian Air Force bombed a dairy farm in Kharkiv, killing almost 1,000 head of milk cows and destroying the facility.³⁹

A video shows a van marked with invasion Z, grabbing civilians off the street in the Kharkiv Oblast.⁴⁰

Russian missiles or shells struck a maternity hospital in Kharkiv, causing significant damage. Patients and expectant mothers were moved to the hallways.⁴¹

Russian forces withdrawing from the Kharkiv and Sumy Oblasts through Konotop have been accused of shooting civilians. Photos have emerged of a civilian who was tortured and shot in the head.⁴² Ukrainian marathon runner and record holder Serhiy Pronevych in Boromlya was tortured in a garage and shot in the chest.⁴³

³⁹ <https://twitter.com/visegrad24/status/1510221088239849480>

⁴⁰ <https://twitter.com/walterlekh/status/1511101102015528963>

⁴¹ https://twitter.com/ukraine_world/status/1511003929341227011

⁴² https://twitter.com/ignis_fatum/status/1511047564577193985

⁴³ <https://twitter.com/UKRWarSitRep/status/1509896706078486558>

There are reports of hundreds of civilian casualties, torture, and execution across the Sumy Oblast done by Russian forces as they withdrew.⁴⁴

The bodies of a young family, including a 17-year-old girl who was raped and a naked three-year-old, were found executed by Russian troops in Mykolaiv. The three-year-old had been gagged.⁴⁵

The bodies of four to five civilians heaped into a pile and burned were located in Bucha.⁴⁶ Evidence of additional atrocities is being discovered as crews move through the city removing explosives and looking for survivors.^{47 48}

At a children's camp, authorities discovered another interrogation and torture center in Bucha. Five bodies of men who were tortured and executed were recovered.^{49 50 51} ⁵² Seventy journalists verified the conditions of the camp and were shown the recovery and state of the bodies.

⁴⁴ [Amnesty International](#)

⁴⁵ https://twitter.com/Mariana_Betsa/status/1510966912724963328/photo/2

⁴⁶ https://twitter.com/Mariana_Betsa/status/1510966912724963328/photo/1

⁴⁷ https://twitter.com/Den_2042/status/1510953004920418315/photo/1

⁴⁸ https://twitter.com/Den_2042/status/1510953004920418315/photo/3

⁴⁹ <https://twitter.com/timjudah1/status/1511053441979797508>

⁵⁰ https://twitter.com/ua_industrial/status/1511031917294108681

⁵¹ https://twitter.com/free_esports/status/1510998081650806792

⁵² https://twitter.com/Yurets_V/status/1511008279492763653

Satellite images from Maxar shared by the New York Times show that the bodies of dead Ukrainians in Bucha have been in the street since mid-March.⁵³ These images further debunk the Russian Ministry of Defense's claims that the images were staged with actors or drunks.

In Severodonetsk, a Russian state media controlled account claimed that Russian troops captured, tortured, and killed Ukrainian soldiers. They included pictures.⁵⁴

The Ukrainian General Staff reported that Russian forces were doing "filtration" in Izyum.⁵⁵

ASSESSMENT: Given what we've learned across the northern parts of Ukraine, we believe this is a valid assessment of ongoing war crimes in the recently occupied town.

Russian forces mined the central district hospital in Polohy and told the medical staff not to return. It is reported that the patients are still in the hospital.

⁵³ https://twitter.com/Odessa_Journal/status/1511166670261346305

⁵⁴ <https://twitter.com/spriter99880/status/1510930016242180099> [Russian State Media]

⁵⁵ <https://www.facebook.com/GeneralStaff.ua/posts/287763906870028>

In Nova Kakhovka in the Kherson Oblast, Russian forces are cracking down on civilians, stealing farm equipment, and forcing residents to be human shields. The region has a growing insurgency, being fueled by continued civilian reprisals.

Ukrainian prosecutor-general Iryna Venediktova indicated that the situation in Borodyanka, which was occupied by Chechen forces, is far worse than in Bucha. She did not elaborate further, only saying, "the worst situation in terms of the victims" is there.⁵⁶

In Oleksandrivka, Russian artillery struck 150 meters from an international news crew affiliated with CNN, destroying their vehicle.^{57 58 59}

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy toured parts of Bucha on April 4, telling reporters it was "very hard to talk."⁶⁰

⁵⁶ <https://www.mercurynews.com/2022/04/04/live-updates-russia-ukraine-war/>

⁵⁷ <https://twitter.com/brianstelter/status/1511124197761859586>

⁵⁸ <https://twitter.com/cnnipr/status/1511111586131369988>

⁵⁹ https://twitter.com/Den_2042/status/1510953004920418315/photo/4

⁶⁰ https://twitter.com/Euan_MacDonald/status/1510984212001742851



Photo Credit: AFP, Anadolu Agency/Getty Images (we're little guys and we don't distribute this widely – this image was critical share – please don't sue us)

United States President Joe Biden called for a trial to judge war crimes in Ukraine.⁶¹

The United States plans to seek a suspension of Russia from its seat on the United Nations's top human rights body. The calls for the suspension come in the wake of growing evidence that Russian forces committed war crimes in Ukraine, U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations Linda Thomas-Greenfield said.

⁶¹ <https://www.ft.com/content/44ca2e32-7942-4873-93a1-77bbc014bf63>

Any decision to suspend Russia would require a decision by the U.N. General Assembly in New York.⁶²

GEOPOLITICAL

Ukraine's President Zelenskyy is scheduled to address the United Nations Security Council on Tuesday.⁶³ In March 2022, Russia held the Presidency of the National Security Council. The position rotates monthly and has moved to the United Kingdom.

Germany expelled 40 Russian diplomats after the atrocities in Bucha were revealed. German Foreign Minister Annalena Baerbock said the diplomats had "worked every day against our freedom."⁶⁴

France announced they would expel "many" Russian diplomats later this week, "whose activities are contrary to our security concerns."

⁶² <https://www.mercurynews.com/2022/04/04/live-updates-russia-ukraine-war/>

⁶³ <https://twitter.com/AFP/status/1511113717769019400>

⁶⁴ <https://www.politico.eu/article/germany-expel-russia-diplomat-work-everyday-against-freedom/>

Lithuania on Monday announced that it would expel Russia's ambassador and recall its envoy in Moscow in reaction to increasing signs that Russian forces committed war crimes in Ukraine.⁶⁵

The Baltic country also decided to close a Russian consulate in the port city of Klaipeda, where it has a large offshore LNG import terminal.

"Lithuania strongly condemned the atrocities committed by the Russian armed forces in occupied Ukrainian cities, including the brutal massacres in Bucha. All war crimes and crimes against humanity committed by the Russian armed forces in Ukraine will not be forgotten," Foreign Minister Gabrielius Landsbergis said Monday.

Hungary's pro-Putin prime minister, Viktor Orban, has been reelected to a fourth term. With 91% of the vote tallied, Orban's nationalist party held 53% of the votes.⁶⁶

⁶⁵ <https://www.mercurynews.com/2022/04/04/live-updates-russia-ukraine-war/>

⁶⁶ [Associated Press](#)

ECONOMIC

The Russian navy is blockading the Emmakriss III, a cargo ship loaded with grain destined for Egypt.⁶⁷ Egypt is reported to have a strategic food reserve that will last for 2.5 months.

The United States announced they would introduce tougher sanctions against Russia later this week. No further details were given.⁶⁸

French President Emmanuel Macron suggested that the nation would ban Russian oil and coal imports.⁶⁹

Despite the tough economic talk from European leaders, natural gas flow through Ukraine at the Velke station reached a post-invasion high.⁷⁰

ASSESSMENT: Western Europe is highly dependent on Russian natural gas.

⁶⁷ <https://twitter.com/visegrad24/status/1511116199026905093>

⁶⁸ <https://www.ft.com/content/44ca2e32-7942-4873-93a1-77bbc014bf63>

⁶⁹ <https://www.ft.com/content/44ca2e32-7942-4873-93a1-77bbc014bf63>

⁷⁰ <https://twitter.com/JavierBlas/status/1510881828474957827>

The rouble was steady at 83.75 to 1 United States dollar.

Oil prices were mixed, with WTI up slightly to \$103 a barrel and Brent crude flat at \$107 a barrel.

DISINFORMATION EVALUATION

Since the start of the war in Ukraine, Russia has released several conflicting statements about conscripts fighting in Ukraine. According to Russian law, the Russian Ministry of Defense has previously stated that conscripts must undergo months of training before being sent to war. Therefore, the presence of recently drafted soldiers in Ukraine is impossible.⁷¹

On March 9, Russia admitted that conscripts were present in Ukraine, and on March 31 Putin signed a decree that ordered 134,000 new conscripts into the army, although the connection between this and the war in Ukraine has been denied. Putin has also said that those who 'disobeyed the order' to exclude recent conscripts will be prosecuted.

⁷¹ <https://www.currenttime.tv/a/minoborony-priznalo-nalichie-srochnikov-v-ukraine/31744778.html>

While Russia says those drafted will not be sent to military hotspots, evidence of the last 40 days indicates otherwise.

Meanwhile, the Russian Ministry of Defense has taken to its Telegram channel to deny claims that conscripts were present in the war.



"Fake: Russian conscripts are being sent to fight in Ukraine. Such information has appeared on Ukrainian sources of mass information.

Truth: the 'document' which is being used to support the fake about the sending of conscripts to Ukraine contains rough orthographic errors. Upon careful examination, you can notice that on the stamp, the word 'armed' (вооруженных) is spelled with one "н", and "Российской" - with one letter

"с". This is not possible in official documents.

This is not the first attempt of Ukrainian creative factories to fabricate inexistent decrees and provisions. Earlier on our channel, we have dissected the fake "On the document which allegedly demands the publication of fakes" on the inhumane treatment of the Ukrainian Military Forces to prisoners of war. And the decree on the engagement in the special operation of underage youth army.

We remind you that the head of the Ministry of Defense, Sergei Shoigu, has officially announced that conscripts will not be sent to military hotspots. Despite fakes spread by the President of Ukraine himself."



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Минобороны России
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Today

Правда: «Документ», который используют для подтверждения фейка об отправке срочников на Украину, содержит в себе грубые орфографические ошибки. При внимательном рассмотрении можно заметить, что на печати слово «вооруженных» написано с одной буквой «н», а «Российской» - с одной буквой «с». Подобное - невозможно в официальных документах.

Это уже не первая попытка креативных фабрик Украины сфабриковать несуществующие приказы и постановления. Ранее на нашем канале мы [разбирали](#) фейк «О документе, авторы которого якобы требуют публиковать фейки» о бесчеловечном отношении ВСУ к военнопленным. И [приказ](#) о задействовании в спецоперации несовершеннолетних юнармейцев.

Напомним, что глава Минобороны Сергей Шойгу официально [заявил](#), о том, что срочники не