



Newsletter of the  
**Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Donetsk People's Republic**

26. 02. 2020

**The main events of the Republic  
(from February 14 to February 21)**

***1. Pushilin accused Zelensky of escalation of tension in Donbass***

The shelling of Trudovskaya mine village in western Donetsk, as result of which a civilian was wounded, speaks of official Kiev's intentions to continue the genocide policy against residents of Donbass. Such a statement was made by the Head of the DPR Denis Pushilin.

"This situation (*wounding of civilian by an Armed forces of Ukraine sniper*) only confirms that residents of Donbass, in violation of the UN Convention on the Protection of Rights and Freedoms, in violation of the signed documents on the peaceful settlement of the conflict, have been subjected to genocide for the sixth year. Now the Donetsk doctors are fighting for the life of the victim, he receives the necessary medical care" –said Pushilin.

He added that with this shelling of the west of Donetsk, official Kiev once again with deep cynicism demonstrated its readiness to "follow the principles of fascism and nazism."

"Escalating the situation in Donbass, Zelensky, as if fulfilling the role according to the script, continues to pretentiously announce to the international community about his peace initiatives. But in reality, he mercilessly destroys the inhabitants of the Republic - we cannot even evacuate the victims from the targeted fire zone," – the leader of the DPR emphasized.

In this regard, Pushilin called on the international community to assist and force Kiev to comply with the Minsk Agreement for the sake of restoring peace in Donbass.

## ***2. DPR Foreign Minister Natalia Nikonorova has commented new areas for the disengagement of forces and hardware***

At the last meeting of the Contact Group in Minsk, one of the main tasks of the working group on security issues was to intensify work on the coordination of three new areas for the further disengagement of forces and hardware. However, even for the only matching location in the area of the October – Gnutovo checkpoint in the south of our Republic, understanding of the final area coordinates was not achieved.

The proposal of Ukraine does not take into account the main principle of the disengagement of forces and hardware provided by the Framework Decision - mirror and parity withdrawal from the occupied positions. We would like to note that this principle has not been observed in other proposals of the Ukrainian side in new areas.

In this regard, for the next meeting in Minsk, we intend to work out in detail the coordinates proposed by Ukrainian representatives for this and other locations in order to offer reasoned parity options that will meet the requirements of the Framework Decision.

## ***3. Natalia Nikonorova commented “12 steps to achieve peace in Donbass” presented at the Munich Conference***

Those proposals that were voiced at the Munich Conference in the context of supposedly facilitating the conflict settlement in Donbass, in essence, have no practical benefit. They are all rather vague, have no specific wording and were made absolutely without taking into account the views of Republic’s representatives - these proposals are in some ways an attempt to evade the Minsk agreements in favor of some new plans for the resumption of peace.

However, we think that this initiative has not any construct and also harm the peace process that has been going on for more than 5 years within the framework of the Minsk diplomatic platform. We don’t understand the logic of the “Munich experts” who, believe that Kiev will implement new peace agreements, although the Ukrainian side openly sabotages the existing ones – Minsk agreements.

Moreover, the “12 steps” presented in Munich are concentrated mainly around resolving security issues, they only mention in passing the least important issues of resuming the socio-economic and humanitarian spheres, as well as restoring human rights. In addition, the political component of the settlement was almost completely ignored, although it was precisely for political reasons that a conflict arose in Donbass, accordingly, this topic should be in the main focus, and not somewhere on the periphery of attention.

## ***4. Natalia Nikonorova commented on the latest statements by the Ukrainian authorities about the future of the Minsk process***

The Ukrainian authorities are again trying to replace the content of their political commitments by changing its meaning to the exact opposite. The initiative of the Minister of internal Affairs Avakov about the intention to adopt a "law on collaborators", which implies filtering the population and criminal prosecution for a significant part of it, is completely divorced from reality. This mechanism completely contradicts the logic and meaning of the UN Security Council resolution that approved the Minsk agreements as

binding. In accordance with paragraph 5 of the Set of Measures, Ukraine has pledged to grant amnesty to all participants in the events of 2014. At the same time, it is the height of hypocrisy to hold a direct equality between this law and the Amnesty law.

Statements by the Ukrainian leadership about joint patrols also raise a number of questions. Avakov claims that it is impossible to patrol together with the people's militia, while the head of the Ukrainian foreign Ministry says that sooner or later this will have to be done. Such strife is extremely revealing and raises the question - can the Ukrainian side be considered a reliable partner in negotiations in such conditions? Not to mention that all these plans are put forward unilaterally, without the consent of the representatives of the Republics, which, of course, a priori deprives them of meaning. The Kiev authorities should have decided among themselves about their position for a long time, and even better – re-read the Set of Measures that stipulates that the local people's militia should be engaged in maintaining public order in the Donbass.

Such statements by Ukrainian officials confirm our sense that the new regime, unfortunately, has not introduced new approaches to a peaceful settlement. Kiev demonstrates an absolute lack of understanding of the fact that the crisis in the negotiation process is due to the refusal of direct dialogue with the Republics in favor of such provocative initiatives. The Ukrainian authorities are wasting time by ignoring the call of international mediators to deepen work on a political settlement. Having received clear guidelines for action on all areas of peaceful settlement, especially on political aspects, the Ukrainian side has not yet fully implemented any of them. Thus, Ukraine once again demonstrates that as an unreliable international partner, it is weak and untenable.

#### ***5. Commentary by Natalia Nikonorova regarding the statements of the Secretary of the National Security and Defense Council***

Being the secretary of the National Security and Defense Council of Ukraine, Alexey Danilov obviously should be familiar with the text of the Minsk agreements. This document, the conditions of which Ukraine has committed to fulfill, is the only non-military way to resolve the conflict, implying preservation of the formal sovereignty of Ukraine in the territory of Donbass. And UN Security Council resolution No. 2202 makes this document binding on the international level. If Danilov is really not indifferent to the fate of people living in Donbass, then he should provide full support for the speedy implementation of the provisions of the Package of Measures.

Instead, the Ukrainian authorities continue Poroshenko's policy of delaying the negotiation process and simulating a peaceful settlement. This has become especially noticeable lately - representatives of Kiev put forward one provocative initiative after another, presenting us new absurd demands that have nothing to do with the Minsk agreements. Not to mention the ongoing provocations on the contact line and the new shelling of the civilian population in Donbass. Wanting in words to maintain the integrity of the country, Kiev, nevertheless, is doing everything to further fragment it. We remain convinced that the new government either does not have the political will to resolve the conflict, or uses its position in its own financial interests, continuing to play the victim of aggression in front of its Western sponsors.

There is only one way to restore peace in the region - is to provide Republics with a special status and direct dialogue with our representatives for the further implementation of the Package of Measures. The results of the previous government work showed that moving away from these conditions is unpromising.

**6. Natalia Nikonorova: "We will look up to the high level, which Vitaly Churkin set in the domestic diplomatic school»**

Three years ago, Vitaly Churkin, the permanent representative of Russia to the UN, has gone. High professionalism, brilliant charisma, intelligence and tact - with these words he is characterized by colleagues who were lucky to work with this outstanding diplomat. Giving a high example of diplomatic skill, Vitaly Ivanovich always successfully represented his country at all stages of his career. He consolidated the image of a Russian diplomat in international consciousness, which will be equated for many generations.

Residents of Donbass warmly preserve the memory of Vitaly Churkin, who defended the truth about what was happening in the region. He made every effort for an early political settlement of the conflict in heated debates at the highest international level. We will look up to the high level, which he set in the domestic diplomatic school, and his example will inspire us to work for the good of the Motherland.