



NEWS FROM UKRAINE

Ukrainian border guards have denied 8,200 people, mainly Russians, entry to Ukraine since early March

Ukrainian border guards have denied about 8,200 people entry into Ukraine in line with the Operation “Kordon” since 4 March, Ukrainian State Border Service Chief Mykola Lytvyn informed.

In addition, 77 writs denying some people entry have been issued since 4 March.

“Sixty-three people involved in extremist activities have been identified on the second line of control,” Mr. Lytvyn added.

The people denied entry to Ukraine are mainly citizens of Russia who “could have planned various provocations and extremist activities” on Ukrainian territory, he said.

Read more: Interfax, 25 March 2014

<http://en.interfax.com.ua/news/general/197753.html>

Comment of Information Policy Department of the MFA of Ukraine on Ukrainian nationals detained at Moscow airport

On 15 March, at the international airport Sheremetievo (Moscow), about 40 citizens of Ukraine who came to Moscow by flights from Kyiv, Donetsk and other cities of Ukraine were detained and not allowed to enter Russia. The competent authorities of the Russian Federation took their photographs and fingerprinted them.

No explanation on the reasons for the detention of the Ukrainian citizens was given to representatives of the Embassy of Ukraine to Russia, who arrived at the airport.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine calls on the Russian side to ensure the protection of the legitimate rights and interests of Ukrainians on its territory.

Read more: The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine, 15 March 2014

<http://bit.ly/1gfAtrl>

UN human rights monitors deployed to assess recent and ongoing violations in Ukraine

On 14 March, UN Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights Ivan Šimonović announced the immediate deployment of a UN human rights monitoring team throughout Ukraine to help establish the facts surrounding human rights violations, including in Crimea, and serve to de-escalate tensions in the country.

“Without an independent, objective establishment of the facts and circumstances surrounding alleged human rights violations, there is a serious risk that these competing narratives could be manipulated



for political ends, leading to divisiveness and incitement to hatred. The UN team, as an impartial player, will serve to establish the facts, thus helping prevent such manipulation and de-escalate tensions.”

Read more: United Nations in Ukraine, 14 March 2014

<http://www.un.org.ua/en/information-centre/news/1807>

Developing situation in Crimea alarming, says OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities

On her return to Kyiv on 6 March, the OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities Astrid Thors said: “I am alarmed about the risk of violent conflict on the Crimean peninsula and the effects this could have on all communities, particularly the Ukrainian and Crimean Tatar groups.” Ms. Thors said the situation remains precarious. “Rash decisions on the future status of Crimea are a major source of tension and expose divisions between the peninsula’s communities that have been left unaddressed for decades. Like the Ukrainian community, Crimean Tatars have taken a different position to the majority population, which increases their vulnerability. Relations between ethnic groups on the peninsula are characterized by a growing climate of fear,” she said.

Read more: Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe, 6 March 2014

<http://www.osce.org/hcnm/116180>

Acting Minister of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine: New authorities ready to give more powers to regions, more rights to ethnic minorities

The new Ukrainian authorities are ready to discuss expanding the autonomy of regions, acting Ukrainian Minister of Foreign Affairs Andrii Deshchytsia said.

“We think they have enough autonomy as it is, however if they want more rights and powers, we are ready to give this. One thing is that it is necessary to sit at the negotiating table and to discuss these issues,” Mr. Deshchytsia said at a briefing following a meeting with the foreign ministers of Belgium, the Netherlands and Luxembourg in Kyiv on 10 March.

Ethnic minorities have proper rights in Ukraine, the acting minister said. At the same time, Kyiv is ready to discuss the issue of observing their rights, including with such international organizations as the Council of Europe and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), he said. This concerns the possibility of expanding the rights of ethnic minorities in Ukraine, Mr. Deshchytsia said.

Read more: KyivPost, 10 March 2014

<http://bit.ly/1gSGDDu>

3,000 Crimean residents seek shelter in mainland Ukraine, — UNHCR

Almost 3,000 people from Crimea are looking for shelter throughout Ukraine. This was stated by UNHCR Regional Representative Oldrich Andrysek on 26 March in Kyiv.



“According to our calculations, 3,000 people from Crimea are seeking shelter throughout Ukraine. One third of them are in Lviv Region now. There are no precise statistics, but we know that not all are moving officially or have moved already, so the figure will be higher,” said Mr. Andrysek.

He also highlighted that these issues should be solved at the highest central level.

“People should receive guarantees from the government, that property they own in Crimea will continue to belong to them. There are many things that the government should do, since people cannot live long in sanatoriums,” noted Oldrich Andrysek.

Read more: [Vghos.com.ua](http://vghos.com.ua), 26 March 2014

<http://bit.ly/1ohcVMK>

Refugees from Crimea seek asylum in Poland

An official says that almost 100 Ukrainian refugees from Crimea have asked for asylum in Poland this month and have been taken to refugee centres pending a decision.

Spokeswoman for the Border Guards in Przemysl, eastern Poland, Elzbieta Pikor said the refugees have been arriving since Russian troops took control of Ukraine’s Crimean Peninsula three weeks ago. The largest group includes 17 children aged between 5 months and 18 years. They said they were threatened at home by Crimean authorities for having supported Ukraine’s military.

Poland’s immigration authorities have six months to decide on the asylum requests.

Read more: [Associated Press](http://yhoo.it/1haMkXD), 21 March 2014

<http://yhoo.it/1haMkXD>

Expert’s assessment: Ukrainian labour migration flow to Russia will reduce temporarily

The flow of labour migration from Ukraine to Russia most probably is going to decline, but later will return to its traditional level. At the moment, there are about 1.5 million Ukrainian migrant workers in Russia, according to Director of the Institute for Demography and Social Studies of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine Ella Libanova.

“Today we estimate that there are approximately three million Ukrainians working abroad. Half of them work in Russia. The majority works as builders, drivers and oil industry workers there,” said Ms. Libanova.

Read more: [Ukrainian National News](http://bit.ly/QxGJ91), 25 March 2014

<http://bit.ly/QxGJ91>

Ombudsman of Ukraine and Public Defender of Georgia sign cooperation agreement

Considering the high level of cooperation between Ukraine and Georgia in various spheres, in particular humanitarian, cultural, and tourist fields, and the close interpersonal relations between citizens of two states,



an agreement on cooperation between the Ukrainian parliament commissioner for human rights and the public defender of Georgia was signed on 13 March 2014.

This agreement is directed at strengthening cooperation in the protection of the rights of citizens of Ukraine on the territory of Georgia and citizens of Georgia on the territory of Ukraine.

Read more: Ukrainian Parliament Commissioner for Human Rights, 13 March 2014

<http://bit.ly/1rWN1wV>

Pre-arrival information exchange system: customs officials from Belarus and Ukraine learn from Estonian experience

A group of twenty customs officials from Belarus and Ukraine visited Estonia to find out how the pre-arrival information exchange system works in the EU and how European partners share experience and good practices on the regional level.

The study visit on 18–20 March was organized under an EU-funded project, Support to the creation of an electronic system of pre-arrival information exchange between the customs authorities of Belarus and Ukraine — PRINEX.

It was conducted by the International organization for Migration (IOM), in cooperation with the International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD).

Read more: European Neighbourhood Info Centre, 24 March 2014

<http://bit.ly/1gSGKPC>

Detention of migrants in focus at Eastern Partnership Panel on Migration and Asylum

The different practices of immigration detention within the EU Member States and Eastern Partnership countries was addressed by the EU and Eastern Neighborhood experts during a meeting in the Moldovan capital Chisinau. Topics on the agenda included international and national legal frameworks of migrant detention, practical aspects of detention — e.g. conditions, legal aid, detention monitoring mechanisms, and the effectiveness of alternatives to detention.

The meeting was organized jointly by Moldova and Sweden and supported by the European Commission.

The Eastern Partnership Panel on Migration and Asylum serves to strengthen the asylum and migration systems of Eastern partners and advance the dialogue on migration and asylum issues amongst the Eastern partners and between them and the EU.

Read more: European Neighbourhood Info Centre, 20 March 2014

<http://bit.ly/1gSGNek>

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