

DISINFORMATION ABOUT THE RUSSIAN-UKRAINIAN WAR: DEBUNKING MYTHS

11.03.2022

FAKE

Some international media are again spreading fakes about the Azov Battalion and the activities of neo-Nazis.

NATO deliberately is not closing the skies over Ukraine to drain Russia.

Ukrainian sappers could not neutralize the FAB-250 bomb with their bare hands.

REAL

The Chinese edition of the Global Times published an "investigative material" accusing the Ukrainian Azov Battalion (which later became a regiment) of "neo-Nazism" and the US government of financing radicals. According to the StopFake, they want to demonize Azov, which gives Russia and its apologists the opportunity to promulgate the myth of the alleged rise of radical right-wing sentiment in Ukrainian society.

Such messages are broadcast in pro-Russian telegram channels. In particular, the Panchenko channel calls NATO's position cowardly because it does not cover the skies over Ukraine. The statement also claims that NATO is interested in a long war (although the channel calls the war a conflict), because the longer the war, the weaker Russia is, and no one seems to feel sorry for Ukraine.

In fact, **there are no official reasons to say so**. On the contrary, such rhetoric only discredits Ukraine's allies in this war.

The SES of Ukraine really managed to neutralize the FAB-250 bomb. The video is on the official channel of the SES. In total, on 9 March, the SES processed **22 applications from Chernihiv for demining**.

Meanwhile, **Russia is shelling residential areas of Ukrainian cities**, including use of prohibited weapons.

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FAKE

Pregnant woman in a photo after the shelling of a maternity hospital in Mariupol – is an actual model.

REAL

The Russian Embassy in the United Kingdom, Russian media and propagandists spread fake information that a pregnant woman in a photo taken after the maternity hospital shooting in Mariupol is a model, blogger Marianna Pidhurska.

In fact, the blogger's Instagram shows that she is really pregnant. Also, judging by geotags and messages on her Instagram, she lives permanently in Mariupol. One of her last posts is a list of shelter cities in Mariupol.

The Criminal Code has been repealed in Ukraine.

Pro-Russian telegram channels are spreading a thesis, criticizing the new law on ensuring the participation of civilians in the defense of Ukraine. Such reports argue that civilians can allegedly kill anyone if they believe that "the victim committed aggression against Ukraine."

In fact, the same law stipulates that civilians may use weapons in the same way as the military ("the use of firearms by civilians is similar to the use of weapons by servicemen in carrying out their tasks to repel armed aggression against Ukraine").

Kremlin media spread misinformation that Ukraine is allegedly blackmailing the EU by stopping gas transit in order to obtain new arms supplies and air defense.

Ukraine does not issue any EU ultimatums on gas transit.

The only thing it demands is the strengthening of sanctions against Russia, including in the purchase of gas, in order to weaken Russia and deprive it of funding this way.

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The Ukrainian military hid ammunition in Zaporizhia NPP power units and tried to attack the facility.

The Minister of Defense of the United Kingdom said that servicemen who go to fight in Ukraine, after their return, are likely to be prosecuted.

Lavrov: Ukraine was stealing Russian gas.

REAL

In fact, the **Zaporizhia nuclear power plant was seized by the Russian military**, although propaganda media claim that Ukraine itself gave them the object after the "negotiations".

In addition, Russian media claim that their military allegedly repulsed a "carefully planned neo-Nazi attack on the Zaporizhia nuclear power plant" and a Russian "patrol" on the night of 4 March. However, all this is not true.

Such reports are spread by Russian propaganda media amid the proliferation of a volunteer movement in which EU and NATO troops are coming to defend Ukraine. Such reports cite a falsified translation of a statement by British Defense Secretary Ben Wallace.

In fact, according to the Center for Combating Disinformation at the National Security and Defense Council, the official translation of the official's statement does not say a word about the foreign legion and the punishment of its members.

Ukraine has not bought Russian gas since November 2015, but neither does it steal it. First, it is quite difficult to steal gas from gas transmission systems, as GTS operators keep gas records around the clock. Secondly, Ukraine has been buying gas from Europe since 2015. It can be of any origin, but European companies, unlike Russia, do not sell gas in exchange for political concessions.

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Zelenskyy was ashamed to declare war.

US biolabs in Ukraine have studied ways of transmitting coronaviruses and other dangerous diseases that can affect only certain nations (Russians, for example). The transmission of dangerous pathogens and bacteria, according to the Russian version, was to occur through bats and birds.

REAL

Pro-Russian telegram channels spread the thesis that the world and international organizations do not call the Russian invasion of Ukraine a war because "Zelenskyy was ashamed to declare it". At the same time, the Ukrainian president has repeatedly called Russia's invasion of Ukraine a war, while Russia is trying to deny it and uses words such as "special operation", "rescue operation" (in which the **Russian occupiers fire on civilian infrastructure and kill civilians**).

At the same time, the thesis that other countries do not call the events in Ukraine a "war" is also untrue. In particular, the post cites the example of the US Embassy in Ukraine, which called the war "Putin's conflict in Ukraine", while US Secretary of State Anthony Blinken has repeatedly called the Russian invasion a war and called for an end to it.

Russia's "sensational information" about biolaboratories in Ukraine has, in fact, always been publicly available. The goal of these laboratories has always been to **reduce the biological threat**, not the spread of pathogens or bacteria.

According to the Ministry of Health, all laboratories in Ukraine perform a single common function - the indication and identification of infectious agents that have significant epidemic potential and / or international significance and are subject to regulation in accordance with international health regulations.

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FAKE

Western media are staging the victims of civilians in Ukraine.

Ukrainian nationalists have killed 14,000 pro-Russian citizens in the Donbas in 8 years of war.

REAL

The network spreads and criticizes the story of the German-language media allegedly about the death of civilians in Ukraine due to the war in Russia. According to StopFake, the video is called a "production" that is allegedly designed to "incite hatred against Russians." The video shows the alleged corpses behind the journalist, but one person, who was supposed to portray the corpse, begins to move and change his position. In fact, this is the plot of a protest against climate policy in Vienna (Austria), which was published on 4 February, 2022.

Earlier, this story was also used by anti-vaccineists, who claimed that COVID-19 had been staged, and this story is one of the proofs.

During the 8 years of the war, 14,000 people actually died, but, firstly, not all of them were civilians, and secondly, more importantly, **it was Russia that killed these people as it attacked Ukraine.** According to the UN, from April 14, 2014 to December 31, 2021, 14 200 to 14 400 people died due to the war in eastern Ukraine, of which 3400 were civilians. Among the civilian casualties were 152 children. 81.4% of civilians died in the territories of "LNR / DNR", 16.3% in the territory controlled by Ukraine, and another 2.3% - on the line of demarcation.