

DISINFORMATION ABOUT THE RUSSIAN-UKRAINIAN WAR: DEBUNKING MYTHS

03.03.2022

FAKE

The president of Russia announced that the occupiers "are doing everything possible to ensure the return of Indian students from Kharkiv to their homeland" as they "were taken as hostages by Ukrainian security forces that use them as human shields."

Russia is installing antennas to listen to the conversations of Ukrainians. Fake information is shared on social media that the Russian military is allegedly installing antennas to listen to Ukrainians talking on the phone.

Viber chats are spreading voice messages in Russian from an unknown person, who warns that he knows from "verified" sources about a lift of Belarusian planes, which are allegedly maneuvering in Ukraine.

REAL

Ukraine facilitates the evacuation of foreigners as much as possible. Ukrainian railways organize evacuation corridors for them. The railway company forms foreign groups to transport them in separate carriages and stations have volunteers that know multiple foreign languages to assist those in need.

"The enemy is trying to intimidate us, spread panic and, most importantly, silence us. After all, it was thanks to information provided by the citizens that a significant number of military equipment and manpower of the occupier's army was destroyed. Now is not the time to be silent. We must work together to destroy the enemy as much as possible," the State Special Communications Service said.

The author threatens that the planes are able to fly to any point of Ukraine's territory. The fact-checking project "NotaEnota" writes that such information has the only purpose—to spread panic. "That is what collaborators and invaders do when they record and distribute unconfirmed messages," the statement says.

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SSU introduces new communication rules. There is no gas left in the underground gas storage sites of Europe.

"Farm" marks have appeared on Google Maps, they are made by Russian diversion intelligence group to launch missile or bomb strikes on Ukraine.

REAL

The Security Service of Ukraine has denied fake information that phone calls would be allegedly recorded in Ukraine, and messages and calls in Whatsapp, Twitter and Facebook as well. Russian media outlets are spreading the information that the entire volume of gas, pumped to underground storage back in the summer, was taken away. This information is published with a reference to Gazprom and allegedly data from Gas Infrastructure Europe. However, StopFake denies this information. "Europe's underground storage is indeed lower than usual. But the information that all the gas was taken is not true. The latest data on storage shows that in various European countries as of February 25, the volume of gas fluctuates within 20%," the statement says.

This information is refuted by the Center for Countering Disinformation at the National Security and Defense Council. "Farm" marks on Google Maps in Kyiv and Ukraine appeared as a result of a failure that occurred in 2019. It is not related to the current war," the statement says. It is noted that volunteers who contacted Google's office in Palo Alto reported to the Center for Strategic Communications and Information Security. According to them, the marks are already being cleaned.

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FAKE

The delivery of chlorine in Uzhhorod will be stopped due to the war.

There are reports on social networks that the 302nd Anti-Aircraft Missile Regiment voluntarily laid down its arms in the Kharkiv region. As if 471 fighters surrendered, all of them were detained. This "news" was spread by Russian propaganda resources "Russia Today", "TASS", "Lenta.ru", "Regnum" and others. This was stated by the representative of the Ministry of Defense of Russia Igor Konashenkov.

REAL

In Uzhhorod's city council this information was denied: "Information on suspension of delivery of chlorine for Uzhhorod's Vodokanal, due to what the dosage of chlorine is reduced and, accordingly, the quality of drinking water spoils, and therefore even brushing your teeth is safe only with boiled water - fake. Administration of the utility company assures: "There are enough reagent stocks for disinfection of water, in accordance with the requirements of the state sanitary norms for drinking water (DSanPIN) ", - was said in the message.

This is a fake. It was refuted by the head of the Kharkiv Regional State Administration Oleh Synegebov and the Center for Combating Disinformation at the National Security and the Defense Council of Ukraine.

"No fighter of the Armed Forces of Ukraine has laid down his arms. All Ukrainian servicemen are on their battle positions, we are defending our native Kharkiv region and destroying the enemy. Russia is actively spreading the fake that the 302nd Anti-Aircraft Regiment has been detained in the Kharkiv region. This is a fake! Russia is trying to shake faith in our forces, "the statement said.