

DISINFORMATION ABOUT THE RUSSIAN-UKRAINIAN WAR: DEBUNKING MYTHS

6.03.2022

FAKE

Russian propagandists, in order to justify Russia's war against Ukraine, write that Ukraine allegedly had a "nuclear program" on which the work has intensified in 2014.

At the same time, three central agencies of Russia disseminated such disinformation with a reference to "an informed source in one of the competent agencies of the Russian Federation".

In particular, the Russians are trying to justify their attack on Ukraine and the capture of Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant and Chernobyl.

REAL

Ukraine has never declared a resumption of nuclear status.

Only on the eve of war on February 19th, President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said that if the security was not guaranteed, Ukraine would have the right "to believe that the Budapest Memorandum does not work and all 1994 package decisions have been questioned".

Russian President Vladimir Putin immediately used this to his advantage, adding the nuclear threat to the absurd arguments for "the recognition of Donetsk People's Republic and Luhansk People's Republic" and the start of the war against Ukraine, which Russian propaganda calls a "special operation".

As of 1991, Ukraine had the world's third largest nuclear arsenal, but lost its nuclear status on June 2, 1996.

The 1994 Budapest Memorandum provided security for Ukraine's accession to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons. It was signed by Russia, the United Kingdom and the United States. Nevertheless, Russia has been committing aggression against Ukraine since 2014, occupying its territories, and, on February 24, 2022, launched a full-scale invasion.

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After Ukrainians receive weapons, they proceed to rob the stores and kill the civilian population.

Nationalists have taken thousands of international students hostage.

To spread panic among Ukrainians, newly created "patriotic" accounts with Ukrainian symbols are sending out panic messages written in Ukrainian and Russian.

REAL

According to StopFake, there is no evidence of killings of civilians or robberies committed by the fighters of the Territorial Defense Forces of the Ukrainian Armed Forces. Instead, there is a lot of documentary evidence of civilian killings committed by the Russian military during the invasion of Ukraine.

This information was spread by the president of the enemy country, Vladimir Putin. He said that Ukrainian nationalists had "taken hostage foreign nationals - more than six thousand young students have been held at the station for three days". The information was widely shared by Russian media and telegram channels.

However, this is a cynical lie, which is refuted by fact checkers from StopFake. According to the report, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine refutes the allegations that the Ukrainian authorities have created obstacles for the departure of residents of the surrounding cities.

According to the Ministry of Defense of Ukraine, such posts state that "Everything is lost!", "Help Kyiv (or Kherson, or Chernihiv etc, depending on the operational situation); "We were all abandoned!", and so on.

The Ministry of Defense urges Ukrainians to filter information and trust only verified sources.

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Anonymous telegram channels administered by Russia's intelligence services try to undermine credibility in official Ukrainian government reports of war losses.

A group of telegram channels administered by Russia's intelligence services claim that Zelenskyy is using civilians as weapons against the Russian military.

Occupying Ukrainian forces have been looting and terrorizing the local population in the territories of Luhansk and Donetsk regions under their control for the entire 8 years.

REAL

Propagandists claim that the tactic of hiding the real casualties in Ukraine has been worked out. They say this has been practiced since the beginning of the war in Donbas.

They claim their relatives are not informed about the death but instead declare the fighter missing. However, both the Ministry of Defense of Ukraine and volunteer organizations have been running the database of dead and missing Ukrainian soldiers and civilians since 2014.

Manipulators involve the fact that Ukrainians are not evacuated from cities that are regularly under fire. The Media Detector recorded such rhetoric on the fourth day of the war, but it is very dangerous to evacuate civilians in large numbers, both then and now, without green corridors.

The propagandists explain that Zelenskyy is deliberately making sacrifices among the civilian population in order to maintain the image for the media and foreign partners. As this is the way forward for Ukraine to beg for weapons.

Ukrainian troops in Luhansk and Donetsk regions defended Ukrainian-controlled territories. In Ukraine, there have also been various support programs for residents of the eastern regions and internally displaced people.

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Kyiv refused to organize humanitarian corridors in Kharkiv, Sumy, and Energodar.

The Armed Forces of Ukraine in Bucha are firing from residential buildings.

Due to Ukraine's fault, only 3 families were able to evacuate from Mariupol, and those under fire from the Armed Forces. Kyiv authorities did not warn anyone about the humanitarian corridor.

Pro-Kremlin media are spreading a manipulative video from Poroshenko's speech in 2014. In this video, the former President of Ukraine allegedly threatens the people of Donbas. Russian media write that this is a manifestation of "fascism".

REAL

Humanitarian corridors in most cities are impossible due to shelling by the occupiers. cases of Mariupol and Volnovakha only proved it once again.

In the Kyiv region, the most dangerous destinations due to the actions of the occupiers are Zhytomyr highway, Bucha, Irpin, Gostomel, Makarov, and the north of Vyshgorod district. Russian troops continue to fire on residential areas and critical infrastructure. There is a constant risk of air raids almost all over the Kyiv region. In addition, the fight against sabotage groups continues in the region.

The Russian side ignores the appeals of international humanitarian organizations, the International Committee of the Red Cross in particular, to cease and create safe conditions for the evacuation of the civilians and wounded.

In fact, in the full version of the video, the Former President of Ukraine did not make any threats. According to him, due to the fact that Donbas was cut off from Ukraine by separatists, its residents suffered, who now "do not receive pensions and sit in basements."

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There are more and more materials on the Internet that discredit people who were forced to flee the war waged by Russia on the territory of Ukraine. Dozens of propaganda materials write that the behavior of Ukrainian refugees "irritates" locals throughout Eastern Europe. Particular attention is paid to inciting hostility towards Ukrainian refugees in Moldova.

REAL

To prevent the propagandists from spreading hostility, the Moldovan authorities have already made a number of statements condemning attempts to harass refugees and use these narratives for political purposes. Most importantly, the Russian-speakers themselves, who were forced to leave their homes due to the devastating bombings by the Russian invaders, are accused of having a negative attitude towards Russian-speakers. After all, Russia mostly carries out air raids and destroys the civilian infrastructure of cities such as Kharkiv, Kherson, and Mariupol - which are mostly Russian-speaking - forcing people to flee.