

## DISINFORMATION ABOUT THE RUSSIAN-UKRAINIAN WAR: DEBUNKING MYTHS

8.03.2022

### FAKE

Western countries waive sanctions against Russia and do not want to provide Ukraine with the EU candidate status.

During his visit to Lithuania, Antony Blinken has said that the Russian army is superior to the Ukrainian one and is able to "grind" it.

### REAL

The channels in Telegram, which are administered by Russia, are widely spreading the message that Western countries will gradually waive the sanctions imposed on Russia over the attack on Ukraine. In particular, the "Gossip Girl" Telegram channel writes that while NATO "refuses to provide weapons and close the skies over Ukraine, the West does not even want to give EU candidate status, and that is all you need to know about Europe's support!" There is a similar message about the United Kingdom too. Currently, there are no official grounds to say that Western countries refuse to help Ukraine and lift sanctions. Such a message is beneficial to propagandists to give an impression that "everything is gone" and that Ukraine is left without any support in the fight against Russia and so on.

The Center for Combating Disinformation at the National Security and Defense Council states that this is deliberate misinformation in the framework of the informational war against Ukraine. "In fact, in an interview with CNN on March 6th, US Secretary of State Blinken said that the Kremlin leader's war against Ukraine was doomed to fail and that despite gaining control of some Ukrainian cities, Putin is destined to lose because of the courage and fierce resistance of Ukrainians." - was said in the message.

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### FAKE

The channel of Shariy was blocked by Ukrainian authorities because they are fighting for ratings and popularity.

Information is shared on social media that due to delays in logistics caused by the war, the supply of chlorine to the capital's water department (Vodokanal) is being cut off and this allegedly leads to a deterioration in the quality of drinking water. However, this is not true.

A video of Conor McGregor, an Irish mixed martial arts fighter, mocking Western sanctions against Russia is shared online.

### REAL

In fact, the channel of the propagandist Anatoliy Sharia was blocked by the video hosting YouTube in Ukraine. The hosting said that the content on Shariy's channel is not available due to complaints of illegality. Earlier, Meta Corporation blocked a Facebook page of the propagandist on the territory of Ukraine.

This fake is refuted by the Center for Combating Disinformation at the National Security and Defense Council. They state that Kyivvodokanal currently has sufficient supplies of reagents for water disinfection in accordance with sanitary requirements, and add that 40% of water in Kyiv is disinfected without the use of chlorine, more modern reagents.

In reality, the fighter did not make such a statement. The authors of the post deliberately changed the soundtrack in the video, in the original video Conor McGregor did not mention Russia at all. The probable source of the fake is the TikTok channel @nikolaeva\_ket, where the video was published on February 28 amid news of new Western sanctions over Russia's aggression against Ukraine. If you use the reverse image search, you can find a photo of Conor McGregor with Dane White, president of the Absolute Fighting Championship (UFC). The official UFC channel published a video of the July 12, 2017 meeting. The passage (01: 25-01: 31) used by TikTok is not at all about Russia and Western sanctions.