

News from Ukraine Bulletin 196 (May 17th, 2026)

A Digest of News from Ukrainian Sources

In this week's bulletin: More [evidence](#) of Russian [torture](#) and [war](#) crimes; new report on the [criminalisation](#) of life under Russia's occupation; new UN [report](#) on forcible transfer and forced displacement; the plight of [Russian prisoners](#).

News from the territories occupied by Russia:

Mystery '[treason](#)' charges against abducted 63-year-old Oleksandr Osadchy for supporting Ukraine in occupied Crimea (Kharkiv Human Rights Protection Group, May 15th)

Russia passes [effective life sentence against 61-year-old Crimean](#) for a video of zero interest (Kharkiv Human Rights Protection Group, May 14th)

Valeriy Vakulenko sentenced to [18 years for destroying a Russian invaders' tank](#) in March 2022 (Kharkiv Human Rights Protection Group, May 12th)

Weekly [update on the situation](#) in occupied Crimea (Crimea Platform, May 12th)

News from the front:

Putin [launches massive attacks](#) after signalling war's end (Counteroffensive, May 14th)

Ukrainian drones [crashing in Latvia trigger a government crisis](#) as the nation's defense minister resigns (Meduza, May 12th)

News from Ukraine:

The [Ukrainian Parliament Adopts an Appeal](#) on the International Recognition of the Crimean Tatar Genocide (Crimea Platform, May 14th)

300 people [protested against the draft of the new Ukrainian Civil Code](#) (Facebook, May 11th)

Report: Ukraine [proposes splitting military recruitment](#) offices, setting fixed service terms (Meduza, May 11th)

Boy versus [Russian drone](#) (Washington Post, May 2026)

War-related news from Russia:

Russia's Antiwar [Prisoners Are Outcasts in Their Own Land](#) (Jacobin, May 16th)

Russia's [biggest nationalist group is funded by a pro-Kremlin analyst](#) and a billionaire linked to the son of a former FSB chief, BBC investigation finds (Meduza, May 15th)

Brutal [raid on woman's birthday party](#) highlights rise of Russian vigilante group (BBC, May 15th)

“Day and night I am tormented by my own powerlessness”. Human [rights activist Nina Litvinova, 80, has taken her own life](#) over the war and the plight of political prisoners (Mediazona, May 15th)

The [conservative turn of Russian rap](#) (Posle Media, May 13th)

Russian director [Alexander Sokurov withdraws from Venice Biennale](#) after activists' open letter calls his participation a staged performance (Meduza, May 11th)

Analysis and comment:

The tale of Yermak: how [Zelensky's former right-hand man ended up under arrest](#) on corruption charges (The Insider, May 16th)

The [Cards](#) (Russian Reader, May 16th)

How the “methane” reform [could help Ukraine move closer to EU](#) and generate revenue (Razom We Stand, May 15th)

Kremlin-style colonialism: Russian propaganda is actively [preparing Africans for military service in Ukraine](#) (The Insider, May 15th)

Taxes, [costly credit, and labor shortages](#): Why private businesses in Russia are shutting down en masse (The Insider, May 14th)

Improving the [Social Protection Reform Implementation](#) in Hromadas of Ukraine: Cedos Launches a New Project (Cedos, May 14th)

Digital threats and [Russian disinformation: ZMINA highlighted challenges](#) facing civil society within the OSCE framework in Vienna (Zmina, May 13th)

Russia [remains the greatest threat](#): ZMINA highlighted Ukrainian civil society at the OSCE SHDM in Vienna ((Zmina, May 12th)

Strait to stagnation: Why not even soaring oil prices can offset the [decline of the Russian economy](#) (The Insider, May 11th)

Anatomy of a purge: [Cleanup at the Ministry of Defense](#) and the future of Putinism (Russian election Monitor, May 11th)

Mindich, Denmark, nationalisation – and US\$7 billion: [we unpack the main controversies surrounding Fire Point](#) (Ukrainska Pravda, May 7th)

The main problem with [Ukraine's corruption prevention watchdog](#) (Kyiv Independent, May 4th)

Four years of “prevention”. What problems remain in [the practice of holding individuals accountable for collaborative activity](#) in 2025? (Zmina, April 2026)

Research of human rights abuses:

France arrests pro-Russian militant for war crimes over [torture of Ukrainian hostages](#) at Izolyatsia prison in occupied Donetsk (Kharkiv Human Rights Protection Group, May 15th)

In Brussels, the [Coalition for the Return of Ukrainian Children](#) presented new mechanisms reflecting the civil society statement (Zmina, May 14th)

Help to #FreelrynaHorobtsova - [seized by the Russians on her birthday](#), sentenced to 10.5 years for Ukrainian patriotism (Kharkiv Human Rights Protection Group, May 13th)

Yevhen Zakharov: ‘In no country have I seen such an awareness and [vocal support for Ukraine](#) as in Sweden’ (Kharkiv Human Rights Protection Group, May 12th)

Handing over [lists of political prisoners](#), meetings with officials and the Crimean Tatar diaspora: outcomes of ZMINA’s visit to Türkiye (Zmina, May 11th)

ECHR orders Russia to pay [compensation to Crimean Tatars](#) arrested and prosecuted for peaceful protest (Kharkiv Human Rights Protection Group, May 11th)

Only one Mother’s Day wish after [almost 9 years of torture](#) – Free my son, Victor Dzytsiuk! (Kharkiv Human Rights Protection Group, May 11th)

Documenting [war crimes and supporting victims](#): human rights defenders meet with British official Alex Davies-Jones (Zmina, May 11th)

ZMINA at United for Justice: the [accountability system](#) for international crimes requires a comprehensive policy approach (Zmina, May 8th)

Forced displacement from territory of Ukraine occupied by the Russian Federation: [forcible transfer and deportation](#), barriers to return, and the rights of internally displaced persons, 24 February 2022 – 31 December 2025 20 March (UNHCHR, May 2026)

International Solidarity

Vestochka ([A Way to Write Letters to Russian Political Prisoners](#)) (Russian Reader, May 14th)

Upcoming events:

USC meeting: Truth Under Siege: How Russian Disinformation Fuels the Far Right

Wednesday 20th May, 7:30pm Register here: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/how-russian-disinformation-fuels-the-far-right-and-how-we-can-fight-back-tickets-1989210067861> Chair: John McDonnell MP. Speakers: Steve Lacey – Researcher and analyst specialising in far-right movements, populism, and Russian disinformation. Thomas Brayford – Activist and commentator active in Ukraine solidarity campaigning and political affairs. Sian Norris – Writer and investigative journalist covering far-right extremism, gender politics, and the war on Ukraine. Yuliia Bond – Ukrainian refugee and community campaigner advocating for displaced people and solidarity with Ukraine.

Voices Against Putin's War: An Evening in Solidarity with Ukraine

Tuesday, 26th May 2026 : 19:00 - 20:15, Lighthouse Bookshop, 43-45 West Nicolson Street, Edinburgh EH8 9DB. More [information here](#).

Voices Against Putin's War with Dr Simon Pirani & Fellow Readers | 27th May @ 7pm
[More details here](#).

==

This bulletin is put together by labour movement activists in solidarity with Ukrainian resistance. To receive it by email each Monday, email us at 2022ukrainesolidarity@gmail.com. To stop the bulletin, reply with the word "STOP" in the subject field. More information at <https://ukraine-solidarity.org/>. We are also [on twitter](#), [Bluesky](#), [Facebook](#) and [Substack](#), and the bulletin is [stored on line here](#).

==