



Pekka Kallioniemi @P_Kallioniemi

Sep 19 · 24 tweets · [P_Kallioniemi/status/1704058527864569958](https://twitter.com/P_Kallioniemi/status/1704058527864569958)

In today's #vatniksoup, I'll discuss about one of the less-known events of the Russo-Ukrainian War: the 2014 Odessa clashes.

It's often used by pro-Kremlin propagandists to prove that the "neo-Nazis" in Ukraine were "persecuting" the Russian-speaking population in Ukraine.

1/22



The Odessa Trade Union House fire is not as widespread propaganda narrative, probably due to the lack of any US-involvement. It's still spread by Kremlin mouthpieces like @aaronjmate, who framed the incident as done by "neo-Nazis".

2/22



GRU asset and former RT journalist Yana Yerlashova even made a propaganda "documentary" of the event, putting the blame on the "Ukrainian neo-Nazis". The incident has been often used to incite unrest between the Ukrainian and Russian-speaking populations inside Ukraine.

3/22



In early 2014, the city of Odessa saw a lot of both pro-Ukraine and pro-Russia protests. On 26 Jan 2014, 2000 pro-Ukrainian protestors marched on the regional state administration building but were blocked off by the Yanukovich's men and other pro-Russian activists.

4/22

A convoy of up to 2,000 people is moving to the Odesa Regional State Administration

SUNDAY, JANUARY 26, 2014, 3:20 P.M



© 166

Seeing how many people gathered to defend the regional state administration, the oppositionists turned around and retreated in an organized manner.

This is reported by "[Dumskaya](#)".

The column under the flags of Ukraine and the UPA returns back to Duke.

People chant opposition slogans - "Gang away", "Glory to heroes", "One great - one Ukraine".





ВСІ НОВИНИ
УКРАЇНА
СВІТ
ЕКОНОМІКА
СПОРТ
КУЛЬТУРА
АВТО
ПРЕСА
СВІТОПА
АРХІВ
ПОШУК



Odesa ultras were forced to retreat before the "onrush" of loyal PR subjects under the ODA

Publication time: January 26, 2014, 4:25 p.m.
Last updated: January 26, 2014, 5:43 p.m.



In Odesa, an attempt to storm the building of the Odesa State Administration met with strong resistance from local supporters of the Party of Regions.



16.20 . Seeing how many people gathered to defend the regional state administration, the oppositionists turned around and retreated in an organized manner.

15.30 . A convoy of up to 2,000 people is moving along Odessa's ropeway towards the regional state administration, "Dumskaya" reports .

People chant opposition slogans - "Gang away", "Glory to heroes", "One great - one Ukraine".



The vanguard of the column - people with the symbol of "Black Sea" - armed with sticks and chicken eggs.

Meanwhile, supporters of Yanukovich are grouping near the State Administration building .

There are a little more than a thousand of them. They claim that they are ready to defend the administration. The door to the building is locked with a key.

There are also many police officers on the square who, having received a message about the approach of the opposition convoy, hastily dismantle protective helmets and shields.

As reported, on January 26 in the regions of Eastern Ukraine in Donetsk , Dnipropetrovsk , Zaporizhzhia, and Sumy , activists are trying to storm the local state administrations. There are wounded.

Weather 31.01.14, evening

sjnoptik

Weather in Kyiv

-15° humidity: 63%
pressure: 769 mm
wind: 3 m/s,↘

Weather in Donetsk

-19° humidity: 58%
pressure: 765 mm
wind: 5 m/s,↔

Weather in Simferopol

-13° humidity: 85%
pressure: 761 mm
wind: 14 m/s,↔

Weather in Lviv

-14° humidity: 78%
pressure: 743 mm
wind: 7 m/s,↘

Weather in Odessa Weather in Zaporizhzhia

СМІ2



Prokhorov set his sights on football. A super club will appear in Russia



NATO snipers were found in Kyiv

This type of confrontations continued over the next month, and on 19 Feb, the violence finally erupted. Around 100 unidentified men wearing masks and helmets, armed with baseball bats, attacked a pro-Ukraine demonstration. Two cameramen and three journalists were injured.

19 February 2014, 14:56

Massacre near the Odessa Regional State Administration: journalists injured (video broadcast stopped)

0

The "Stop Shooting" action, organized by activists of the Odessa Euromaidan, is being held under the regional state administration. The opposition demands that the authorities abandon the use of firearms, withdraw security forces from the center of Kyiv and announce early elections as the only way out of the conflict.

In Odessa about 100 unidentified men wearing masks and helmets and armed with baseball bats assaulted a pro-European opposition demonstration near the regional administration headquarters.

At least three journalists, two cameramen with Pervy Gorodskoi television and a photojournalist with the Odessa editorial office of Komsomolskaya Pravda, were hurt.

A woman is in critical condition after she was shot in Khmelnytsky during the storming of a local Security Service of Ukraine office by anti-government Maidan protesters. A car reportedly drove up to the building and opened fire, with six to eight bullets hitting the woman in her chest.

As we now know, the pro-Russian side was funded and supported by the Kremlin & especially by a Russian politician Sergey Glazyev. The so-called Glazyev tapes exposed that Glazyev was actively organizing and funding the pro-Russian movement in Kharkiv, Odessa & other cities.



HOME PAGE

› ABOUT THE KHPG

VOICES OF WAR

› TOPICS

› RESEARCH

› ARCHIVE

Documenting war crimes in Ukraine

The Tribunal for Putin (T4P) global initiative was set up in response to the all-out war launched by Russia against Ukraine in February 2022.

SIMILAR ARTICLES

["US guilty of genocide": Kremlin supports anti-Maidan festival with links to the German far right](#)

[Odesa 2 May Suspect: We were financed by Moscow](#)

[Vital Probe of Odesa May 2 Tragedy stymied because of questions answered?](#)

[Movement at last on Odesa 2 May investigation](#)

• [Topics / The right to life](#)

Odesa Smoking Gun Leads Directly to Moscow

20.09.2016

Halya Coynash

A new film has exposed direct links between Moscow and the disturbances in Odesa from late February to the tragic events of 2 May 2014. The film '2 May. Moscow Trail' is based solely on Russian and pro-Russian sources, and adds weight to recently published tapes on which Sergei Glazyev, Vladimir Putin's adviser and others discuss the organization of disturbances in Odesa and other Ukrainian cities



Glazyev Tapes: What Moscow's interference in Ukraine means for the Minsk Agreements

www.raamoprusland.nl/dossiers/oekraïne/359-glazyev-tapes-what-moscow-s-interference-in-ukraine-means-for-the-minsk-agreements

More and more details emerge about the Kremlin's involvement in the uprising in Ukraine. The Glazyev Tapes show how deep that involvement was, writes political analyst **Andreas Umland**, based in Kiev. Sergey Glazyev, advisor of Putin, called for popular uprisings in Kharkiv, Odessa and Dnepropetrovsk, to create the preconditions for the puppet state of Novorossia. This must have consequences for Minsk.

by **Andreas Umland**

What are the origins of the armed conflict that has been raging in eastern Ukraine since 2014? Which role did Russia play in the emergence and escalation of the originally unarmed confrontation, in the Donets Basin (Donbas), after the victory of the Euromaidan revolution? When, how and to what degree exactly did Moscow get involved? Which relative weight did local sources of the conflict have when compared to the impact of foreign factors, i.e. the Kremlin's covert actions in Ukraine?



After Yanukovych fled Kyiv, a pro-Russian mob armed with clubs and ranging from 5000 to 20 000 people protested on the streets of Odessa. Few days after this, a group of 300-500 protesters attempted to seize the Odesa Oblast Council building while it was holding a session.

7/22

1.34pm

According to Interfax, there was also a pro-Russian demonstration in Odessa with between 5,000 to 20,000 participants, some armed with clubs.

The mob's playbook came directly from the Kremlin puppetmaster Vladislav Surkov - they replaced the Ukrainian flag with a Russian one, and demanded a referendum on the establishment of an "Odessa Autonomous Republic" - just like they did in Luhansk and Donetsk.



Odessa residents storm the Regional State Administration en masse and



When will Odessa residents finally be able to elect a mayor?



In Odessa, mayoral elections will take place, but still on May 25, and not on March 30, as we previously reported.

Illichivtsi marched through the city. It became known what will happen to



The monument to the leader will be taken to the port of Ilyichevsk for reconstruction

Passions have become heated in Odessa: opponents of the Kyiv authorities have laid siege to the Regional State Administration. Skorik came out to them (photo report)

Today, 12:13

In Odessa, more than 500 opponents of the Kyiv authorities came out demanding that they be given the floor and proclaim a referendum on the creation of the Odessa Autonomous Republic within Ukraine. People came out under the flags of the People's Alternative and red flags. The protesters chanted: "Odessa", "Odessa-hero city", "Referendum". Having learned that the deputies did not support the initiative, people demanded to be allowed into the Regional State Administration building in order to talk with the deputies. As soon as the police refused to do this, the storming of the administration began, people broke down the first door and broke the glass in the second.

Nikolai Skorik came out to the protesters, whose speech boiled down to the fact that we must live peacefully in a single state. "We cannot allow the Regional State Administration to be stormed, otherwise the authorities will be forced to use force," the governor said. In response, people booed him, shouting "traitor," "Judas," and demanding a referendum.



ARTICLES



The Odessa regional deputy, who was rude to journalists, did not even apologize for his brazen behavior



The Regional State Administration demanded decisive measures to restore order in the capital



A new round in the battle for the Odessa General Plan



Odessa: a shell company wants to take over the city's favorite vacation spot



Odessa "Miss Barricade": "The West should calm down and stop imposing its values"



There are serious disagreements and scandals in the Odessa City Council



What is the reason for the new round of "trade wars" at Privoz?



A branch of a radical extremist organization that dreams of dictatorship has appeared in Odessa.



Odessa may be left without a prestigious tournament



Homophobia or how Odessa gays are being hunted

PUBLICATIONS



Details of the trial of the disgraced Odessa politician



Civil society has been liquidated in Odessa and Ukraine



Nationalities Papers

Article contents

- Abstract
- References

Welcome to Surkov's Theater: Russian Political Technology in the Donbas War

Published online by Cambridge University Press: 27 November 2019

Sanshiro Hosaka ID

Show author details

Article Metrics

[Get access](#)
[Share](#)
[Cite](#)
[Rights & Permissions](#)

Abstract

The leaked email accounts of Putin's aide on Ukraine, Vladislav Surkov, are vast primary source collections that shed light on the backstage happenings of the Kremlin's politics in the Donbas war. Surkov is an excellent dramaturg; he writes scripts, casts actors, analyzes their performance and narratives, runs promotions, and puts the repertoire into motion to achieve intended reactions of the target audience. Methods and resources employed against Ukraine have much in common with political technology that helps the Kremlin to manipulate public opinion as well as election systems using pseudo-experts, technical parties, fake civic organizations and youth movement such as Nashi, and covert media techniques. Moscow tactically promoted the myth of "Novorossiya"—later the circumstances forced Surkov to replace it with "Donbas." These tactics gave false credibility to "separatists" who would voice Moscow's objections to any attempts of Ukraine to drift westward, creating an illusion in the domestic and international audience: the separatists are not puppets of Moscow but desperately fight against Kyiv *junta* for their localized identity, and Russia is just there to offer them a helping hand. The Russian policy toward Ukraine after the 2013 fall is an extension of its "virtual" domestic politics, but not traditional diplomacy at all.

On 30 Mar 2014, Russian ultranationalist Anton Rayevsky was captured, arrested and deported from Ukraine for allegedly working for the Kremlin and organizing these pro-Russian events. They also found antisemitic and anti-Ukrainian materials in his possession.



TSN > Ukraine

A Russian neo-Nazi "Black Hundred" who was preparing sabotage in Odesa was expelled from Ukraine

04:35, 03/30/14 11 k

Share: [f](#) [t](#) [w](#) [v](#) [m](#) [l](#)



© A Russian spy tried to organize sabotage

The spy wanted to provoke an international conflict.

A Russian extremist, who was engaged in the preparation of a sabotage group in the territory of Odesa region, was expelled from the borders of Ukraine and forced to...

Some pro-Russian keyboard warriors then tried to make the "Odessa Autonomous Republic" happen online, but the local pro-Russian actors had already jumped on to the Kremlin's next plan to make

Odessa part of the wider federated state called "Novorossiya".

10/22

In Odessa the team spoke to a group of approximately ten activists of the pro-Maidan Self Defense about their opinion of the Geneva Statement. Overall, they perceived the agreement as a temporary inhibiting factor, but not as a decisive mechanism to solve the current situation. They insisted that the separatists in the East should first leave the buildings which they had occupied. The team asked also two leaders of the local anti-Maidan movement for their view on the Geneva agreements. They were skeptical about its chances, or that the government would implement it. From their point of view, the most important elements of a political solution were immediate freedom of all political prisoners and disarming/disbanding mercenaries brought into Odessa Oblast from other regions.

The anti-Maidan leaders also insisted, that the Kyiv Maidan and Right Sector should disarm first and a referendum at the regional level on constitutional reforms be conducted. They aimed not at secession, but at the establishment of a wider federative state called "Novorossija" within Ukraine.

ALL SECTIONS

УКРАЇНСЬКА ПРАВДА

ODESA

Zaluzhnyi appointed a new chief of the Odessa Military Committee

Zelensky: The occupiers will be afraid to approach Crimea and our shores of the Sea of Azov

Zelensky came to Odessa

LATEST NEWS

09:35
The Minister of Defense of Bulgaria about the found drone: Do not think that the war will pass us by

09:23
The Russians intensified operations in the lower reaches of the Dnieper in the Kherson region - British intelligence

09:12
Russia attacked Lviv Oblast at night with "Shakheds", there were three hits, the fires are still being extinguished - OVA

09:01
Air defense forces shot down 27 "shaheids" and another reconnaissance drone

08:40
PHOTO Stoltenberg and Erdogan discussed the "grain agreement" and Sweden's accession to NATO

08:27
The Russians killed 2 civilians in Donetsk region and 3 in Kherson region during the day





08:36
The defenders destroyed 520 occupiers and 35 enemy artillery systems in a day

08:21
Burbok demands the adoption of a resolution against Putin at the UN General Assembly

08:04
10 Shaheds were shot down over the Mykolaiv region - the head of the OVA

Odesa separatists announced the "Odesa Republic" on the Internet

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 16, 2014, 12:01 P.M.

332

Odesa "Antimaidan" declared the Odesa region the "Odesa People's Republic" and called on the city's residents to block traffic.

The corresponding retraction was published on the "Antimaidan" page on their website, " [Interfax-Ukraine](#) " reports.

"The Odesa region is declared the Odesa People's Republic, where power belongs only to the people living on its territory," the statement said.

The separatists also called on the residents of the city to block road traffic in Odesa.

They created a map on the "Yandex" service, where they indicated 153 points - pedestrian crossings, at which Odessa residents should be in order to block traffic.

"At 4:00 p.m. Odesa must stand up! Literally! Your task at the specified time is to block the traffic intersections indicated on the map with your cars, pedestrians - get out on the "zebras" and stand there," the call says.

At the same time, as is known, Odessa's Antimaidan gathers only a few dozen people.

At the same time, as " [048](#) " reported, local authorities and activists have already created several checkpoints at the entrance to the city, where, in addition to policemen, Odessa volunteers are also on duty.

The city's Automaidan is patrolled around the clock. Mobile groups are organized, there are routes and other things.

The SBU in Odesa [detained](#) a criminal sabotage group consisting of four people, armed with AKS-7, 62 assault rifles and pistols.

The leader of the sabotage group, in compliance with the conspiracy measures, made contacts with representatives of the Russian special services in the Autonomous Republic of Crimea.

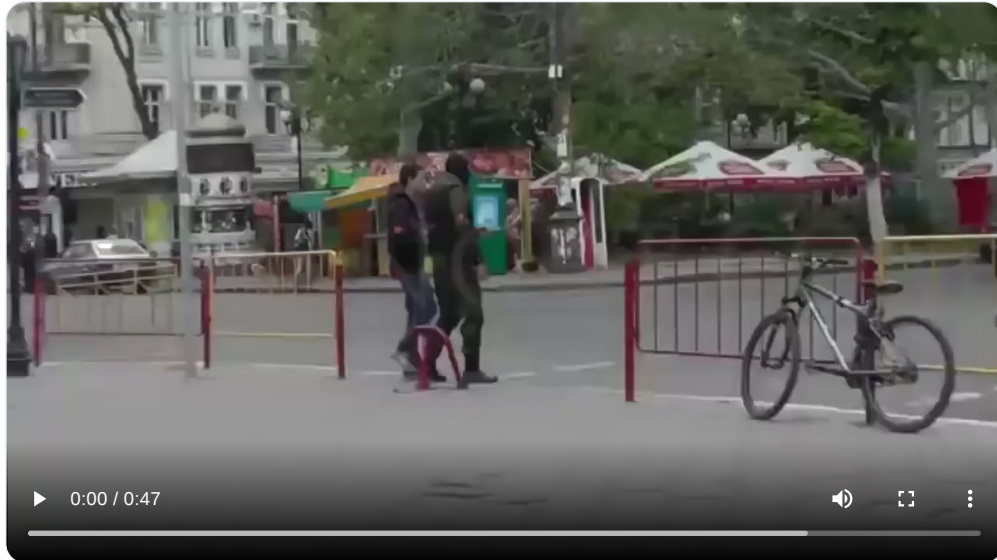
The tensions in the Odessa region remained high, and for example on 25 Apr 2014, a hand grenade was thrown at a joint pro-Ukrainian checkpoint, injuring seven people. Russian media reported the incident as an "accident due as a result of reckless behavior with weapons".

11/22

The screenshot shows the Kyiv Post website interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with categories like 'Ukraine', 'World', 'Economics', 'Opinion', 'Video', 'Culture', 'Multimedia', and 'Business Wire'. The main headline is 'Pro-Ukrainian activists recover after attack near Odessa', published on April 30, 2014, by Daryna Shevchenko. The article features a photograph of police officers at night, one of whom is examining a yellow barrel. A social media sharing sidebar is visible on the left. On the right, there are sections for 'Today's Headlines', 'Our Newsletter', 'Latest paper' (dated 5 Nov 2021), and 'Recommended' articles, including 'Time Magazine Names Ukraine's Zelensky 'Person of ...'', 'Russia Trying to 'Freeze' War Before Spring ...', 'Wife, Mother, Councilor, Patriot: How Zhenya ...', and 'Kyiv Post Morning Memo - Everything You Need to ...'.

The pro-Russian side had agreed to dismantle their camp on Kulykove Pole, in front of the Trade Union House, in preparation for the Victory Parade. The police was trusted to detain the radical activists from both sides while avoiding any excessive use of force.

12/22



At around 2 PM, 1500 football fans and ultras, along with right-wing Right Sector members and ordinary people gathered for a pro-Ukraine protest at the Sobornaya Square. They were then attacked by 300-strong mob of pro-Russian, Odesskaya Druzhina members with bats & firearms.

13/22



As was later reported, the police did absolutely nothing to keep these two groups separated, and a report by the Council of Europe even suggested that the pro-Russian protestors and the police were secretly colluding with each other.

In other words: the police were bribed.

14/22

20. Law enforcement officers were reported to have taken certain measures during the early phases of the clashes but later it appears that they made little, if any, effort to intervene and stop the violence. In addition to the impression of general passivity, video footage posted on the Internet gave rise to allegations of collusion between some members of the police force and pro-federalism protesters. Thus, numerous files posted on the Internet show armed pro-federalism protesters standing, and at least one of them, believed to be Mr Vitalii Budko, shooting, from behind the police cordon, police officers making no attempt to arrest them.³⁵ Another video³⁶ shows Mr Fuchedzhy, who had been lightly injured in the arm, climbing into an ambulance in which Mr Budko was sitting, apparently uninjured. A few seconds later a seriously injured police officer, assisted by two other officers, was apparently refused entry to the ambulance, which then drove off. Another circumstance which raised suspicion was the use by a number of police officers of red adhesive tape around the protective gear on their arms, similar tape being used by certain pro-federalism protesters as arm-bands to identify themselves.³⁷

72. **Breach of duty by the police.** The investigation in casefile no. 186 relating to the events of 2 May covers both intentional and unintentional breach of duty on the part of police officers. The PGO informed the Panel that they were investigating whether there had been any deliberate failure to act by police officers, any police conduct that had facilitated the criminal activities of certain persons and/or any deliberate collusion.

After this, numerous fights broke out. Protestors were throwing stones and petrol bombs, and they built barricades throughout the city. The first activist to open fire was pro-Russian activist Vitaly Budko, who opened fire with an AK-74 automatic rifle.

15/22



Based on eyewitnesses, he was covered by the police and later, after pro-Ukrainian protestor Igor Ivanov was killed, fled the scene with police commander Dmitry Fuchedzhy.

Fuchedzhy later fled to Russia and obtained Russian citizenship.

16/22

An amateur YouTube video appears to show a line of riot police shielding pro-Russian activists, **one of whom fires a gun** while chunks of paving stone rain down from the crowd on the other side.

A number of reports also spoke of armed protesters using the rooftop of the Afina shopping centre to fire pistols and throw Molotov cocktails.

There seems little doubt that the gunshots - and reports of casualties - fuelled the anger of the pro-Ukrainian crowd.

Serhiy spoke of a "see-saw battle" of about 15 minutes, before the "pro-separatists" started to withdraw.

Police said at least three people were shot dead in the running battles before the deadly fire at the Trade Unions House.

Over the next few hours the clashes fragmented but a key development appeared to be a move by pro-Ukrainians against the tent city in Kulykovo Pole square.

Serhiy said: "People started streaming toward the station, taking Zhukovskoho Street and then taking Pushkinska Street. They chanted 'Long live Ukraine!' and 'Odessa is Ukrainian!'."

He said tents in the pro-Russian camp were burning when he arrived and those there had moved to the entrance of the nearby Trade Unions House.

"Eventually, they were driven in," he said.

After the murder of Ivanov, the two parties started fighting aggressively. The pro-Ukrainian protesters torched the camp on Kulykovo Pole, and the pro-Russian forces fled to the Trade Union House. After the pro-Russian protestors camped inside the house, both parties...

17/22



...started throwing Molotov cocktails at each other. The building caught on fire, and a total of 42 people died from either carbon monoxide poisoning or from jumping off the building.



The Kremlin has naturally blamed the deaths on the pro-Ukrainian protestors, whereas the forensic examination of the fire by the Ukrainian Ministry concluded that four out of the five fires could've actually started only from inside the building.

The Telegraph News Sport Business Opinion Ukraine Money Royals Life Style Travel Culture Puzzles Search Subscribe
Free for one

Ukraine crisis: dozens killed in Odessa fire as violence spreads to country's south

Thirty-one reported dead in fire linked to riots in Ukraine port of Odessa as Barack Obama threatens tougher new sanctions against Russia

By Roland Oliphant And Agencies
02 May 2014 - 8:33pm

Twitter Facebook WhatsApp Email

Dozens have died in a building fire in Ukraine after a clash between pro-Ukrainian and pro-Russian protesters in the Black Sea port of Odessa.

[More stories](#)

Ukrainian authorities said 31 people died in the blaze at the city's trade union building on Friday evening. Twenty-three of the victims died of carbon monoxide poisoning and eight died after leaping from upper storey windows to escape the flames, the Interior Ministry said in a statement.

More than 50 people, including 10 policemen, have sought medical attention.

122. Cause of the fire in the Trade Union Building. It appears from the authorities' submissions to the Panel that the report of the forensic examination of the fire in the Trade Union Building, conducted by the Scientific Research and Forensics Centre of the MoI Department in Mykolayiv Region, was obtained on 7 July 2014.¹³³ The report concluded that the building could have caught fire as a result of one or more persons bringing combustible materials and a source of fire into the building. The forensic examination identified five independent fire centres: in the lobby of the building; on the left hand and on the right hand staircases between the ground and first floors; in a room on the first floor; and on the landing between the second and third floors. The fire centres other than in the lobby could only have been started as a result of the actions of persons inside the building.

Volodymyr Nemyrovsky, Governor of Odesa Oblast, later stated that the whole conflict could have been avoided had police fulfilled their duties, and accused the police of inciting the confrontation and taking bribes from the separatists' side. Several police officers...

20/22

..even wore the red armbands worn by the pro-Russian side. The high number of deaths could also be due to the delay of the emergency services - it took the first crew 40 minutes to arrive to the scene, even though the nearest fire station was less than a 5 minute drive away.21/22

26. The dispatch centre for the fire brigade was first called at 7.31 p.m.,⁴⁴ immediately after the first tents on Kulykove Pole had been set on fire, and was thereafter repeatedly called.⁴⁵ Although the closest fire station was less than five minutes' drive from Kulykove Pole,⁴⁶ the first fire engines did not arrive until over thirty minutes later: in its internal inquiry the SES determined the time as 8.09 p.m.⁴⁷ What purports to be the audio recording of the telephone calls to the dispatch centre was later posted on the Internet. The dispatcher can be heard telling callers that there was no risk involved in burning tents in an open space, and then hanging up; at some point she consulted a superior as to whether she should continue to respond in this way and was instructed to do so. When the first calls were made about the fire inside the Trade Union Building, the dispatcher responded that the information had been taken into account; however, there was a delay of approximately ten minutes between the first call concerning the Trade Union Building and the order to send the first fire engine.

To conclude: The Odessa fire was a real tragedy, but it could've been avoided if the Kremlin and Glazyev didn't fund the pro-Russian movement, and if the police and the fire department would've taken their job more seriously and not be blinded by bribes.

22/22



All soups:

Support my work:



Vatnik Soup

#vatniksoup is a Twitter thread series (and a hashtag!) where I'll introduce pro-Russian actors and propagandists from around the world, be they so-called "independent journalists", politicians, mili...

<https://vatniksoup.com>

Pekka Kallioniemi

 [buymeacoffee.com/PKallioniemi](https://www.buymeacoffee.com/PKallioniemi)

Pekka Kallioniemi
I love supporting creators!

<https://www.buymeacoffee.com/PKallioniemi>

Also, Volodymyr Bodelan, former head of Odesa firefighters, was heavily criticized for his "improper performance of his official duties".

He later fled to Russia and was later given a high-ranking post in Russian-occupied Crimea.

A case was filed against the head of the State Emergency Service in Odesa because of the fire in the House of Trade Unions

Bodelan's actions during the extinguishing of the fire in the House of Trade Unions by rescuers are being investigated

Facebook 39

Twitter

LB.ua in Google News



Vladimir Bodelan

Photo: izmail-news.com

The State Service for Emergency Situations has launched an official investigation against [Volodymyr Bodelan](#), the head of the Main Department of the State Emergency Service in the Odesa region, on suspicion of improper performance of his official duties. This is stated in the order of the head of the State Emergency Service Serhiy Bochkovsky No. 294 of May 30, [Ukrainian News](#) reports .

The document emphasizes that the investigation was started with the aim of clarifying all the circumstances and objectively verifying the facts stated in the collective complaint of the residents of Odesa.

The press service of the State Emergency Service reported that Bodelan's actions during firefighting [at the Trade Union Building in Odesa](#) on May 2 are under investigation.

It is noted that the State Emergency Service commission verified the stated facts directly at the scene of events in Odesa from June 3 to 6.



HOME PAGE

- > ABOUT THE KHPG
- VOICES OF WAR
- > TOPICS
- > RESEARCH
- > ARCHIVE

Documenting war crimes in Ukraine

The Tribunal for Putin (T4P) global initiative was set up in response to the all-out war launched by Russia against Ukraine in February 2022.

SIMILAR ARTICLES

[Russia's most toxic 'Odesa Massacre' lie and the help Ukraine is giving it](#)

[Interpol cancels search for key Odesa 2 May 2014 suspect who was helped to flee justice](#)

[Russia's most toxic lies about a fictitious 'Odesa Massacre' and the responsibility Ukraine bears](#)

[The day Russia lost Odesa and launched a lethal propaganda lie used to kill in Donbas](#)

[Dramatic Acquittals in Trial over Odesa 2 May 2014 Riots](#)

[Putin and Russia Today continue incitement to kill through lies about non-existent Odesa 'massacre'](#)

[Ukraine faces human rights court hammering over investigation of Odesa 2 May Tragedy](#)

[Odesa Smoking Gun Leads Directly to](#)

• Topics / The right to life

Main suspect in Odesa 2 May 2014 tragedy given high-ranking post in Russian-occupied Crimea

22.10.2020

Halya Coynash

Having spent six years claiming that the tragic fire in Odesa on 2 May 2014 was a 'massacre', and that Kyiv is protecting the perpetrators, Russia has not only shielded Volodymyr Bodelan, a main suspect, but has given him a top position in occupied Crimea



Having spent six years claiming that the tragic fire in Odesa on 2 May 2014 was a 'massacre', and that Kyiv is protecting the perpetrators, Russia has not only shielded a main suspect, but has given him a top position in occupied Crimea.

Volodymyr Bodelan, the former head of the Odesa Emergency Services, has just been appointed deputy head of the Simferopol district in Crimea, after fleeing arrest in early 2016 and receiving Russian citizenship.

In reporting Bodelan's new position, the Russian newspaper Kommersant cites assertions made by the Odesa official on 14 May 2014. 12 days after the fire in

Bodelan was on Kulikove Pole during the events and called the dispatch centre around a minute after the first emergency call was made instructing the controllers to only send out fire engines on his command.

Three emergency services officials were charged at the end of February 2016 under Article 135 § 3 of the Criminal Code (leaving people in danger). **Viktor Hubai**, deputy head of the Emergency Services Regional Department was remanded in custody, while the head of the shift **Yury Shvydenko** and duty chief operator **Svitlana Koyeva** were placed under house arrest. It is Koyeva's voice that can be heard on the tape ignoring the calls for help. It is not clear whether any of these prosecutions have resulted in convictions.

Obviously the question must still arise as to whether individuals should obey orders that place lives in jeopardy, however it is surely unequivocal that the person who issued the orders should not be forgotten if charges are being laid. Bodelan is the son of a former Odesa mayor with considerable influence in the region, which may have also contributed to the disturbing unwillingness to hold Bodelan to account. There was effective sabotage of the prosecution, since Bodelan was not arrested at the same time as his subordinates, giving him ample opportunity to leave the country around 1 March 2016.