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[Secretary General Thorbjørn Jagland: “Europe in biggest human rights crisis since Cold War”](#) Serious human rights violations including corruption, human trafficking, racism and discrimination persist across Europe, according to a new report by Secretary General Thorbjørn Jagland. Unemployment and poverty in many countries are nurturing extremism and conflicts. The report represents the first consolidated analysis of human rights, democracy and the rule of law in Europe, based on the findings of the Council of Europe’s monitoring bodies. **Council of Europe.** [Read More](#)

[Dismantling Ukraine](#) Events in Ukraine have taken an ominous course. One by one, cities and towns in the Donbass are being taken over by small groups of well-organized armed forces, which have occupied administrative headquarters and police stations. The interim government in Kiev utters protests and threats but thus far has largely failed to dislodge the intruders. The reports circulating on social networks suggest that they comprise both people from outside the region and within and that is a well-planned operation exploiting local forces to undermine the authorities in Kiev and disrupt the presidential election on May 25. The bloodiest confrontations have taken place in smaller towns in the region, such as Slovyansk, Kramatorsk and Horlivka. **The Moscow Times.** [Read More](#)

[The West Leaves Ukraine to Putin](#) "We're the chosen generation," says Arseniy Yatsenyuk, Ukraine's interim prime minister. He's referring to all those who made this winter's European revolution. For the first time since 1654, when Ukrainian Cossacks formed a fateful alliance with Moscow against Polish rulers, Ukrainians are heading back West. Their timing is terrible. Two decades ago, when the Berlin Wall fell, the West embraced another generation of Eastern Europeans. Ukraine has gotten a different welcoming committee. An economically feeble European Union gorges on Russian energy and dirty money while lecturing Ukraine on Western values but refusing to defend it. Asking for Washington's help against Russian attack, Kiev finds a man "chosen" in the past two presidential elections to get America out of the world's trouble spots. **The Wall Street Journal.** [Read More](#)

[Ukraine leader announces anti-terror move in east](#) Pro-Russian insurgents who have seized government buildings across eastern Ukraine dug in on Tuesday, fortifying their positions and erecting fresh barricades as Ukrainian tanks were seen within 70 kms of one city controlled by pro-Moscow gunmen. Roads into Slovyansk, a city some 160 kilometers (100 miles) east of Russia that has come under ever more secure control of the gunmen since Saturday, were dotted with checkpoints. One at the entrance into town was waving a Russian flag. Another bore a sign reading "If we don't do it, nobody will." **Yahoo news.** [Read More](#)

[Secretary Lew Announces Signing Of \\$1 Billion U.S. Loan Guarantee Agreement For Ukraine](#) The \$1 billion loan guarantee is part of a U.S. bilateral assistance package that also includes technical assistance to help Ukraine return to a path of economic recovery. The Secretary was joined at the table by Ukrainian Finance Minister Oleksandr Shlapak. Standing behind them are (l. to r.) Mark Feirerstein, Associate Administrator, USAID; **U.S. Department of the Treasury.** [Read More](#)

[Pro-Russian rebels vow to take control of infrastructure across Donetsk region](#) Pro-Russian separatists occupying the regional government building in [Ukraine's](#) eastern city of Donetsk have vowed to take control of strategic infrastructure across the province they have declared an independent "people's republic". Defying an ultimatum from Kiev to surrender, about two dozen separatist leaders gathered for a meeting in a top-floor room of the 11-storey building they have held for eight days. "Everything from city cleaning to the sewage system, the airport, railway stations, military ... should all be under your control," Vladimir Makovich, one of the leaders, told the group. **The Guardian.** [Read More](#)

[Could use of force in Ukraine's east backfire?](#) It would seem he has no time to lose. Large parts of eastern Ukraine are slipping out of Kiev's control. More and more police stations and government buildings have been falling to the protesters and unidentified militants. Donetsk, Luhansk, Sloviansk, Kramatorsk, Druzhkivka - these are the cities or towns where the activists have established themselves, with reports of building takeovers in Mariupol and Yenakiyevo. Ukraine's state security head, Valentyn Nalyvaichenko, was categorical: "We don't have much time left. Tonight and tomorrow will be crucial." **BBC News.** [Read More](#)

[Situation remains tense in eastern Ukraine, OSCE monitors observe](#) The OSCE Special Monitoring Mission (SMM) assessed the security situation in the eastern Ukrainian cities of Kharkiv, Luhansk, Donetsk and the town of Sloviansk as tense and evolving, based on its observations on Sunday, 13 April 2014. As the monitors moved about the cities to gather information, they were able to listen to the concerns of the local population, often initially mistrustful, and explain to them the OSCE role and its broad participation of states including Russia and Ukraine. **OSCE.** [Read More](#)

[UK and Germany to Russia: Condemn building occupations in Ukraine](#) British Prime Minister David Cameron and German Chancellor Angela Merkel on Monday called on Russia to unequivocally condemn the occupation of government buildings in eastern Ukraine. The two leaders spoke by phone on Monday to discuss escalating tensions and the threat of Ukrainian military action following the occupation of state buildings in the east of Ukraine by pro-Russian separatists. "He and Chancellor Merkel agreed about the importance of condemning the illegal occupation of government buildings in eastern Ukraine," Cameron's official spokesman told reporters. "They believe the Russian government should be unequivocally condemning that action too." **Yahoo.com.** [Read More](#)

[The Crisis in Ukraine: Its Legal Dimensions](#) The political, military, economic, and social crisis in Ukraine is severe. Involving Ukraine, Russia, the European Union, the United States, and the rest of the international community, the crisis touches on many complex domestic and international legal issues. NYU law students and a recent NYU graduate researched and drafted this Report for Razom, a Ukrainian-American human rights organization. The Report attempts to provide relevant background and a legal context for the current situation. The authors hope it will assist the media, governments, international organizations, non-governmental organizations, businesses, academia, and individuals to understand what has happened, why it has happened, and what might happen next. [Read the Entire Report](#)

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