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[IMF holds key to helping Ukraine escape from Russia's stranglehold](#) Greece is a deadbeat nation, Puerto Rico is a party that lives beyond its means, but last year war-torn Ukraine made more interest payments to its lenders than it spent trying to defend itself against Russia. I just returned from a trip to Ukraine and learned that Ukraine was forced to make a \$75 million bond payment to Russia, the perpetrator behind the occupation of nine per cent of Ukraine, deaths of 6,200, wounding of 30,000 and displacement of 1.3 million Ukrainians. Ukraine is not another Greece or Puerto Rico. This is an occupied country crippled by a war with a ruthless neighbor that has been slowly taking over the country's economy and institutions since Ukraine left the Soviet fold in 1991. **Financial Post.** [Read More](#)

[English language version of Nemtsov's report on Putin's war](#) English language version of Nemtsov's report on Putin's war [Read More](#)

[Will we let Ukraine die?](#) A Ukrainian military unit last week released footage from a drone showing a large new Russian military base in eastern Ukraine, equipped with T-72 tanks, barracks, communications equipment and even a parade ground. International observers reported "increased intensity" of fighting in the region, in violation of a cease-fire. Russia meanwhile suspended gas deliveries to Ukraine, thwarting its attempt to stockpile supplies for next winter. In Washington, a committee of Ukrainian bondholders, led by several U.S. hedge funds, resisted an International Monetary Fund-backed plan to reduce the government's debt burden so that it can avoid a default. **Washington Post.** [Read More](#)

[Ukraine Is More Important Than Greece](#) For one year, Russia has pursued a long, costly war of aggression against Ukraine. Its objective is obvious: to destabilize Ukraine so that the new democratic regime fails. Therefore, the West should adjust its goals accordingly to offer Ukraine financial support. The Kremlin has presented one false objective after the other for this aggression. On February 27, 2014, "little green men"—that is, Russian special forces in Russian uniforms but without insignia—occupied the Crimean regional parliament. The next day, they took over the peninsula's two international airports. Within two weeks, these troops had skillfully occupied all of Crimea. **Atlantic Council.** [Read More](#)

[Ukraine launches Western-style police force to set a marker for reform](#) The first 2,000 recruits of a new Ukrainian police force passed out in the capital Kiev at the weekend, intended by the government as a visible sign of its commitment to shake off a deep-rooted culture of corruption in public institutions. Trained by U.S. and Canadian forces, and given less militaristic uniforms and the name 'Politsiya' to mark a break with the old, Soviet-style 'Militsiya', the young officers pledged to forsake the bribes associated with their job. President Petro Poroshenko told the force, which will first patrol big towns and then be deployed across the country, that it was their task not only to uphold the law but "also to make people believe that reforms are inevitable". **REUTERS.** [Read More](#)

Justices again spurn lethal injection challenge: In Plain English In 2008, the Court rejected a challenge to the three-drug protocol that Kentucky used to carry out executions by lethal injection, holding that it did not violate the Eighth Amendment's prohibition on cruel and unusual punishment. In that case, inmates had unsuccessfully argued that there was a risk of serious pain if the protocol was not followed properly. Today, in a decision marked by deep divisions among the Justices, the Court rejected a new lethal injection challenge – this time to Oklahoma's use of a drug called midazolam, a sedative normally used to treat anxiety. Let's talk about the decision in *Glossip v. Gross* in Plain English. **SCOTUS Blog.** [Read More](#)

Review of new Arizona election case narrowed The Supreme Court on Thursday narrowed somewhat its plan to review the work of the independent Arizona agency that drew new election districts for the state legislature after the latest census. In a new order, the Court said it would not be ruling on a complaint that the agency wrongly created districts to give Hispanic voters more political power. On Tuesday, the Court accepted an appeal in *Harris v. Arizona Independent Redistricting Commission*, without limiting the questions at issue. Thursday's order drops off the third question that the challenging voters had raised. **SCOTUS Blog.** [Read More](#)

Jailed Ukrainian Pilot Denied Jury Trial Russian investigators have rejected a request by jailed Ukrainian pilot Nadia Savchenko to be tried by a jury. Savchenko lawyer Nikolai Polozov said on July 6 that he was informed via phone that "all the petitions have been denied and the case was transferred to the prosecutor's office." Savchenko's defense team said last week the preliminary hearing may be held in late July or early August. **RFE/RL.** [Read More](#)

To Save Their Threatened Languages, Non-Russian Governments Call for Changing 26 Federal Laws Many languages in the Russian Federation are "disappearing," something that won't be reversed simply by articulating a new language policy, according to Mikhail Todyshev, the Moscow representative of the Chukotka Autonomous District. Instead, it will require specialists from all aspects of life and the rewriting of 26 federal laws. Todyshev's statement to a meeting of the All-Russian Seminar Conference on Language Policy in the Sphere of Education is a reminder of why agencies for nationality policy like the new one Vladimir Putin has created seldom achieve much because they lack the power and authority to change all the policies that affect the issues they are concerned with. **Window on Eurasia.** [Read More](#)

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