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«PATRIOTS» «MILITARY CAMPAIGN»

# Politics in focus

# Trains of Friendship

At the end of February, 2014, when Crimea declared surely that it denied the new "Euromaidan" Ukrainian authorities, some representatives of neo-Nazi volunteered to "to gain control over separatists". Igor Mosiychuk, the activist of the extreme right-wing organization "Social-National Assembly", said that the Right Sector\* (movement that united Ukrainian national radicals of all colors) would send the so-called "train of friendship" to the rebellious peninsula.

Truth to be told, the "train of friendship" did not even reach Crimea! Strong evidence suggests that the train with armed combatants went to the peninsula after all, but the brave young men scattered in the Kherson region, having learned that 1,500 pro-Russian fighters had been waiting for them to "make friends". The invasion of Crimea, clashes and bloodshed did not take place. At the same time, Crimeans demonstrated that they were ready to fight till the bitter end for their beliefs and values!

# "Military Campaign" to Crimea

Despite warlike attitude, aggressiveness and appetite for revenge against Russia and the overwhelming majority of Crimeans, Ukrainian "patriots" have concluded that such an operation is impossible either now or in the near future. Nevertheless, there are very desperate individuals who seriously (verbally at least) believe in the success of the "military and liberation campaign" to Crimea. Among them is Lenur Islyamov, a businessman and one of the masterminds of trade embargo, economic warfare and blackout of the peninsula.

Since autumn, 2015, when the so-called "civic activists" of the Crimean Tatar and Ukrainian nationalists have blocked movement of trucks with food products and other goods to Crimea, Islyamov, with support of "The Mejlis"\*, announced the beginning of the formation of a volunteer battalion named after Noman Celebidzhikhan, also known as "Asker". Looking for the help of Turkish fellow partners and donations of sympathizers Islyamov expected to form an effective diversionary unit that would participate in the "military campaign" to Crimea.

<sup>\*</sup>on extremist organization banned in the Russian Federation

# Politics in focus

In fact, the "Asker" battalion became its commander's poolle. In the recent years, its numbers dwindled noticeably. "Asker" received neither the promised assistance from Turkey nor the status of organization as part of Ukrainian Armed Forces.

"Members of Islyamov's gang are being exposed as heroic revolutionaries. But this is just wishful thinking. It is actually a gang formation that has been racketeering in the Kherson region for two years", said Ilya Kiva, an adviser to the head of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Ukraine in 2017.

# Naval Blockade

One and the same Lenur Islyamov at the end of 2015 threatened Crimea not only with ground but also naval blockade. According to Islyamov, his partners "have already dealt with blockade of the Kerch Strait" in order to interrupt communication between the peninsula and the Russian mainland. Islyamov did not specify the way he was going to organize the sea blockade of Crimea and moreover the rest of the world did not see it.

## Demolition of the Crimean Bridge

If we make a symbolic rating of basic Crimean "sources of major concern" for toxic Russophobes in Ukraine, the Crimean Bridge will undoubtedly hold one of the leading roles. Media of the neighboring state tried "to feed" their readers with various sorts of myths about this object. "They won't be able to build the bridge", "The Bridge will collapse due to the slimy bottom", "The Bridge will be destroyed by ice and lithospheric platforms motion", "The bridge pillars begin to crack" ... The list may seem endless. "Missile and bomb attacks" on the main traffic aisle through the Kerch Strait were presented by the Ukrainian information "warriors" as the major "horror story" for the Crimeans and guests of the peninsula.

#### The Crimean magazine

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# Unmasking

# THE GREATER OUR SUCCESS, THE MORE AGGRESSIVE OUR ENEMIES ARE

Who the criminals called "political prisoners" by Ukraine really are

#### Text: Vanda Yazvitskaya

Ukrainian human rights activists of every sort and kind actively interfere in Russian Crimea's internal affairs. Almost every event is followed by ridiculous comments, in which we are accused of the harassment of "prisoners of conscience". Later, during the process of investigation and trial, it turns out that the criminals have no conscience

### "Stage Manager" of Terror

Oleg Sentsov, a never-before-heard director, who shot a couple of controversial films, was among the first to be named political prisoners. When the move of public protest known as "Euromaidan" was in full swing in Ukraine, Sentsov became an active member of "Automaidan". Vehicle convoys were on picketed duty of the buildings and villas of public persons, politicians, and oligarchs in Kyiv and the regions.

Why was this not enough for him? And why did the journey from director to terrorist prove to be so short?

When the public uprising against the Euro-Maidan coup began in Crimea, it appeared that the Maidan activist Sentsov opposed his countrymen. Of course, those who call him "political prisoner" and "prisoner of conscience" claim that the only thing he was doing was buying and delivering food to the military units of the Armed Forces of Ukraine in Crimea blocked by selfdefense forces. But the investigation concluded that Sentsov and a group of his partners in crime (Aleksander Kolchenko, Gennadiy Afanasyev and Aleksey Chirniy) were closely connected with the "Right Sector" (an organization banned in Russia) and were preparing a series of terrorist attacks in Simferopol, Sevastopol and Yalta.

The outcome is as expected: in May, 2014, two months after the reunification of Crimea with Russia, Sentsov and three of his associates were detained by the Federal Security Service under reasonable suspicion of terrorism. A video of the