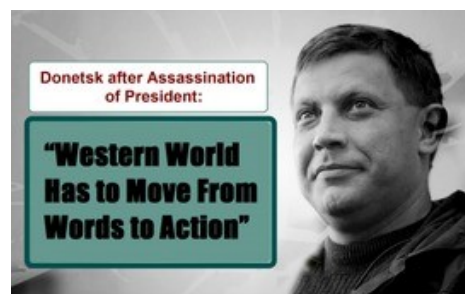




Donetsk after Assassination of President: “Western World Has to Move From Words to Action”



In light of the current media campaign in favor of the Ukrainian Government, who feel attacked by Russia - here is what western media did not make a campaign about: Pro-Russian politicians being murdered again and again by Ukrainian government forces.

Why are these clear provocations not worth the same media coverage as the unclarified incident in the Kerch Strait from Sunday?

Why do western media vehemently show only part of the picture?

On August 31st, 2018, Alexander Zakharchenko, Acting Prime Minister of the self-proclaimed Donetsk People's Republic since 2014, was assassinated. His bodyguard succumbed to the injuries one day later. Zakharchenko died at the age of 42 as a father of four children.

This is not the first assassination of East Ukrainian separatist leaders in the Donbass. 2015 two Cossack leaders lost their lives in a car bomb attack. In October 2016, Commander Arsen Pavlov died together with his bodyguard in an explosion in the elevator of his own house. In February 2017, Mikhail Tolstykh, military chief of Donetsk, was killed in an attack in his headquarter office.

The assassination of Alexander Zakharchenko has left the region shocked and upset, as many of the Donetsk people saw him as a strong leader figure and a ray of hope. According to official statements, more than 100'000 people attended his funeral ceremony. In late September 2018 the Russian TV station Russia-1 released a recording of the surveillance camera showing that the bomb detonated in the very second Zakharchenko and his bodyguards entered the local café “Separ.” Detailed analysis revealed that the bomb was a ultra-modern explosive device attached to the ceiling on a swiveling fixture, from which Donetsk officials concluded that the assassination was carried out professionally and not by amateurs.

In 2017 Donetsk authorities arrested Alexander Pogorelov, who testified that he had been recruited by the Ukrainian Secret Service in 2014. His interrogation also revealed that Kiev had long been planning Zakharchenko's assassination. Pogorelov stated that the Ukrainian Secret Service SBU had received new detonators from the US Secret Services which could be activated from large distances. Investigations by the Foreign Ministry of the Donetsk People's Republic provide additional evidence for this suspicion.

Russia's committee of inquiry initiated criminal charges shortly after the attack. Maria Zakharova, speaker of the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, declared: “There is every

reason to believe that Kiev is behind this murder, this regime has repeatedly used similar methods to eliminate dissidents and undesirables.” She also condemned Ukrainian officials who publicly rejoiced over Zakharchenko’s death.

Significantly, the Western media reported very cautiously on the assassination and the big memorial service. A possible involvement of Kiev’s government was only mentioned in passing. In contrast, whenever opponents of Russia’s government are killed, there is a great outcry followed by accusations, even if there is no evidence.

Natalia Nikonorova, Foreign Minister of the internationally unrecognized People’s Republic Donetsk, voiced her expectations towards the Western countries in an interview: “We hope that there will be pressure on the Ukrainian government to end the aggressions against our People’s Republic. The same applies to the aggressions against the Luhansk People’s Republic. It is no secret that Western countries have a very strong influence on Kiev. Particularly Germany, as Minsk II chief negotiator, should act accordingly. On September 5th, 2018 the German government announced in their press conference that they are still willing to assume responsibility in the peace process. They have to move from words to actions now. Germany can have no interest in supporting a government in Kiev that neglects the peace process.”

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