

Intensive Shelling of Donbass Residential Areas by Ukrainian Armed Forces Prior to Russia's Recognition Lugansk and Donesk as Independent States

By [South Front](#)

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The Ukrainian Armed Forces started intensive firing on residential buildings in the settlement of Horlivka. Shells hit in the courtyard during February 21. The blast blew out the windows. Residents had been evacuated in case the house collapses.

According to the local sources, a shell hit a residential building in the city of Donetsk.

The wreckage blocked a woman from leaving the rubbles. It was confirmed by specialists from the Emergencies' Ministry, that a gas pipeline had been damaged. Thirty-five houses in the private sector at the outskirts of Donetsk were left without gas supplies.

The videos below were undertaken by the residents. They are not professional. Scroll down for text.

<https://southfront.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/ccc2nvm.mp4>

Also in Luhansk, a car exploded near the Luhansk representative office of the JCCC. The car belonging to the head of the representation, Mikhail Filiponenko, was damaged. The leader himself is alive. There is no information about the driver's condition at the moment.

<https://southfront.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/6hd7dxms6.mp4>

All LNR residents are in shelters. Luhansk is deserted. Reports of bomb attacks on Donetsk were heard on the streets of the city via an alarm system

Right after the [news of the recognition of the LPR and DPR by Russia](#), the information about

the deteriorating situation on the southern front received. People's Militia forces were fighting with AFU units near Horlivka, DPR. There are casualties among recently conscripted DPR citizens.

<https://southfront.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/290bdt.mp4>

However, the situation began to change after Russia signed an international treaty "on friendship, cooperation and mutual assistance between the Russian Federation and the Donetsk People's Republic" on the evening of February 21, 2022 (Moscow time), a similar treaty was signed at the same time with the Lugansk People's Republic.

The treaties include clauses on:

- joint defense;
- joint protection of borders;
- the right of the parties to use military infrastructure and military – bases on each other's territory;
- recognition of documents issued by the government agencies of the parties.

Immediately after the signing of these treaties, Russian President Putin signed a Decree instructing the Russian armed forces to provide peacekeeping functions in the DPR and LPR.

Now units of the 8th Field Army of the Russian Armed Forces have begun to enter the territory of the LDPR.

<https://southfront.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/vvvvhoaf8.mp4>

Amid these developments, the activity of Ukrainian shelling of residential buildings on the territory of the Republics began to decrease and practically stopped after Ukrainian President Zelensky did not want to take any decisions following a meeting of the National Security and Defense Council of Ukraine.

His previously announced pompous address to the nation did not take place today either.

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