

Ukraine Provocation in the Black Sea Directed against Russia. Was it a Staged Event?

By [Stephen Lendman](#)

Global Research, November 27, 2018

Region: [Europe](#), [Russia and FSU](#)

Theme: [Media Disinformation](#), [US NATO War Agenda](#)

In-depth Report: [UKRAINE REPORT](#)

Ukraine is a virtual US colony – the way it's been since the Obama regime's February 2014 coup, replacing democratic governance with fascist tyranny in Europe's heartland.

Ukraine shares a near-1,500 mile land and sea border with the Russian Federation, the longest Western frontier with the country.

The regime running things is a hotbed of militarized extremism, waging war on its own people, committing appalling human rights abuses – with full support and encouragement from Washington and key NATO countries.

Stop NATO's Rick Rozoff earlier explained that Ukraine is “the decisive linchpin in plans by the US and its NATO allies to effect a military cordon sanitaire, severing Russia from Europe” – part of a sinister plot, risking East/West confrontation.

Vladimir Putin earlier said

“(t)he appearance on our borders of a powerful military bloc...will be considered by Russia as a direct threat to our country's security,” adding:

Russian missiles will target Ukraine if it joins NATO or allows Washington's (solely for offense) missile defense shield to be installed in the country.

Two important developments are worrisome. US orchestrated and directed Kiev war on Donbass in the country's southwest since March 2014 intensified.

Ukrainian forces began heavily shelling residential areas of the People's Republic of Donetsk (DPR) in Donbass, the heaviest aggression in over a year.

It came after Kiev installed S-300 air defense systems along the Donbass border, at the same time as a likely US orchestrated CW false flag occurred in Aleppo, Syria, and a provocation by Ukrainian naval vessels in Russian Black Sea waters.

According to Russia's Federal Security Service (FSB), three Ukrainian vessels violated Russia's state border (on Sunday)...another attempt of committing illegal activities in Russia's territorial sea at 19:00 Moscow time on November 25,” adding:

“They did not respond to legitimate demands by the ships and boats of

Russia's FSB Border Guard Service escorting them to stop immediately and performed dangerous maneuvers."

"(W)eapons were used to force the Ukrainian warships to stop." The ships and their crew members were seized and detained. "Three wounded military servicemen of the Ukrainian armed forces received medical assistance."

The Kremlin initiated a criminal investigation into the incident. Kiev understands proper navigation procedures for passing through Russian territorial waters, including the Kerch-Yenikale Canal.



The US installed Poroshenko regime followed innocent passage procedure before, not on Sunday, committing an unacceptable provocation.

Two more Ukrainian warships headed toward the same area, turning back before improperly and illegally entering Russian waters.

According to the FSB, "before making such dangerous and irresponsible decisions, the Kiev leadership should have thought about possible consequences of its actions."

Russia has what it calls "irrefutable evidence" of the staged provocation – to be revealed soon.

Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Grigory Karasin slammed Kiev, calling the incident "premeditated." Its aim was likely all about imposing martial law for 60 days ahead of March 2019 presidential elections, along with a pretext for imposing more illegal US sanctions on Russia.

"Obviously, it is easier for Poroshenko to carry out his election campaign amid this background," Karasin explained, adding:

"Unfortunately, our worst fears have proved true. Kiev and the West have chosen the Sea of Azov as a region where Ukrainian provocative actions can promptly give results that are required in order to trigger an international scandal."

Moscow called for an emergency Security Council meeting on Monday to discuss what it called "maintenance of international peace and security" – despite US/UK/French veto power preventing condemnation of what happened.

Russia no doubt will be blamed for the provocation committed against the country, a familiar pattern repeated many times before.

Kiev's action violated Articles 19 and 21 of the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea by entering Russian territorial waters without permission, along with failure to respond as required to legal Russian demands and conducting dangerous maneuvers.

Under a 2003 treaty, Russia and Ukraine have freedom of navigation rights in the Kerch Strait – providing defined rules are followed through the narrow waterway.

Requesting and receiving permission to sail through the Strait is required. Kiev acted extrajudicially, according to Moscow.

The Kerch Strait separates the Crimean Republic from the Russian mainland. Russian Federal Security Service forces are responsible for maintaining order along the country's land and maritime borders.

Its officers repeatedly asked the Ukrainian vessels to leave Russian territorial waters, ignored by their commanders. The maritime area in question was temporarily closed to navigation for security reasons.

Video released by Moscow showed Ukrainian vessels maneuvering provocatively close to Russian ones.

An FSB statement said Russian warships opened fire after Ukrainian vessels repeatedly ignored "legal demands to stop" and leave the area.

They continued "performing dangerous maneuvers" – an illegal breach of required protocol. Russian Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Maria Zakharova slammed what happened saying:

Kiev "first stages a provocation, then plays power games, and accuses" Russia for its own unacceptable provocation.

The incident begs the question. Did Trump regime hardliners, together with Pentagon commanders, orchestrate what happened? Was the incident staged as prelude for more tough US actions on Russia?

US forces are in Ukraine, training and directing its military, including its war of aggression on Donbass.

US media reacted to the Sunday incident as expected. The NYT said Ukraine's navy "left little ambiguity in asserting that its ships had been attacked."

The self-styled newspaper of record repeated the Big Lie about Russia annexing "the Crimean Peninsula in 2014," its waterways where the Sunday incident occurred.

The neocon/CIA-connected Washington Post accused Russia of "opening fire on...Ukrainian...vessels...prevent(ing) (them) from entering the (Kerch) strait...injuring six sailors, before seizing two of the ships..."

The Wall Street Journal headlined "Russia Fires on Ukrainian Military Vessel Near Crimea...detain(ing) three Ukrainian naval ships...injuring three crew members."

The White House has yet to react to the incident. Putin and Trump are expected to meet on the sidelines of this week's Nov. 30-Dec.1 G20 summit in Buenos Aires, Argentina – the incident surely to be discussed.

*

Note to readers: please click the share buttons above. Forward this article to your email lists. Crosspost on your blog site, internet forums. etc.

Award-winning author Stephen Lendman lives in Chicago. He can be reached at lendmanstephen@sbcglobal.net. He is a Research Associate of the Centre for Research on Globalization (CRG)

His new book as editor and contributor is titled "Flashpoint in Ukraine: US Drive for Hegemony Risks WW III."

<http://www.claritypress.com/LendmanIII.html>

Visit his blog site at sjlendman.blogspot.com.

The original source of this article is Global Research
Copyright © [Stephen Lendman](#), Global Research, 2018

[Comment on Global Research Articles on our Facebook page](#)

[Become a Member of Global Research](#)

Articles by: [Stephen Lendman](#)

About the author:

Stephen Lendman lives in Chicago. He can be reached at lendmanstephen@sbcglobal.net. His new book as editor and contributor is titled "Flashpoint in Ukraine: US Drive for Hegemony Risks WW III."

<http://www.claritypress.com/LendmanIII.html> Visit his blog site at sjlendman.blogspot.com. Listen to cutting-edge discussions with distinguished guests on the Progressive Radio News Hour on the Progressive Radio Network. It airs three times weekly: live on Sundays at 1PM Central time plus two prerecorded archived programs.

Disclaimer: The contents of this article are of sole responsibility of the author(s). The Centre for Research on Globalization will not be responsible for any inaccurate or incorrect statement in this article. The Centre of Research on Globalization grants permission to cross-post Global Research articles on community internet sites as long the source and copyright are acknowledged together with a hyperlink to the original Global Research article. For publication of Global Research articles in print or other forms including commercial internet sites, contact: publications@globalresearch.ca

www.globalresearch.ca contains copyrighted material the use of which has not always been specifically authorized by the copyright owner. We are making such material available to our readers under the provisions of "fair use" in an effort to advance a better understanding of political, economic and social issues. The material on this site is distributed without profit to those who have expressed a prior interest in receiving it for research and educational purposes. If you wish to use copyrighted material for purposes other than "fair use" you must request permission from the copyright owner.

For media inquiries: publications@globalresearch.ca