



*Crisis in Ukraine: Daily Briefing Note*  
**14 February 2014**

**1. Activists freed from custody**

The Maidan Council reports that the last of 234 activists arrested have been released from custody. Most of them are under house arrest. The criminal charges against them have not been closed. General Prosecutor Pshonka stated that the Prosecutor is willing to close the criminal cases against activists within the month if the conditions in the Law on Amnesty (to free all administrative buildings and main streets around the centre of Kyiv by 17 February) are met. It is unlikely the conditions will be met, which means that the amnesty will expire.

**2. Maidan Council outlines conditions for freeing Hrushevsky street**

Given that all activists have been freed from custody, the Maidan Council has stated that it will free Hrushevsky street, on the condition that all criminal cases against the activists are closed. There is a small window for compromise between the protestors and the authorities, but, given the Law on Amnesty, it is unlikely that the authorities will do so. The Maidan Self Defense organization today picketed the Office of the General Prosecutor, demanding that all criminal cases against demonstrators be closed, and announced plans to protest in the government sector of Kyiv on Tuesday, when Parliament is scheduled to meet.

**3. Party of Regions faction calls for President to appoint a PM from Party of Regions**

Three separate press releases on the Party of Regions stated that their parliamentary faction is calling for President Yanukovich to propose a candidate for PM from the ranks of the Party of Regions. Parliamentary Speaker Volodymyr Rybak stated that parliament could consider the candidacy next week, if the president proposes one. The calls from the faction for the appointment of a PM from its own ranks are a sign that the President is preparing such a candidate, and not a compromise candidate. This means that any attempt by the opposition to vote to return to the 2004 Constitution next week will likely be blocked.

**4. Community activists attacked in Donetsk cafe, detained by police**

A meeting in a Donetsk cafe of community activists was attacked by so-called "titushky," who detonated a smoke bomb and broke furniture. When the police arrived, several were detained. They were later released; the police stated that the detained people were "invited" to the police station to give a statement on the events - however, video evidence shows the police physically forcing them into cars. This is an example of police sing pressure and intimidation against protestors. Police actions have been particularly heavy-handed in eastern and southern Ukraine.

**5. Russian Foreign Minister Lavrov rebukes West for interfering in Ukraine**

In a press conference, Russian Foreign Minister Lavrov accused the EU and USA of interfering in Ukraine's internal affairs and attempting to create a sphere of influence in Ukraine, and of trying to force Ukraine to choose between the EU and Russia. He also stated that it is incorrect for the the EU and USA to be sending their emissaries to Kyiv every day to convince Ukraine to choose the EU and USA. Lavrov's statements ignore the fact that before and throughout the political crisis in Ukraine, Russia has consistently interfered in Ukraine's internal affairs, using economic pressure to prevent the signing of the Association Agreement, calling the resulting protests a coup, and calling for a crackdown against them.