

## SECURITY ASSESSMENT FOR ZAPORIZHZHYA (UKRAINE) FIBA WORLD CUP QUALIFIER GAME 29 NOVEMBER 2018

Since spring 2014 armed conflicts have been taking place in the east of Ukraine (Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts). Parts of these administrative districts are currently not controlled by the Ukrainian government but by separatist forces. The Ukrainian armed forces and the armed forces of the insurgents are facing each other at the so-called "contact line", where combat operations take place daily.

The security situation in the south-eastern parts of the Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts of Ukraine remains highly unstable with ongoing clashes between Ukrainian armed forces and armed separatists. Civilians continue to get caught up in the fighting.

Russian forces and pro-Russian groups have established full operational control in Crimea. Russia annexed Crimea on 21 March 2014 and tensions remain high.

Events in Ukraine are fast moving. People should remain vigilant throughout Ukraine, monitor the media and travel advice of their countries regularly.

The situation in Kyiv and other areas outside Donetsk and Luhansk is generally calm. However, public demonstrations do regularly take place. Policing of these events may include road closures. People should avoid all demonstrations and take extra care at public gatherings. In Kyiv, the areas around Maydan Nezalezhnosti (Independence Square) and government buildings such as the Verkhovna Rada (parliament building) and the National Bank of Ukraine are most frequently affected.

On Sunday 25 November 2018 Russia blocked three Ukrainian naval boats from entering the Sea of Azov with the help of a cargo ship near the city of Kerch. Russian border patrol boats shot at the Ukrainian naval ships near the peninsula, injuring several sailors, arrested them and confiscated the boats. Russia and Ukraine blame each other for the incident.

From 28 November (9am local time) until 27 December 2018, Ukraine is imposing martial law in parts of the country bordering Russia, the Sea of Azov, the Black Sea and the Transnistria region of Moldova. The oblasts affected are: Chernihiv, Donetsk, Kharkiv, Kherson, Luhansk, Mykolayiv, Odessa, Sumy, Vinnytsia and Zaporizhia.

The martial law provisions announced on 26 November include from Ukrainian perspective especially measures to adjust mobilisation plans as well as to prepare civil (non-military) security forces and administrative processes for the case of an increasing conflict.

On 29 November 2018 a UEFA Europa League match will take place in Poltava, 250 km north of Zaporizhzhya.

### Travel warnings and travel advices

The authorities of most European countries have no advice against travel to Ukraine except the oblasts of Luhansk and Donetsk and the Crimea peninsula.

There is also no travel warning for the UEFA Europa League game.

The maps of the authorities of France and the United Kingdom show the different security situations for Ukraine, as seen by other authorities of most of the countries.



source: [www.diplomatie.gouv.fr](http://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr)



source: [www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk)

## **Conclusion**

The situation in most areas of Ukraine except Donetsk and Luhansk is generally calm. Even if the conflict between Ukraine and Russia intensifies due to the last days incidents there are at this point no indications that this would affect other areas of the country.

In a meeting with the Deputy Head of Zaporizhzhya Regional State Administration on 27 November in Zaporizhzhya the Ukrainian side assured that the measures taken following the announced martial law are exclusively preventive measures to encourage authorities to be prepared and able to react quickly in case of an attack by Russian forces. It is said to be not affecting the game or the teams and to enable additional security measures. Ukrainian officials compared the situation with the announced state of emergency in France (2015) or in Turkey (2016/17).

The situation is constantly monitored, and FIBA Security Adviser will be directly informed by the Deputy Head of Regional State Administration in case the situation increases.

The situation in the city is calm and normal and there are no indications that the city is affected by the conflict between Ukraine and Russia.

*An update will be provided after the martial law has come into effect or in case of an increased security situation.*

**Considering the current security situation, it appears to be appropriate and justifiable to hold the FIBA World Cup Qualifier Game in Zaporizhzhya.**

  
Boris Koewing  
FIBA Security Adviser

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