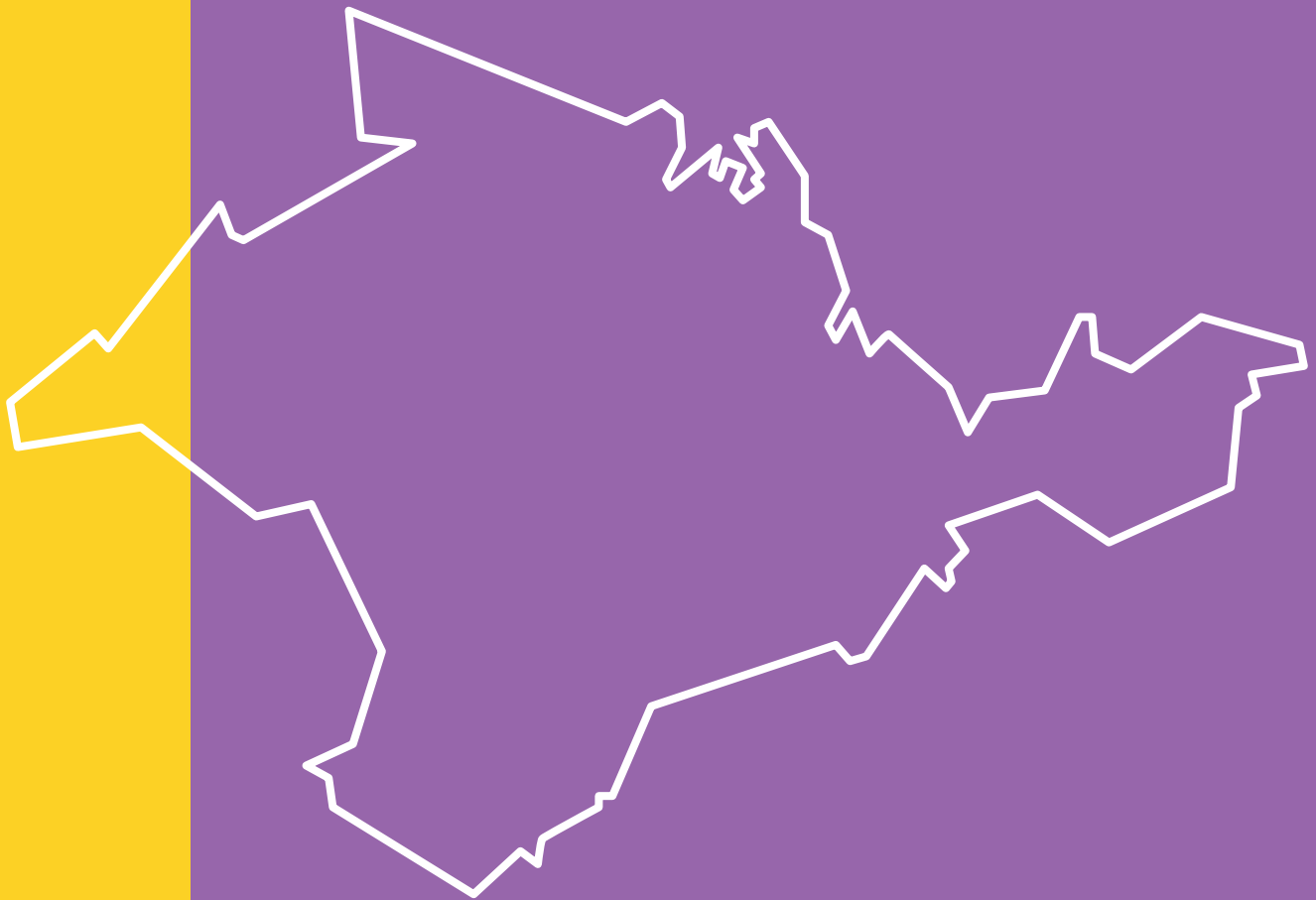




**CRIMEA
PLATFORM
EXPERT
NETWORK**



REVIEW of CRIMEA ENGLISH LANGUAGE MEDIA MENTIONS

Survey Prepared by MEDIACENTER UKRAINE and
Crimean Human Rights Group within Framework of
Crimea Platform Expert Network



**CRIMEAN
HUMAN RIGHTS
GROUP**



CRIMEA
PLATFORM
EXPERT
NETWORK

June 2024

SURVEY METHODS AND SAMPLING

Pursuant to the survey purpose and objectives stated, the content analysis method was used. Publications of 10 most mainstream English language media of the US, the UK and Canada for a year (June 2023 – May 2024) available in the media content analysis system were collected and analyzed.

The analysis results are the mentions quantified and their trends by countries, period, and resources established; the most common topics and narratives making a context for Crimea mentions singled out and pro-Ukrainian as well as pro-Russian narratives marked.

The most mainstream mass media of top 10 in the US, the UK and Canada selected for the research in Semantrum system are:

US: Newsweek, The Washington Post, CNN, Voice of America Worldwide, FOXNews, Politico, New York Post, New York Times, NBC News, National Public Radio.

UK: The Guardian, Independent, Reuters, The Economist, EuroNews, Telegraph, Financial Times, The Times.

Canada: CTV News, National Post, The Globe and Mail, ca.Yahoo.com, CBC News, Rumble, CityNews Toronto, Globalnews, The Toronto Star, Castanet.

The total number of surveyed publications was **4337**, including

2062 for the US, **1,206** for the UK, and **1,069** for Canada.

SUMMARY

The survey demonstrated an extraordinary relationship between considering the topic of Crimea in the English language space and covering the topic of full-scale war and hostilities.

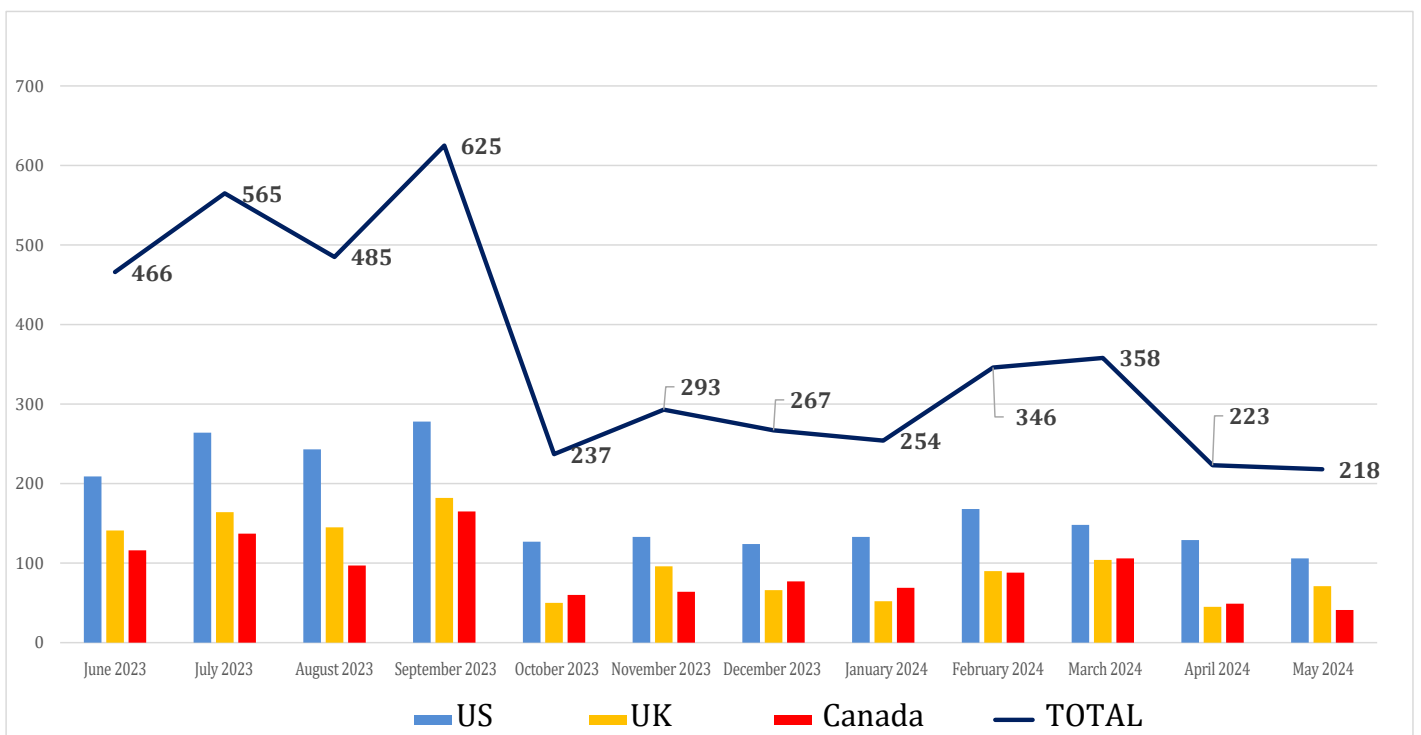
The highest number of mentions was in the US mass media, with Newsweek being a leader for subject publications. The UK and Canadian mass media have almost the equivalent indicators with a slightly higher number in the UK ones. The mass media of all countries under survey feature the same trend analyzed further.

The highest number of Crimea mentions was recorded during the Ukrainian counter-offensive in June – September 2023. This time’s publications generally consider the counter-offensive progress, its prospects, and potential effects for a further liberation of Crimea.

However, in October 2023 the situation changed distinctly – the number of mentions as well as the amount of information about the Russian armed aggression against Ukraine decreased. Most English language media focused on a Hamas terrorist attack on peaceful Israeli citizens and further hostilities in the Gaza Strip.

After October 2023, the dominating mass media narratives in which the topic of Crimea was mentioned were the Russian offensive in the East and Ukraine’s success at the sea front in the Black Sea. Backed by the delay of the US aid for Ukraine, the topic of discussing the aid in the Congress was actively covered in the information field though the general activity would never return to the summer of 2023 level.

Overall Publication Trend



PRO-UKRAINIAN AND PRO-RUSSIAN NARRATIVES

Generally speaking, the information field of the most mainstream English language mass media may be defined as neutral – positive for Ukrainian narratives to the extent possible according to Western journalism standards.

A good illustration for this statement is how the Western mass media reacted to the destruction of Kakhovka HPP by Russians. The Russians are sure to be responsible for this war crime but due to the evidence available at that moment the Western mass media had to cover the issue as stated by the parties (with outright lies of the Russians).

Putin accuses Ukraine of destroying the Kakhovka Dam at behest of West

[Reuters](#)

“Vladimir Putin stated that the Kyiv authorities, at the suggestion of their Western curators, are still making a dangerous bet on the escalation of hostilities, committing war crimes, openly using terrorist methods, and organising sabotage on Russian territory”, – the Kremlin quoted Putin as saying.

“A clear example of this is the barbaric action to destroy the Kakhovskaya hydro-electric power plant in the Kherson region which led to a large-scale environmental and humanitarian catastrophe”, – stated by Putin.

Kremlin denies fault for Kakhovka dam collapse, claims Kyiv wants to block water access to Crimea

[Fox News](#)

“This is a deliberate sabotage by the Ukrainian side. This sabotage could potentially cause very serious consequences for several tens of thousands of residents of the region, ecological consequences [and] consequences of a different nature which have yet to be established”, - stated by Kremlin spokesperson Dmitry Peskov.

Most of the English-language mass media openly condemn Russian aggression. Russian theses are primarily present in the statements of speakers that the mainstream media cannot ignore, but usually these messages are balanced by explanations condemning the Russian aggression.

Why the Evidence Suggests Russia Blew Up the Kakhovka Dam

[NY Times](#)

“Moments after a major dam in a Ukrainian war zone gave way, wild torrents cascaded over the jagged remains of the top. But the real problem most likely lay elsewhere, cloaked deep beneath the surface of the raging waters. Deep inside the dam was an Achilles’ heel. And because the dam was built during Soviet times, Moscow had every page of the engineering drawings and knew where it was.

The dam was built with an enormous concrete block at its base. A small passageway runs through it, reachable from the dam's machine room. It was in this passageway, the evidence suggests, that an explosive charge detonated and destroyed the dam.

At 2:35 a.m and 2:54 a.m. on June 6, seismic sensors in Ukraine and Romania detected the telltale signs of large explosions. Witnesses in the area heard large blasts between roughly 2:15 a.m. and 3 a.m. And just before the dam gave way, American intelligence satellites captured infrared heat signals that also indicated an explosion”.

“A dam in Ukraine was designed to withstand almost any attack imaginable — from the outside. The evidence suggests Russia blew it up from within”.

“In the chaotic aftermath, with each side blaming the other for the collapse, multiple explanations are theoretically possible. But the evidence clearly suggests the dam was crippled by an explosion set off by the side that controls it: Russia”.

Kremlin denies fault for Kakhovka dam collapse, claims Kyiv wants to block water access to Crimea

[Reuters](#)

“Apparently, this sabotage is also connected with the fact that, having started large-scale offensive actions two days ago, now the Ukrainian armed forces are not achieving their goals - these offensive actions are faltering.

Asked about Ukrainian allegations that Russia had destroyed the dam, Peskov said: «We can strongly reject this. We officially declare that here we are definitely talking about deliberate sabotage from the Ukrainian side»”.

The most favorable conditions for presenting the Ukrainian position were during the Ukrainian counteroffensive in the summer of 2023. The Western media actively supported Ukrainian statements regarding the counteroffensive progress, strikes on the military infrastructure in Crimea, and the liberation of the Black Sea from the Russian Navy.

Ukraine retakes 15 sq km in south, east in past week

[Reuters](#)

“Our defence forces are powerfully holding back enemy troops”, – stated by Deputy Defence Minister Hanna Maliar on the Telegram messaging app.

The Kremlin said on Monday that Ukraine's counteroffensive is "not working out as planned" and that NATO resources supplied to Kyiv had been «wasted».

Russian military base explodes as Ukraine attacks Black Sea peninsula

[The Times](#)

“A successful operation was conducted on occupied Crimea. The enemy is concealing the extent of the damage and the number of losses in manpower”, – said Kyrylo Budanov, the head of Ukrainian military intelligence.

Putin's forces pushed back around Bakhmut as Kyiv's troops creep closer

[Independent](#)

“The highly unusual incident suggested disarray in Russia’s military establishment and state media over how to report the battlefield situation in southern Ukraine.

The RBC news outlet quoted the defence ministry as saying: «The sending of a false report about the ‘regrouping’ of troops in the Dnepr (Dnipro) region, allegedly on behalf of the press centre of the Russian Ministry of Defence, is a provocation».

Ukraine's military confirms striking key Russian routes to Crimea

[CNN](#)

“When we're talking about the offensive operations of Ukrainian forces in the south east, they are attempting to liberate the two provinces of Kherson and Zaporizhzhia. As you look at the map that you have posted on right now, a lot of the supplies are coming into those two provinces, where the red area is from, Crimea. Others are coming from a small town, across the border in Russia called Rostov on Don along a major supply route or what the military would call a line of communication”, – concluded by Lieutenant General Mark Hertling, in air on 6th of August 2023 for CNN.

Putin's prized Black Sea fleet “functionally defeated” by Ukraine

[Independent](#)

“But comparing Kyiv’s relatively minor gains to those achieved last year «diminishes the importance of what has happened in the Black Sea over the last couple of weeks, where a Russian submarine and a Russian ship have been put out of action, and the headquarters of the Black Sea fleet has been put out of action too».

«The functional defeat of the Black Sea fleet – and I would argue that is what it is because it has been forced to disperse to ports from which it cannot have an effect on Ukraine – is an enormous credit. And [it is] every bit as important – every bit as much progress – as what was happening in the Kharkiv Oblast last year», – stated by James Heapey, Former UK Minister for the Armed Forces (2020-24).

Analysis: Ukraine's attack on Crimea shows it can still inflict serious damage on Russian forces

[CNN](#)

“This is a quite major attack on Russia's naval headquarters in that region. That is highly significant. And a clear success from the Ukrainian side. And let's not forget, this has happened in just a week of several of the major attacks in the Crimea area as well. This is clearly part of a pattern that Ukraine is conducting with increasing frequency.

Just yesterday we were talking about the Saky airbase as well. 12 military aircraft targeted there last week.

We were also talking about Sevastopol, again, a port there, a ship repair facility that was targeted. Again, all of this is targeting Russia's infrastructure”, – noted by CNN correspondent.

Russia's Black Sea Fleet Suffers More Problems as Video Shows Tanker Strike

[Newsweek](#)

“The latest strike shared on social media shows a drone targeting a Russian oil and chemical tanker in the Kerch Strait which stopped traffic on the bridge linking occupied Crimea to Russia for three hours.

Russia's Federal Agency for Sea and Inland Water Transport said the tanker SIG, which had 11 crew members, was hit around 11:20 pm Friday. The Kyiv Post reported that the vessel was one of Russia's best tankers and had been transporting fuel for Russian troops”.

In October, the situation changed, particularly in the narrative balance. Focusing the attention of the English-language media on the topic of the war in the Gaza Strip led to a decrease of Ukrainian narratives rebroadcast that the Russians took advantage of. Since October, the Russian propaganda noticeably intensified, its main theses being reported by the top Russian speakers to the mainstream mass media.

Has Support for Ukraine Peaked? Some Fear So.

[NY Times](#)

“I’m pessimistic», – said Yelyzaveta Yasko, a Ukrainian member of Parliament who is on the foreign affairs committee. «There are many questions now — weapons production, security infrastructure, economic aid, the future of NATO», – she said, but noted that answers to those questions had a timeline of at least five years”.

“We have been fighting for 600 days, – she added, – and I don’t see the leadership and planning that is required to take real action — not just statements — in support of Ukraine”.

«There’s less pushback against the anti-Ukrainian stuff already out there,» said Toomas Hendrik Ilves, the former president of Estonia, mentioning the Republican right wing and influential voices like Elon Musk. «It’s dangerous.»

Putin says Russian forces improving positions along front line in Ukraine

[Reuters](#)

“While Ukraine took back territory taken by Russia last year, the Ukrainian army has struggled to penetrate Russian lines which have been bolstered with mine fields and thousands of extra Russian troops”.

“As for the counteroffensive, which is allegedly stalling, it has failed completely”, - Putin said in video remarks posted to social media by a Kremlin journalist Pavel Zarubin.

“The opposing side is preparing new active offensive operations. We see it and we know it” Putin said when asked about the battle for the eastern Ukrainian town of Avdiivka”.

In today's Russia, “god of war” Putin is more popular than ever

[Euronews](#)

“As Russia prepares for the presidential election scheduled for March of next year, Vladimir Putin is playing a game of “will-he-won't-he” and is yet to announce his bid for re-election.

Yet, the incumbent president's apparent hesitation is nothing more than a charade, and — bar an earth-shattering act-of-God event — he is set to rule Russia for another six-year term. And, as illogical as it may seem to outside observers, the ongoing full-scale invasion of Ukraine has only helped solidify his ironclad grasp on power.

In fact, the entirety of Putin's carefully crafted political image in Russia is based upon the notion that he is an unbreakable masculine god of war, against whose onslaught no opponent can be left standing”, - wrote Aleksandar Djokic, political scientist and analyst.

Putin: we must think how to stop “the tragedy” in Ukraine

[Reuters](#)

“Addressing G20 leaders for the first time since the start of the war, the Kremlin chief said some leaders had said in their speeches that they were shocked by the ongoing «aggression» of Russia in Ukraine”.

«“Yes, of course, military actions are always a tragedy”, - Putin told the virtual G20 meeting called by Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi. “And of course, we should think about how to stop this tragedy”, - Putin said. “By the way, Russia has never refused peace talks with Ukraine».

The Russian narratives in the English language media were additionally disseminated (and supported) due to the interest to the next Putin's re-election campaign.

On Russian TV ahead of the election, there's only one program: Putin's

[National post](#)

«A leading state television channel opened with its host railing against the West and NATO. Another channel led with a segment extolling the virtues of domestically built streetcars. And there was the usual deferential coverage of Putin.

Since coming to power almost 25 years ago, Putin has eliminated nearly all independent media and opposition voices in Russia — a process he ramped up after the 2022 invasion of Ukraine. The Kremlin's control over media is now absolute.

State television channels cheer every battlefield victory, twist the pain of economic sanctions into positive stories, and ignore that tens of thousands of Russian soldiers have died in Ukraine”, - stated by Emma Burrows, The Associated Press.

In Alexei Navalny's death, Putin cements new era of Russian dictatorship

[Washingtonpost](#)

“Even behind bars Navalny was a real threat to Putin, because he was living proof that courage is possible, that truth exists, that Russia could be a different kind of country”, — wrote the Atlantic's Anne Applebaum.

“Russia, for now, is undeniably Putin's country. Entering the third year of his full-blown war in Ukraine, the Russian president has withstood international sanctions, geopolitical isolation from the West and a prominent mercenary's brazen insurrection. The edifice of his power remains intact, while those who threaten it face even harsher consequences than in an earlier phase of his rule”.

In addition, the Russian propaganda intensified in the foreign mass media regarding the coverage of the aid for Ukraine issue being considered by the US Congress. Ultimately, the number of pro-Russian news surpassed the pro-Ukrainian ones in February 2024.

Trump: I Told NATO, Pay Bills or Russia Can 'Do Whatever The Hell They Want'

[Voanews](#)

“But this time, Trump went further, saying he had told the member that he would, in fact, «encourage» Russia to do as it wishes in that case. «You didn't pay? You're delinquent? - Trump recounted saying. - No, I would not protect you. In fact, I would encourage them to do whatever the hell they want”.

“Trump's comments come as Ukraine remains mired in its efforts to stave off Russia's 2022 invasion and as Republicans in Congress have become increasingly skeptical of providing additional aid money to support the country as it struggles with stalled counteroffensives and weapons shortfalls”.

“Earlier Saturday, Trump called for the end of foreign aid «without strings attached» arguing that the U.S. should dramatically curtail the way it provides money. «From this point forward, are you listening, U.S. Senate (?), no money in the form of foreign aid should be given to any country unless it is done as a loan, not just a giveaway», - Trump wrote on his social media network in all caps”.

Putin Tells Tucker Carlson That Zelensky Has the Power to Bring Peace

[Newsweek](#)

“Russian President Vladimir Putin argued during his recent interview with conservative pundit Tucker Carlson that Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky alone holds the power to bring the Russia-Ukraine war to a peaceful end”.

“The President of Ukraine has legislated a ban on negotiating with Russia”, - Putin said during the Carlson interview. “He signed a decree forbidding everyone to negotiate with Russia. But how are we going to negotiate if he forbade himself and everyone to do this?”

“We're willing to negotiate”, - Putin continued. – It is the Western side, and Ukraine is obviously a satellite state of the U.S. ... The current Ukrainian leadership [should] stop and come to a negotiating table, rescind this absurd decree. We did not refuse”.

Don't Believe the Washington War Machine: Putin Is Not Going to Invade Another NATO Ally | Opinion

[Newsweek](#)

«Багато хто на Заході вважає Путіна "Many in the West view Putin as a reckless dictator with imperial ambitions. As someone who spent her intelligence career studying and analyzing Putin's thinking and Russia's war-fighting doctrine and security strategy, I'm here to tell that while Putin is a typical Russian dictator, he is entirely rational.

Putin invaded Ukraine to enforce his version of the Monroe Doctrine, to prevent Ukraine from joining NATO, and to restore the strategic buffer zone on which Russia relied for its security for centuries. No sane military commander would allow an adversarial alliance to situate itself along more than 1,000 miles of its border.

...By contrast, no plans to «integrate» or take by force a NATO member nation have been declared in any Russia's official doctrinal documents or official speeches made by Putin or the Kremlin», - stated by Rebekah Koffler, President of Doctrine & Strategy Consulting, former DIA intelligence officer.

Trump's plan to end Ukraine war is for Kyiv to give up land to Russia: report

[NY post](#)

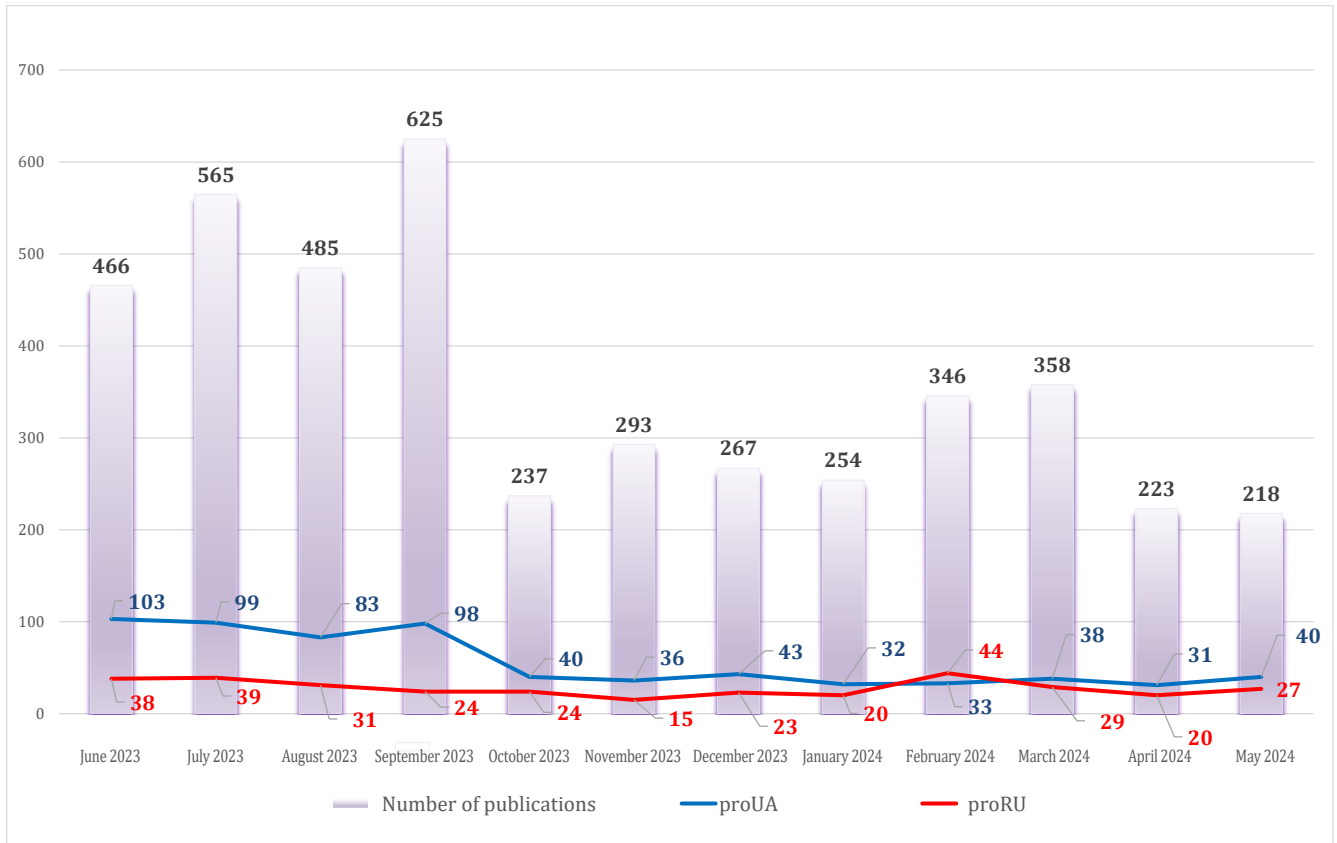
"Sources familiar with the alleged plan told the Washington Post that Trump is workshopping the idea behind closed doors, which would see Ukraine give up Crimea and the Donbas border region to Moscow in exchange for a cease-fire to the war that has claimed tens of thousands of lives".

"If elected Trump, who has previously touted that he could end the war within 24 hours, reportedly believes that both Russia and Ukraine «want to save face, they want a way out», according to one source who discussed the plan with him".

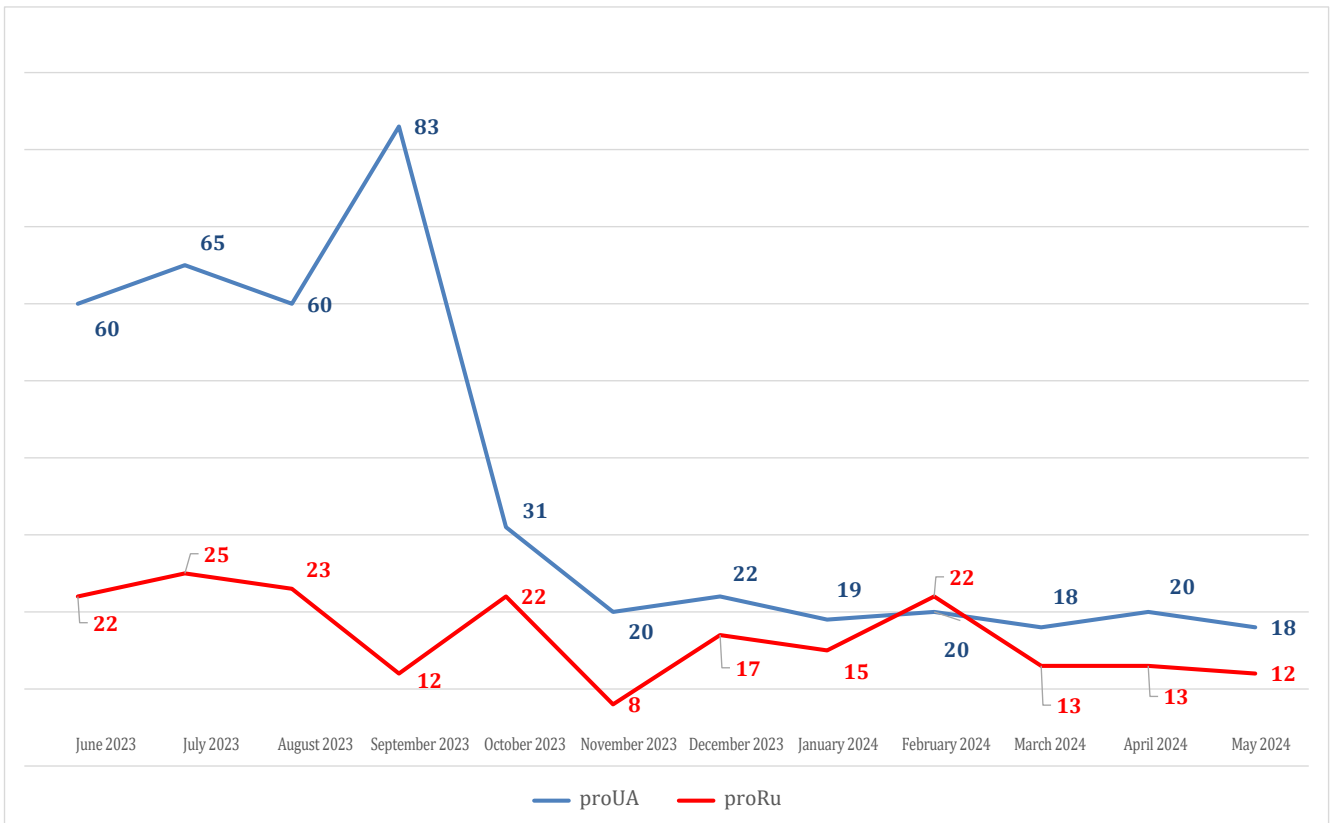
"The former president also believes that citizens in the occupied Ukrainian territories would be okay with being assimilated into Russia", - the report said.

With the time passed, the situation has balanced, and the Ukrainian position has been still dominating, though not so conclusively, as it was in June – September 2023.

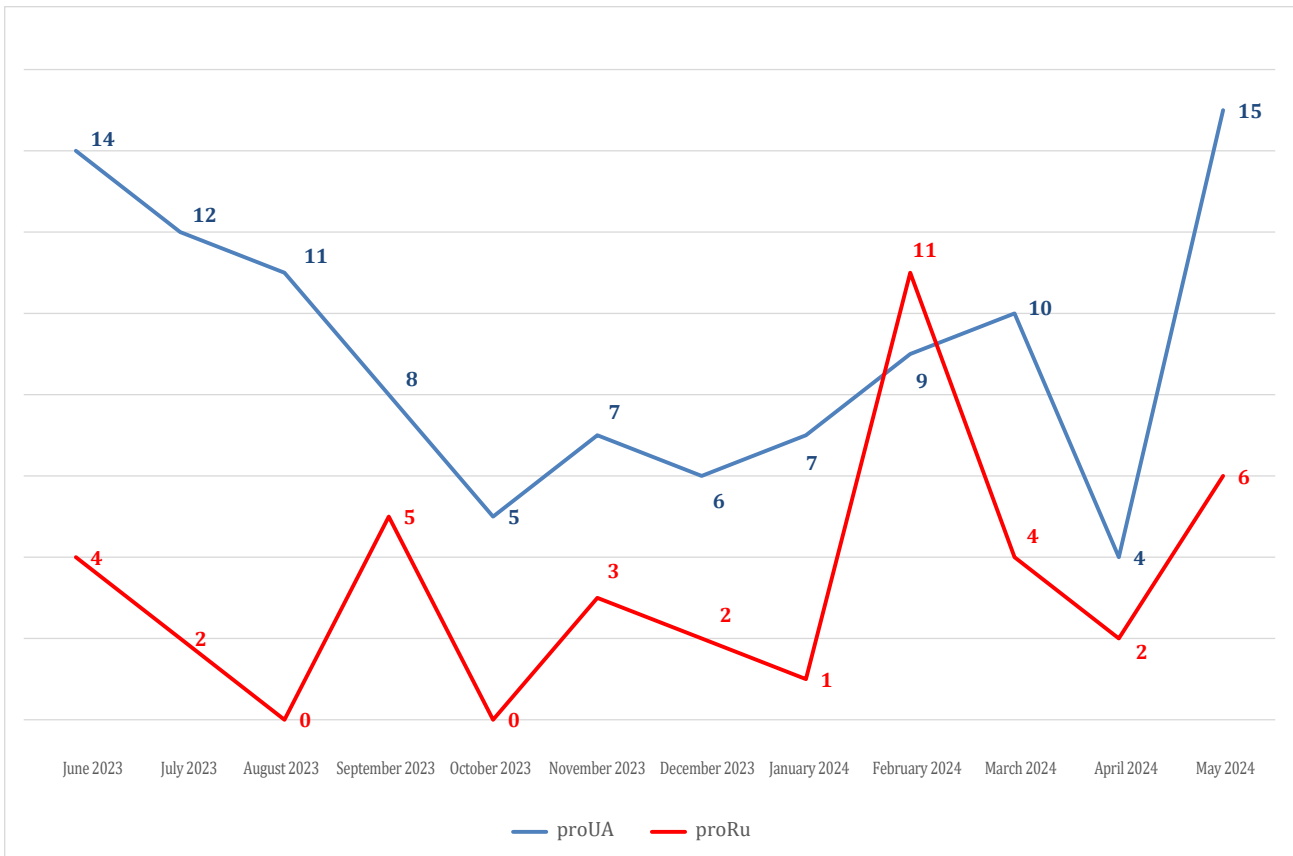
Trends of Pro-Ukrainian and Pro-Russian Narratives



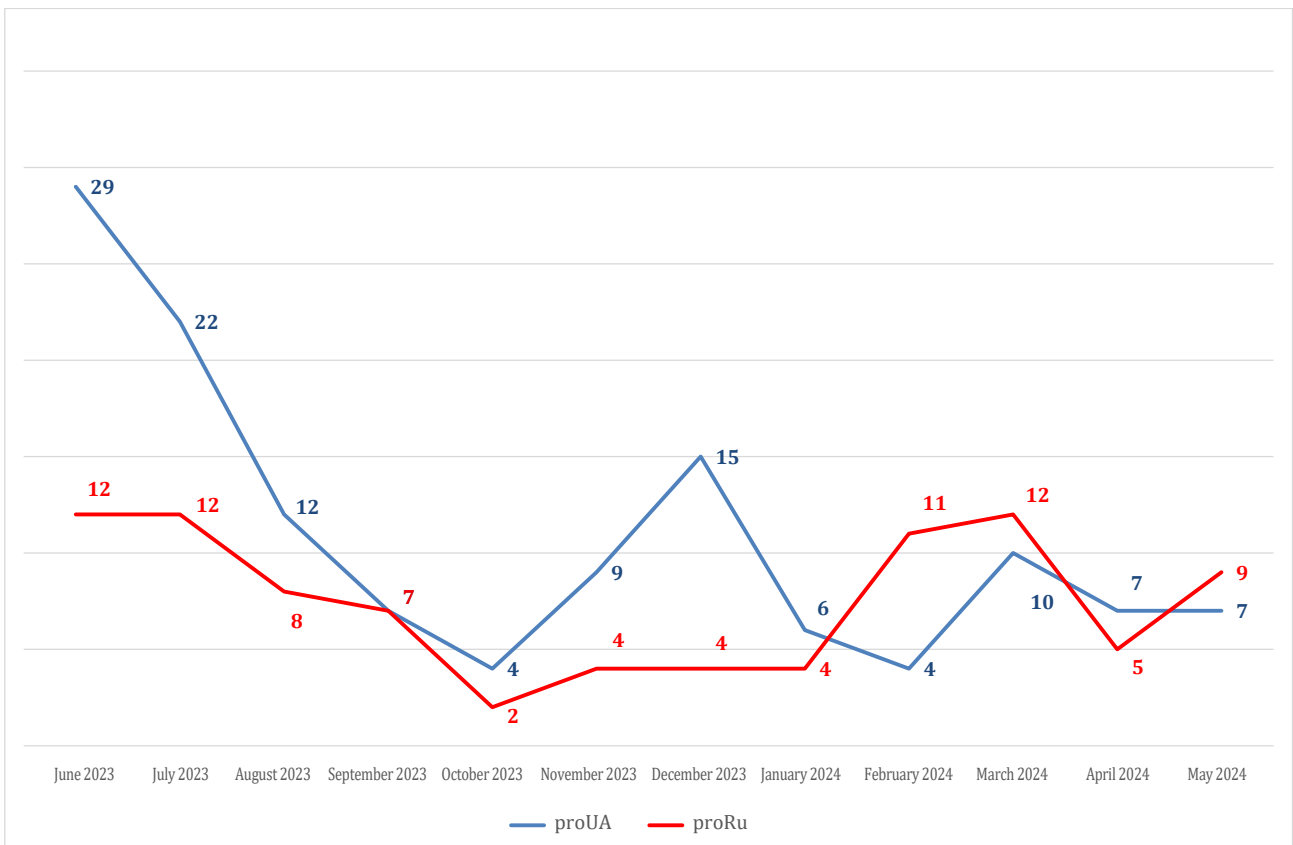
Sentiment, the USA



Sentiment, the UK



Sentiment, Canada



TOPICS BEING THE CONTEXT FOR MOST OFTEN CRIMEA MENTIONS

The topic of war dominates all the topics being the context for mentioning Crimea last year.

As to the topics related to the war, three major may be singled out

1. Overall combatting situation

The top topic as to the mentions, over 45% of all to be classified. Publications on the Ukrainian counteroffensive of the summer of 2023 and the intensification of the Russian counteroffensive in the East since autumn of 2023 may be considered within this topic.

2. War geopolitical context

25% of all mentions.

As to the geopolitical context, international support of Ukraine, Russian threats, the US Congress decision on the aid for Ukraine and geopolitical effects of the war unleashed by Russia against Ukraine are mentioned.

3. Combatting in Crimea itself

25% of all mentions.

This content includes publications about attacks on the Russian military infrastructure, hostilities in the Black Sea, and removal of the Russian Black Sea Navy from Crimea.

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[Reuters](#)

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Russian military base explodes as Ukraine attacks Black Sea peninsula

[The Times](#)

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[CNN](#)

«And that's what's occurring here when you're talking about the offensive operations of Ukrainian forces in the south. They are attempting to liberate the two provinces of Kherson and Zaporizhzhia.

As you look at the map that you have posted on right now, a lot of the supplies are coming into those two provinces, where the red area is from, Crimea. Others are coming from a small town, across the border in Russia called Rostov on Don along a major supply route or what the military would call a line of communication”, – concluded by Lieutenant General Mark Hertling, in air on 6th of August 2023 for CNN.

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[Newsweek](#)

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“This is a quite major attack on Russia's naval headquarters in that region. That is highly significant. And a clear success from the Ukrainian side. And let's not forget, this has happened in just a week of several of the major attacks in the Crimea area as well. This is clearly part of a pattern that Ukraine is conducting with increasing frequency.

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[Independent](#)

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«The functional defeat of the Black Sea fleet – and I would argue that is what it is because it has been forced to disperse to ports from which it cannot have an effect on Ukraine – is an enormous credit. And [it is] every bit as important – every bit as much progress – as what was happening in the Kharkiv Oblast last year», – stated by James Heapey, Former UK Minister for the Armed Forces (2020-24).

Unfortunately, the specific topics important for this study (Crimean Tatars, political prisoners, human rights violations, 10 years of occupation of Crimea) are not widely presented in the mainstream English-language mass media, accounting for less than 5%. Publications on these topics are irregular and associated with certain events. For example, during Putin's "election" campaign in the winter and spring of 2024, the English-language media were describing the human rights situation in the temporarily occupied territories.

"Some never came back": how Russians hunted down veterans of Donbas conflict

[The Guardian](#)

"The invading Russians carried lists of people to hunt down. Veterans of the Donbas war, vilified by Kremlin propagandists for committing a nonexistent «genocide» in the conflict, were at the top. The Russian military knew exactly where they lived, survivors have said".

"The Guardian has spoken to Donbas veterans who survived Russian torture in occupied villages, the families of forcibly disappeared former soldiers and Ukrainian investigators. Some of the veterans (...) were eventually released or escaped captivity but others were killed. The fate of hundreds remains a mystery".

"The Russians spent some time finding out about the most active pro-Ukrainian citizens", - said Anastasiia Pantielieva, a coordinator of the documentation department at the Media Initiative for Human Rights.

Russian forces coerce thousands of Ukrainians into accepting Russian passports

[FoxNews](#)

"Russia has successfully imposed its passports on nearly the entire population of occupied Ukraine by making it impossible to survive without them, coercing hundreds of thousands of people into citizenship ahead of elections Vladimir Putin has made certain he will win, an Associated Press investigation has found. But accepting a passport means that men living in occupied territory can be drafted to fight against the same Ukrainian army that is trying to free them.

A Russian passport is needed to prove property ownership and keep access to health care and retirement income. Refusal can result in losing custody of children, jail – or worse. A new Russian law stipulates that anyone in the occupied territories who does not have a Russian passport by July 1 is subject to imprisonment as a «foreign citizen»".

"But Russia also offers incentives: a stipend to leave the occupied territory and move to Russia, humanitarian aid, pensions for retirees, and money for parents of newborns – with Russian birth certificates".

UN-backed human rights experts decry new evidence of torture of Ukrainian POWs by Russia

[CTVNews](#)

“New evidence strengthens the commission's previous findings that torture used by Russian authorities in Ukraine and in the Russian Federation has been widespread and systematic”, - the commission said in its latest report, citing «horrific treatment» of POWs at several sites in Russia.

Commission chair Erik Mose said the torture takes many forms including beating, verbal abuse, electric shocks, and limited access to food and water.

“The whole treatment of the prisoners of war and the picture drawn up emerging from the way they were dealt with, how they were treated over long periods -- months -- enables us to use the word «horrific»”, - he told reporters on the sidelines of a Human Rights Council meeting in Geneva.

The topic of the Crimean Tatars was generally mentioned a few times, and mostly in relation to specific persons (Umerov's appointment, Jamala's mention before the Eurovision Song Contest). The topic of the 10th anniversary of the annexation was presented in sporadic messages only in March 2024 - precisely on the anniversary.

Crimean Tatars “being ethnically cleansed by Russia”

[The Times](#)

“Since annexing Crimea from Ukraine in 2014 Russia has sought to stamp out dissent among Tatars, a mainly Muslim ethnic group who are the main opponents of Moscow's rule on the Black Sea peninsula. About 100 Tatars are serving prison terms of up to 20 years on trumped-up charges including terrorism, according to human rights groups. Dozens are kept in brutal detention cells before trial, others have disappeared after being targeted by Russian forces”.

“Tens of thousands have fled their historical homeland to escape the crackdown. Lawyers who defend Crimean Tatars in court have been arrested and debarred”.

Russia Puts Ukrainian Winner of Eurovision Song Contest on Wanted List

[Voa News](#)

“Russia has placed a Ukrainian singer who won the 2016 Eurovision Song Contest on its wanted list, state news agencies reported Monday. The reports said an Interior Ministry database listed singer Susana Jamaladinova as being sought for violating a criminal law”.

“The independent news site Mediazona, which covers opposition and human rights issues, said Jamaladinova was charged under a law adopted last year that bans spreading so-called fake information about the Russian military and the ongoing fighting in Ukraine”.

Ukraine's Zelenskiy urges “fight” for Crimea after 10 years of occupation

[Reuters](#)

“Ukraine and its international partners must continue fighting to restore Ukrainian control over Crimea”, - President Volodymyr Zelenskiy said on Monday as Kyiv marked a decade of Russian occupation of the Black Sea peninsula.

“This cruel war now being waged against Ukraine was spawned by Russian revanchism precisely when it felt that the world could turn a blind eye to such crimes”, - Zelenskiy said in a video address.

“We can end this war on our Ukrainian terms. We can return our land and people from the occupation,» he said. «We can bring Russia to justice for what it has done. But for this to happen, we must fight”.

How Russia's grab of Crimea 10 years ago led to war with Ukraine and rising tensions with the West

[National Post](#)

“A decade ago, President Vladimir Putin seized Crimea from Ukraine, a bold land grab that set the stage for Russia to invade its neighbor in 2022. «Crimea is ours!» soon became a popular slogan in Russia, and Putin channeled that patriotism by appearing Monday evening at a Red Square concert celebrating the annexation’s 10th anniversary, calling it «a great event in the history of our state»”.

“The senior fellow at Carnegie Russia Eurasia Center noted that Putin’s speech last month «created an extremely chilling impression of an unraveling spiral of escalation»”.

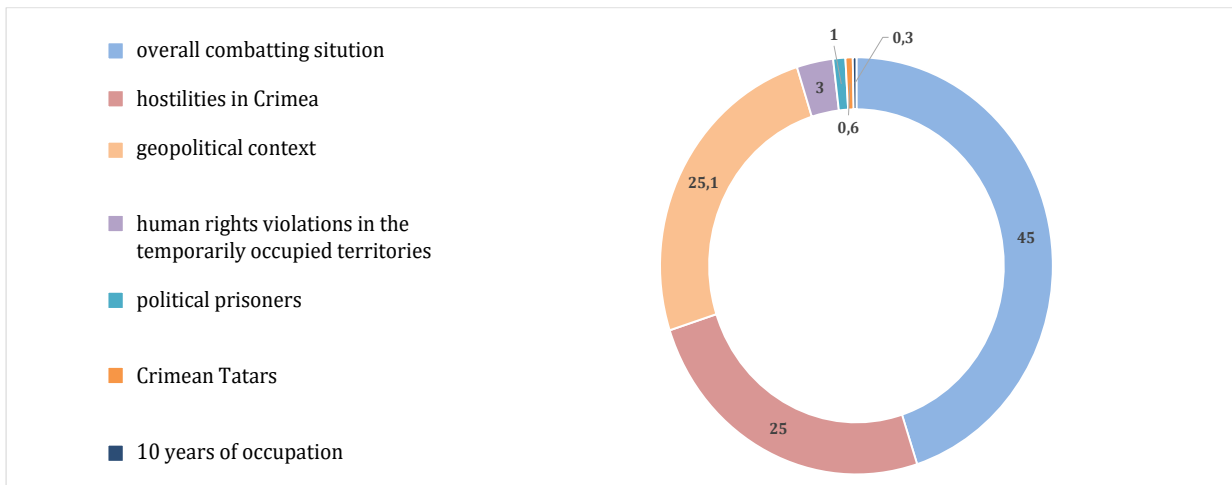
татором Такером Карлсоном, де Путін виголосив довгу лекцію, в якій намагався довести своє твердження про те, що більша частина її території історично належала Росії. Він озвучив цей аргумент 10 років тому, коли сказав, що Москва повинна захистити російськомовних у Криму й повернути свою територію.

Путін ухилився від відповіді на питання, наскільки глибоко він хотів би зайти в Україну, але в понеділок після перемоги у добре організованому голосуванні заявив, що Росія спробує створити «санітарну зону», щоб відсунути лінію фронту настільки, аби захистити російську територію від далекобійної зброї, наявної в арсеналі України. Деякі члени його оточення менш стримані, репрезентуючи плани нових захоплень.

Дмитро Медведєв, заступник голови Ради безпеки Росії, котрий силується вислужитися перед Путіним регулярними яструбиними заявами, згадав про Київ і чорноморський порт Одесу. «Україна – це Росія», – недвозначно заявив він нещодавно, заперечуючи жодні переговори з урядом Зеленського й пропонуючи «мирну формулу», що передбачала б капітуляцію Києва й анексію Москвою всієї країни.

Російські військові аналітики розділилися в думках щодо здатності Москви переслідувати такі амбітні цілі.

Distribution by Specific Topics, %



CONCLUSIONS

The survey demonstrated an extraordinary relationship between considering the topic of Crimea in the English language space and covering the topic of full-scale war and hostilities.

The highest number of last year's Crimea mentions was recorded during the Ukrainian counter-offensive in June – September 2023. In October 2023 the situation changed distinctly – the number of mentions as well as the amount of information from the Russian-Ukrainian war operational theater decreased.

The information field of the most mainstream English language mass media may be generally defined as neutral – positive for Ukrainian narratives to the extent possible according to Western journalism standards. However, the overall share of explicitly pro-Ukrainian or pro-Russian narratives remains insignificant.

The specific topics important for this study (Crimean Tatars, political prisoners, human rights violations, 10 years of occupation of Crimea) are not widely presented in the mainstream English-language mass media, accounting for less than 5%. Publications on these topics are irregular and associated with certain events. The topic of the Crimean Tatars was mentioned a few times, and mostly in relation to personalities (Umerov's appointment, Jamala's mention before the Eurovision Song Contest). The topic of the 10th anniversary of the annexation was sporadically presented only in March 2024 – dedicated to the anniversary.

In October, the situation changed, including also the narrative balance. Focusing the attention of the English-language media on the topic of the war in the Gaza Strip led to a decrease of Ukrainian narratives rebroadcast that the Russians took advantage of. Since October, the Russian propaganda noticeably intensified, its main theses being reported by the top Russian speakers to the mainstream mass media.

With the time passed, the situation has balanced, and the Ukrainian position has been still dominating, though not so conclusively, as it was in June – September 2023.

The topic of war dominates all the narratives being the context for mentioning Crimea last year.



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