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## **Probe launched against Ukraine Defense Minister and some high-ranking military men of Ukraine army**



The Russia's Investigative Committee continues the investigation into the use of prohibited means and methods of warfare in southeastern Ukraine by Ukrainian military and security agencies.

The investigation has revealed that the Agreement concluded by the Tripartite Contact Group (Ukraine, Donetsk People's Republic and Luhansk People's Republic) on cease-fire and withdrawal of heavy weapons since 15 February 2015, has been breached multiple time in 2016 by the Ukrainians. Namely, the military servants of the National Guard and the Armed Forces of Ukraine shelled from time to time civilian infrastructure, which is not a military aim in the said territory and used heavy high-level destruction weapons to do that.

The bombardments damaged or destroyed completely over 183 facilities of civilian infrastructure and utilities in the southeast of Ukraine, killed 7 civilians, wounded 74, including 7 minors.

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The investigators have enough evidence that the crimes against the civilian population were committed on the orders of the higher military commanders of Ukraine – the Ministry of Defense Stepan Poltorak, head of the General Staff of the Ministry of Defense Viktor Muzhenko, former commander of the Land Forces of the Armed Forces Anatoly Pushnyakov, current commander of the Land Forces of the Armed Forces Sergei Popko, commander of the National Guard Yuri Allero. They are now under investigation over a crime under Article 356 of the RF Penal Code (use of prohibited means and methods of warfare).

The investigators are now gathering evidence. The progress of the probe is controlled by the Chairman of the Investigative Committee.

24 August 2016

Page address: <https://en.sledcom.ru/news/item/1062438>