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## [June 4, 2014, New York City Bar: International Law and Crisis in Ukraine: A Roundtable Discussion](#)

**Wednesday, June 4, 2014, 6:00 PM - 7:30 PM, followed by a reception.**

There is no charge for this program; please sign in to register.

Recent events in Crimea and Eastern Ukraine have raised an array of challenging issues related to self-determination, secession, international intervention, and annexation. Our panel will explore the legal and policy implications of these issues, and will include presentations from a diverse group of experienced diplomats, lawyers, and scholars on the roots of the unfolding crisis and the way forward.

Presented by: **The Council on International Affairs of the New York City Bar Association**

Panelists: **Ambassador Yuriy Sergeyev**, Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the United Nations; **Christopher J. Borgen**, Associate Dean for International Studies and Professor of Law, St. John's University School of Law. The panel will be introduced by **Bettina B. Plevan**, Proskauer Rose LLP; Chair, Council on International Affairs and moderated by **Mark A. Meyer**, Honorary Consul of the Republic of Moldova in New York; Herzfeld & Ruben, P.C.

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[A two-tone election. Petro Poroshenko has been elected president. Now he has some dreadful problems](#) “AS I set off on a spring journey into the world, my mother embroidered my shirt with two colours: red for love and black for sorrow,” goes a popular Ukrainian song. On May 25th, as Ukrainians went to the polls to elect Petro Poroshenko as their new president, many sported the traditional shirts embroidered with red and black threads. Held in the middle of a war stoked by Russia’s Vladimir Putin, and three months after a revolution in Kiev’s Maidan that led to more than 100 deathsundefinedand cost the country Crimea, which Mr Putin annexedundefinedUkraine’s presidential election was an act of defiance as much as an expression of political preferences. **The Economist.** [Read More](#)

[Despite Russian drawdown from border, fighting continues in eastern Ukraine \(+video\)](#) Most Russian troops have withdrawn from Ukraine's border, US officials said today, a move long demanded by Ukraine and the West. But there are strong indications that Russian fighters are battling alongside separatist rebels against government troops in eastern Ukraine. According to unidentified US defense officials, only seven Russian battalions, consisting of a few thousand troops, are positioned near the border with Ukraine, down from roughly 40,000. The Associated Press reports that while US Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel did not confirm the troop numbers, he did say that it was taking place, if incomplete. **The Christian Science Monitor.** [Read More](#)

[NATO to discuss reinforcing troops in Poland-German defence ministry](#) NATO defence ministers will discuss temporarily reinforcing forces in Poland when they meet in Brussels this week, a spokesman for the German defence ministry said on Sunday, a move that would be aimed at reassuring countries nervous about Russia's intervention in Ukraine. The spokesman said the 28-member alliance would consider reinforcing its Multinational Corps Northeast in Szczecin. **REUTERS.** [Read More](#)

[\*\*A Tale of Two Europes\*\*](#) By any measure, it was a landmark, landslide victory undefined for Europe. On May 25, Petro Poroshenko declared victory in the first round of the Ukrainian presidential elections. He had won the support by more than 55 percent of Ukrainians undefined and they knew exactly what they were getting. Poroshenko campaigned on integrating his country into European institutions. After his victory, he repeated that goal. Ukraine is on the brink of financial catastrophe and is fighting a de facto invasion: [\*\*Well-armed Chechen soldiers have now arrived\*\*](#) to assist the Russian-made insurgency in the east. [\*\*Yet in his victory speech\*\*](#), he declared he wanted not only to “put an end to war, to put an end to chaos” but to “bring in European values” to his country. **Foreigners.** [\*\*Read More\*\*](#)

[\*\*Plans to remove Ukrainian and Crimean Tatar languages in Crimean schools?\*\*](#) Radio Svoboda’s Crimean programme [\*\*reports\*\*](#) that parents are being sent questionnaires regarding language preferences. In Kerch the questions pertained to the studying of Ukrainian and Crimean Tatar, with four answers to choose from. The school is proposing to have the two languages either as optional or as a specific subject. The questionnaire, supposedly undertaken in accordance with the Russian Federation’s academic plan, may be aimed at drawing certain conclusions regarding the sense – or lack of such – of teaching Ukrainian and Crimean Tatar. As reported, the only - formerly Ukrainian - lyceum in Simferopol is to become almost totally Russian-speaking, with three out of four classes at each level in Russian. Tatyana Sukhina from the Simferopol City Council’s education department claims that this is in full keeping with parents’ wishes, that 86% of the parents decided that they wanted Russian. **Human Rights in Ukraine.** [\*\*Read More\*\*](#)

[\*\*What Comes after Non-Recognition?\*\*](#) After the election of a new president with a clear democratic mandate, there is much talk of Ukraine turning a corner, despite the turmoil in the east of the country. Indeed, the focus is now largely on those regions and whether they can remain a part of Ukraine, as well as the challenge of keeping the country from the edge of the economic precipice. In the case of Crimea, two months since Russia’s annexation of the peninsula, there appears a widespread acceptance of the “facts on the ground” of Russian rule. The issue is already fading into the background amid fears of an even worse outcome. **New Eastern Europe.** [\*\*Read More\*\*](#)

[\*\*France's Le Pen Says She Admires Putin as Much as Merkel-Magazine\*\*](#) Marine Le Pen, leader of France's far-right National Front, said she admired Vladimir Putin as much as German Chancellor Angela Merkel because the Russian president did not allow other countries to impose decisions on him. Le Pen's anti-immigrant, Eurosceptic party scored its first nationwide poll victory in European elections last week and has since said it is close to forming a political group in the European Parliament. **The New York Times.** [\*\*Read More\*\*](#)

[\*\*Window on Eurasia: Moscow Preparing to Seize Land in Crimea for ‘State Needs’ as It Did in Sochi\*\*](#) Russia’s economic development ministry is preparing legislation that would allow Moscow to seize significant amounts of land in Crimea on an accelerated basis in the name of promoting economic development, a measure that is modelled on the one Vladimir Putin used in the run-up to the Sochi Olympiad. According to a report in “Yezhednevny zhurnal,” the measure would reduce the amount of time that the authorities would have to give to property owners before their lands or buildings could be seized from the one year standard of existing Russian law to only three months. **Window on Eurasia.** [\*\*Read More\*\*](#)

[\*\*Window on Eurasia -- New Series\*\*](#) One of the problems that Moscow propagandists face is that many of the arguments they put out for political change in Ukraine apply with equal or even greater force to the Russian Federation and thus have the potential to spark demands inside the latter country that the Kremlin is very much against. Nowhere is that possibility of unwelcome blowback more obvious than in Russian discussions of the need for decentralization of power and the creation of genuine federalism in Ukraine, discussions in which every argument about Ukraine could be made with even greater force about Russia. **Window on Eurasia.** [\*\*Read More\*\*](#)

[\*\*Church of Kyiv Patriarchate attacked in Crimea\*\*](#) A group of criminals identifying themselves as "Russian Orthodox Cossacks" this morning barged into a local church of the Kyiv Patriarchate in Crimea in village Perevalne during Sunday Divine Liturgy and beat members of the faithful, including a pregnant woman and a young girl with cerebral palsy, and then attacked the car of the parish priest. The gang members said they were seizing the building for the Moscow Patriarchate. Police came after three hours and stood on a side of the attackers saying that Orthodox Church of Kyiv Patriarchate is anti-Russian (Crimea was annexed by Russian Federation in the beginning of March). **RISU.** [\*\*Read More\*\*](#)

[\*\*Ukraine Introduces Ban on Russian Military Products\*\*](#) "Russia cannot receive arms that were earlier paid for," Russian Deputy Defense Minister Yuri Borisov said on Saturday, Itar-Tass reported. He said such policy will affect Ukrainian enterprises, asking, "Where will they find sales markets?" Borisov noted that Russian enterprises are successfully coping with the task although the situation causes certain difficulties, saying, "We are to revise all positions of our cooperation. A plane cannot be sold without gear wheels." **FARS News Agency.** [\*\*Read More\*\*](#)

**[The Big Picture of the Geopolitical Chess Game: Ukraine is A “Square on the Chessboard”](#)** The Ukrainian civil war driven by the junta of the Kiev thugs and supported with arms and money by Washington, NATO and the European puppets, continues killing their country-men and women in the eastern Donbass area. The Kiev army and death squads are accompanied by hundreds of Academi (former Blackwater) mercenaries and CIA advisors, mainly to make sure that the Kiev troops will not defect but execute their marching orders, namely fighting and killing their brothers and sisters, lest they risk being shot as traitors. **Global Research.** **[Read More](#)**

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events affecting the Ukrainian legal profession

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