

Yanukovych to Hold 2nd News Conference in Russia

By The Moscow Times

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Deposed Ukrainian President Viktor Yanukovych is scheduled to hold a press-conference in the Russian city of Rostov-on-Don on Tuesday.

This will be his second statement delivered from the southern Russian city since he fled Ukraine after signing an EU mediated agreement with opposition leaders on February 21. It is not yet known what he plans to discuss at the conference, Interfax reported.

The announcement also declined to specify an exact time or location for the pressconference.

<u>His first appearance in Russia was on February 28th</u>, and was the first time he had spoken publicly since he was removed from power by the Ukrainian Parliament.

During the conference, Yanukovych claimed that he was still the legitimate leader of Ukraine

and that he fled Ukraine because of a direct threat to his life and his family's lives. As such, he said that he will return to Ukraine as soon as their safety can be assured. However, Yanukovych does not plan on running in the upcoming May 25 presidential election since it is an "illegal" contest, he said.

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