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Pro-Russian Separatists Seize Government Buildings in Konstantinovka

By The Moscow Times

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Pro-Russian self-defence forces seized police headquarters and the local administrative building in Konstantinovka, east Ukraine.

Armed pro-Russian separatists who took control of police headquarters in the eastern Ukrainian town of Konstantinovka have also seized the town's administration building, a spokesman for the regional government has said.

"I think it is the usual demands, the same as in other towns, the scenario doesn't change: a referendum and a federal system of government," said Ilya Suzdaliyev, a spokesman for the Donetsk region administration, which includes Konstantinovka.

About 20 gunmen wearing camouflage fatigues and masks appeared to be controlling the town administration building, an eyewitness reported.

Earlier Monday, pro-Russian separatists seized the Konstantinovka police headquarters.

The men entered the building on Monday morning and refused to let employees enter the premises, Ukrainian television channel TSN reported.

"About 30 separatists came to the local police headquarters and occupied the ground floor. Negotiations are underway with the local police chief. We do not know what their demands are," said Interior Ministry spokeswoman Laryssa Volkova.

Konstantinovka, a town with a population of about 100,000, is located 60 kilometers from Donetsk, where separatists have seized a number of administrative buildings in recent weeks.

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