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Putin Compares Ukraine's Advance in East With Nazi Siege

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Russian President Vladimir Putin speaks to the media after talks with Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko in Minsk, Belarus.

Russian President Vladimir Putin said Kiev's operation in eastern Ukraine where government forces are fighting pro-Russian separatists around the cities of Donetsk and Luhansk is reminiscent of the World War Two Nazi siege of Leningrad.

"Small villages and large cities surrounded by the Ukrainian army which is directly hitting residential areas with the aim of destroying the infrastructure... It sadly reminds me the events of the World War II, when German fascist... occupants surrounded our cities," Putin told a youth camp outside Moscow.

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