

Britain Will Supply Military Equipment to Ukraine to Fight 'Russia's Aggression'

By The Moscow Times

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Members of the Ukrainian Interior Ministry's Azov battalion are pictured at a camp of the battalion in Kiev.

Britain said Friday it planned to supply Ukraine's army with a package of non-lethal military equipment to help it defend itself against what Defense Secretary Michael Fallon called "Russia's aggression."

The equipment, worth £850,000 (\$1.3 million), will be gifted to Ukraine in the coming weeks in response to a request from Kiev. The package includes first aid kits, night vision goggles, laptops, helmets and GPS units.

Britain said last month it was sending 75 military personnel to Ukraine, where violence has continued despite a cease-fire agreement, to help train its army, and would not rule out providing arms at some point in the future.

"The U.K. is committed to supporting Ukraine's sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity in the face of Russia's aggression," Fallon said in a statement on Friday.

"This gift of non-lethal equipment is designed to prevent further Ukrainian fatalities and casualties and to help improve situational awareness on the ground. Our overall aim is to strengthen the defensive capability of the Ukrainian armed forces."

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