

# White House Urges Cease-Fire to Be Upheld by Russia and Pro-Russian Separatists

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A member of the Ukrainian armed forces is silhouetted as he stands at his position near Kramatorsk, March 11, 2015

U.S. Vice President Joe Biden and Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko spoke by phone on Saturday and both called on Russia and pro-Russian separatists fighting in eastern Ukraine to implement the Minsk cease-fire agreements, the White House said.

Both leaders also welcomed the disbursement of the first tranche of a new International Monetary Fund program for Ukraine, the White House said in a statement.

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