

Russians Tiring of Ukraine Coverage, Poll Shows

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A member of the self-proclaimed Donetsk People's Republic forces walks on top of a tank during a military drill outside the urban settlement of Torez in Donetsk region, Ukraine.

Russians are becoming less interested in what is happening in neighboring Ukraine amid reports of decreased military activity in the country, state-run pollster VTsIOM reported in a survey published Wednesday.

According to the poll, 71 percent of Russians are currently following events in Ukraine, including 25 percent of respondents who say they are following them closely. In January, 83 percent said they were following events in Ukraine, with 38 percent doing so closely.

Of those 71 percent who said they follow events in Ukraine, only 36 percent characterized the events in Ukraine as a civil war, down from 50 percent at the beginning of the year. Only 6 percent said that what is happening can be qualified as genocide and terror, compared with 17 percent saying so in January.

Thirty-four percent of those following events there said that the situation in Ukraine has not changed recently, while 6 percent said things were gradually getting back to normal. At the beginning of the year, 25 percent said that it hadn't changed and only 4 percent said that things were getting better.

Ukraine has been at the top of Russia's media and political agenda since mass protests in Kiev toppled President Viktor Yanukovich in February 2014. Since then, Russia has engaged in a bitter conflict with Ukraine and the West over the country's fate.

The poll was conducted among 1,600 respondents with a margin of error not exceeding 3.5 percent.

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