

Sberbank Ukraine Limits Cash Withdrawals After Nationalists Protest in Kiev

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Sergei Konkov / TASS

Russia's largest state-owned bank is [limiting cash withdrawals for customers](#) in Ukraine after their central headquarters in Kiev were blockaded by anti-Kremlin demonstrators.

Sberbank's Ukrainian subsidiary announced on Wednesday that customers would not be able to withdraw more 30,000 hryvnia (\$1,115) daily.

Members of Ukrainian nationalist group the Azov battalion used concrete blocks to brick up the entrance to Sberbank's headquarters in Kiev on Monday, forcing the branch to suspend operations.

The group claimed that they had also attacked ATMs belonging to Sberbank and other Russian companies in major cities across Ukraine using insulation foam.

Azov battalion leaders say that they're demanding that Sberbank and other Russian

companies leave Ukraine.

Embed:

Петренко объяснил, зачем активисты забетонировали «Сбербанк России» в Киеве: <https://t.co/7j7PXOpIby#Сбербанк #Киев #акция pic.twitter.com/70KXPobquf>

— Сегодня (@segodnya_online) [March 13, 2017](#)

The Ukrainian government is set to discuss possible sanctions against Russian banks on Thursday. The National Security and Defense Council of Ukraine is expected to target Sberbank Ukraine in retaliation to the bank's decision to [begin accepting documents](#) issued from Ukraine's breakaway republics in Donetsk and Luhansk.

Vladimir Putin [signed an executive order](#) officially recognizing identification documents from the two self-proclaimed republics Feb. 18.

Individuals can now use the documents to cross the Russian border, and local authorities will also recognize locally-issued education documents, certificates recording births, deaths, marriages, and divorces, and car registrations.

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Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov has [already condemned the protests](#), comparing the demonstrators to "lynch mobs."

"I understand that Sberbank managers have contacted the Ukrainian authorities in a bid to stop these attempts to hamper their day-to-day work," Lavrov said. "Lynch mobs are intolerable. They violate the law and undermine property rights protected by Ukrainian law."

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