The Moscow Times
30 YEARS
INDEPENDENT NEWS FROM RUSSIA

UK Warns Moscow Not to Recognize Breakaway Ukraine Regions

By AFP

February 17, 2022



British Foreign Secretary Liz Truss **Aaron Chown/TASS**

The UK government on Thursday warned the Kremlin against formally recognizing two pro-Moscow separatist territories in Ukraine, days after the Russian parliament voted to urge President Vladimir Putin to do so.

"The Duma's request that Vladimir Putin recognizes the Ukrainian regions of Donetsk and Luhansk as independent shows flagrant disregard for Russia's commitments under the Minsk agreements," British Foreign Secretary Liz Truss said in a statement.

Related article: Russian Parliament Backs Plan to Recognize Breakaway Ukrainian Regions

The agreements — named after the Belarus capital where they were struck in 2014 — sought to halt the war between the Ukraine government and the secessionists and remain the only

existing framework for resolving the conflict peacefully.

"If this request were accepted, it would represent a further attack on Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity, signal an end to the Minsk process and demonstrate a Russian decision to choose a path of confrontation over dialogue," Truss said.

"We urge Russia to end its pattern of destabilizing behavior against Ukraine and to implement the commitments it has freely signed up to, including the Minsk agreements."

Russia's parliament, the Duma, voted on Tuesday to urge Putin to recognize the independence of the two Ukrainian separatist regions, amid tensions with the West over Moscow's troop build-up nearby.

Russia has issued passports to hundreds of thousands of residents of the separatist-held enclaves, where Ukraine government troops have been battling insurgents in a conflict that has claimed more than 14,000 lives since 2014.

The Duma proposal prompted strong condemnation from the United States on Wednesday, with Secretary of State Antony Blinken saying it would "constitute a gross violation of international law."

Original url:
https://www.themoscowtimes.com/2022/02/17/uk-warns-moscow-not-to-recognize-breakaway-ukraine-regions-a76441