

## **FOI 315-14: DIGEST OF INFORMATION: 'WHITE HAMMER' ORGANISATION, UKRAINE**

### **Extracts from British Embassy, Kyiv media reporting note, Jan – Feb 2014**

The organization White Hammer is made up of nationalistically-minded young men. Formed last year, the organization is known for its raids to destroy illegal slot machines.

*One Plus One TV, Kyiv, 2 February 2014*

According to an interview with one of Right Sector leaders, Andriy Tarasenko, which was posted on the website of the LIGABiznesInform news agency the following day ([tinyurl.com/qfqko5o](http://tinyurl.com/qfqko5o)), the organization was set up in late November 2013 and is comprised of several small ultra-right groups, among them Trident, Patriot of Ukraine, White Hammer and UNA-UNSO. "But most participants are just ordinary citizens having no relation to any organizations," he said.

### **Extract from note sent from British Embassy, Kyiv to Director, Eastern Europe and Central Asia Directorate, 10 February 2014**

The Right Sector is said to be composed of "Tryzub" (Trident), UNA-UNSO (far-right Ukrainian national assembly), Sich (Carpathian cossacks), "Bilyi Molot" (White Hammer).

### **Extract from email sent from British Embassy, Kyiv to Belarus, Moldova and Ukraine Team, Eastern Europe and Central Asia Directorate, 13 February 2014**

(... The Right Sector is said to be composed of "Tryzub" (Trident), UNA-UNSO (far-right Ukrainian national assembly), Sich (Carpathian cossacks), "Bilyi Molot" (White Hammer), "Patriots of Ukraine" and some other nationalist groups.)

### **Extract from British Embassy, Kyiv media reporting note, March 2014**

Yarosh, a stout and scruffy-faced man with a teacher's college degree who hails from the eastern Ukrainian city of Dniprodzerzhynsk and has trained paramilitary troops for more than 20 years, made a name for himself during the EuroMaidan Revolution as the leader of Right Sector, a collection of several right-wing paramilitary and youth organizations created on Nov. 20, which includes White Hammer and Stepan Bandera's Trident.

*Kyiv Post, 14 March 2014*

### **Extract from note sent from British Embassy, Kyiv to Belarus, Moldova and Ukraine Team, Eastern Europe and Central Asia Directorate, 17 March 2014**

The Right Sector (RS) is said to be composed of "Trident" ("Tryzub"), "UNA-UNSO" (far-right Ukrainian national assembly/ Ukrainian National Self-Defence), "Sich" (Carpathian cossacks), "White Hammer" ("Bilyi Molot"), "Patriot of Ukraine" and other semi-secretive isolated far-right groups.

### **Extract from Diplomatic Telegram from Kyiv to FCO, 31 March 2014**

And 11 members of "White Hammer", an extreme right-wing group that reportedly comes under Praviy Sektor's umbrella, have recently been arrested in connection with their involvement in the murder of three traffic policemen in Brovary (near Kyiv) in early March.

***Digest ends***