

# **Offensive Strategy of Russia against Ukraine. Real Goals. Lessons for the Western Community**

**By Valentyn Badrak,  
Director of the Center for  
Army, Conversion and  
Disarmament Studies**

**[www.cacds.org.ua](http://www.cacds.org.ua)**



# What the real goals of Putin?





**Why aggression has become possible?**

**Depletion of Ukraine**

**The obvious weakness of the West**

**Continuous information-psychological activities of the Kremlin**



# **Putin's preparation for war against Ukraine**

**- Tuzla – 2003**

**- Elections in Ukraine – 2004**

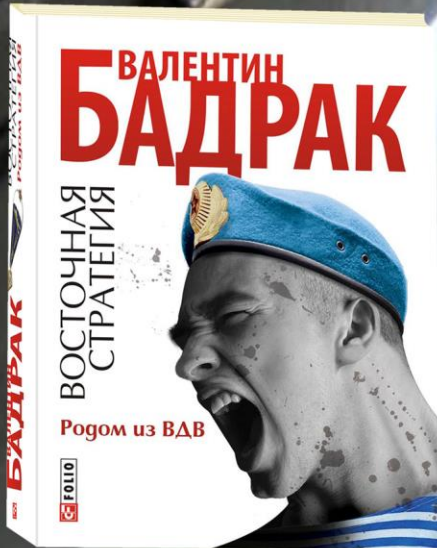
**- Landing in Feodosia – 2006**

**- NATO membership blockade – 2007 – 2008**

**- Georgia – 2008**







# Putin's preparation for war against Ukraine

- Territorial claims;
- Refusal to recognize the statehood of Ukraine (NATO summit in Bucharest, 2008);
- The agents' of influence victory during the presidential election (2010)
- Destruction of Ukraine's defense capabilities (2010 - 2013)

# **Information and psychological aspects of Russian operation:**

- Social policy in Crimea and Donbas;**
- Information pressure;**
- Preparations of Russian population for war against Ukraine;**
- Application of economic, energy and military-technical levers to discredit Ukrainian authorities;**



# Elements of «hybrid war» against Ukraine

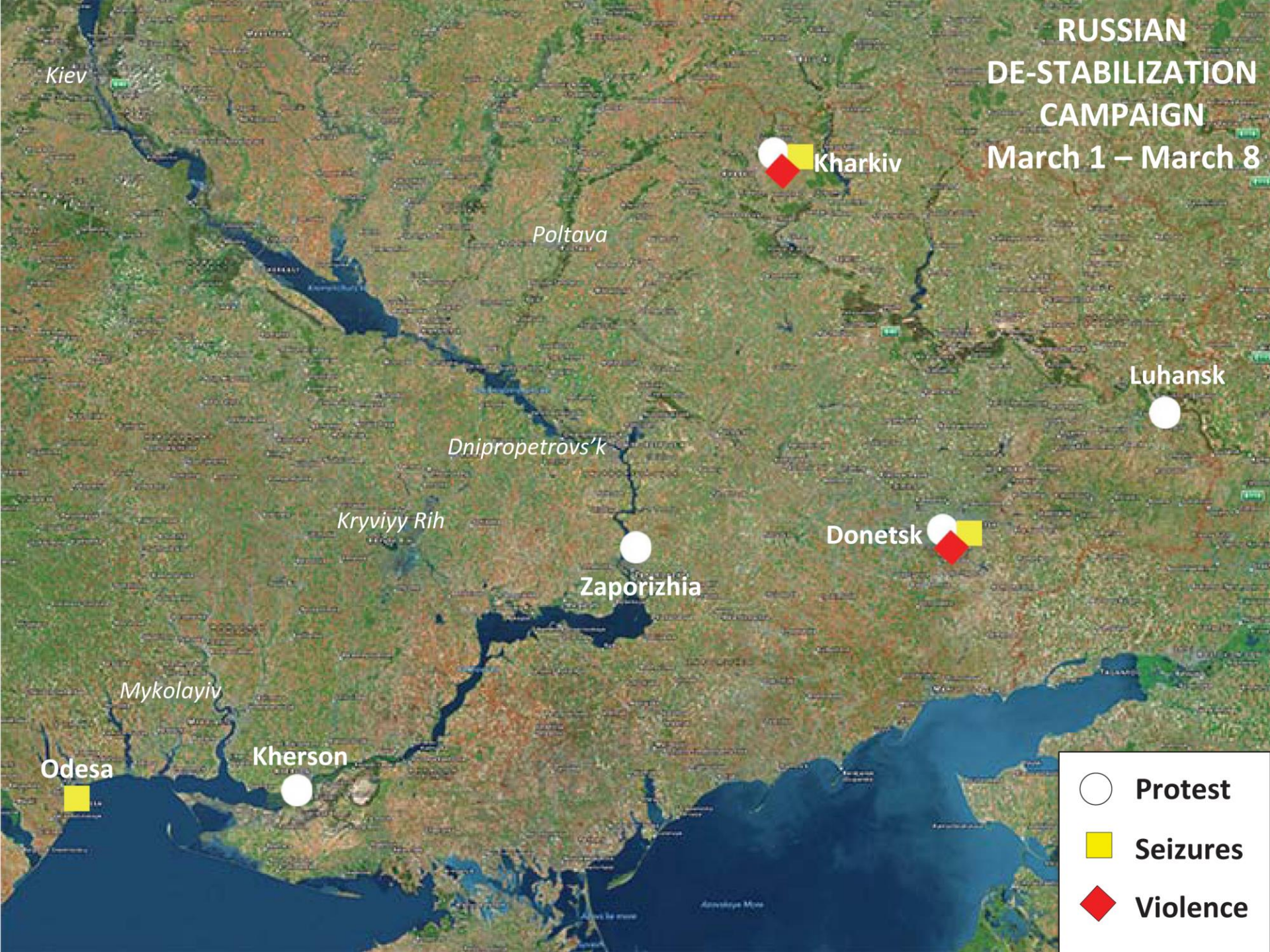
- Destabilization in the eastern regions and Crimea (March - early April 2014);
- Growth and development of separatism in many small towns (April - early May 2014);
- Seizure of power (the last week of April and May 2014);
- Start of the war (May 2014);
- Invasion of Russian troops (the end of August 2014)





# RUSSIAN DE-STABILIZATION CAMPAIGN

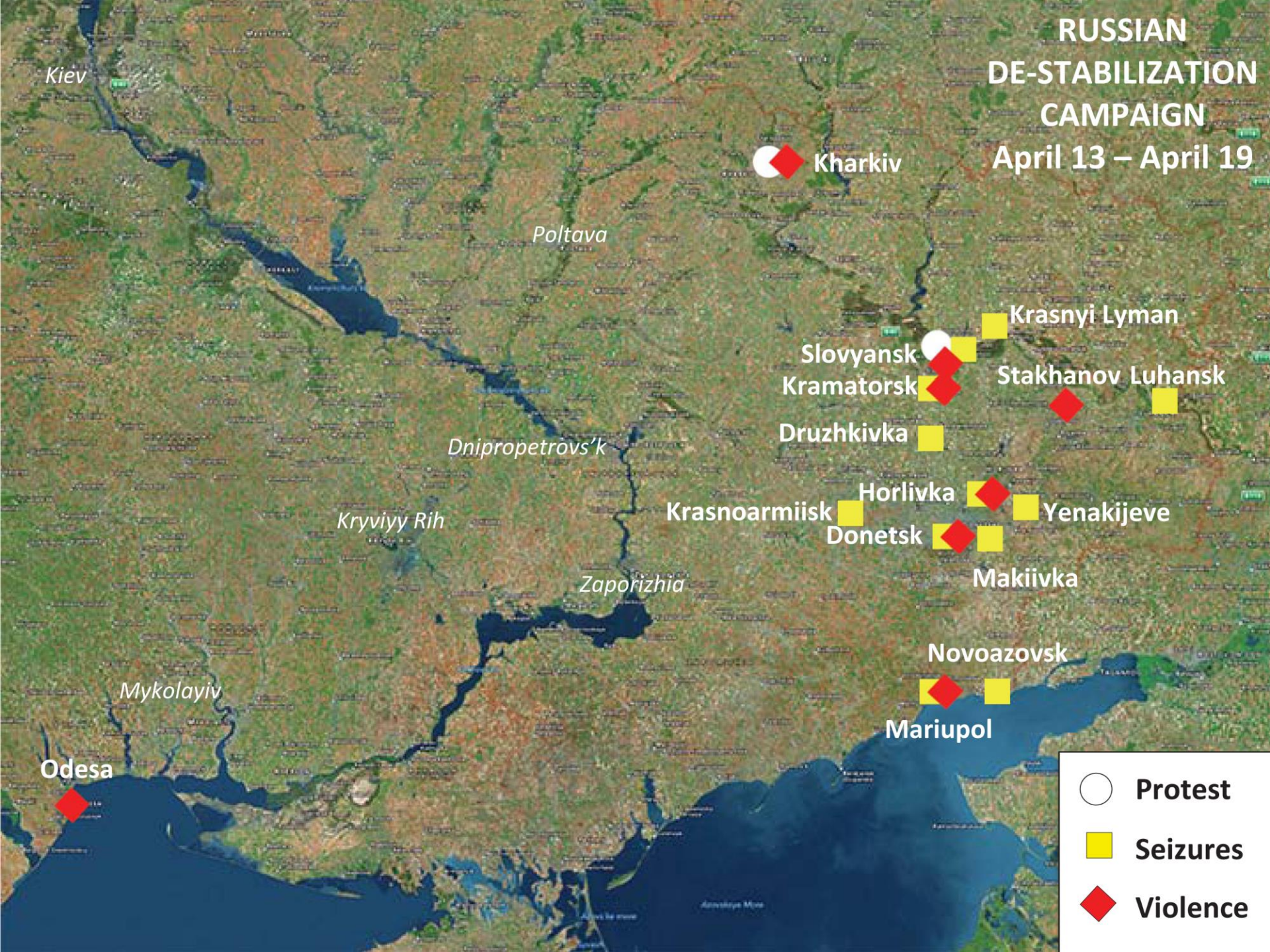
March 1 – March 8



- Protest
- Seizures
- ◆ Violence



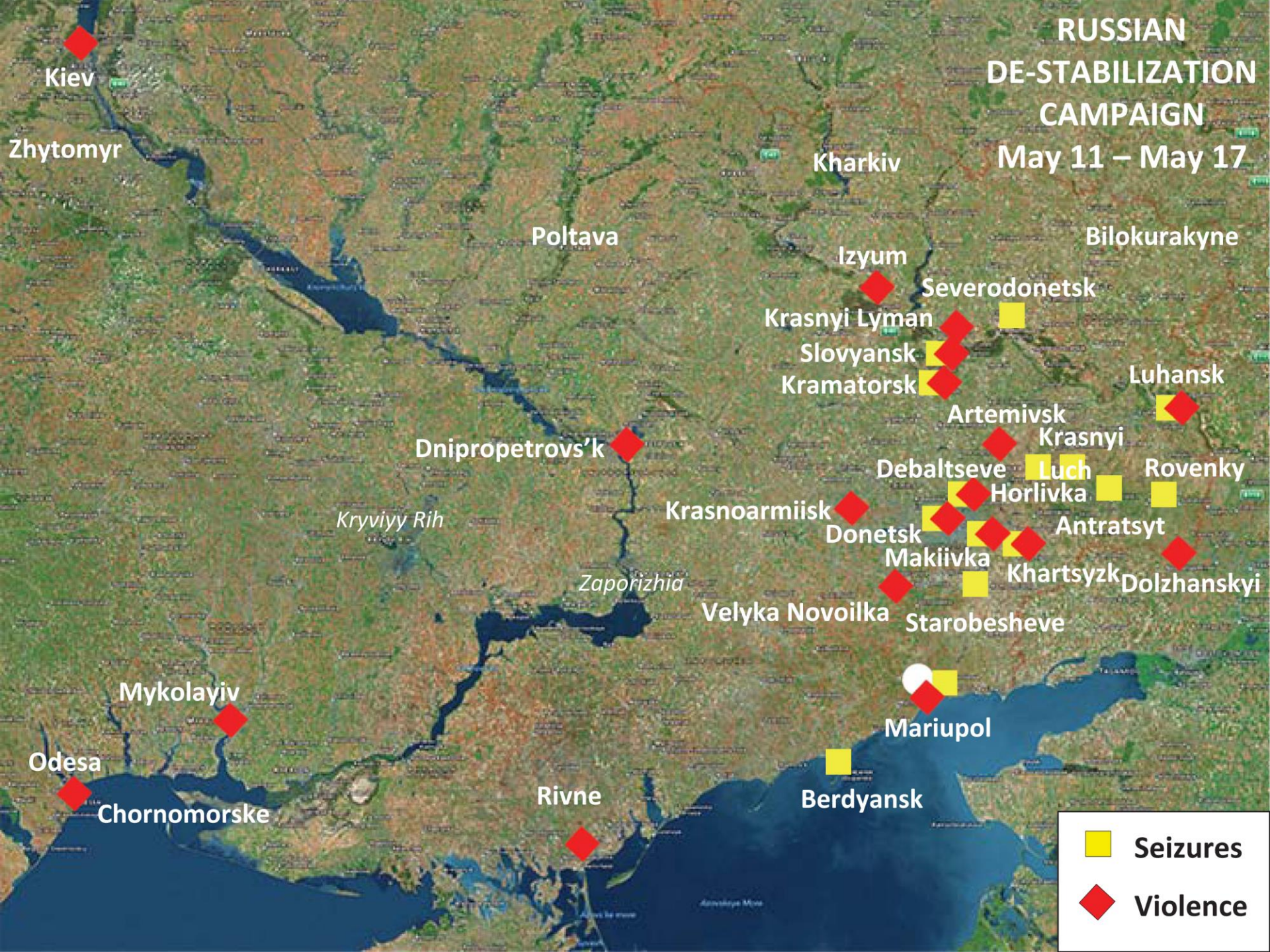
# RUSSIAN DE-STABILIZATION CAMPAIGN April 13 – April 19



- Protest
- Seizures
- ◆ Violence



**RUSSIAN  
DE-STABILIZATION  
CAMPAIGN  
May 11 – May 17**



 Seizures  
 Violence



# **LESSONS FOR NATO and the EU or what else the West should do:**



- Active nonviolent strategy of Putin's restraint;**
- The Ukrainian Armed Forces strengthening;**
- Anti-Putin coalition creation;**
- Recognition of the "LNR-DNR" as terrorist organizations;**
- Developing new solutions at the NATO level (protection of the Baltic states and Poland);**



## **CONCLUSIONS**

**West's disbelief in Ukraine's capability to withstand the Kremlin's aggression is dangerous both to NATO and the EU.**

**Today, there are still possibilities for a non-violent solution to the conflict; tomorrow, military force will most likely be the only solution left.**

**The perception that Putin would stop short of undermining and upsetting the global security is threatening the current balance of power. Soft strategy would lead to a global disaster.**