

# Pro-Russian Activists Detain Ukrainian Journalist for 'War Crimes'

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**The**  **Moscow Times**

Pro-Russian separatists in eastern Ukraine have detained a Ukrainian journalist, accusing her of "war crimes" during the "Euromaidan" protests that toppled the Moscow-backed president, her lawyer said on Monday.

There were also reports of other journalists being held.

Irma Krat, 29, was held late on Sunday by militants in the city of Slovyansk, said Oleg Veremienko, a lawyer for the online television news site Krat runs. Russian Internet channel Life News posted video of her being escorted by masked men in combat gear and of an activist saying she was under arrest.

The channel showed a woman it said was Krat, her face hidden by a scarf, saying in Ukrainian: "They detained me but they are treating me all right. They will check the reports I've filed and then they'll decide when to let me go."

A man in camouflage gear whose name was given as Pavel told Life News she was being

investigated for "war crimes" against riot police and civilians during the Kiev protests which led to the fall of President Viktor Yanukovich in February.

Krat's last Facebook posting was a message of Easter greetings on Sunday along with a photograph of herself lighting a candle in a makeshift tent church during the Kiev protests.

Veremienko, a Kiev lawyer who represents Krat's TV Prikhovana Pravda — Hidden Truth TV — website said she was being held with a second journalist, freelancer Serhiy Lefter, 22, who had been detained since Wednesday.

Interfax-Ukraine news agency and other local media noted a report from a blogger in eastern Ukraine who said three other, foreign journalists had been held by militants in Slovyansk on Monday. Several journalists have been questioned by separatists there for short periods and then allowed to leave.

Gunmen took over public buildings in Slovyansk, in Donetsk region, nine days ago as part of a wider movement in Russian-speaking eastern Ukraine demanding a referendum that could lead to the area following Crimea into annexation by Moscow.

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