
PUTIN ORDERS RUSSIAN TROOPS INTO EASTERN UKRAINE SEPARATIST REGIONS

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The move follows the Russian president's recognition of separatist-held territories in eastern Ukraine as "independent." Western countries condemned the decision and vowed new sanctions.

Russian President Vladimir Putin has ordered his Defense Ministry to send Russian troops into eastern Ukraine's two breakaway regions, according to a decree published early on Tuesday, after he said Moscow would recognize their independence.

The Kremlin said Putin ordered the Russian forces to "maintain peace" in eastern Ukraine.

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