

In Russia tied the Crimean provocation with the elections in the USA

"Terrorist attack" in Crimea is associated with the deterioration of the trump in the election campaign

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Provocations that Russian special services staged in the occupied Crimea, associated with deterioration of pre-election situation of the candidate <u>USA</u> The Donald Trump. This opinion was expressed edition <u>"Gordon"</u> the former Russian presidential adviser on economic issues, senior fellow Center for global liberty and prosperity at the Cato Institute in Washington, Andrei Illarionov.

In his opinion, the provocations in Crimea was carried out with the purpose of blackmail and threats.

"First of all, we need to understand what it was. There are two main versions – Ukrainian and Kremlin. It is possible that it was some internal Crimean provocation. Judging by the fact that the versions are constantly changing, the connection between the incident and the subsequent actions are not observed. It is clear that this is blackmail. It is accompanied by threats, propaganda statements and the aggravation of the situation in Donbass", – said Illarionov.

He insists that the Kremlin's activity in the Crimea is connected with fall of ratings of trump in the election race in the United States, which is called "Kremlin favorite".

"Why did this happen now? It seems to me that until the end of July – early August planning the Kremlin's actions was due to the expectation of the results of the presidential elections in the United States. While trump had the chances to win, it was not necessary to take action that could worsen his situation," – said Illarionov.

He believes that the Russian authorities decided to act before the election of the American President.

"Perhaps, now is not the time for provocations. But after November–January, the situation for the Kremlin will definitely worsen. And if something is done, then just prior to these dates. Assessment of the geopolitical situation has changed significantly and Moscow rushing to solve delayed tasks. And they decided to act before the U.S. election," – said Illarionov.