



The News ©
February 22nd, 9am
by Nia Cason

To everyone's surprise, Vladimir Putin decided last night to recognize the independence of the pro-Russian separatist territories of Donbass in the East of Ukraine. In the process, the President of Russia ordered the Russian army to return to these territories to "maintain peace". This has been met with widespread condemnation from the West amid fears it could provide a pretext for a Russian invasion of Ukraine. For his part, the Ukrainian President affirms that "the borders of Ukraine will not change". The UN and a majority of members of the Security Council condemned last night, in an emergency meeting, Russia's decision to "deploy Russian troops" in Ukraine. Many countries, including France, have called for sanctions against Moscow.

Tension in the Sahel. The deputies will debate today in the Assemblée Nationale around the French military presence in the region. As a reminder, last week, France announced the withdrawal of its troops in Mali. This withdrawal will take "4 to 6 months" according to President Emmanuel Macron.

In the rest of the news, the 17-year-old teenager, suspected of being the author of the shot during the hunting accident in Cantal, will be referred today to the court of Aurillac. She is accused of having killed a 25-year old hiker on Saturday, who had been walking on a marked path. An autopsy of the victim's body is also scheduled for this morning. An investigation is underway for manslaughter.

The trial of the attacks of November 13th, 2015 in Paris, is once again postponed. The hearing has been postponed to March 1st after two defendants tested positive for Covid.

Fuel prices continue to rise this week. Diesel has passed the symbolic threshold of 1 euro 70 per litre. Unleaded 95-E10 is now selling at 1 euro 76 per litre, which represents an increase of 2 cents.