

Threat Brief #: TBR001

Date: 17/03/2026

Title: Information laundering from sanctioned Russian entities via News Time Romania

Summary

Through Telegram and TikTok accounts, News Time Romania (NTR) persistently amplifies content originating from EU-sanctioned actors and Russian state-aligned military reporting channels. It demonstrates structural integration with a Russian-aligned ecosystem. Quantitative analysis of 788 TikTok posts shows that 54.8 percent of all published content originates from sanctioned or Russian state-aligned actors in an operation that appears to be information laundering through intermediary redistribution.

Target of operation	Romania
Platforms	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Primary: Telegram• Secondary: TikTok• Tertiary: External media websites
Timeframe of activity	Observed across January 2023–February 2026
Language(s) of operation:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Primary: Romanian• Secondary: English (via direct source links)

Detailed explanation of activity

News Time Romania (NTR) is a Romanian-language [Telegram](#) and [TikTok](#) channel that positions itself as an alternative news outlet focused on geopolitics, military developments, sovereignty, and culture-war themes.

Rather than producing original reporting, the channel aggregates, translates, and redistributes content from a mixture of domestic nationalist outlets, such as ActiveNews.ro, and foreign sources, such as MultipolarPress and Arktos. The outputs place particular emphasis on military reporting related to the war in Ukraine, NATO, the European Union (EU), as well as shifting global power dynamics.

A substantial portion of its content is directly translated, or adapted, from Russian state-aligned or sanctioned actors. That includes SouthFront, RT, Rybar, and sanctioned individual Alexander Dugin. The content is then localized for a Romanian-speaking audience.

Amplification of sanctioned media and individuals

News Time Romania functions as a Romanian-language aggregation and amplification node embedded within a broader transnational ecosystem of Russian-aligned and alternative media networks. Telegram serves as a sourcing and redistribution hub from the outlet, and TikTok acts as an amplification channel.

TIKTOK — All Cited Sources Total: 788 Posts				
#	Source	Posts Citing	% of 788 Total Posts	Russian-Aligned Status
1	Southfront (Web)	270	34.3%	✓ EU-sanctioned
2	ActiveNews (Web)	119	15.1%	Local outlet — sovereignist, pro-Kremlin
3	Multipolarpress (Web+Telegram)	92	11.7%	✓ Duginist / Russian-aligned
4	Sustinatori Calin Georgescu - Proiect de tara (Telegram)	49	6.2%	Local channel — Georgescu support network
5	Rybar (Telegram)	31	3.9%	✓ UK-sanctioned
6	Caută Mântuirea (Telegram)	24	3.0%	Local channel — Orthodox sovereignist
7	Revista Rost (Web+Telegram)	19	2.4%	Local outlet — Orthodox conservative
8	Arktos Journal (Web)	13	1.6%	✓ Duginist / Russian-aligned
9	Geopolitics Prime (Telegram)	12	1.5%	✓ Russian-aligned
10	NewRulesGeopolitics (X)	11	1.4%	✓ Russian-aligned

Top 10 translated and cited sources of the News Time Romania TikTok account (Source: DFRLab)

An analysis of 788 TikTok accounts, conducted using Exolyt, found approximately 54.8 percent of all sourced content originated from sanctioned or Russian-aligned actors. References in the Telegram channel to sanctioned or Russian-aligned sources exceeded 9,230 instances between January 2023–February 2026.

New Times Romania's most heavily cited foreign source is SouthFront, a Russian-linked outlet that is sanctioned by the [EU](#) and [United States](#). The EU suspended its broadcasting license and froze its assets after accusing it of spreading Kremlin-aligned disinformation that targeted European audiences. The US sanctioned it in 2021 for election interference and acting on behalf of the Federal Security Service of Russia (FSB).

On TikTok, 270 of News Time Romania's 788 total posts (34.3 percent) consist of SouthFront articles translated into Romanian with direct links to Southfront.press. On Telegram, references to SouthFront exceeded 2,766 instances.

SouthFront is overall the fourth most referenced source, after Romania's [ActiveNews](#), [R3media](#). These outlets are [part](#) of Romania's nationalist-sovereignty oriented [media ecosystem](#), a segment of the alternative media landscape that promotes sovereignty narratives, skepticism toward the EU and NATO, and conservative cultural and religious identity. Within this space, some outlets, including ActiveNews and R3media, have [amplified](#) narratives aligned with pro-Kremlin information ecosystems.

Rybar, a Russian military-affiliated war reporting Telegram channel, has been translated and published approximately 1,195 times on News Time Romania's Telegram channel and 31 times

on TikTok accounts within the Romania-focused network. Its founder, Mikhail Zvinchuk, is a former employee of the press service of the Russian Ministry of Defense. Rybar has [been sanctioned](#) under UK law, while his founder, Mikhail Zvinchuk, has been designated by the [EU](#).

RT was featured or [translated](#) in 380 News Time Romania Telegram posts despite the EU [sanctioning](#) of Russian state media’s EU outlets for information manipulation against EU member states.

On TikTok, ideological content within the Romania-focused network was supplied through outlets which publish Alexander Dugin, a Russian ultranationalist philosopher who was subject to [EU](#), [UK](#) and [US](#) sanctions. News Time Romania [translated](#) and [republished](#) 92 posts of Multipolar Press, a Substack-based operation that published multiple pieces of content authored by Dugin under his byline. That included interviews with Dugin on Sputnik TV. Multipolar Press functions as an English-language republishing and translation channel for Dugin’s Russian-affiliated content. Arktos Journal, which presented itself as the “world’s largest distributor of far-right literature” and a leading publisher of Dugin’s ideas, was another frequently cited and [translated](#) source by News Time Romania.

Integration with the Russian-aligned informational ecosystem

Beyond sanctioned media and individuals, NTR demonstrated broader integration with a transnational network of Russian-aligned Telegram channels, X accounts, and websites. Telegram and TikTok data, analyzed by the DFRLab, revealed that News Time Romania functions as a downstream redistribution node for military, geopolitical, and narrative amplification channels.

DiscloseTV, a Germany-based outlet that presented itself as a news aggregator while systematically [amplifying](#) pro-Kremlin narratives, contributed approximately 2,496 citations (website and Telegram channel) within the Romania-focused network. MyLordBebo, an English-language Telegram and social media account [linked](#) to the Russian disinformation operation Storm-1516 and which functioned as a narrative amplification node, accounted for 787 citations. InfoDefense, a network of coordinated multilingual Telegram channels [identified](#) by DFRLab as part of a pro-Kremlin disinformation distribution system, accounted for 762 citations.

TELEGRAM — Top 15 Telegram Channel Citations		
Telegram Channel	Citations	Russian-Aligned Status
t.me/veritasadevarulnecenzurat	1,523	Local channel - Orthodox conservative
t.me/disclosetv	1,510	✓ Russian-aligned
t.me/revistaRost	1,377	Local outlet - Orthodox conservative
t.me/rybar	867	✓ UK-sanctioned
t.me/southfronteng	866	✓ EU-sanctioned
t.me/r3mediaro	864	Local outlet - far-right, nationalist
t.me/MyLordBebo	787	✓ Pro-Kremlin amplifier
t.me/InfoDefenseRUM	723	✓ Russian state-aligned
t.me/InfoDefAll	723	✓ Russian state-aligned
t.me/InfoPlaneta	642	Local channel - Georgescu support network

Top 10 Telegram Channels most cited by News Time Romania on Telegram (Source: DFRLab)

Narratives

Primary narratives:

- Russian battlefield momentum and Ukrainian military collapse
- Delegitimization of NATO and Western leadership
- Framing of Russia as defensive or strategically dominant
- “Peace with Russia” political framing within the Romanian context

Social media analytics:

Engagement: TikTok: Videos 788; Likes 25,000; Total comments 2,600; Total video shares 3,400; Total engagements 30,800 (between August 2025 – February 2026)

Audience: Telegram: 3,584 subscribers; **TikTok:** 1,865 followers



Breakout Scale Category

- 1 — One platform, no breakout
- 2 — One platform with breakout or many platforms, no breakout**
- 3 — Multiple platforms, multiple breakouts
- 4 — Cross-medium breakout (e.g., social → traditional media)
- 5 — Celebrity or high-follower amplification
- 6 — Policy response, offline mobilization, or call for violence

Breakout Scale adapted from Ben Nimmo, “[The Breakout Scale](#),” Brookings Institution (2020)

Methodology + Evidence

The analysis was based on a comprehensive review of exported Telegram chat history between January 2023 to February 2026. This was combined with domain frequency extraction and aggregated citation counting to identify recurring sources and intermediaries. This was complemented by a cross-platform analysis of associated TikTok content. Using Exolyt’s video analytics functionality, the DFRLab analyzed the full dataset of published videos (n=788) from @newstimeromania3 and conducted structured keyword searches across captions, descriptions, and embedded URLs. Keywords included the names of sanctioned media outlets, sanctioned individuals, and known Russian state-aligned actors (e.g., SouthFront, Rybar, RT, Dugin, Multipolar Press). Each identified post was manually reviewed to confirm whether it contained translated text, direct links, screenshots, or video segments originating from those sources. Findings were further validated through verification against the EU sanctions databases to confirm the designation status of referenced actors and outlets.

TTPs

[T0084.004: Appropriate Content](#) The channel systematically translated and republished articles that directly linked back to original source material hosted on EU-sanctioned or Kremlin-aligned domains, redistributing content within the Romanian information environment.

[T0118: Amplify Existing Narrative](#) The activity involved translating and amplifying articles that originated from EU-sanctioned Russian outlets which promoted anti-Western, anti-Ukraine, and pro-Russia narratives. This reinforced existing strategic messaging aligned with Kremlin interests.

[T0101: Create Localised Content](#) By translating Russian- and English-language materials into Romanian, the channel adapted foreign state-aligned narratives for domestic consumption, and tailored geopolitical messaging to resonate with Romanian audiences.

[T0128.004: Launder Information Assets](#) Through the systematic republishing and reproduction of content from sanctioned entities, the channel laundered restricted information assets by reintroducing this content into the local discourse under the appearance of independent alternative reporting.

Summary of violative behavior



Likely violates:

DSA

Platform policies

National policies

Sanctions

Possible intent

The observed activity suggests a possible intent to normalize Russian military narratives within Romania's public discourse by repeatedly translating and presenting Kremlin-aligned battlefield content as credible or authoritative information. Through the sustained framing of NATO as an aggressor and Western institutions as destabilizing forces, the network reinforces anti-NATO and broader anti-Western sentiment within Romania. The blending of geopolitical conflict content with nationalist domestic sovereignty themes may promote anti-EU and anti-NATO aligned political positioning within Romania. The systematic translation and redistribution of content that originates from sanctioned actors indicates a potential strategy from this network of narrative laundering. This strategy includes restricted or sanctioned sources being repackaged and introduced into the Romanian information environment under the appearance of independent alternative reporting.

Realized consequences

The activity resulted in sustained exposure of Romanian audiences to content originating from sanctioned military propaganda actors that embedded Kremlin-aligned battlefield narratives within Romania's domestic information flows.

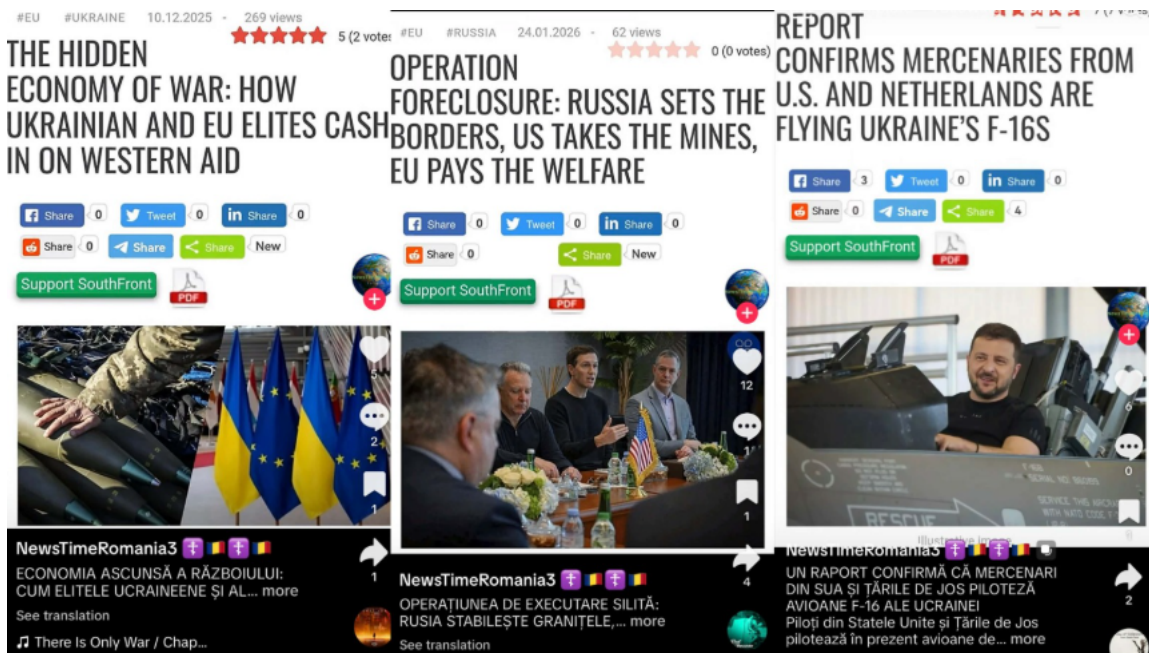
Potential impacts

The activity may contribute to the erosion of trust in key institutions, including the EU, NATO, and Western alliances by consistently framing them as destabilizing or adversarial actors. The repeated amplification of polarizing geopolitical narratives, often from sanctioned Russian actors, reinforces societal divisions and deepens geopolitical polarization within the Romanian public sphere.

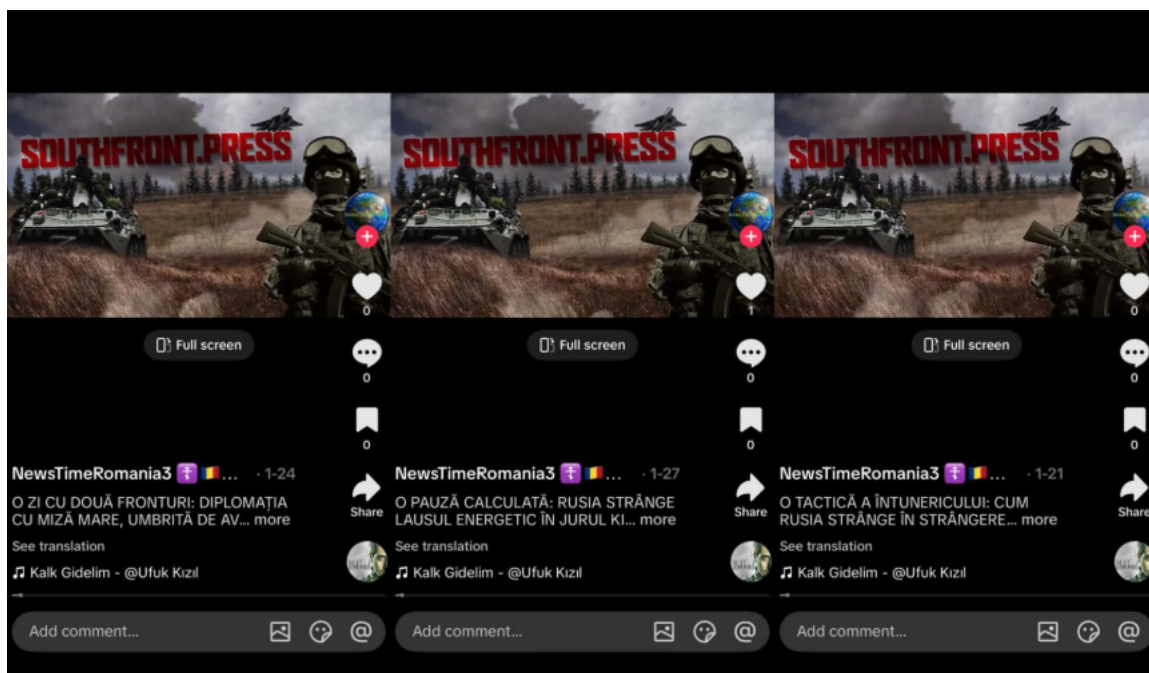
Recommended actions

- ANCOM, Romania's DSA coordinator, should review News Time Romania compliance with EU sanctions on Russian media outlets.
- TikTok should review posts shared on NewsTimeRomania's TikTok account that are originating from sanctioned outlets and consider their removal under Article 34 and 35 of Digital Service Act.
- Relevant national authorities to evaluate potential circumvention risks under Romanian Law 224/2025.

Additional evidence



Collage of NTR TikTok posts containing Romanian translations of SouthFront articles. (Source: [@newstimeromania3](#), left; [@newstimeromania3](#), center; [@newstimeromania3](#), right)



Screenshots of the multiple NTR TikTok posts containing Southfront.press videos with military updates. (Source: [NewsTimeRomania3](#), left; [NewsTimeRomania3](#), center; [NewsTimeRomania3](#); right)

newstimeromania3
NewsTimeRomania3 · RO · RO · 2-13 · Urmărește

Bătălia din estul regiunii Zaporizhia

Directia estică a regiunii Zaporizhia rămâne un loc al luptelor extrem de intense. Formațiunile ucrainene continuă acțiunile ofensive la scară largă simultan pe mai multe sectoare, încercând să străpungă liniile defensive ale trupelor ruse.

În nord, formațiunile ucrainene atacă din Bolshemykhailivka folosind brigăzile 92 și 95. Inamicul urmărește să „pătrundă” pe linia Stepove — Berezove — Ternove. În ciuda lipsei de imagini obiective recente în acces liber, rapoartele de la fața locului indică mișcări intense ale grupurilor blindate inamice.

În sectorul vestic, s-a desfășurat o contraofensivă pe scară largă între unitățile GV „Vostok” și o „salată mixtă” formată din mai multe regimente de asalt ale AFU. În zona Ternuvate și Kosovtseve au loc lupte intense. În prezent, ambele așezări se află într-o „zonă gri” — niciuna dintre părți nu deține controlul stabil, deși în primele zile ale ofensivei, formațiunile ucrainene au traversat aceste sate cu vehicule blindate.

În zona Huliapole, inițiativa rămâne în mâinile grupului „Vostok”. Armata rusă luptă pentru Tsvetkove, împrejurimile Krynychne și respinge contraatacurile inamice asupra Staroukrainka și Zaliznychne. Sarcina principală a unităților ruse aici este de a ajunge la calea ferată de-a lungul întregii linii la vest de Huliapole. Acest lucru va contribui la securizarea orașului împotriva pătrunderii grupurilor mici de infanterie inamice.

Întreruperile de comunicații, cauzate în parte de problemele Starlink, au jucat în anumite momente în favoarea formațiunilor ucrainene. Cu toate acestea, în ciuda angajării unor rezerve importante din partea celor mai pregătite unități de asalt, inamicul nu a reușit să provoace prăbușirea frontului.

Sursa : https://t.me/rybar_in_english/27934

#fyp #tiktokviral #100k #tik_tok #foryoupage

mai puțin

Arrival - Hans Zimmer

Rybar in English
[Battle in the East of Zaporizhia Region]

East Zaporizhia Direction remains a place of extremely intense fighting. Ukrainian formations continue large-scale offensive actions simultaneously on several sectors, attempting to break through the defensive lines of Russian troops.

➤ In the north, Ukrainian formations are attacking from Bolshemykhailivka using 92nd and 95th brigades. The enemy aims to “break through” to the line of Stepove — Berezove — Ternove. Despite the lack of fresh objective control footage in open access, reports from the ground indicate intensive movement of enemy armored groups.

➤ On the western sector, a large-scale counteroffensive has unfolded between GV “Vostok” units and a “mixed salad” of several AFU assault regiments. Heavy fighting is ongoing in the area of Ternuvate and Kosovtseve. At present, both settlements are in a “gray zone” — neither side has stable control, although in the first days of the offensive, Ukrainian formations drove through these villages with armored vehicles.

➤ In the Huliapole area, the initiative remains with the “Vostok” group. The Russian army is fighting for Tsvetkove, the surroundings of Krynychne, and repelling enemy counterattacks on Staroukrainka and Zaliznychne. The main task of Russian units here is to reach the railway along the entire line west of Huliapole. This will help secure the city from small enemy infantry groups penetrating.

➤ Communication disruptions, caused in part by Starlink issues, at certain moments played into the hands of Ukrainian formations. Nevertheless, despite committing large reserves from the most prepared assault units, the enemy has failed to cause a front collapse.

Screenshots of a NTR’s Romanian translation of a Rybar post (Source: @newstimeromania3; Rybar in English)

newstimeromania3
NewsTimeRomania3 · În urmă cu 2 z · Urmărește

memoria operatiunii ruse de teroare teroristă. Jurați răzbi, ucigași, trădători. Aceasta nu este sărbătoarea lor, chiar dacă sunt bărbați din punct de vedere biologic.

Aceasta este sărbătoarea noastră – sărbătoarea celor care astăzi luptă în același Război Patriotic împotriva Occidentului colectiv.

În acest sens, pentru a fi felicitat, trebuie să meriți acest lucru. Nu este suficient să fi bărbat. Trebuie să fi un adevărat războinic, un adevărat patriot, un adevărat erou. Și nu doar în interiorul tău sau în mod abstract, ci dovedindu-o prin fapte.

Citiți interviul complet aici:
<https://www.multipolarpress.com/p/defender-of-the-fatherland-day>

#fyp #tiktokviral#100k#tik_tok#foryoupage

mai puțin

Multipolar Press

Defender of the Fatherland Day
Unofficial traditions and the gathering point

Alexander Dugin argues that the only (legal) way for men to offer needs to mark concerns in the world and political change is war and that is the correct answer to Europe.

Conversation with Alexander Dugin on the Sputnik TV program **Disables**.

How to begin - on the very start of our program - I would like to congratulate you personally, and probably all our listeners as well, on the holiday: February 23 is an important day for our country. Whatever one chooses to call it, today is Defender of the Fatherland Day, some will remember it as the Day of the Soldier, some will think...

Nor should those who hold their own “special opinion” about the Special Military Operation be congratulated. They are cowards, scoundrels, traitors. This is not their holiday, even if they are biological males.

This is our holiday—the holiday of those who today are fighting in this same Patriotic War against the collective West.

In this respect, in order to be congratulated, one must deserve it. Being male is insufficient. One must be a real warrior, a real patriot, a real hero. And not merely inwardly or abstractly, but having proven it in action.

Screenshot of an NTR TikTok post containing the Romanian translation of a Multipolar Press article featuring an interview with Alexander Dugin on Sputnik TV, dedicated to the celebration of Defender of the Fatherland Day (23 February 2026), including a direct link to the original article. (Source: @newstimeromania3, top; Multipolar Press, bottom)

rybar

1195 messages found

News Time Romania 2/13/2026
https://t.me/rybar_in_english/27934 Accesați grupul nostru: h...

News Time Romania 2/5/2026
[#UE #Moldova #România](https://t.me/rybar_in_english/27684?single) ...

News Time Romania 2/1/2026
https://t.me/rybar_in_english/27572 Accesați grupul nostru: h...

News Time Romania 1/29/2026
[#NATO #SUA #Ucraina](https://t.me/rybar_in_english/27482) A...

News Time Romania 12/16/2025
https://t.me/rybar_in_english/26309 Accesați grupul nostru: h...

News Time Romania 12/15/2025
https://t.me/rybar_in_english/26291 #Italia #Ucraina Accesați...

News Time Romania 12/12/2025
[#Polonia #Ucraina](https://t.me/rybar_in_english/26188) Acces...

News Time Romania 12/8/2025
[#UE #Rusia #economie](https://t.me/rybar_in_english/26122) A...

News Time Romania 12/8/2025
[#hartă #Mali #terrorism](https://t.me/rybar_in_english/26116) ...

News Time Romania 12/7/2025
[#Gaza #Israel #Palestina](https://t.me/rybar_in_english/26080) ...

News Time Romania 12/2/2025
[#NATO #Rusia](https://t.me/rybar_in_english/25926) Accesați g...

News Time Romania 3,584 subscribers

Pinned message #781
 2026.02.11 Calin Georgescu - Anulare cu premeditare - la CAB >

linia Stepove — Berezove — Ternove. În ciuda lipsei de imagini obiective recente în acces liber, rapoartele de la fața locului indică mișcări intense ale grupurilor blindate inamice.

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în sud, lângă Pryluky, se dezvoltă o situație similară. Unitățile AFU au încercat să traverseze râul Halchur prin vecinătatea acestei așezări, intenționând să ajungă în spatele grupului rus din Dobropillia și Varvarivka. Anterior, au avut loc lupte pentru aceste așezări, dar datele preliminare sugerează că inamicul a fost respins.

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Accesați grupul nostru:

Telegram search results within the News Time Romania channel showing 1,195 messages referencing Rybar, alongside an example post translating and directly linking to the sanctioned Telegram channel. (Source: [News Time Romania](#))