

# Russia's referendums in occupied Ukraine

Voting in four occupied regions has been condemned by Kyiv and the West as a sham, with Russian-backed officials reportedly going door-to-door with ballot boxes, accompanied by armed police



**Russian forces control territory in four regions that represents about 15 percent of Ukraine**



**Referendums in occupied regions widely seen as creating pretext for annexation by Moscow**

**Russian authorities expected to announce regions as theirs once vote ends on Sep 27**

**Russian parliament could move to formalise annexations within days**

**By incorporating regions into Russia, Moscow could portray efforts to retake them as attacks on Russia itself**

**Kremlin held referendum in Russian-occupied Crimea in 2014 to justify annexation of Black Sea peninsula – move considered illegal by most of world**