

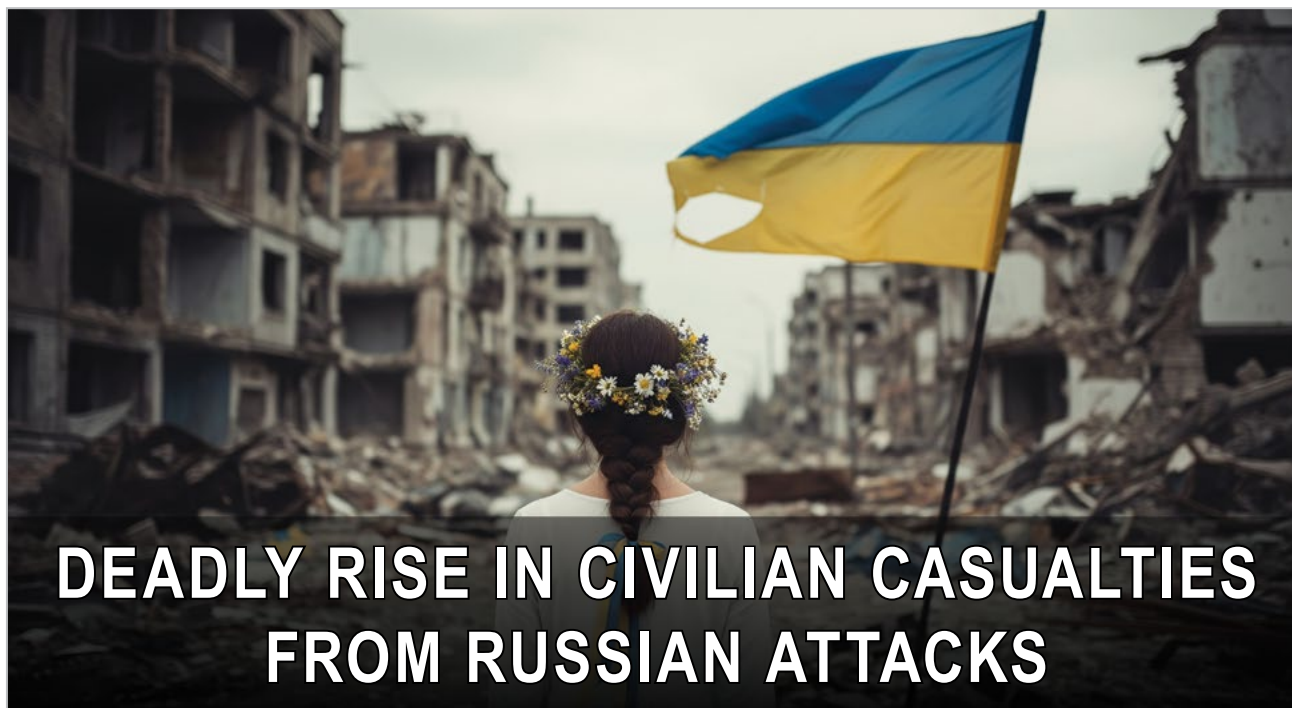


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## DEADLY RISE IN CIVILIAN CASUALTIES FROM RUSSIAN ATTACKS

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EXCLUSIVE FOR HROMADA

Vitaliy Portnykov | NOTES FOR JUNE

# TRUMP'S CHANGE OF RHETORIC



**Vitaliy Portnykov –  
leading Ukrainian political  
commentator, writer, and  
journalist**

One of the main political outcomes of June was the obvious change in US President Donald Trump's rhetoric on Ukraine after his meeting with Volodymyr Zelenskyy on the sidelines of the NATO summit in The Hague. The American leader spoke with unexpected sympathy about the Ukrainian president – the same one with whom he had a well-known scandal in the Oval Office just a few months ago. It was predictable that after this scandal, Trump and Zelenskyy's personal relationship would not normalize, but we are seeing a completely different turn of events. Moreover, during a press conference with journalists, Trump even asked a Ukrainian journalist who asked him a question to convey his greetings to her husband, a soldier in the Ukrainian Armed Forces. This was also a clear display of empathy on the part of the American president.

There may be several reasons for this rhetorical transformation. However, one of the most telling ones is, paradoxically, not directly related to Ukraine, but to Israel's war against Iran and the US involvement in this conflict. The decision to strike the Islamic Republic's nuclear facilities proved that Trump, contrary to popular belief, is capable of acting when he deems it necessary and defending the idea of peace through force. And now he seems to expect the same seriousness from other world players.

After Iran, Trump may no longer want his initiatives to be treated lightly. Pu-

tin has repeatedly ignored calls for a ceasefire on the Russian-Ukrainian front. Now the American president may try to convince the Kremlin more seriously – from a position of strength, not agreements. And if he fails to convince, rhetoric may turn into concrete action: increased military aid to Ukraine or new economic sanctions against Russia.

Against this backdrop, it is important that Russia, despite its constant terror against Ukrainian cities and villages, has no serious military achievements. This terror itself is merely a demonstration of lack of success and an attempt to intimidate Ukrainian society. And all this is happening in front of Trump, who is well versed in distinguishing between strength and weakness.

In this context, the US president may treat the positions of NATO allies, who have long insisted on a tougher response to Russia, with greater respect. Fears that the NATO summit in The Hague would end without concrete results proved unfounded. The leaders of the states confirmed their commitment to Article 5, assured their continued support for Ukraine, and, most importantly, agreed to increase military spending to 5% of GDP. This idea, which dates back to Trump's first term, has now become part of the common Western consensus. Russia is the main factor that justifies it.

In such an atmosphere, Trump may initiate new – and perhaps more realistic – negotiations aimed at achieving a ceasefire on the Russian-Ukrainian front. Now, however, it will be more difficult for Putin to ignore American initiatives without consequences for himself.

Perhaps it is this realization that is

forcing Putin to intensify his aerial terror. In June, the Russian army intensified its attacks on Kyiv, Dnipro, and other cities. The strikes were directed directly against the civilian population. This is not military tactics – it is psychological pressure. When it is not possible to conquer territory, Putin counts on destabilizing Ukraine from within. His hope is that Ukrainians will break down and agree to surrender on their own.

After all, this is what all the Kremlin's "peace initiatives" are aimed at. They are not about peace, but about the willingness to lay down arms. For example, the proposal to withdraw Ukrainian troops from all territories of Donetsk, Luhansk, Kherson, and Zaporizhzhia regions – simply because these regions are still listed in the Russian constitution as part of the Russian Federation. This is not diplomacy – it is ideological aggression that masks military incompetence.

The same applies to plans to create a so-called "buffer zone" in the Sumy region. First, the occupation of part of the region. Then a referendum. Finally, an entry in the constitution. And again, the demand: "Get out of the entire region." These are not peaceful proposals – this is a repeat of the annexation scenario.

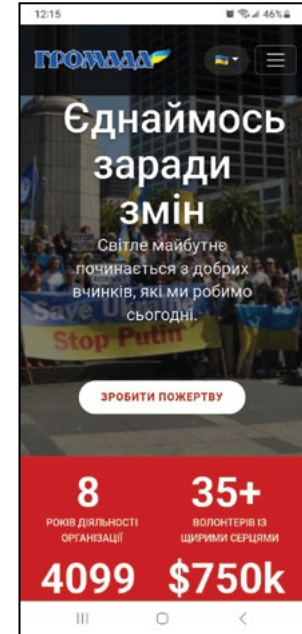
Ukraine, on the other hand, is responding in an unconventional way. An example is Operation Spider Web, a strike on the Russian Federation's strategic aviation, carried out by drones from Russian territory. What once seemed impossible has become a reality. The war has changed.

And when Israeli special services carried out a similar – only larger-scale – operation on Iranian territory, it only confirmed the new paradigm: strength

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lies not only in the army, but also in the ability to act unconventionally, decisively, accurately, and in a modern way.

Russia could understand this. It could realize that the strategy of terror and blackmail no longer works. But Putin does not want to hear this. He is still obsessed with the idea of conquering Ukraine.

His speech at the St. Petersburg International Economic Forum confirmed this once and for all. No mention of security, no talk of threats – just ideological clichés: "Ukraine is ours, it is Russia." With this logic, there is no need even for arguments about the

"Russian world." He states outright: the Russian boot is the main justification. Once the soldiers arrive, the territory will not be left.

However, we know that this is a lie.

Russian soldiers' boots have left foreign soil more than once. Afghanistan. Central Europe. The Baltics. Troop withdrawals, destroyed barracks – we've seen it all before. And then, as now, the reason for defeat was not simply Moscow's weakness, but the militarism, ambition, and senseless stubbornness of the empire.

So we hope that the same will happen in Ukraine. But for this, we need

help – military, financial, diplomatic. We need the West to understand that this war is not just Ukraine's. It is about the future of the civilized world itself.

That is why the meeting in the Hague was so important. Donald Trump's change of tone was so symbolic. But now it is important that the change in tone be followed by concrete actions.

Although we, as realists, understand well that these actions, as before, will only be possible after another – and perhaps not the last – attempt by Donald Trump to reach an agreement with Vladimir Putin.



EXCLUSIVE FOR HROMADA

Oles Doniy

# IN A WEB OF WAR, DIPLOMACY, AND WORLDVIEW



**Oles Doniy –**  
*Ukrainian journalist, TV  
presenter, politician, public  
and cultural figure*

In June 2025, Ukraine found itself at the center of a multidimensional web: of missiles and drones, of negotiations and summits, of military breakthroughs and political pauses. This web not only entangles, but also holds: Ukraine balances on it between fatigue and faith, independence and dependence, the future and what must be endured.

## **1. The web of attack: “The web” as a breakthrough hurricane attack.**

On June 1, Ukraine carried out the most resonant special operation on enemy territory since the beginning of the war. Operation “Web” struck at the very heart of Russia’s strategic aviation. Using kamikaze drones hidden in ordinary transport trucks, five rear airfields were attacked: Olenya, Ivanovo, Dyagilevo, Bila, and Ukrainka. The targets were strategic aircraft capable of carrying cruise missiles and tactical nuclear weapons.

According to official data from the Ukrainian General Staff, up to 41 aircraft were hit or disabled, including TU-95MS, TU-160, TU-22MZ, and A-50. Western sources confirm that 10-13 aircraft were completely destroyed, while the rest were seriously damaged. Official Russian sources, frightened, do not write anything about complete destruction, but they are forced to admit “partial damage,” although they try to reassure their flock with reduced figures of about 15 losses.

This strike not only caused damage, but also created a new logic of war: even distant Russian military bases

are no longer out of reach. The greatest effect is the colossal psychological impact: a) Ukrainian society received positive emotions and another well-deserved boost of pride in its own army, b) the Western world was once again convinced that Ukraine is fighting and has no intention of surrendering to the enemy, c) Russia was humiliated.

## **2. A web of pressure: Istanbul and an unfavorable “peace.”**

On June 2, the second round of negotiations between Ukraine and Russia took place in Istanbul, mediated by Turkey. Western sources report that a ceasefire formula was proposed without guarantees of Ukraine’s accession to NATO and without the immediate return of territories. However, from the fragments of information available, it is possible to piece together a picture that this was yet another set of absurd Russian ultimatums, which would have meant Ukraine’s capitulation. In reality, the entire Istanbul process (initiated not by Ukraine, but by the new US administration) is aimed at geopolitical legitimization of Putin and his clique. To prevent Ukraine from “getting off the hook,” Russia is initiating another prisoner exchange, or even, for the last time, an exchange of the dead. Of course, even if there is an opportunity to free a single Ukrainian prisoner, it cannot be ignored, but exchanges have taken place before without trips to Istanbul. So it is not surprising that there is a suspicion that the date of the Ukrainian special operation “Pavutina” (Web) did not coincide with the eve of the negotiations by chance. Of course, such an operation takes a long time to prepare, many months, but the exact dates can be adjusted, and in this case, it is quite possible that an additional function of the SBU (Security Service of Ukraine) operation was to try to disrupt the negotiations in Istanbul, which were unfavorable for Ukraine. In any case, politically, these negotiations ended without progress.

## **3. The web of global confrontation: the Middle East draws attention.**

On June 12, a new front in the global conflict opened: Iran and Israel exchanged massive strikes (with Israel

being successful and Iran being ineffective), and the US sided with Israel. For Ukraine, this meant a temporary decline in priority in the distribution of Western attention and resources.

Washington assured Kyiv of its continued support, but the very fact that Ukraine is no longer the only front in the world sent a loud signal. In the global web of interests, even a heroic struggle can disappear from the spotlight in favor of new global crises.

## **4. The web of diplomacy: NATO summit – support without guarantees.**

On June 24-25, another NATO summit took place in the Hague, and Ukraine received the expected assurance of multi-billion dollar aid, mainly for air defense, drones, and electronic warfare equipment. However, there was no hint of any political decision, such as the prospect of NATO membership, and it is clear that there could not have been. The fact that Zelenskyy, in order not to further irritate Trump and his entourage with his military-casual style, changed his clothes to a suit was more striking than the Ukrainian president’s participation in the summit itself.

Zelenskyy made a direct appeal: “We are not asking for mercy. We are asking for the tools to win. If we are not given a plan for accession, we will fight without it.”

Donald Trump, present as the main “star” of the summit, said: “America has to think about itself. We must not get involved in wars that have no clear victory.”

Not only Ukrainians, but also our true foreign friends understand that Ukraine deserves more. But in the diplomatic web, decisions are not always made based on fairness. Often, they are made based on convenience.

## **5. The web of time: a marathon and long-term power without elections.**

In June, Zelenskyy gave a series of interviews to foreign media outlets: CNN, The Economist, Politico, Le Monde, where he proclaimed a new reality: the war will be long, lasting many years. At the same time, he made it clear that during these long years, the legitimacy

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of the government, and first and foremost his personal legitimacy, would be preserved even without elections.

"We are no longer waiting for a quick end. We are living in a war. This is a marathon, not a sprint" [*The Economist*].

"If I leave, the state will lose focus. If I stay, we will maintain unity. The question is not about elections. The question is about responsibility" [*Politico*].

This is no longer the rhetoric of the beginning of the war. This is a project of long-term governance during martial law. Considering that the weighted average forecast for the duration of the war according to biological and mathematical analysis is another 13 years, the prospect emerges that Ukraine will be offered continuity of power for all of those 13 years. So far, the majority of Ukrainian society is not thinking much about democracy, and

Western politicians are trying to avoid talking about it, but will this tacit agreement continue with each passing year?

**Conclusion: it is better to weave your own web than to get tangled up in someone else's.**

June 2025 made it clear: Ukraine is not a victim in someone else's web, but an active player weaving its own – through drones, through losses, through diplomacy, through vision, through position, through rejection of weakness.

It is a difficult path, but if Ukrainians are capable of striking Russia's strategic aviation deep inside its territory, then we want to believe that we are capable of building a new model of security and sovereignty that no one will be able to break – neither with missiles, nor threats, nor diplomatic tricks.

But every web, even if skillfully wo-

ven, risks becoming a trap for its creator. For the sake of victory, the country can and must act decisively. But for the sake of the future, it has no right to lose its democratic essence.

Freedom is not only a value that Ukrainians defend on the front lines. Freedom must exist within the state itself. Freedom is the foundation without which Ukraine will have neither normal peace, nor normal reconstruction, nor normal statehood.

Ukraine has demonstrated to the whole world that it is capable of defending its statehood. But whether this statehood will be democratic is a big question. The answer to this question must be given by Ukrainians themselves. And this is no longer about a web as a temporary structure. This is about the essence of their own worldview.

EXCLUSIVE FOR HROMADA

FR. ROMAN BOBESIUK | SPIRITUAL TREASURY

# GOD'S SECOND COMMANDMENT: A CALL TO HOLY RESPECT FOR GOD'S NAME



**Fr. lic. Roman Bobesiuk –**  
*priest of the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church at the Church of the Immaculate Conception in San Francisco and the Church of St. Volodymyr in Santa Clara*

God's second commandment, "*You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain*," is short but carries a profound and comprehensive call to holiness, respect, and reverence for God's name. It is an integral continuation of the first commandment, which prohibits idolatry and commands us to worship only one God. If the first commandment directs our gaze to God Himself as the Source of all life, the second teaches us how to treat His name – with holiness, respect, and love.

In the biblical sense, a name is not just a word, but a sign of personality, power, and glory. The name of God is His greatness and holiness, and it must be used in such a way as not to wound this holiness with frivolity, falsehood, or insult.

The Holy Fathers of the Eastern Church spoke much about the holiness of God's name. St. John Chrysostom compared it to an icon of the invisible God, which deserves our respect. St. Basil the Great emphasized that when using the name of the Lord, we must pronounce it not just with

sounds, but with sincerity of heart, because empty words are an insult to the holiness of God's name.

In the New Testament, the name of Jesus Christ proves to be the strongest spiritual force. The Apostle Peter, saying, "In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise up and walk!" (Acts 3:6), performed miracles. The Apostle Paul proclaims that the name of Jesus is above every other name, before which every knee should bow (Phil. 2:9-10). This name is the source of our salvation and hope.

To respect the name of God means, first of all, to avoid profanity, vain oaths, and empty vows that disperse the holiness of the name. For, as St. Ignatius the God-Bearer reminds us, whoever honors the name of the Lord lives in His grace.

But respect for God's name is not limited to words. It is manifested in prayer, worship, and veneration of holy things: Holy Scripture, the Cross, the Holy Sacraments, icons, holy persons...

In our daily lives, we are called to use the name of the Lord reverently – in prayer, in greetings, in thoughts and words. Ukrainian spirituality is filled with beautiful customs, such as the greeting "Glory to Jesus Christ!" and the response "Glory forever!", which are an inexhaustible source of grace and strength.

This commandment also calls us to raise our children in love and respect for God's name, so that God's holiness and greatness may be a guide for them in life.

**Sins against the second commandment of God: to lovingly preserve the holiness of God's name**

The second commandment of God is not just a prohibition, it is a gentle call to love and deeply respect the very name of God. It teaches us not only to honor His holiness, but also to protect

this holy name from any offense, because in it is our faith, our salvation.

**Careless use of God's name**

How often, without even realizing it, do we call upon God in vain – in anger, in quarrels, in empty words?

The Word of God tells us: "You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain" (Deut. 5:11). And Jesus Christ himself warns that we will be held accountable for every idle word (Matthew 12:36). Therefore, even in the smallest word, in the smallest phrase, let there be love and respect.

St. John Chrysostom compared God's name to a shrine, which we must treat with tenderness and reverence, as if it were our most precious treasure. Let our hearts speak through our lips with respect and gentleness, for every word is a seed that sows either good or discord.

**Curses are wounds we inflict on our loved ones**

An even greater sin is cursing, especially when we lose patience and wish evil even on those we love most. How painful it is to hear words of curses from our loved ones! But the brightest example of love is given to us by the mother of Blessed Metropolitan Andrey Sheptytsky.

When asked how she raised five sons with such wisdom and love, she modestly replied: "I loved them and tried to understand each one. My only system of upbringing was the prayer 'Hail Mary'. When my son was obedient and good, I prayed 'Hail Mary'. When he made mistakes, again, 'Hail Mary'."

This simple but sincere prayer became a source of patience and strength that protected us. Because love is not in words of curses, but in quiet prayers that support and heal the soul.

**Blasphemy – the gravest offense**

The gravest sin is blasphemy – openly despising God. It wounds the very image of God in our souls, destroys our connection with Him, and causes pain.



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The Apostle Paul tells us: "God is not mocked" (Gal. 6:7). How can we, created out of God's love, despise the One who gives us life and breathes His Spirit into us?

**Jesus' prayer – the path to sanctification and respect for God's name**

A good way to glorify God's name is through constant prayer, especially the Jesus Prayer: "**Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me, a sinner.**"

This prayer teaches us humility, opens our hearts to God's mercy, helps us purify ourselves from everything that distances us from the Lord, and fills our souls with living joy. When we pronounce the Name of the Lord with love and respect, we are not just saying words, but encountering the living God.

Saint Simeon the New Theologian wrote that every name of Jesus Christ spoken with faith brings light and peace to the soul.

*May this commandment be a guide for us in love – love for God, reflected in our words, thoughts, and deeds. Like the mother of Blessed Andrey Sheptytsky, let us learn to love and forgive,*

*to protect our families with prayer, not curses. May our tongue become an instrument of goodness that brings peace and joy.*

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# A KALEIDOSCOPE OF EVENTS AND UKRAINE

**Nadia Banchik** –  
*a journalist and political columnist for American publications who has covered the crimes of Putin's Russia, from the destruction of the Chechen Republic of Ichkeria to the modern attack on Ukraine. In 1998, in her native Lviv, together with her mother, Candidate of Philology Iryna Kvitko, she co-founded the first Jewish newspaper in the then USSR, "Shofar"*

The last two weeks of June saw events spinning frantically, as if in some fantastical kaleidoscope-accelerator. A brief disturbance between India and Pakistan; a war between Israel and Iran on the verge of escalating into a regional conflict, which nevertheless lasted 12 days; a sudden change in US President Donald Trump from isolationist to fierce warrior; the sudden success of the NATO summit... Events in the kaleidoscope revolved around Ukraine.

## **Blitzkrieg against the backdrop of endless war**

The new countdown to the current stage of events began on June 13, when, seemingly out of the blue, the Israeli Air Force launched a powerful strike against Iran with ballistic missiles and drones, almost completely destroying its air defense system, most of which consisted of "invincible" Russian S-300 and S-400 systems. Israel justified the need for such a strike by saying that, according to its intelligence, Iran had only a few months, or possibly even weeks, left before the first nuclear bomb appeared. Israel's operation, however, was very reminiscent of Ukraine's operation "Spider Web", i.e., along with precision missile strikes from the air on pre-determined targets related to Iran's nuclear program, explosions were heard directly in Iranian cities, which reduced several residential buildings to rubble, killing 15 Iranian nuclear physicists and their families. Yes, this operation goes somewhat beyond the limits of humanitarian law, but Iran was given so many

chances to end its nuclear program peacefully (from the 2015 agreement, to Trump's attempts to persuade the country to abandon these efforts in exchange for lifting sanctions and promoting Iran's economic revival) that it could have already drawn conclusions about its maniacal "national" idea of destroying the Jewish state and maintaining terrorist groups in the Middle East for this purpose.

Iran did not delay in responding, reducing several residential buildings on the outskirts and in the center of Tel Aviv to rubble the next day. The exchange of missile and drone strikes continued for several more days. As a result of targeted strikes, Israel achieved complete air superiority, completely destroying Iran's air defense system. The events threatened to escalate into yet another endless war for Israel, this time not with pro-Iranian groups, but with their metropolis itself, a country of 90 million people.

However, Israel was unable to bomb the main center of Iran's nuclear program – a storage facility for enriched uranium and production facilities located 90 meters underground in Fordow – because it did not have the weapons to do so. Only the US has depth bombs capable of penetrating bunkers to a depth of 60 meters. Therefore, several such bombs would have been needed to destroy this facility.

US President Trump found himself between the rock of his policy of non-intervention in "overseas" wars, which is supported by a significant portion of his voters, and the almost inevitable need to at least try to drastically change the course of events. This would require a blitz operation that would cause significant damage to Iran's nuclear program without dragging the US into an endless war with Iran.

Trump's supporters were divided. Those who professed the "America First" ideology tried to dissuade the president from striking Iran; more traditional Republicans, the so-called "Reaganites" – followers of Reagan – insisted on intervention. It is likely that Trump's final decision was influenced by ardent supporters of Israel among his voters, not only Jews but also evangelicals; his own son-in-law, Jared Kushner, may have played a role, who played a decisive role in Trump's

Middle East policy during his first term (recognition of Jerusalem as the capital of Israel and relocation of the US embassy there; the Abraham Accords).

Either way, on June 21, the Commander-in-Chief gave the decisive order.

The operation stunned the world with its lightning speed and precision, especially given Trump's reputation during his second term for selecting senior staff with a clear bias toward personal loyalty over professionalism, and his policy of "militant isolationism." On the night of June 22, the US Air Force launched powerful strikes on three nuclear facilities in Fordow, Natanz, and Isfahan. Six depth charges were dropped on Fordow.

Satellite images show six deep craters left at the site of the underground storage facility. "Iran's nuclear program has been completely destroyed!" Trump solemnly proclaimed.

Indeed, an operation of unprecedented complexity was planned and carried out. One hundred twenty-five fighter jets appeared in the Iranian night sky, with most of the aircraft, outdated models, serving as a kind of cover for the real fighter jets carrying these super-heavy bombs. The operation was prepared in the strictest secrecy, and not a word leaked out before it was carried out. No American pilots were harmed.

Although doubts immediately arose as to whether all the targets had been hit in such a way as to truly "destroy the Iranian nuclear program to the ground" (Iran has more than 30 sites where nuclear facilities are located, and not all of them have been explored; there were reports that Iran managed to move some of its enriched uranium to another location, in particular, satellite photos showed a line of trucks near Fordow; it is impossible to assess immediately whether the targets were hit accurately, in particular the plant in Isfahan, etc.), it is clear that Iran's plans to manufacture nuclear weapons have been delayed for at least several years. Iran's overall military power has been significantly weakened and, consequently, its ability to supply weapons to Russia. Incidentally, Russia has refrained from providing assistance to its supposed ally. Following Armenia and Assad's Syria, Iran has joined the list of



Russia's allies that have been effectively betrayed by it.

The next day, after Trump's persistent "mediation," Israel and Iran agreed to a ceasefire. They exchanged missile strikes once more, and then stopped. How long will it last? Will this be the end of the war, or will it resume? Only time will tell.

However, in the context of Ukraine, the seemingly indirect but significant result of the operation is even more important: a complete change of mood in the White House. There is no trace left of the belief in the benefits of isolationism for the US! Trump is celebrating a great victory together with the architects of the operation, Israel (which triumphantly carried out all the preparatory work, destroying Iran's air defense system), and that part of his voters who still adhere to Reagan's traditions.

#### 15 years and 12 days

On June 26, the Pentagon (in response to numerous doubts about the effectiveness of the American operation) released a report on the preparation and implementation of this unique operation. Preparations for it took 15 years. So, it began during Barack Obama's presidency, continued during Trump's first term and under Biden – and now everything is ready for the operation to be carried out. A coincidence in time?

ABC News correspondents Anne Flaherty and Louie Martinez recount the "story" of the preparation and execution of the operation according to General Dan Cain, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff (during his speech on the report).

"In 2009, an American officer working for the Defense Threat Reduction Agency was taken to a secret location and shown top-secret photographs of a construction site in the Iranian mountains. Cain said the officer and his colleague had been studying the site for 15 years. They analyzed the weather and geology of the mountain, as well as any objects discarded from the facility. They also inspected ventilation shafts, electrical systems, and environmental control systems," Flaherty and Martinez note.

The depth charges were made specifically to destroy this particular facility.

On the day of the operation, 12 depth charges were dropped into two ventilation shafts.

"Cain said the Iranians had covered

the ventilation shafts with concrete lids, but the first bomb blew them off. After that, the next four bombs were programmed to fall at a speed of over 1,000 feet per second and "explode in the mission area." The last bomb was designated as a "flexible weapon" or backup. "All six weapons in each ventilation shaft at Ford hit exactly where they were supposed to," Kane said, adding that the result was "a mixture of excess pressure and explosion that burst through the open tunnels and destroyed critical equipment," the authors of the article note.

They also cite the testimony of one of the fighter pilots who accompanied the bombers: "It was the brightest explosion I've ever seen. It literally looked like daylight."

Two days after the operation, the US "learned," according to the authors of the article, of Iran's intentions to launch a retaliatory strike on the American military base in Qatar. The entire garrison was quickly evacuated, leaving two Patriot systems and 44 soldiers to defend the base; the oldest, the captain, was 28 years old.

Fortunately, no one was hurt. Qatar also joined in helping the soldiers.

<https://www.msn.com/en-us/news/world/secrets-on-iran-nuclear-strike-spill-into-open-as-pentagon-defends-bombing/ar-AA1HuFBY?ocid=msedg-dhp&pc=LCTS&cvid=7d9b5104181d-4945b237659651aa20b0&ei=29>

#### NATO summit against the back-drop of US triumph

The annual NATO summit, held on June 24–25 in The Hague (Netherlands), demonstrated a change in mood in Washington. On the eve of the summit, Trump met with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky, and the results made a positive impression on both.

Following the NATO summit, Russia was identified as a "long-term threat." The countries agreed to allocate 5% of their GDP to defense spending by 2035, and – most importantly for Ukraine – spending on military aid to Ukraine will be included in this 5%. In other words, Trump agreed with the alliance countries to purchase weapons for Ukraine from the US with funds allocated by NATO members – European countries, Turkey, and Canada.

Trump also agreed with the opinion of the majority of NATO members that Russia's encroachments could extend beyond Ukraine. The summit participants unanimously affirmed the invio-

lability of Article 5 of the NATO Charter.

Thus, Trump appeared in a completely different light than before: as a supporter of NATO, including Article 5, a supporter of aid to Ukraine, and a member of the Alliance who understands that Russia poses a long-term threat.

It is quite possible that the brilliant success of the highly complex military operation against Iran's nuclear program began to convince Trump that his campaign slogan "Peace through strength" could be achieved in this way – by demonstrating military force.

The results of the operation against Iran in general and Ukraine in particular are analyzed by Yuri Yarym-Agayev, head of the Institute for Totalitarian Ideologies at Stanford University (in a conversation with Prof. Sergei Erofeev of Rutgers University and host Yuri Zhigalkin on the Russian edition of Radio Liberty on June 27 (at the time of submitting my article, only the audio version was available, so I cannot quote it, but I can only retell the main points).

<https://www.svoboda.org/live/audio/81/33441664?withmediaplayer=1>

The strike by Israel and the US on Iran weakened not only its nuclear program, but also the Ayatollah regime itself, even if no changes are yet visible in the country's political life. Since Russia, Iran, North Korea, and China form a totalitarian bloc waging a united war against the West, defeating one of these countries means weakening the bloc as a whole.

This strike demonstrated the decisive superiority of Israeli and American weapons not only over Iranian weapons, but also over Russian weapons. Yarym-Agayev compared this situation to the 1991 Gulf War, which demonstrated "such superiority of Western weapons over Soviet weapons that after that, the Cold War arms race itself lost its meaning," which contributed to the collapse of the world communist system and the USSR.

Finally, Yarym-Agayev emphasized that Trump was prompted to take decisive action by, in his words, "Israel's victory." Similarly, he said, "Ukraine's victories" prompted decisive action "first by Biden, and now by Trump." The more victories and successes Ukraine achieves in its defense, the more decisively the 'Reaganite' wing of Trump's supporters will act, prompting the unpredictable president to implement his slogan of "peace through strength."



## An Open Letter to Our Members of Congress

June 16, 2025

We, the Ukrainian Community of Colorado and its supporters, appeal to you, our elected representatives in Congress, to do the right thing and support Ukraine. Some of you were already in office when, on February 24, 2022, unprovoked and warned of the consequences, Russia invaded Ukraine.

That was more than one thousand two hundred days ago. Since then, Russia has bombed and terrorized the civilian population of Ukraine, kidnapping children, raping women, destroying hospitals and schools, subjecting Ukrainian defenders to torture. This goes on, every day and every night, and is happening at the very moment you read these words.

Those of you in office since those early months and years of this war know these facts from the briefings you have received from our country's military and intelligence services. Two among you have even traveled to Ukraine to see firsthand what Russia has done.

There is no doubt that Putin launched an unprovoked invasion of Ukraine, a sovereign state whose sovereignty the United States had pledged to safeguard.

Ukraine has fought back valiantly, supported by the United States and dozens of the world's free and independent states. Ukraine has liberated territory half the size of Colorado, invented new technology that dispatched Russian warships to the bottom of the Black Sea, and sent drones thousands of miles deep inside Russia to destroy a large amount of Russia's bombers. It has fought with courage, audacity and inventiveness.

More than a million Russian soldiers, many of them convicted criminals recruited from Russia's prison population by Putin's henchmen, have been

either killed or wounded by Ukrainian defenders.

Still, the Russian dictatorship, backed by communist China and by theocratic Iran, and by the police state of North Korea, continues to refuse to stop its war of aggression.

How do you imagine that Russia has been able to continue this barbarity?

The answer is simple: when the United States had the opportunity to move quickly, it chose to move slowly. When the US pledged support, it put conditions on when and how a weapon could be used. When it applied sanctions, it acted so selectively that Putin was able to find work-arounds. American computer chips still find their way into missiles that Putin fires at Kyiv. Secondary sanctions that could put the pressure on China for its "no limits" support of Russia have never been implemented.

Billions of dollars in Russian state assets, frozen in US and European banks since the start of the war sit and collect interest when they could be expropriated and given to Ukraine. "It would be pure poetry to fund the Ukrainian war effort with Russian assets," House Speaker Mike Johnson told the NY Post a year and a half ago. "As you can imagine, that idea has been met with great enthusiasm on the Republican side. I suspect it will be with our colleagues on the other side as well. It's an eminently responsible thing for us to do." [*New York Post*, November 9, 2023]

Why then hasn't it been done? A lack of political will.

Military and intelligence support is also wavering – for no reason. The US Administration demanded that Ukraine agree to a ceasefire before lifting a freeze on support for Ukraine. Ukraine promptly agreed to an unconditional ceasefire, but Russia never did. No pe-

nalties for Russia.

The US recently redirected 20,000 anti-drone missiles, intended for Ukraine, to US forces in the Middle East.

Putin responded by immediately increasing drone strikes against Ukrainian cities.

Putin thinks he has a friend in the White House and cheers every time American politicians attack one another. Xi thinks he can have China supply billions in military supplies to Russia in exchange for Russian oil. They think America is weak and tired and losing focus and interest.

Show them they are wrong.

Right now, more than 80 US Senators have signed on to the Sanctioning Russia Act of 2025 (S. 1241). A similar bill in the US House of Representatives has 59 cosponsors and many more who say they will vote for it. This legislation would finally impose the costs on Russia that should have been imposed 1,200 days ago. These bills need to be passed and signed into law before you go on vacation in August.

This is not a playground fight. "We are not kids with Putin at the playground in the park," Zelensky said recently. "He is a murderer who came to this park to kill the kids."

So we ask you, our elected representatives in Congress, to take action to support Ukraine. America is a powerful country that can still be a force for good in the world. For many of us, it was the example of America standing up to communists in the Kremlin that inspired us and our parents and grandparents to make America our home.

Now is the time to stand up and support Ukraine. There is not a minute to lose.



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# UKRAINIAN HEART IN SUNNY SAN DIEGO: 10 YEARS OF OUR SCHOOL

**Yuriy Kopynets, PhD**

The last Saturday of May this year was a special day for the entire active Ukrainian community in San Diego. In an almost family atmosphere – with children's laughter, excitement in the eyes of parents and teachers, and with the participation of school administrators and representatives of the House of Ukraine – the tenth anniversary of the Ukrainian school was celebrated. This place has long been not just an educational center, but a true spiritual space and foundation on which a new generation of Ukrainians is growing up – both those born far from their homeland and those who arrived on American soil at different times.

From early morning, this day was both solemn and touching. The children probably rehearsed poems and sang songs at home with their parents, while the adults – teachers, parents, and invited guests – recalled how it all began. And surely, every word and every gesture of the adults conveyed a sense of pride: we have preserved, we have passed on, we have raised.

The history of the school began small – with a few enthusiasts who wanted above all else that young children not lose the language of their ancestors. And the Ukrainian school in San Diego was established at an extremely difficult time for the mother country – just when Ukraine was already defending its existential right to exist from Russia. From a state that has been trying for centuries to destroy everything Ukrainian: language, history, culture, nation...

Therefore, the initiative of caring Ukrainians in San Diego was not only important at the time – it had a profound meaning: to preserve their national identity, their language, their essence. At the celebration, we heard lively, emotional, and inspiring stories from the school's first coordinators: Oleh Kernytskyy, who became the de facto "founding father" of this institution, Victoria Ivanova, and Alla Boiko. Natalia Chang recently became the new coordinator of the school, and we can say with confidence that the school is in good hands.

Since then, the school has grown in terms of the number of students, the variety of programs, and the depth of





its impact on the community.

From the very beginning, it was decided to teach not only the Ukrainian language and literature, but also history and culture, to hold creative classes, and to celebrate traditional holidays – from Christmas to Pokrova, from Shevchenko Days to Independence Day. So we can confidently say that hundreds of children can proudly say that they are graduates of this school.

But the greatest value is not in numbers. The most important thing is the atmosphere of love for Ukraine that teachers convey to children every week. And the fact that the students of this school today not only understand Ukrainian, but also think, dream, and even argue in it, is the most wonderful result. It is inspiration.

Often, when we talk about education, we think of textbooks, grammar,

or school performance. But true education is the transmission of memory, values, and worldview. This issue is particularly acute in the diaspora, because every child who learns the language of their ancestors effectively becomes a living bridge between generations.

Several thousand Ukrainians live in San Diego. People came here at different times – during waves of labor migration, after World War II, after the collapse of the Soviet Union, after 2014, when Russia first openly attacked Ukraine, and especially after 2022 – a full-scale invasion that forced millions of Ukrainians to leave their homeland.

So today, during lessons in one classroom of our Saturday school, children born in the US may sit alongside those who, until recently, heard explosions in Kharkiv, Bucha, or Mykolaiv. And in this poignant but

vibrant fusion of experiences, the Ukrainian school becomes a space for unity, understanding, mutual assistance, and the formation of a new Ukrainian community in San Diego.

Surely, every family raising children in the US faces an important question: what language will their child speak? And this is indeed a difficult question. After all, English dominates in the US – school education, media, and entertainment are mostly English-speaking. Over time, the Ukrainian language either remains only the language of the home or is lost in the daily wave of English.

However, everyone who came to the school's tenth anniversary celebration that day understood well that language is not just a means of communication. It is the code of a nation. It is spiritual support. It is identity. It is a little Ukraine.

Most likely, the Ukrainian schoolchildren who proudly and excitedly recited poems, sang songs, and told stories from the stage during the festive program did not even realize that in those moments, entire eras came to life in every adult.

Because it is through language, history, and events such as this holiday that we feel who we are, where we come from, and why we fight for what is ours – our native, conscious, national identity. It is in schools like this one that the Ukrainian language not only lives but flourishes.

It is no secret that California is also called the "Sunny State," and San Diego is one of the sunniest places in the United States. It is warm, peaceful, and beautiful here. But for Ukrainians, especially newcomers, it is also the land of a new life. Therefore, the Ukrainian school here is like a beacon that helps them not to get lost in the ocean of assimilation. It provides support and direction. Just as schools of other nations and cultures do, we have been doing this for 10 years.

That is why the Ukrainian school does more than just educate. It creates a community. Here, parents meet, friendships are formed, people become godparents to each other, and joint initiatives arise – cultural, volunteer, and charitable. Here, the living language is heard. Ukrainian songs are sung here. Here, next to the American flag, the blue and yellow flag flies proudly.

That is why the school's tenth anniversary was an event not only for its students. It is a celebration for the entire community. Because behind these ten years are thousands of hours of work, loyalty, and sacrifice.



Liudmyla Kinal, DDS

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Bonsall, CA 92003****kinaldds@gmail.com****ПОВНИЙ СПЕКТР СТОМАТОЛОГІЧНОЇ ДІЯЛЬНОСТІ  
ВКЛЮЧАЮЧИ:**

- КОРОНКИ
- ПЛОМБИ
- ПРОТЕЗУВАННЯ
- ПЛОМБУВАННЯ КАНАЛІВ
- ЩЕЛПНО-ЛИЦЕВА ХІРУРГІЯ
- ІМПЛАНТИ
- ЕСТЕТИЧНА СТОМАТОЛОГІЯ
- ДИТЯЧА СТОМАТОЛОГІЯ



Today's world is fast-paced and chaotic. Children grow up in an environment of TikTok, YouTube, and mixed identities. It is easy to lose them if you don't offer them something more than entertainment. And the Ukrainian school in San Diego gives them just that: interesting, creative lessons, an atmosphere of friendship and support, which is extremely important for every child.

Here, children don't just learn rules. They become part of a great history. They learn who Taras Shevchenko and Ivan Franko, Hryhorii Skovoroda and Lesia Ukrainka, Lina Kostenko and Mykhailo Kotsyubynsky. They learn about princes and knights, Cossacks and Crimean Tatars, the Heroes of the Heavenly Hundred, and the cyborgs of Donetsk Airport.

They paint pictures in the style of Maria Prymachenko, embroider patterns from different regions of Ukraine with a brush, and learn to paint world-famous pysanky eggs with wax. They undergo their first initiation into volunteering, write letters to the front, and raise funds for Ukraine.

With each such step, not just a child is formed, but a personality. A person with an understanding of where they come from, who they are, and why it is so important to know and feel this.

We must all clearly understand that children are not the only ones at the center of this story. It is also the teachers. These are people who come to class every Saturday not for any incentives, but with a deep desire to convey the most important thing to

children: an understanding of why it is necessary to know about their roots, the history and culture of their ancestors, and the Ukrainian language. It is teachers who build bridges between continents, between generations, between languages and cultures.

The third key component of this center is parents. Those who consciously choose the difficult path of bilingualism. Those who every week, sometimes traveling dozens of miles, take their children to school, help with homework, and participate in celebrations. Parental love is the foundation of the Ukrainian school.

What are ten years? This is only the beginning, because the school, created with enthusiasm and love, already has strong roots – and it will definitely live on, develop, and become even better. Another 10, 20, 30, 50 years will pass – and the children who stood on stage today will bring their own children and even grandchildren here. And they will not be ashamed of their origins, they will speak Ukrainian, they will know the history of their people, and – most importantly – they will defend Ukraine's good name in the world not only with words, but with their way of life.

Because being Ukrainian is not just about origin or passport. It's about the soul. And that soul is formed here. In these classrooms. In these words. In these people. At the Ukrainian School in San Diego.

*These are confident steps into life!  
Our school is like a bright*

*providence,  
Where the Ukrainian future grows.*

*Across the ocean – here in San Diego,  
Where the waves are warmed by the golden sun,  
We preserve our language, songs, and faith –  
Everything that grows from the heart and family.*

*Here, our Ukraine is revealed to children –  
In letters, in fairy tales, in "Kobzar,"  
They learn about glory and depth,  
And carry love for their native land.*

*Teachers – guardians of traditions,  
Shining like dawn in the steppes,  
They give wisdom and inspiration,  
And lead confidently through fear.*

*Thank you to the parents who did not break,  
Who strive to keep the light alive in their children.  
For preserving our roots and wings,  
And nurturing our homeland with determination and clarity.*

*May the school flourish and grow,  
May its path stretch through time and space!  
For where the Ukrainian heart beats –  
There memory lives on and figures shine brightly.*

*Author – Yuriy Kopynets*





# Gabriel Travel

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# EMBROIDERED CALIFORNIA – FROM PAST TO PRESENT, OR TREASURES OF UKRAINE ON THE CALIFORNIA CATWALK: THE ART OF EMBROIDERY COMES TO LIFE AT THE UKRAINIAN FASHION SHOW

The art of Ukrainian embroidery comes to life on the catwalks of Los Angeles and Fremont as part of the Ukrainian Fashion Show.

On September 14 in Los Angeles and September 20 in Fremont (Bay Area), a unique event will take place – the Ukrainian Fashion Show, where Ukrainian embroidery will be presented in its two dimensions: historical and modern.

Traditional Ukrainian costumes, modern fashion, stage performances, and the voice of history will all be harmoniously intertwined to present Ukrainian clothing culture.

Among the most prominent participants are two figures who embody both a deep love for Ukrainian culture and a profound understanding of it. They are Roksolana Bohutska and Mariya Mulyava.

Mariya Mulyava is a guardian of authentic beauty, a passionate researcher and collector of Ukrainian folk clothing. For over 15 years, she has been collecting, preserving, and researching antique embroidered shirts, jewelry, headdresses, shoes, and other everyday items from all corners of Ukraine.

"Ukrainian traditional folk clothing is my hobby, my passion, my obsession," says Mariya. Her collection includes over 600 items, including more than 130 unique embroidered shirts. Her collecting began in 2007 at a festival

in Kosmach (Ivano-Frankivsk region): the beauty of Hutsul embroidered shirts captured her heart forever.

The embroidered collection focuses on Hutsulshchyna, Pokuttia, Bukovyna, and Zakarpattia. However, Mariya is actively expanding her collection with costumes from Poltava, Naddniprianshchyna, and Slobozhanshchyna. Mariya Mulyava also embroiders herself, continuing her grandmother's craft, and is engaged in the reconstruction of historical clothing. Her dream is to assemble a complete collection of costumes from all ethnographic regions of Ukraine. Ukrainian treasures have already been presented at exhibitions in Lviv and Wrocław. New projects are ahead, including the search for extremely rare shirts.

Roksolana Bohutska creates contemporary fashion with a traditional soul, combining elegant luxury and bold modernity. Flawless quality, the latest processing technologies, perfect cut, and exclusivity of each model. This is the style of a woman with a strong character, refined, seductive, and always confident.

Designer Roksolana Bohutska is a Lviv native who has combined high fashion with a deep national code. She is the founder of her own brand, Roksolana Bohutska. Her work has been presented in New York, Washington, Chicago, Dubai, Vancouver, European cities, and, of course, Ukraine. She is

the author of stage costumes for the winner of Eurovision 2004, singer Ruslana, famous stars of the Ukrainian stage, and the first ladies of Ukraine.

"Each embroidered shirt is not just clothing, it is the code of the nation, its history, pain, and hope. Through my collections, I want to tell the world how deep and beautiful Ukrainian culture is. I have always been impressed by how our grandmothers were able to convey their love for their homeland with a needle and thread. I am simply continuing this tradition, adding a modern vision," says Roksolana Bohutska.

Ukrainian Fashion Show is an event where the past meets the future! It is not just a fashion show. It is a living dialogue between generations, regions, war, and peace. Here, every shirt tells a story. Every embroidery becomes the voice of our ancestors. Don't miss these special evenings, where tradition will come to life on the catwalk, and the heart of every Ukrainian will beat in unison with the patterns of Ukraine.

**Los Angeles, California: September 14, 2025, at 1 p.m., Ukrainian Cultural Center, 4315 Melrose Ave., Los Angeles, CA 90029**

**Fremont (Bay Area), California: September 20, 2025, at 5 p.m., Downtown Event Center, 3500 Capitol Ave., Fremont, CA 94538**

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## UKRAINIAN NEWS

## Total enemy combat losses

Протягом 24.02.22 — 30.06.2025

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personnel420  
літаків  
aircraft340 +3  
гелікоптерів  
helicopters10980 +4  
танків  
tanks42796 +172  
БПЛА оперативно-тактичного рівня  
UAV operational-tactical level22922 +7  
бойових броньованих машин  
troop-carrying AFVs3436 +42  
крилаті ракети  
cruise missiles29718 +29  
артилерійських систем  
artillery systems28  
кораблі/катери  
warships/boats1  
підводні човни  
submarines1427 +2  
РСЗВ  
MLRS53593 +85  
автомобільна техніка та цистерни з ПММ  
vehicles & fuel tanks1190 +1  
засоби ППО  
anti-aircraft systems3921  
спеціальна техніка  
special equipment

Генеральний Штаб Збройних Сил України

According to the General Staff, the total combat losses of the enemy from February 24, 2022 to June 30, 2025 are approximately as follows:

Personnel – 1,020,010 people were eliminated,  
Tanks – 10,980 units,  
Armored personnel carriers – 22,922 units,  
Artillery systems – 29,718 units,  
MLRS – 1,427 units,  
Air defense systems – 1,190 units,  
Aircraft – 420 units,  
Helicopters – 340 units,  
Operational and tactical level UAVs – 42,796 units,  
Cruise missiles – 3,436 units,  
Ships and boats – 28 units,  
Submarines – 1 unit,  
Vehicles and tankers – 53,593 units,  
Special equipment – 3,921 units.

## The Verkhovna Rada (Parliament) supported the law on multiple citizenship in Ukraine

On June 18, the Verkhovna Rada as a whole adopted bill No. 11469, which allows multiple citizenship in Ukraine. Under certain conditions, Ukrainians will be able to simultaneously hold passports of two or more countries. Previously, this was considered a violation of the law.

The bill on the introduction of the institution of multiple citizenship in



Ukraine was supported by 243 people's deputies, 19 spoke against, and another nine abstained during the vote.

In December, the Verkhovna Rada adopted as a basis a bill on the introduction of the institution of multiple citizenship in Ukraine. The document establishes cases when a person can have citizenship of other states together with Ukrainian.

The document provides that multiple citizenship (nationality) is allowed in clearly defined cases.

For example, if a Ukrainian child simultaneously acquires it by birth or receives it as a result of adoption by foreigners.

It is also about the automatic acquisition of another citizenship by a citizen of Ukraine as a result of marriage to a foreigner.

Multiple citizenship is allowed if a Ukrainian who has reached the age of majority automatically acquired the citizenship of another country or obtained it in a simplified manner.

But such a right is not granted to citizens who hold a passport of the Russian Federation, that is, an aggressor state or an occupying state, or a state that does not recognize the territorial integrity and sovereignty of Ukraine, in particular, voted against the UN General Assembly Resolution "On the Territorial Integrity of Ukraine" dated March 27, 2014 No. 68/262. 11 countries voted against: Russia, Armenia, Belarus, Bolivia, Cuba, North Korea, Nicaragua, Sudan, Syria, Zimbabwe, Venezuela.

In the next two months, the Cabinet of Ministers must also compile a list of countries whose citizens have the right to simplified registration of a Ukrainian passport.

This will be done by submitting a special declaration in which the foreigner recognizes himself as a citizen of Ukraine and has the right to retain his first citizenship.

Unofficially, on the sidelines of the parliament, it is said that representa-

tives of 30-40 countries will be involved. First of all, these are citizens of the European Union, Japan, Britain, Israel, as well as countries with a large Ukrainian diaspora – the USA, Canada, Australia.

Also, foreigners who were born in Ukraine or have Ukrainian ancestors, as well as those who serve in the Defense Forces, will have the right to a simplified procedure.

## NATO Secretary General announces increase in aid to Ukraine to 35 billion euros



NATO has increased aid to Ukraine to 35 billion euros by July 1, and by the end of the year this aid will exceed 50 billion euros. NATO Secretary General Mark Rutte stated this during a meeting with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy.

"I announced yesterday that European and Canadian allies have already pledged more than 35 billion euros to support Ukraine, which is more than last year, because last year for the whole year it was more than 50 billion. Now, by July 1, it is already 35 billion. So we can safely assume that for the whole year it will be more than last year," said the NATO Secretary General.

According to Rutte, he cannot disclose the details of the final declaration of the summit, but stated that "we can be sure that the summit declaration will contain important provisions on Ukraine, as well as financial support for Ukraine in the future."

## NATO countries to increase defense spending to 5% of GDP – summit declaration

At the summit in The Hague, NATO leaders pledged to increase defense



spending to 5% of GDP over 10 years. At the same time, the Alliance will include assistance to Ukraine in its overall defense spending.

As noted, countries will now spend 3.5% of GDP on basic defense needs, in particular, on troops and weapons, and 1.5% on broader measures and their own projects to develop critical infrastructure, to protect networks, increase civil defense preparedness, develop innovations, and strengthen the industrial base.

At the same time, it became known that the Alliance allies will include military assistance provided to Ukraine in the overall defense spending determined within the framework of the entire Alliance.

"Allies have confirmed their strong and sovereign commitment to support Ukraine... and in this context will include direct contributions to Ukrainian defense and defense industry when calculating defense spending," the document says.

## Financial assistance to Ukraine

### EU

Ukraine has received another 1 billion euros from the EU at the expense of Russian assets. This is the 5<sup>th</sup> tranche of macro-financial assistance from the EU within the framework of the ERA initiative.

Prime Minister Denys Shmyhal announced this in Telegram on Friday, June 13.

The funds received are planned to be directed to key state budget expenditures. It is also noted that in total, under the ERA initiative, Ukraine has already received 7 billion euros from the European Union. This resource is provided by revenues from the use of immobilized Russian assets.

"We thank our partners for their consistent and reliable support. "Together, we will force the aggressor to pay for all the damages caused to Ukraine," Shmyhal wrote.

### Britain

British Prime Minister Keir Starmer has announced a new military aid package for Ukraine. It will be financed by funds received in the form of interest on frozen Russian assets.

Starmer stressed that Russia itself should pay for the war, and strengthening Ukraine's defense capabilities is the key to Britain's own security.

The new package is part of a record annual program of military aid to Ukraine from Britain in the amount of 4.5 billion pounds.

### Canada

The Canadian government will allocate a new military aid package to Ukraine in the amount of more than 2 billion Canadian dollars (approximately 1.47 billion US dollars).

This was announced by the country's Prime Minister Mark Carney at a meeting with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy on the sidelines of the G7 summit.

In addition, Canada will provide Ukraine with a loan that will be covered by interest on frozen Russian assets, and will also introduce new sanctions against Russia.

"This is our contribution. We will work with European and other allies to get them involved, and we have made it clear that our support will remain unwavering until the Ukrainians receive a just peace," the politician concluded.

It is also known that the Canadian government has extended the duty-free regime for Ukrainian goods.

### Netherlands

The Netherlands will provide Ukraine with a new package of military assistance and 20 medical evacuation vehicles as part of a new aid package worth 175 million euros.

This was announced by the Minister of Defense of the Netherlands, Ruben Brekelmans. The deliveries are planned to be completed by the end of 2025.

Speaking on the eve of the NATO summit in The Hague, the Minister of Defense of the Netherlands, Ruben Brekelmans, noted that the new package is a logical continuation of the previously concluded agreement with the Ukrainian defense industry for 500 million euros.

In general, since the beginning of the full-scale invasion of the Russian Federation, the Netherlands has already promised to provide Ukraine with about 10 billion euros in military assistance.

In early June, the Netherlands announced a new package of military aid to Ukraine worth 400 million euros. The funds are planned to be used to

strengthen maritime security.

It was also previously reported that the Netherlands had allocated 150 million euros to Ukraine to strengthen air defense.

#### Norway

The Norwegian authorities will provide an additional 6.5 billion Norwegian kroner (approximately 551 million euros) for the production of drones and the purchase of unmanned technologies for Ukraine.

The drones are planned to be purchased both directly from Ukrainian manufacturers and from companies from partner countries.

The government added that the country will continue to assist Ukraine and allocate funds for maritime security, air defense, drones and autonomous systems.

#### Germany

The German government has decided to finance the production of Ukrainian An-196 combat drones, allocating more than 100 million euros for this.

According to the publication, Berlin will provide Kyiv with a "three-digit million-euro amount" for the purchase of these drones, which will allow Ukraine to produce several hundred units of equipment.

#### Japan

Ukraine and the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) have signed an agreement necessary to receive \$3 billion under the ERA initiative. The funds will come from revenues received from frozen Russian assets.

As is known, the funds will be used to finance priority state budget expenditures – in particular, to support the economy and strengthen the country's defense capabilities.

Shmyhal thanked Japan and G7 partners for creating an effective mechanism that, in his words, "forces Russia to pay."

It is also noted that in total, Ukraine has already received \$14.7 billion in assistance under the ERA initiative.

#### New Zealand

New Zealand has announced a new package of military and humanitarian assistance to Ukraine worth 16 million New Zealand dollars (over \$9.4 million).

As noted, the assistance, which is being provided on the eve of the NATO summit in The Hague, was announced by New Zealand Prime Minister Christopher Lacson and Foreign Minister Winston Peters.

According to the country's government, the package will include both military and humanitarian assistance.

In particular, 4 million New Zealand

dollars (2.3 million US dollars) will be sent to multinational funds that provide Ukraine with lethal and non-lethal assistance – the NATO Security Assistance Trust Fund (NSATU) and the Drone Coalition.

"The defense of Ukraine has significant implications not only for the security of the Euro-Atlantic region, but also for the Indo-Pacific. We must continue to work with other members of the international community to support a rules-based order that serves all of our interests," Peters stressed.

In addition, New Zealand will also provide NZ\$7 million (\$4.1 million) for further humanitarian assistance to victims of the full-scale war in Ukraine and NZ\$1 million (\$593,000) for Ukrainian refugees.

"The scale of the needs remains enormous as Russia continues to bomb densely populated civilian areas of Ukraine," Prime Minister Lacson said.

As is known, New Zealand has previously imposed sanctions against the Russian Federation and Belarus.

#### Italy

Italy announced a new financial contribution to support humanitarian demining in Ukraine. The country will allocate 1.5 million euros through UNDP mechanisms.

They noted that the additional funding will allow for more active demining of territories, improve management information systems and provide support for training programs for veterans and people with disabilities.

According to the agency, about 138,500 square kilometers of Ukraine's territory may be contaminated with explosives.

## Britain has introduced new sanctions against Russia



The United Kingdom has announced the introduction of new restrictive measures against Russia. Ten more individuals and vessels of the shadow

fleet have been added to the sanctions list. The relevant information was published on the British government website.

Four individuals, six companies, as well as oil tankers and vessels supplying goods to Russia have been placed under restrictions.

It is also noted that sanctions were imposed against the Main Directorate of Deep-Sea Research of the Russian Ministry of Defense.

The British government believes that all of them are or have been involved in destabilizing and undermining the territorial integrity, sovereignty or independence of Ukraine.

## Australia has imposed sanctions against Russia's shadow fleet for the first time



The Australian government has imposed restrictions on vessels that are part of the Russian shadow fleet for the first time. These vessels were used to circumvent oil sanctions.

It is known that 60 vessels have been sanctioned. Some of them were on the list after the recommendation of the Ukrainian side.

In total, the country has imposed more than 1,400 individual and sectoral sanctions against Russia.

It recently became known that the European Union has extended sanctions against the Russian Federation for the annexation of Crimea.

The United Kingdom has announced the introduction of new restrictive measures against Russia. Ten more individuals and vessels of the shadow fleet were added to the sanctions list.

## Ukraine and Council of Europe sign agreement on establishment of



## special tribunal for Russia



President Volodymyr Zelenskyy and Secretary General of the Council of Europe Alain Berset signed an agreement on establishment of a Special Tribunal to try crimes of aggression of the Russian Federation against Ukraine.

Secretary General of the Council of Europe Alain Berset stressed that the tribunal aims to hold accountable those who resorted to the use of force in violation of international law. He also noted that European security is based on compliance with the law, principles and concrete actions, and not on silence or lack of punishment.

## Zelenskyy approves Ukraine's withdrawal from the Ottawa Convention on the Prohibition of Anti-Personnel Mines

On June 29, President Volodymyr Zelenskyy signed a decree on Ukraine's withdrawal from the Ottawa Convention on the Prohibition of Anti-Personnel Mines.

"To implement the decision of the National Security and Defense Council of Ukraine dated June 29, 2025 "On Ukraine's withdrawal from the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction of September 18, 1997," the document states.

In 2005, Ukraine ratified the Ottawa Convention and has since faithfully implemented its provisions, however, due to the armed aggression of the Russian Federation, the country found itself in an unfair situation.

It is known that the Russian aggression against Ukraine forced Latvia,

Lithuania, Estonia, Poland and Finland to reconsider their position and adopt a joint political decision to withdraw from the Ottawa Convention.

## Ukraine and Russia exchange prisoners within the framework of the Istanbul agreements



On June 26, another stage of the exchange of prisoners of war between Ukraine and Russia took place within the framework of the agreements reached at the negotiations in Istanbul.

The Coordination Headquarters for the Treatment of Prisoners of War clarified that today it was possible to return a group of defenders under the age of 25, as well as defenders who were injured and have health problems.

As noted, the vast majority of the defenders released today had been held in captivity for more than three years. A significant part of them were captured during the defense of Mariupol.

"The specificity of today's exchange stage is that we managed to return young soldiers home. The youngest Defender is 24 years old and was captured during the defense of Mariupol in April 2022, at the age of 21. We also managed to free the National Guardsmen who were guarding the Chernobyl NPP from captivity. The oldest Defender who was able to be returned to his homeland is 62 years old," the report says.

As part of the agreements, officers also returned home. In general, Ukrainians who defended the country in the Donetsk, Kharkiv, Luhansk, Kherson, Kyiv and Sumy directions are returning home. Representatives of the Ukrainian authorities do not specifically name the number of defenders returned from Russian captivity as part of the new large exchange. This is done for security reasons, and the exact numbers will not be announced until the exchange is completed.

## Ukraine returns 11 more children from occupation



Another 11 Ukrainian children were returned from the temporarily occupied territory of the Kherson region.

The children were returned thanks to the initiative of President Volodymyr Zelenskyy "Bring Kids Back UA" and the efforts of the "Save Ukraine" team. According to the OVA, 8 girls and 3 boys, who are being raised in nine families, managed to return home.

The youngest child is only four years old, the oldest is seventeen. Among them is also one child deprived of parental care.

"These boys and girls were forced to study according to the Russian program, participate in propaganda events, some survived "visits" by armed FSB officers and stay in the so-called "re-education camps". And all this is only because they are Ukrainians," said the head of the OVA, Oleksandr Prokudin.

The OVA also reported that since the beginning of the year, 67 children have already been evacuated from the temporarily occupied communities of the Kherson region.

Recently, Ukraine launched a nationwide campaign to create a single DNA database of relatives of missing children.

## How many missiles Russia produces every month

The Russian Federation produces up to 195 missiles of various types every month. Over the past year, the occupiers have managed to increase production volumes.

Thus, monthly production amounts to up to 60 Iskander-M missiles, up to 20 Iskander-K, up to 60 Kh-101 cruise missiles, as well as up to 10 modernized Kh-32 missiles.

In addition, the enemy produces up to 30 Kalibr missiles and up to 15 Kinzhal hypersonic missiles every month.

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6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	
26	27	28	30	31		

## 19 JUL BENEFIT CONCERT FOR UKRAINE | ORANGE COUNTY

### BandurArts and Ukrainians in Orange County

**Where:** Gloria Dei Lutheran Church of Dana, 33501 Stonehill Dr. Dana Point, CA 92629

**When:** Saturday, 5 PM – 6:30 PM

We cordially invite you to a benefit concert dedicated to the Day of Ukrainian Statehood! This will be an exciting event for the first time in Orange County and Dana Point, where you will be able to immerse yourself in the Ukrainian music and the Ukrainian national instrument Bandura!

Bandura is an incredible and unique instrument of Ukraine. There are no analogues to it in the world, and it carries not only significant national value but also the historical foundation of Ukrainian statehood.

In this concert, you will hear a renowned bandura player and National Artist of Ukraine – Ostap Stakhiw together with bandura player Solomia Stahiv. The concert will warm your heart with national, folk, and modern songs accompanied by the unique and distinctive sounds of the Ukrainian instrument – Bandura.

Our concert is a charity event organized by BandurArts in collaboration with Ukrainians in Orange County (UAOC). We are grateful for your support in our charitable mission to promote

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Link for tickets:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/benefit-concert-for-ukraine-tickets-1400607387399>

<https://www.facebook.com/events/s/benefit-concert-for-ukraine/1807337956495528/>

## 10 AUG BAY AREA UKRAINIAN FEST 2025 | SUNNYVALE

### St. Michael Ukrainian Event Hall, St. Michaels Ukrainian Orthodox Church and Ukrainian American Coordinating Council

**Where:** Baylands Park, 999 East Caribbean Drive, Sunnyvale, 94089

**When:** Sunday, 11:30 AM – 5 PM

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## 17 AUG UKRAINIAN CULTURE

## CELEBRATION | NOVATO

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**When:** Sunday, 10 PM – 2 PM

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<https://www.facebook.com/events/s/ukrainian-culture-celebration/9869040426551335/>

## 23 AUG 15<sup>TH</sup> KIDS FUN FESTIVAL | CUPERTINO

### TCSA Northern California Taiwan Culture and Art Festival

**Where:** Cupertino Memorial Park, 21267 Stevens Creek Blvd, Cupertino, CA 95014

**When:** Sunday, 10 AM

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<https://www.tcsausa.org/kids-fun-festival/>

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## 24 AUG UKRAINIAN INDEPENDENCE DAY | LOS ANGELES

### Ukrainian Culture Center – UCC

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Food, drink, activities for children. More details to come.

Tickets: **\$12.51**

Advance tickets available on Eventbrite:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/ukrainian-independence-day-tickets-1424996636299>

<https://www.facebook.com/events/s/ukrainian-independence-day/720406010944059/>

## 24 AUG UKRAINIAN INDEPENDENCE DAY CONCERT | SAN FRANCISCO

**Ukrainian American Coordinating Council, Ukrainian Heritage Club of Northern California, St. Michael's Ukrainian Orthodox Church, Immaculate Conception Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church, and UNWLA Branch 107 San Jose**

**Where:** Spreckles Temple Of Music, Golden Gate Park, San Francisco, CA 94118

**When:** Sunday, 1 PM – 3 PM  
Join us and celebrate the 34<sup>th</sup> year anniversary of Ukraine's Independence!

The 26<sup>th</sup> annual Ukrainian-American Day Concert with the Golden Gate

Park Band. This free outdoor concert at the Music Concourse Band shell (Spreckles Temple of Music) is to celebrate the 34<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Ukraine's Independence.

Concert Program: To be Announced  
Contact: Maria Tscherepenko at (650) 281-6927.

For information on Public Transit, Driving Directions, Parking, Bikes and Shuttle Services: [http://www.calacademy.org/visit/getting\\_here/](http://www.calacademy.org/visit/getting_here/)

<https://www.facebook.com/events/s/ukrainian-independence-day-con/1722088281739686/>

## 14 SEP UKRAINIAN FASHION SHOW | LOS ANGELES

### Ukrainian Cultural Center

**Where:** Ukrainian Cultural Center, 4315 Melrose Ave, Los Angeles, CA 90029

**When:** Sunday, 1 PM – 5 PM

Join us for an unforgettable cultural experience!

We are honored to welcome special guests from Ukraine:

Bohutska – a famous Ukrainian fashion designer and founder of the Roksolana Bohutska brand, known for her masterful fusion of heritage and contemporary fashion.

Mariya Mulyava, a distinguished collector of authentic Ukrainian traditional clothing, whose curated pieces offer a deep connection to Ukraine's cultural roots.

Elegant Ukrainian Fashion Show, a charity fundraiser dedicated to supporting humanitarian aid efforts for the people of Ukraine affected by war. This unique event brings the heart of Ukraine to the United States through fashion, history, art and traditions.

This showcase will present a breathtaking blend of traditional Ukrainian style and modern design, celebrating the beauty and resilience of Ukrainian culture.

Enjoy symbolic patterns, timeless silhouettes, wine, appetizers, and warm conversation in a welcoming cultural atmosphere.

All proceeds go directly towards aid

in Ukraine.

Tickets: From **\$118.04** (Early bird discount)

<https://www.sharvarok.com/en/listing/ukrainian-fashion-show-los-angeles/427>

## 20 SEP UKRAINIAN FASHION SHOW | FREMONT

### Ukraine Support Foundation - USF

**Where:** Fremont Downtown Event Center, 3500 Capitol Ave, Fremont, CA 94538

**When:** Saturday, 5 PM – 9 PM

Join us for a powerful and elegant Ukrainian Fashion Show, a charity fundraiser dedicated to supporting humanitarian aid efforts for the people of Ukraine affected by war.

This unique event brings the heart of Ukraine to the USA through fashion history, art, and traditions. The showcase will present a breathtaking blend of traditional Ukrainian style and modern design, celebrating the beauty and resilience of Ukrainian culture.

We are honored to welcome two esteemed guests:

– Roksolana Bohutska, a famous Ukrainian fashion designer and founder of the Roksolana Bohutska clothing brand, known for her masterful fusion of heritage and contemporary fashion

– Mariya Mulyava, a distinguished collector of authentic Ukrainian traditional clothing, whose curated pieces offer a deep connection to Ukraine's cultural roots

Enjoy symbolic patterns, timeless silhouettes, wine, appetizers, and warm conversation in a welcoming cultural atmosphere.

All proceeds go directly toward humanitarian aid in Ukraine.

Stand with Ukraine – celebrate its legacy through compassion, unity and style.

Dress code: Black tie. No admittance in sportswear or flip flops.

Tickets: **From \$118.04 – \$150**

<https://www.facebook.com/events/s/ukrainian-fashion-show-san-fran/1731796384212910/>