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EXCLUSIVE FOR HROMADA

Vitaliy Portnykov | NOTES FOR JULY

TRUMP VS. PUTIN



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

Just a month ago, Trump referred to Putin as someone who wants to end the war, but in July, at a meeting of the US government, he was **already talking about the Russian president as someone who constantly spouts nonsense**.

What is going on? Why was Trump willing to ignore Putin's mockery and refusal to meet any of his wishes during five consecutive phone calls, only to turn into an angry fury before our very eyes? And this may only be the beginning.

Because **Putin made mistakes in his usual style**.

On the eve of his sixth conversation with Putin, Trump made a decisive concession to his Russian counterpart: he stopped supplying weapons to Ukraine. Prior to that, Russian financial institutions had been partially exempted from sanctions. Although formally this only concerned the Syrian case, in reality it was a real signal.

Putin should have responded by pretending to be constructive. He should have announced a ceasefire for 48 hours or a week, said he was ready for talks in Istanbul tomorrow, and told Trump he was preparing new proposals to add to his memorandum.

However, Putin decided, for reasons unknown, that he already had Trump in his pocket and no longer needed to imitate anything. He seemed not to notice that Trump was already irritated after the previous two phone calls. Or perhaps he decided that if Trump continued to make concessions even after these two phone calls, his irritation was irrelevant. He

miscalculated.

The most interesting thing happened next. Putin ignored both Trump's irritation and the lack of any comment from the White House on the presidents' phone call. Instead, he staged a massive shelling of Ukraine, as if to show off: now anything is possible.

The fact that this shelling began simultaneously with the end of the presidents' telephone conversation – that is, it was planned in advance to coincide with the end of this telephone conversation – became the main irritant for Trump. He could have survived an unsuccessful telephone conversation. But he **perceived the shelling immediately after the conversation as a demonstrative sign of disrespect towards himself**. After all, he constantly asks Putin not to shell peaceful cities.

The fact that Putin deliberately does this immediately after talking to him is a manifestation of personal disrespect. And personal disrespect is Trump's main complex. This is no longer on a political level, it is on a subconscious level.

And Putin succeeded. He effectively negated months of courtship, compliments, portraits, and all that nonsense. Trump now says that Putin is very polite, but that is completely meaningless.

At the same time, **it is impossible to explain to Putin where he went wrong, because Putin did what he always does**. What's more, he did what any "proper" person from Russia always does – when they see that they are being treated politely and accommodated, they believe that they need to be knocked down a peg or two so that the client clearly understands how to behave. Therefore, Putin is unlikely to correct anything.

And therefore Putin is unlikely to fix anything. He will tell himself that

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he has had enough time to use Trump, and now he needs to return to his usual policy of confrontation. Only here he can be wrong. When Putin switched to his usual policy of confrontation with Biden, he was dealing with a traditional politician who calculated the consequences of his every move.

And in the case of Trump, it won't work that way. Putin will now have to deal with an offended child who will defend his dignity and prove that he cannot be trampled on. Because this child is the president of the United States of America.

If Putin does not realize in time that he should reconsider and offer Trump something that demonstrates to the American president that the Russian leader respects him and understands that Trump's wishes should be heeded – well, say, to stop the fighting on the Russian-Ukrainian front – I don't really envy Putin.

So far, the Kremlin is trying to pretend that nothing has happened. Putin is still silent. Deputy Chairman of the Security Council of the Russian Federation and former Russian President Dmitry Medvedev ridiculed Trump after he issued his 50-day ultimatum to Russia and its allies who continue economic cooperation with Moscow. Medvedev called Trump's statements a decorative ultimatum and stressed that the American president had disappointed militant Europe.

Indeed, the Russian capital did not pay much attention to the US president's latest statements. Moreover, the Moscow stock exchange rose after Trump concluded his meeting with NATO Secretary General Mark Rutte, at which the relevant statements were made.

However, are Trump's statements really so safe for the Russian leadership? And, is it really appro-



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prate for Medvedev, who has already refuted his statements several times after relevant comments from American and Western politicians, as, by the way, happened with Trump as well, to laugh at the American president?

Fifty days is indeed a long time, allowing the Russian Federation to continue its offensive against Ukrainian positions without any serious problems, as well as to carry out systematic shelling of Ukrainian cities and towns, destroying Ukraine's military-industrial complex and forcing Ukrainian citizens to consider surrendering to Russia, which Putin continues to count on. But, on the other hand, Trump emphasizes that he will provide Ukraine with new weapons.

These weapons, of course, should deter the Russian offensive, which already seems unrealistic given the position of the Russian armed forces on Ukrainian soil.

The supply of new air defense systems to Ukraine also creates problems for further shelling of Ukrainian territory by Russian invaders. Well, now the Western media emphasize that the United States may allow Ukraine to strike deep into Russia with ATACMS missiles, which are already in service with the Ukrainian Armed Forces. Thus, **numerous military and energy facilities in the Russian Federation could soon catch fire**, which, of course, will create additional problems for the Russian economy, which is already exhausted by sanctions and war.

Of course, one could argue that this economy has survived the most serious sanctions pressure from the West, and now Putin, in alliance with the People's Republic of China, can look confidently to the military future. But the promise of a 100% tariff for countries that continue to buy oil from the Russian Federation does create certain

problems for the Russian energy sector.

Russia remains a state whose budget is primarily linked to energy supplies. And any problems with such supplies reduce the capabilities of the Russian budget and Putin's plans for a long-term war with Ukraine.

Prior to Trump's speech, the Russian president's greatest ally was not even China, but time. It is the long-term war of attrition of Ukraine, as the Russian president reasoned, that will sooner or later put an end to the history of the neighboring state and allow it to annex Ukrainian territories to Russia, which, in turn, will allow it to proceed to the restoration of the borders of the former Soviet Union, which will become the borders of the new Russia. However, now that Russia may simply run out of money for this imperialistic experiment of its second president, **Putin will have to consider whether the fate of the Soviet Union awaits the Russian Federation.**

Soviet leaders were so caught up in the arms race with the US and other Western countries that they failed to notice how the history of their criminal, misanthropic state was coming to an end. Although, I would like to remind you, the leaders of the West at that time, who were ready for further confrontation with the communist system, did not expect such an outcome either.

It is obvious that Ronald Reagan, François Mitterrand, and Margaret Thatcher wanted coexistence with a more predictable Soviet Union, rather than the demise of the communist empire and the greatest crisis in its existence since the Bolsheviks' victory in 1917-1920. Putin and Medvedev's Russia may face the same inglorious fate.

Donald Trump would apparently like to force the Russian president to compromise and suspend military action

in Ukraine, and emphasizes that he is determined. But **in reality, the American president is simply dragging the Russian leadership into a new arms race with the West and a struggle to prove that "no one will ever dictate anything to Russia."**

Putin may choose to adopt the Brezhnev-Andropov tactics in his dealings with the US leadership. He may continue to increase the pace of his offensive in Ukraine and shell Ukrainian territory, ignoring Trump's ultimatums, which the Kremlin considers decorative. The American president will continue to be perceived by Putin either as someone who can be easily manipulated, thereby creating favorable conditions for the continuation of the war with Ukraine, which Putin hates, or simply ignored when Trump issues his warnings. And Trump will increase his statements about Russia and actions to help Ukraine, hoping that sooner or later the Russian political leadership will realize the importance of a compromise with Washington.

And there will be no compromise. There will be an escalation of war and crisis in the post-Soviet space. Putin will look for Trump's weaknesses not only when it comes to the Russian-Ukrainian war, but also when it comes to other regions of the world. Russia will increase its cooperation with Iran and North Korea to create new crisis moments for the United States, and Trump will respond to these challenges from Putin.

And in the end, the Russian economy may not be able to withstand this frantic pace of struggle. Under Trump or his successor, a crisis will begin in the post-Soviet space, which can be compared to the crisis of the former Soviet Union. Only now the main figure in this crisis will be Putin's Russia itself with its aggressive ambitions.

EXCLUSIVE FOR HROMADA

Oles Doniy

PROTESTS HAVE RETURNED TO UKRAINE



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

After an almost three-year pause, street protests have returned to Ukraine. They have returned despite the war, air raid sirens, the monopolization of power, and what would seem to be total political apathy. This time, the trigger was a law changing the subordination of the NABU (National Anti-Corruption Bureau of Ukraine). However, if we look deeper, this vivid, albeit isolated, outbreak is only the culmination of a long-standing process of monopolization of power, fatigue, and a sense of absolute impunity among those in power.

1. July: the month when something broke.

At the beginning of July, it seemed that the country was living in its usual “war marathon” mode, with the authorities allowing themselves to do whatever they wanted in “turbo mode.” President Zelenskyy, as in previous months, made statements that the war would continue, but we would not break. The country got a new Cabinet of Ministers, the Verkhovna Rada voted in a controlled manner, and the front remained unchanged.

Then everything changed.

A couple of days before the vote in the Verkhovna Rada (Parliament), the authorities tried to discredit NABU with information, then on July 22, in a “blitzkrieg” the law was voted on and quickly signed by the President. This law, despite the camouflage of technicality, actually changed the balance of power in the anti-corruption system

and gave the Bankova (Office of the President) leverage over NABU – a body that is conditionally not yet fully under its control.

Protests began. At first, there were a few dozen young activists near the Franko Theater in Kyiv (not far from the President’s Office). Later, students, human rights activists, and journalists joined the activists. Within a few days, the protest grew to several thousand people and spread to other cities. These were not as massive as the Maidan protests during the Ukrainian revolutions, but they were something completely new in an atmosphere of total monopoly of power, and certainly completely unexpected for everyone.

2. Illegal change of government.

Against the backdrop of the scandalous law on NABU, a more significant event was seemingly lost, which theoretically should have caused, if not a large-scale scandal, then at least a public outcry, but was met with silent consent from society. We are talking about the change of government and the prime minister, who, incidentally, held his position for the longest time in Ukrainian history.

On July 16, in direct violation of the “Law on the Legal Regime of Martial Law,” which prohibits a change of government during martial law, the Verkhovna Rada accepted the resignation of Prime Minister Denys Shmyhal and approved a new Prime Minister, Yulia Svyrydenko. Almost half of the Cabinet was replaced. Formally, it is a “personnel renewal”, in fact, it is a political “blitzkrieg”. In order to avoid holding elections, the authorities constantly refer to the “Law on the Legal Regime of Martial Law,” but no one here showed any interest in the legal grounds. Everything was attributed to “military necessity.”

3. The law on multiple citizenship.

Another example of the omnipotence of the authorities, despite the current laws and the Constitution, was the “Law on Multiple Citizenship”. It was voted on by the Verkhovna Rada back in June, and it was signed by President Zelensky on July 15. The law introduces

the possibility of having more than one citizenship – despite the direct norm of the Constitution of Ukraine (Article 4): “There is a single citizenship in Ukraine”.

The explanations were noble: to help the diaspora and attract foreign Ukrainians. And in fact, thousands of Ukrainians, after being forced to emigrate due to Russian aggression, are already prepared to take citizenship in other countries. It is obvious that the Ukrainian state does not benefit from a mass exodus from Ukrainian citizenship. Plus, global trends are increasingly encouraging many people to identify with multiple identities. But such a blatant violation of the Constitution showed that the government, which has become de facto “lifetime” as a result of the war, is not even trying to create the appearance of compliance with the law, and society seems to have neither the desire nor the ability to put pressure on the government.

4. Washington’s influence.

It is noteworthy that the personnel changes in July coincided with a certain foreign policy vector. It was Yulia Svyrydenko, the new prime minister, while still in the position of deputy prime minister, who signed an ambiguous memorandum with the US on “access to critical minerals.” The document provides for priority access for American channels to Ukrainian resources on terms that many experts have called neocolonial.

Another key appointment was the departure of Rustem Umerov from the post of defense minister and his promotion to the post of secretary of the National Security and Defense Council (NSDC), a body that during the war is effectively the strategic governing body of the state. It was Umerov who led and continues to lead the Ukrainian delegation at the negotiations in Istanbul, which, according to available information, were initiated by the US and are disadvantageous for Ukraine, but have, unfortunately, effectively legitimized the Russian dictator in the eyes of the international community.

In both cases (Svyrydenko and Umerov) we see politicians who are con-

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Bonsall, CA 92003****kinaldds@gmail.com****ПОВНИЙ СПЕКТР СТОМАТОЛОГІЧНОЇ ДІЯЛЬНОСТІ
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venient for the new American administration of Donald Trump. Therefore, we can assume that such personnel rotations are not only internal intrigues within the Ukrainian government, but also a step towards the new American administration.

5. NABU as a bargaining chip.

Why did the authorities enter into conflict with NABU, understanding that the creation of this body was initiated by international partners and, accordingly, it has the support of Ukrainian allies?

On the surface, it appears that the Ukrainian government is gravitating toward increasing monopolism. And the longer there are no elections (and there may not be any for years, or even decades), the more monolithic this monopoly will become. The process of taking control of all possible state structures has been going on for a long time, and sooner or later it would have come to NABU. But why now? Opponents of the current government have spread information in the media and on social networks that NABU allegedly has recordings known as the "Mindich tapes," which supposedly contain conversations that compromise Volodymyr Zelenskyy personally. However, no one has provided any recordings, so this information may turn out to be either true or a dirty and brutal special

operation. At the same time, there is indirect evidence that it was precisely some activity on the part of NABU that caused such categorical rejection by the ruling party. For example, one of the deputies from the Servant of the People party, Vasyl Virastyuk, carelessly said in response to a question about why he personally voted for the controversial bill: "They did not fully do what needed to be done. They collected information on who was needed and who was not needed."

Not the main version – again foreign policy. For years, NABU had the image of a structure that was supposedly focused on cooperation with representatives of the US Democratic Party, or with those in Ukraine who had ties to this party. Under the Biden administration, the bureau enjoyed direct support from the State Department, and it was it that "handled" sensitive cases involving high-ranking Ukrainian officials. After Trump returned to power, the Office of the President could quite possibly have hoped that the "cleansing" of NABU would be perceived as a welcome renewal and would be tolerated by the White House.

6. Society is silent. Not this time, though.

What has become commonplace in Ukraine after a full-scale invasion is the reaction of society. Or rather, its ab-

sence. Monopolization of power, refusal of elections for an indefinite period – silence. Change of Government in violation of the law – silence. Law on multiple citizenship in violation of the Constitution – silence. Until the law on NABU came.

And it was here that something snapped. It was this law, oddly enough, that became the trigger for street protests, the so-called "cardboard Maidan". Surprisingly, for some young people, NABU has become a symbol. For some, it is a guarantee of control over corrupt officials, for others, it is the remnants of the West in Ukrainian governance. A strange "red line", but, as it turned out, it is still a "red line".

7. What's next?

July showed that Ukraine is already different. Outwardly, it is at war with the Russian enemy, but it turns out that internally it is not as toothless as some thought. It is tired, but not indifferent. Yes, the protest is still weak. Yes, the reason is more tactical than strategic. Yes, society as a whole is not yet ready for a more global demand for the return of democratic practices and procedures, and therefore elections.

Nevertheless, the authorities, who believed that they were in power for life and that they could do anything, have reason to reflect.

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FR. ROMAN BEBESIUK | SPIRITUAL TREASURY

THE THIRD COMMANDMENT OF GOD



Fr. lic. Roman Bebesiuk –
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

Dear readers!

When we reflect on God's Commandments with faith, we understand that these are not dry instructions, but the voice of a loving Father calling us to the fullness of life. After a deep awareness of the greatness of God's Name, which cannot be used in vain, the Lord leads us further – to an invitation to meet Him in the time that belongs to Him.

"Remember the holy day to celebrate" – this third Commandment sounds like a gentle but firm call: stop! Get out of the flow of daily bustle, put things on the back burner and open your heart to God, to yourself, to your neighbor.

This is not just a prescription for rest. It is an invitation to love. It is an opportunity to return your soul to the source of life – to God.

So I invite you, dear in Christ, to reflect together on what it really means to celebrate the Lord's Day. How can we experience it not only as an obligation, but as a blessing? And why Sunday is more than a day off.

ABOUT THE CELEBRATION OF SUNDAY

Imagine a day when God himself calls you to stop, to take off the burden of daily worries and simply be with Him. Such a day exists – it is Sunday, given to us by the Third Commandment of God.

This commandment is not limited to the prescription to refrain from work. It is like an invitation to a festive meeting with the Creator, Who wants to be not only in our prayers, but also in our time. That is why Sunday has become for Christians the "Lord's day" – a special space for unity with God.

The Church has long taught that the celebration of Sunday has two key dimensions:

- participation in the Holy Liturgy,
- abstinence from heavy physical labor.

In this reflection, we will focus on the first – the deepest: meeting with Christ in the Liturgy in the Eucharist.

SABBATH OBSERVANCE IN THE OLD TESTAMENT

To better understand the meaning of Sunday, we need to go back to the origins – to the Sabbath in the Old Testament. This day was for the Israelites a reminder of God's great works: the creation of the world, liberation from slavery, and the covenant with God.

The Lord clearly spoke to His people: "Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy... For in six days the Lord made heaven and earth... but on the seventh day He rested; therefore the Lord blessed the seventh day and sanctified it" (Ex. 20:8-11).

The Sabbath was not just a break – it was a sign of trust in God, that everything is held in His hand, even when man is resting.

CELEBRATION OF SUNDAY IN THE NEW TESTAMENT

But with the coming of Christ, a new day comes – the day of light, the day of victory over death. It is Sunday, the first day after the Sabbath, that becomes a symbol of the new creation and the new Covenant in Christ.

On Sunday, Jesus gloriously rose.

On Sunday, the Holy Spirit descended on the Apostles.

On Sunday, Christ's disciples began to break bread – to celebrate the Eucharist.

Therefore, according to the words of the Second Vatican Council: "According to the apostolic tradition... the Church celebrates the Paschal Mystery every eighth day, which she rightly calls the Lord's Day, or Sunday."

For the first Christians, Sunday was a day of a living encounter with the Risen One. On this day, they did not simply remember the event – they experienced it: in Confession, in Communion, in community. And that is why Sunday was joyful: without fasting, without kneeling – because it was a day of light, a day of life.

For centuries, Christians have passed on this holy understanding of Sunday as a "little Easter." And today it remains a time when we can break away from everything temporary and turn to the eternal. Because Sunday is not just a rest. It is an encounter with the Living God.

THE OBLIGATION TO PARTICIPATE IN THE HOLY LITURGY

Participating in the Holy Liturgy is the first and most important feature of honoring the Lord's Day. The center of worship in the Church of Christ from apostolic times to the present day is the Most Holy Eucharist. The Most Holy Eucharist culminates in the Holy Liturgy. Without the Liturgy, there is no Holy Eucharist, there is no Holy Communion. Therefore, the Holy Liturgy is the most important, most valuable, and most holy thing that the Church of Christ has.

Jesus Christ offered only one bloody Sacrifice on the cross. But out of love for us, He desired to sacrifice not once, but thousands of times, therefore He established at the Last Supper the bloodless Sacrifice of the New Testament – the Holy Liturgy.

In the first centuries, Christians often participated in the Holy Liturgy, even daily, but Sunday was the day of the general assembly of the Christian community. In the work "The Teaching of the 12 Apostles", dating from the second century, we read: "On the Lord's Day, come together and break Bread and give thanks, having previously confessed your sins, so that your sacrifice may be pure".

From what has been said, it follows that even then there was a practice of frequent confession and Holy Communion and the obligation of the Sunday Holy Liturgy.

The initial participation of all the faithful in the Sunday Holy Liturgy was



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not an obligation imposed by the Church; custom and zeal were for them an unwritten law. Church laws regarding Sunday appear somewhat later, when Christian zeal began to cool down.

The first laws of the Western Church, which required being in church every Sunday, originate from the Synod of Elvira (Spain, early 4th century). This Synod decided to excommunicate from the Church for a short time those who had not been to church for three Sundays. The Synod of Agde (France, 506) imposed an express obligation to participate in the Sunday Holy Liturgy.

In the Eastern Church, the local Synod of Sardis (Bulgaria, 347), in the 11th canon, recalls that there is a law from the Holy Fathers to exclude from the Church those who, living in a city, had not been to church for three weeks.

In the decisions of the Zamoyski Synod of 1720 regarding Sunday duty, we read: "The Synod has decreed regarding the parish Divine Service that for the better benefit of the parishioners a certain hour should be appointed, and that it should begin no later than noon" (Tit. III, § 4).

St. John Chrysostom, teaching about Sunday duty, says: "The week has seven days. God has divided those se-

ven days with us in such a way that He did not take more for Himself, but gave us less, and did not even divide them equally – He did not take three for Himself and did not give us three, but He set aside six for us, and took one for Himself. And you do not want to refrain from worldly affairs on this day, but as sacrilegious people do, so you dare to act with this day, stealing and using it for worldly affairs, when it is sanctified and intended for listening to spiritual teachings."

Sunday Holy Liturgy should be valuable, holy and desirable for us, because it is an inexhaustible source of God's grace and blessings. It teaches us to love God and our neighbor, gives us the spirit of prayer and understanding of sacrifice, and sanctifies our whole life. Whoever neglects to attend the Holy Liturgy on Sunday loses a great deal. That is why the Holy Church insists so strongly on the obligation to participate in the Holy Liturgy on Sunday. So let it be something most precious and most holy for us.

ABOUT SUNDAY REST

The first duty that the Third Commandment of God imposes on us is the celebration of Sunday through participation in the Holy Liturgy. The second duty is to observe Sunday rest, to

abandon heavy physical labor.

Just as participation in the Holy Liturgy is of great importance for the glory of God and our spiritual life, so Sunday rest is of great importance, first of all, for the physical life of our family, children, and social life.

So let's take a closer look at the history of Sunday rest and its significance for us, at the work prohibited on Sunday, and the reasons that may exempt us from Sunday rest and the obligation to be in church.

HISTORY OF SUNDAY REST

Sunday rest is the second feature of the Christian holy day. Christianity was persecuted in the early centuries, so for the first Christians Sunday was an ordinary working day. They had to work during the week, and had their Sunday services in the evening or morning in the catacombs.

Sunday rest began to gain increasing importance only when Christianity received complete freedom under Emperor Constantine the Great in 313. The first laws on Sunday rest did not come from the Church, but from the state. Emperor Constantine the Great issued a decree in 321, which stated: "On the highly revered day, let all judges, the city population and all kinds of artisans rest."

The historian Eusebius (c. 340) testifies that Emperor Constantine the Great made Sunday a day of prayer and rest, and obliged all his subjects to leave their occupations on this day, and gave freedom to soldiers so that they could participate in church services. Similarly, Emperor Theodosius the Great issued a decree in 386 on the celebration of Sunday. Violation of this law was punished as sacrilege.

Obviously, the aforementioned state laws highly exalted the sanctity of Sunday. On the basis of state laws, the Church also began to increasingly order its faithful to refrain from physical labor on Sunday. The Synod of Laodicea (Asia Minor, 364) prescribed, if possible, to rest on Sunday. Emperor Leo the Wise (886-911) forbade farmers from working on Sunday.

From the 8th century onwards, more and more local Councils prescribed Sunday rest. In the Western Church, the law of Sunday rest became general under Pope St. Gregory IX in 1234. Metropolitan Yuri of Kyiv (1069-1072) gave the rule in his Statute: "On Sundays, one may not work until evening."

THE MEANING OF SUNDAY REST

The Lord God, giving the Commandment to celebrate the holy day, had in mind not only His glory, but also the good of man, which consists in spiritual and physical renewal. Every work, especially hard physical work, exhausts our limited strength. Just as after a day's work we need a few hours of sleep to restore energy, so after six days of work we need a separate day for complete rest. Even a machine must stop from time to time, otherwise it will stop working.

Sunday rest is of great importance for our daily life. It gives us time to fulfill those duties and affairs that we cannot do during the week while working. On Sunday, after participating in the Holy Liturgy, we have more time for private prayer and reading useful literature.

Sunday rest is directly related to unity and love in the family and the good upbringing of children.

"It is obvious," says the Servant of God Metropolitan Andriy Sheptytsky, "that the celebration of Sunday brings great and overwhelming benefits for moral life. Keeping the third commandment of God protects people from being preoccupied with the material side of life... Sunday rest for workers is also of great importance in raising children. For a worker, particularly one who works in large factories, Sunday reminds them of the duties and joys of family life, raising children, and the comfort that well-bred children bring

to parents. The educational power of the Church also includes the fact that on Sundays and holidays everyone gathers in church, just as children of one family gather in their father's house. Rich and poor, learned and simple people, old and young, through the wise guidance of the Church, come closer together. The Church reminds everyone of their mutual duties and proclaims the law of love. Approaching the Most Holy Eucharist together, Christians learn to respect each other as brothers and remember that it is not the one who has the most expensive clothes who is worthy, but the one who is more worthy in the eyes of the Most High God" ("On the Celebration of Sunday").

WORKS PROHIBITED ON SUNDAY

Work can be physical, mental, or mental-physical. Physical work, that is, work performed by the power of our body, is prohibited on Sunday. Such work was often called service work, because in ancient times it was performed by servants or slaves.

However, mental work is permitted, for example: reading, writing, drawing, embroidery, singing, playing musical instruments (if this is not the purpose of earning money). Mental-physical work is also permitted, such as: walking, driving, dancing, fishing, playing games (not gambling), etc.

REASONS THAT EXEMPT FROM SUNDAY OBLIGATION

What can exempt us from participation in the Holy Liturgy and observance of Sunday rest? There must be good reasons for this.

The sick or those who are recovering are exempt from Sunday duty. An obstacle to the fulfillment of Sunday duty can be works of mercy, such as: caring for the sick at home or in hospitals; helping neighbors in unexpected troubles – during a fire or flood. These include military personnel, mothers or nannies who cannot take small children to church and have no one to ask for help.

However, the circumstance does not exempt from Sunday duty if someone went for a walk and returned exhausted or stayed late at a feast, entertainment or received guests at their home.

The first Christians, even during persecutions, participated in St. Liturgy in the catacombs, even putting their own lives at risk. Our Church also prayed the Liturgy underground under the threat of deportation of the faithful to Siberia, or even death.

The celebration of Sunday is the oldest and most sacred Christian tradition,

because it comes from the Apostles themselves. Therefore, participation in the Sunday Holy Liturgy and observance of Sunday rest should be natural, obvious, a real need of the soul and body for us.

SPIRITUAL CONCLUSION

Sunday is not just a break in the hustle and bustle or another day off on the calendar. It is our personal charge from God, a moment when we have a chance to disconnect from the noise of the world and connect to the true source of strength – the Living Christ.

On Sunday, God invites us not just to come to church, but to enter His presence, to feel that we are not alone, that we are part of a big family united by love and light. Here we receive strength that no cup or gadget can give.

Sunday rest is not "lost time", but an investment in ourselves: in our soul, in our relationships with God and loved ones, in our true happiness. By refusing unnecessary noise, we learn to listen to our heart and hear the voice of God, which calls for peace, joy and freedom.

So, let's not just "mark" Sunday on the calendar – let's live it! Let us open our hearts to God, rest our bodies and souls, allow ourselves to be filled with light, so that we can carry God's grace into our world and the world of others all week long.

Sunday's encounter with God is our personal key to true freedom and the strength to live truly.

GREAT HOLIDAYS – SPIRITUAL HIGHLIGHTS OF THE CHURCH YEAR

In addition to Sundays, the Church gives us 12 more great holidays – spiritual landmarks that help us to experience the events of salvation more deeply. These holidays are not just historical memories, but a real experience of God's action in our lives. Through the celebrations, we immerse ourselves in the mysteries of the incarnation, suffering, resurrection and glorification of our Lord and the Most Holy Theotokos.

Here are the 12 greatest holidays:

The Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary (September 8)

The Exaltation of the Holy Cross (September 14)

The Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary (November 21)

The Nativity of Christ (December 25)

Theophany (Jordan) (January 6)

The Meeting of the Lord (February 2)

The Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary (March 25)

The Entry of the Lord into Jerusalem (Palm Sunday, the Sunday before Easter)

The Ascension of the Lord (40th day after Easter)

The Descent of the Holy Spirit (Pentecost, the 50th day after Easter)

The Transfiguration of the Lord (August 6)

The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary (August 15)

WHY IS IT IMPORTANT TO CELEBRATE?

Holidays are not "breaks" from life. They are life itself, illuminated by God's presence. This is a time when we open the doors of our hearts to God's grace. Through these holidays, we build our spiritual identity, learn to live not only for the earthly, but also for the eternal.

Neglecting holidays is a gradual spiritual forgetting of ourselves. And celebration is a choice to stand on the side of the Risen One, to be a witness of light in a dark world.

So, dear readers! Let us not perceive Sunday and holidays as "religious formalities", but as a chance to change, mature, and grow. These are days when our soul breathes fully. They teach us to be free – in God, in truth, in love.

God gives us these sacred days – let us accept them as the greatest treasure.

ABOUT THE TEMPLE FEAST – THE HOLIDAY OF OUR PARISH FAMILY

In addition to Sundays and twelve feasts, the celebration of a temple holiday, or, as we also say, a parish holiday, is extremely important. This is a day dedicated to the patron saint or the event in honor of which the temple was consecrated. And although this holiday may not be among the twelve, for each parish community it is a special day of grace, unity and gratitude.

It is like the birthday of our spiritual family, when we gather together not only for common prayer, but also for the renewal of our faith, service, and fellowship. The history, tradition and living faith of the community are concentrated in the temple holiday. This is a holiday of our roots and our future.

Therefore, participation in a temple holiday is an expression of love for our Church, for the parish, for God who works among us.

Like Sunday, like the great holidays, the temple feast is a day of special blessing.

CELEBRATING THE DAY OF OUR BAPTISM AND CHRISTIAN ANOINTING – THE DAY OF BIRTH IN CHRIST






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One of the important holidays in the life of a Christian is the day of Baptism – the day when we become children of God, members of the Body of Christ, heirs of eternal life.

Unfortunately, for many this day remains only a date in the metric or a memory from a photo album. But in reality it is a spiritual birth, the day when

the heavens opened above us, when the Holy Spirit descended on our lives, and we were "anointed" for eternity.

"For all of you who were baptized into Christ have put on Christ" (Gal. 3:27).

Baptism is not just a rite, but the beginning of a new life. And just as we celebrate the birthday of the body every year, so we should celebrate the birthday of the soul even more.

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A good tradition is to remember the date of your baptism, to give thanks for it, to visit the temple on this day, to confess and receive communion, and to remember the godparents who accompany us in faith.

This is also an opportunity to renew your baptismal vow, to say to God: "I belong to You", to renew faith and love, to remember that Christ lives in me, and I am called to holiness.

LET'S SUMMARIZE

Celebrating Sunday, the Twelve Feasts, the Temple Feast, and Baptism is not just a duty. It is a living encounter with Christ, it is a touch of eternity in the rhythm of our time. When we leave our everyday lives and come to the temple, we allow God to enter our lives, change us, strengthen, comfort, and elevate us.

Sunday is the day of the Risen Jesus,

the day when life rose from the tomb.

Great holidays are turning points in salvation that we experience anew in prayer.

The Temple Feast is the feast of our community, our spiritual home.

Baptism is a spiritual birth into Eternal Life.

All of these are God's gifts.

And only one thing is required from our side – an open heart and presence in God's temple in His presence.

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PROSECUTION OF WAR CRIMES

On June 9, the Consulate General of Ukraine in San Francisco organized a meeting of the Ukrainian community of California with the Ukrainian delegation within the framework of the US Congressional Open World program. The delegation members discussed the issues of recording war crimes, technical and legal support for investigations and judicial proceedings, and exchanged ideas for cooperation and collaboration. Maryna Bondarenko, judge-speaker of the Darnytskyi District Court of Kyiv, answered the questions of the correspondent of the newspaper "Hromada" Oleh Kernytsky.

1. What was the main purpose of your delegation's visit?

Our delegation's visit was within the framework of the Open World project, funded by the US Congress. However, each of the delegates in our group is connected to the topic of war crimes. Communication on this topic by representatives of all branches of Ukrainian government, as in our group, is necessary.

Yes, war crimes are one of the types of international crimes, which also include genocide, the crime of aggression and crimes against humanity. And it is this type of international crimes as war crimes that have been committed in the largest number since the beginning of the war in 2014.

But international crimes and bringing those responsible for their commission are not an issue that concerns Ukraine alone, because this is not an internal conflict. And it is not even an issue of one part of the world – Europe.

If in the modern world any state considers itself a civilized one, then it is no longer possible to remain aloof from such a scale of international crimes committed in war, which one of the largest countries in the world began with aggressive and genocidal encroachments.

Crimes are being committed as a result of the initiated crime of aggression by another state – the Russian Federation, since February 20, 2014 and to this day. They are being committed even now, while this conversation is ongoing...

It was extremely important to convey the position that international crimes do not see state borders, war criminals were already detained on the border with the USA after the start of the full-scale invasion. In addition,



unlearned lessons of history can have irreparable consequences for millions of people. And here too, a parallel could be drawn with the Second World War, which began somewhere in Europe... across the ocean...

A person is the highest value, so it is advisable to take steps in time to preserve human life in order to stop the continuous evil raging on the planet, than in the future, only to express sincere regret over the death of millions...

2. How can Ukrainian refugees currently residing in the US who have witnessed Russian war crimes report them or give testimony?

In this matter, it is important to note that victims of crimes and witnesses should not remain silent. This is extremely important, given the various circumstances. Yes, the Ukrainian investigation has a certain, so to speak, picture of the crimes committed in Ukraine. None of the victims and witnesses may even imagine how the information they reported can become decisive, even when investigating other crimes. At the same time, for a person telling a story, even if it is so difficult and tragic, the result may also be a certain healing.

The following information is publicly available on the ways to report information about war crimes.

You can report a war crime through several channels: the official website warcrimes.gov.ua, the chat bot [@russian_war_tribunal_bot](https://t.me/russian_war_tribunal_bot), the e-mail tribunal.2022.02.24@gmail.com, as well as through the "Kyiv Digital" application in the "Citizens' Testimonies" section. It is also worth contacting

law enforcement agencies, such as the National Police (102) or the Prosecutor General's Office.

More details on how to report:

- warcrimes.gov.ua:

This website is the only state hub for collecting evidence of war crimes. You can fill out a form, upload photo/video evidence, and provide detailed information about the crime.

- Chatbot [@russian_war_tribunal_bot](https://t.me/russian_war_tribunal_bot):

Created to collect evidence of war crimes, in particular against civilians and prisoners of war.

- Email tribunal.2022.02.24@gmail.com:

Specifically for collecting information about crimes committed by Russian military personnel.

- Chatbot in the Kyiv Digital app:

The "Citizen Testimony" section is designed to collect information about war crimes.

- National Police (102):

You can call this number to report a crime and get help.

- Office of the Prosecutor General:

Contact the Office to report a crime and receive support, especially if it concerns crimes committed in temporarily occupied territories.

- State Service for Special Communications and Information Protection of Ukraine:

Provides information on the possibility of submitting evidence via the [Tribunal.ua](https://tribunal.ua) chatbot.

- International Criminal Court:

Evidence of war crimes can be sent to the Chief Prosecutor by email at [otp.informationdesk@icc-cpi.int](mailto:informationdesk@icc-cpi.int).

Important information to include in your report:

- The exact location and time of the crime.
- The circumstances of the crime and its consequences.
- Information about the victims, witnesses, and, if possible, the perpetrators.
- Details about the weapons, equipment, and other items used.
- Photo or video evidence, if available.

The more detailed the information about the war crime is, the more likely it is to be used in court proceedings.

3. Do you cooperate with Ukrainian or international human rights organizations? If so, which ones?

In Ukraine, the activities of such a human rights organization as the Ukrainian Helsinki Union for Human Rights are widespread.

The mission of the organization is defined as follows:

The Ukrainian Helsinki Union promotes the development of a humane society based on respect for human life, dignity, and harmonious relations between man, the state, and nature by creating a platform for cooperation between members of the Union and other participants in the human rights movement.

The history of the Ukrainian Helsinki Human Rights Union, from the Union's official website:

The Ukrainian Helsinki Human Rights Union (UHHRU) is the largest association of human rights organizations in Ukraine.

The Union brings together 26 non-governmental human rights organizations. The goal of the UHHRU is to protect human rights.

The UHHRU considers itself part of the Helsinki movement and a continuation of the traditions and activities of the Ukrainian Helsinki Group for the Promotion of the Implementation of the Helsinki Accords (UHG).

On August 1, 1975, the governments of 35 European and North American countries, including the USSR, signed the Helsinki Accords, which were intended to consolidate new relations in Europe and ensure the implementation of high principles of democracy and human rights in each of them. Realizing that this was practically impossible under Soviet Ukraine, on November 9, 1976, a group of human rights activists came together to promote the implementation of the Helsinki Accords. The UHG was created with the following members: Oles Berdnyk – science fiction writer, Petro Hryhorenko (he became the group's representative in Moscow), Levko Lukyanenko, Oksana Meshko, Nina Strokataya, Ivan Kandyba, Oleksi

Tykhyi, Mykola Rudenko (head of the group), Myroslav Marynovych, and Mykola Matuskevych.

The UHG became the largest human rights organization in the republic. Among its 36 members were such well-known dissidents as Nadiya Svitlychna, Vyacheslav Chornovil, Vasyl Stus, Vasyl Ovsienko, Mykola Horbal, and others. Despite constant repression, the UHG did not cease to exist. From 1987, when legal activity gradually became more possible, almost all members of the UHG who returned from the camps became involved in political activity. When Ukraine became independent, the human rights movement had to be created from scratch.

In 2002, on the initiative of the Kharkiv Human Rights Group, the Council of Ukrainian Human Rights Organizations (RUPOR) was created. Volodymyr Yavorskyi became the executive director of the Council. In 2002-2004, RUPOR grew into one of the strongest human rights organizations in Ukraine.

On April 1, 2004, after the First Forum of Human Rights Organizations "Monitoring Human Rights in Elections," organized by RUPOR, the founding meeting of the All-Ukrainian Association of Human Rights Organizations **"Ukrainian Helsinki Human Rights Union"** took place. A new stage in the joint work of many human rights organizations began. During its first eight years, the UHHRU became the most influential human rights organization in Ukraine and remains so to this day.

The projects of this union can be found at this link:

<https://www.helsinki.org.ua>.

4. What will the trial of Russian criminals look like? Will it be similar to the Nuremberg trials?

Since the beginning of the full-scale invasion, more parallels have been drawn with the events that took place during World War II, and, perhaps,

not in vain, given the sharp increase in the scale of international crimes committed on the territory of Ukraine and against Ukrainians.

And I think that such parallels will also be drawn with regard to the Special Tribunal for Russian Aggression against Ukraine.

The tribunal has already been effectively established, and this is an unprecedented event, because the tribunal was established during the ongoing war, and few people believed in its creation. There were also plenty of skeptical considerations. The creation of the tribunal became possible as a result of an agreement concluded between Ukraine and the Council of Europe, with the participation of 44 states of the world, including the USA.

The tribunal will be international in composition (judges and prosecutors), but with a Ukrainian component. The tribunal will have temporal boundaries, that is, it will be able to consider crimes committed up to 2022. It will also be possible to apply the procedure in absentia (conviction of a person in his absence). According to the subject matter jurisdiction, the tribunal will consider only one type of international crime – the crime of aggression committed by the top authorities of the aggressor state.

The tribunal is due to begin work in 2026 and; I am sure that its work will attract the attention of the entire international community.

5. Can the Ukrainian diaspora in the USA provide you with any assistance?

The war affects all spheres of society. These are not only events related to the direct conduct of hostilities.

Moreover, Ukraine is exclusively a victim in this war, and Ukrainians did not plan it or start it. Therefore, we appreciate any support that we receive and that can be provided to us in such dark times that we are currently experiencing.

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HOUSE OF UKRAINE BOOK CLUB – WHERE YOU CAN IMMERSE YOURSELF IN UKRAINIAN LITERATURE

A book club was established in San Diego in January 2025. Its founder and moderator is Viktoriya Barbaniuk. To learn more about the club's activities, Hromada newspaper correspondent Oleg Kernytsky visited the June meeting and interviewed Viktoriya.

1. How and when did the idea of creating a book club arise?

The idea was matured a long time ago, but when I joined the board of the House of Ukraine as the cultural director, it seemed to me that it would be absolutely organic to have a book club so that Ukrainians who had recently arrived here or had been living here for a long time could come and chat about books. There was a desire to be on the pulse of the Ukrainian book market. Therefore, for our book club we chose both modern literature, which was written after the full-scale invasion, and classics.

2. Who helped to organize this?

In fact, the idea of a book club is very simple. We need people who love to read and a place where they can do it. We are very happy that we have the House of Ukraine, where we can physically gather. The help came from the House of Ukraine, under whose roof we do all this. That is, it is a collective activity, which actually requires the participation of those people who visit the book club, read books and are active members of the club.

3. Were there any difficulties?

There were actually no difficulties. But at first we couldn't predict how many people would be interested in this club. Although my position is that if there are two people, then in principle it is already a book club, because there is a certain dialogue and understanding of what has been read. Therefore, this is probably the only thing that could have stopped us, but we were convinced that in our community there are people who read, who were members of book clubs in other cities in the USA, so uniting these people under the roof of the House of Ukraine was not so difficult.

4. According to what principle was the selection of works?

I selected the works for the entire 2025. We have a list of books that we

will read every month. I often timed these books to certain events. For example, in May we read "Za Perekopom ye zemlia. Krymskyi roman" ("Beyond Perekop There Is Land. A Crimean Novel") by Anastasia Levkova by Anastasia Levkova. It is a book about the Crimean Tatars. It was timed to May 18, the day when we commemorate the victims of the Soviet deportation of the Crimean Tatars. In March we read Shevchenko's works, but since "Kobzar" is a book that is very difficult to discuss in a book club, we chose to read his prose works, which were recently published by Vivat Publishing House. In June we read Artem Chekh, since his birthday is this month and his "Rayon "D"" ("District "D") is a very interesting book to discuss. Similarly, for Oksana Zabuzhko's birthday, we will read her book. Also, in November we will have books dedicated to the Ukrainian "Executed Renaissance". And in August we will read about Ukrainian dissidents, and it will be timed to coincide with Ukraine's Independence Day. So, it was an attempt to time it, but we also took into account what books are available both electronically and in print.

5. Where do you get the books? Are they free or do you have to pay for them?

I believe that Ukrainian publishing houses should be supported financially. Therefore, it would be good for us all to read official sources. Books can also be in electronic format. We have a lot of opportunities for this. For example, there are Ukrainian platforms such as Abuk, Librarius, which have Ukrainian books in electronic format. And the official partner of our book club is the family online bookstore Sokolya Ukrainian Books. They are located in Michigan and give a 10% discount for our club members if they order books in paper. This is a bookstore that works directly with Ukrainian publishing houses and imports books from Ukrainian publishers to the USA. Therefore, it is very important for me, as a book club moderator, that we support Ukrainian book publishing, do not engage in piracy, and do not read books in the access for which they are not intended.

6. I noticed that your club is

mostly women. How can this be explained?

This is not unique to our club. International statistics show that women read more than men, are more likely to participate in and even found book clubs.

7. Is there any meeting that you remember the most? Are they all unique?

All of them are truly unique, because each book provokes lively discussions. Each book allows you to immerse yourself in the present or the past. And each book allows you to learn more about a modern author, or about those who have already entered the canon of Ukrainian literature.

When we talked about the book "Za Perekopom ye zemlia. Krymskyi roman" ("Beyond Perekop There Is Land. A Crimean Novel"), the President of the House of Ukraine, Nadia Haywas, prepared chebureks for us, or "chibereky" as it is correctly translated from Crimean Tatar. It was delicious and added to the atmosphere.

I also remember our first discussion, where we read a modern literary report about Ukrzaliznytsia "Potiah prybuvaye za rozkladom" ("The train arrives on time") by Marichka Paplauskaitė. It was one of those first clubs when we didn't know who would join and what the response would be, but it was interesting to discuss it in a circle of different people.

8. Do you plan to change the format of the meetings and perhaps invite authors?

I also moderate the online book club of Sokolya Ukrainian Books bookstore, where we use Zoom for discussions. The main goal here is to bring together book lovers from San Diego physically in a place where they can meet.

I am not a fan of adding authors to the discussion in book clubs for one simple reason – when you have a living author sitting in front of you, it is much harder to be frank in your review of the book or in a conversation. I think that meeting the author is very good for a book presentation or if people have read a lot of works and want to know more about the writing process or motivation.

9. You have developed a diary for

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book club members, in which one of the questions is – If you had the opportunity, which of the authors would you like to invite?

If I were asked this question, I would invite Oksana Zabuzhko. I believe that it is very valuable to have people who have important historical and literary knowledge for understanding our literature and history in general. In principle, there were answers where there were wishes to talk with Lesya Ukrainka, Olga Kobylanska, if there was such an opportunity. We, at the House of Ukraine, have a very good format for such meeting called "Verses from the War". This is when modern Ukrainian writers and poets from Ukraine come to us, which gives us the opportunity to meet them in person. This is an important way to learn more about modern Ukrainian literature.

10. Do you have any advice for people who want to start a book club or help them with this endeavor?

I would like to draw attention to the incredible lecture by Bohdana Neborak, who talks about how to create a book club. But in general, the advice is very simple. A book club should exist among those people who really love to read. Because for someone it can be a motivation to discover new literature, but I believe that a person should really enjoy the process of reading. And here the recipe is very simple. If there is more than one person who has read the same book and you want to discuss it, then you can think about creating a book club. I would advise people who are trying to create a book club without knowing the audience they will work with to try to choose books that could resonate with different people. Try both Ukrainian classical literature, and modern literature, and non-fiction literature. That is, to appeal to different interests. And when a circle of regular readers is formed, consult with them about which works to read.

11. There is an opinion that it is

not worth reading at all, because often people who do not read and do not study – live much better than those who read. What do you think about this?

In fact, a lot of people read. I think if you ask Bill Gates, he would give you a whole list of books he reads every year. I think reading is important because it is our way of experiencing things that we may not have had the opportunity to experience in real life. I think that reading, especially Ukrainian literature at the moment, is a way of preserving and developing our country. And I really believe that people who read, they think. And thus is a very important skill in modern life.

Thank you, Viktoria! You are doing a very useful thing. Creating book clubs where people can communicate, share thoughts and understand Ukrainian literature helps Ukrainians unite, especially in the diaspora.

UKRAINIAN NEWS

Total enemy combat losses



According to the General Staff, the total combat losses of the enemy from February 24, 2022 to July 31, 2025 are approximately as follows:

Personnel – 1,053,260 people were eliminated,
Tanks – 11,067 units,
Armored personnel carriers – 23,066 units,
Artillery systems – 30,911 units,
MLRS – 1,451 units,
Air defense systems – 1,203 units,
Aircraft – 421 units,
Helicopters – 340 units,
Operational and tactical level UAVs – 48,894 units,
Cruise missiles – 3,548 units,
Ships and boats – 28 units,
Submarines – 1 unit,
Vehicles and tankers – 56,822 units,
Special equipment – 3,935 units.

Aid to Ukraine

USA

President Zelenskyy noted that Ukraine has signed an agreement with an American company to produce drones.

The United States has approved two military aid packages for Ukraine worth a total of \$322 million. These include the modernization of HAWK missile systems and equipment for Bradley infantry fighting vehicles.

The first package worth \$172 million provides for the supply of spare parts, technical support, training and modernization of the American HAWK Phase III air defense systems already in service with Ukraine.

The second contract worth \$150 million concerns the maintenance

of Bradley infantry fighting vehicles. Ukraine will receive equipment, technical assistance, training and logistical support necessary to repair, modernize and maintain the combat capability of American-made equipment.

The administration of President Donald Trump is working on the rapid supply of weapons to Ukraine as part of a plan that provides for the purchase of weapons by Europe, and is also considering the possibility of selling Patriot anti-aircraft missile systems from American arsenals.

Germany

Germany will transfer thousands of shells for the Gepard air defense system to Ukraine, and is also investing in the production of Ukrainian long-range drones. In addition, Germany and Norway intend to make a "significant contribution" to the supply of American Patriot air defense systems to Ukraine.

According to Store, Germany is ready to transfer two Patriot systems to Ukraine, but expects their operational replacement – this is where the participation of the United States will be needed. Although Donald Trump has expressed his readiness to help, the delivery schedule is still unclear.

United Kingdom

The United Kingdom and Ukraine have signed an agreement to supply Thales air defense missiles to Ukraine as part of a \$3.4 billion loan.

It is noted that the United Kingdom will produce missiles for Thales air defense systems for Ukraine for 19 years. The cost of the project is 2.5 billion pounds.

The UK will also provide Ukraine with bilateral assistance worth up to 283 million pounds sterling during 2026.

For the first time, the UK will transfer weapons to Ukraine at the expense of interest on frozen assets of the Russian Federation.

Norway

Defense Minister Denys Shmyhal announced an agreement with his Norwegian counterpart, Tore Sandvik, on the purchase of drones. In 2025, 1 billion euros will be allocated for the purchase of drones, of which 400 million will go to support Ukrainian manufacturers.

The parties also discussed the development of joint production in the defense-industrial complex, strengthening the air defense system and training the Ukrainian military.

Netherlands

The Netherlands will make a significant contribution to the supply of American Patriot air defense systems to Ukraine. This was announced by the

Minister of Defense of the Netherlands, Ruben Brekelmans.

"Together with the defense ministers, we held an online discussion on support for Ukraine. The Netherlands will make a significant contribution to the supply of American Patriot air defense systems. Details will be agreed soon," the message says.

200 million euros will be allocated for interceptor drones, and 125 million for maintenance of F-16 fighters.

In June, it became known that the Dutch government would provide Ukraine with a new military aid package of 400 million euros. The funds will be used to strengthen maritime security.

Denmark

The Ukrainian company Odd Systems announced a strategic partnership with the Danish Terma Group to create a complex for countering enemy drones using artificial intelligence.

The new project involves the development of a system capable of detecting, tracking and automatically destroying a wide range of air threats – from FPV drones and Mavic-type quadcopters to long-range reconnaissance and strike UAVs.

Details of the project have not yet been disclosed, but it is expected that the system will combine means of detecting and destroying drones.

Latvia

The Latvian government has delivered a new batch of drones to the Armed Forces of Ukraine. The package includes 1,300 drones manufactured by Latvian companies.

The country's Defense Minister Andris Spruds stressed that the total cost of all deliveries is over 17 million euros.

Ukraine has also already received the first batch of Patria heavy armored vehicles, which Latvia provided as part of a new aid package.

It is also known that the Latvian Cabinet of Ministers has approved investments in the production of Ukrainian drones in the amount of 10 million euros.

Sweden

Sweden is preparing a new large-scale aid package, which will include air defense, artillery and equipment.

The Swedish government also confirmed its participation in the United States and NATO plan to provide military assistance to the Ukrainian army.

Switzerland

Ukraine and Switzerland signed a bilateral agreement on long-term cooperation in the field of reconstruction. The Swiss government will allocate more than 5 billion Swiss francs (over

5.3 billion euros) until 2036 to support Ukraine's critical infrastructure.

The agreement provides for Switzerland to provide financial and technical assistance, in particular through the purchase of goods and services from Swiss companies for the implementation of projects in the fields of energy, transport, mechanical engineering, water supply, construction, as well as in the field of emergency response.

Canada

Canada allocates 20 million Canadian dollars for the maintenance of Ukrainian tanks and will continue financing the defense-industrial complex through the Danish model.

Romania

The Romanian Ministry of Defense announced that it is starting negotiations with the Ukrainian side on the creation of a joint production of combat drones.

It is expected that the Romanian Defense Minister will meet with his Ukrainian counterpart in the near future, where the parties will discuss the main parameters of future cooperation. According to the preliminary plan, the Ukrainian side will transfer to the Romanians technologies developed and tested in full-scale war conditions, while Romania will invest in local production.

Most of the manufactured drones will be intended for the Romanian Armed Forces, but some are planned to be exported to other EU countries – in particular, those that already support Ukraine in the field of armaments or are considering strengthening their own arsenals.

Luxembourg

The Luxembourg government has officially increased its contribution to the Energy Support Fund for Ukraine to 12 million euros. Of this, an additional 10 million have already been received and are available in the Fund's special account.

Since its launch in April 2022, the Fund has mobilized over €1.16 billion from 33 donors, concluding over 790 contracts worth €669 million. Supplies are being provided to 21 regions of Ukraine. The Fund currently requires an additional €617 million to cover priority needs.

EU

The European Union has provided Ukraine with another €1 billion tranche, obtained from the proceeds of frozen Russian assets.

According to Prime Minister Denys Shmyhal, the ERA initiative, launched by Ukraine together with the G7 countries, has already proven its effective-

ness. Since the beginning of the year, Kyiv has received over \$18.5 billion from frozen Russian funds. This money is being used to strengthen the state's resilience and implement priority rapid reconstruction projects.

US House of Representatives Supports Continued Military Aid to Ukraine



The US House of Representatives voted to continue military aid to Ukraine with the support of 353 members of Congress.

The US House of Representatives has given early approval to a bill to allocate approximately \$832 billion for the country's defense programs in fiscal year 2026. The bill was approved with 221 votes in favor, 209 lawmakers opposed.

This defense bill is to be submitted to the Senate for consideration. If approved, the document will be signed by US President Donald Trump.

On July 14, US President Donald Trump announced that the Ukrainian army will receive American weapons through NATO structures. The costs of supplying weapons will be covered by the Alliance's member countries. According to NATO Secretary General Mark Rutte, the Ukrainian army could receive "a huge amount" of weapons as part of the agreement.

EU ambassadors approve 18th package of sanctions against Russia

European Union ambassadors have approved the 18th package of sanctions against Russia. The restrictions in the package are "some of the toughest" ever.

"We stand firm. The EU has just approved one of the strongest sanctions packages against Russia ever," said European Union foreign policy chief Kaia Kallas.

As part of the 18th package of sanctions, the EU sets the following restrictions:

- cutting the Kremlin's military budget
- imposing restrictions on another 105 vessels of the "shadow fleet" of their accomplices
- reducing access to financing for Russian banks
- banning Nord Stream flows
- setting a lower limit for oil prices at \$47.60 per barrel
- increasing pressure on the Russian military industry, Chinese banks that help circumvent sanctions
- blocking the export of technologies used in drones

In addition, the EU is imposing sanctions for the first time against the flag registry and Rosneft's largest oil refinery in India. According to Kallas, the sanctions will also affect those involved in ideological

Zelenskyy has enacted the NSDC decision on a moratorium on business inspections



President Volodymyr Zelenskyy has enacted the decision of the National Security and Defense Council of Ukraine to introduce a moratorium on groundless inspections and interference by state bodies in business activities.

As noted in the document, the NSDC decision is aimed at guaranteeing the economic security of the state during martial law. The government must take additional measures within three months to identify, block and seize the assets of persons against whom sanctions have been imposed. It is also planned to limit inspections to low-risk enterprises and improve tax and cus-

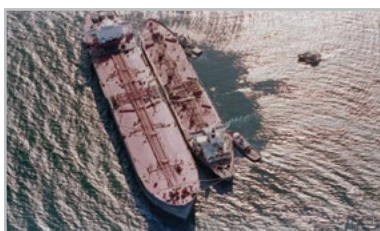
toms control.

Separate points concern the protection of the rights of foreign investors, deregulation, the introduction of a risk-based approach in state supervision and the digitalization of control systems.

Law enforcement agencies have also been instructed to review criminal proceedings related to business activities in order to minimize interference and prevent pressure on business.

Prime Minister Yulia Svyrydenko announced that the moratorium will be in effect for one year. She indicated that the Cabinet of Ministers will limit inspections by tax and customs authorities — they will apply only to sectors with increased risks. According to her, the decision to introduce a moratorium on business inspections by regulatory authorities will affect the activities of law enforcement, customs, tax and other supervisory structures.

Britain has imposed sanctions against 135 vessels of the shadow fleet of the Russian Federation



The United Kingdom has announced a new package of 137 sanctions aimed at the energy sector, which is critical for Russia, including the shadow fleet that provides illegal oil exports.

The new restrictions hit 135 oil tankers, which, according to London, have illegally transported oil worth about \$24 billion since the beginning of 2024, bypassing Western restrictions. The UK government said the sanctions were aimed at "cutting off the financial flow to Putin's military budget" and crippling the "bursting at the seams" fleet.

In addition, INTERSHIPPING SERVICES LLC, which registered the shadow fleet's vessels under the Gabonese flag, was added to the sanctions list. It is estimated that these vessels transported goods worth \$10 billion annually for the Russian state. Restrictions

were also imposed on LITASCO MID-DLE EAST DMC, which is linked to the Russian company Lukoil, for its involvement in the transportation of large volumes of oil.

Ukraine has already returned almost 1,500 children from the Russian Federation and occupied territories

Ukraine has already managed to return home 1,458 children who were held in temporarily occupied territories or were illegally deported by Russia.

It is also known that a nationwide campaign has been launched in Ukraine to create a single DNA database of relatives of missing children.

The purpose of such a database is to return Ukrainian children who were deported or illegally removed from temporarily occupied territories.

"This is important, because even when a child receives new documents and their personal data is changed, genetic information remains the only unchanging basis for establishing family ties and true identity," the department explained.

The Ministry of Internal Affairs emphasized that the tool is able to work not only today, but also in many years. Every child has the right to return home and restore their identity.

More Ukrainian children have been returned from the Russian occupation



On July 19, Ukraine managed to return 11 more children from temporarily occupied territories and deported to Russia.

"Within the framework of the initiative

of the President of Ukraine Volodymyr Zelenskyy Bring Kids Back UA, we managed to return 11 Ukrainian children from the temporarily occupied territories and the Russian Federation. Their age is from 10 to 17 years," wrote the head of the OPU, Andriy Yermak.

According to Yermak, the story of a family from which five siblings were returned is particularly impressive. "The children were taken to Russia, and for a long time there was no information about them. Only later did they themselves contact their adult sister in Ukraine and ask: take us home," wrote Yermak.

He said that even after that, the path back was extremely difficult. The Russian guardianship authorities exerted pressure and dragged out the process. The return became possible only after more than a year of persistent and painstaking work.

On July 18, another group of Ukrainian teenagers who were under occupation returned to the territory controlled by Ukraine.

It was noted that the teenagers became targets of Russian special services for refusing to follow the rules imposed by the occupiers.

"One of the boys was subjected to pressure only because he did not want to study at a Russian school. The youngest of those rescued is only three years old, and even she managed to experience violence because of the Ukrainian language," Yermak wrote.

In early July, another group of Ukrainian teenagers who lived in the occupied territory was returned to the territory controlled by Ukraine.

Prisoner exchange with Russia



On July 23, another stage of the prisoner exchange between Ukraine and Russia took place within the framework of the agreements reached in Istanbul.

Among the released are servicemen who defended Ukraine on various fronts. Many spent more than three years in captivity. Zelenskyy said that all defenders will receive the necessary medical care, rehabilitation and state support.

The previous stage of the prisoner exchange took place on July 4. Then representatives of the Naval Forces, Ground Forces, Air Defense Forces, Special Operations Forces, as well as the National Guard of Ukraine, the State Border Service and the State Special Transport Service returned home.

Also, President Volodymyr Zelenskyy announced new stages of the prisoner exchange with Russia within the framework of the agreements in Istanbul. It is expected that 1,200 people will return home.

"Agreements on further exchanges – I really hope that we will be able to return more of our soldiers from captivity. An agreement that 1,200 soldiers will return. We remember the civilians – all those who need to be returned home, to Ukraine," the head of state said. Zelenskyy added that the Ukrainian delegation again offered the Russian side a real ceasefire, as well as a meeting of leaders, but the Kremlin's responses remain the same.

Russia has used chemical weapons in Ukraine over 9,000 times



After a meeting of foreign ministers in Brussels, Kallas said that, according to German and Dutch intelligence, Russia has used chemical weapons at least 9,000 times since the start of the full-scale invasion. Currently, according to her, the scale of such attacks is increasing.

"According to the intelligence services, this is only intensifying. This is a huge concern. Russia wants to inflict as much pain and suffering as possible so that Ukraine surrenders. And this is truly unbearable," she stressed.

Despite the fact that Russia is a party to the 1993 Chemical Weapons Convention, which prohibits their use, production and stockpiling, the Kremlin continues to violate international law.

Despite claims of complete destruction of chemical weapons, Russia maintains industrial facilities for their production and also uses them against

the Armed Forces of Ukraine. In March 2025 alone, the Support Forces' CBRN intelligence units recorded 767 cases of the aggressor's use of munitions containing dangerous compounds.

Recently, the UK announced new sanctions against two Russian officials and one institution for the use of chemical weapons in the war against Ukraine.

The UN called June the deadliest month in terms of civilian casualties in Ukraine in three years

June 2025 set a record for the number of civilian casualties in Ukraine since the start of the full-scale Russian invasion. 232 civilians were killed in a month, and another 1,343 were injured. This was reported by the UN Human Rights Monitoring Mission in Ukraine.

The majority of casualties (53%) were the result of missile strikes and attacks by barrage munitions on urban areas. In particular, Dnipro, Kyiv and Kharkiv were particularly affected, where precise strikes often resulted in numerous casualties at one point.

The scale of Russian shelling in June is off the charts, with the number of missiles and suicide drones fired at Ukraine 10 times higher than in June 2024.

At the same time, frontline areas continue to suffer from constant attacks by small drones, especially in the Kherson and Donetsk regions. In total, casualties have been recorded in 16 regions of Ukraine and the capital.

At the same time, according to UN monitoring, strikes on energy infrastructure have become a separate problem – at least 13 attacks on Ukrainian territory and 7 on occupied territory. Two attacks on energy facilities in the Kherson region caused massive power outages and the introduction of planned outages in Kherson.

The UN emphasized that more than 98% of civilian casualties were recorded on territory controlled by Ukraine.

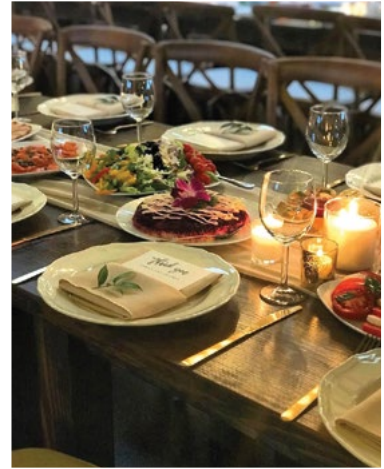
As of early July, at least 265 civilians, 14 of whom were children, had died from direct Russian aggression in the capital of Ukraine.

The UN recognized the missile strike on Kryvyi Rih on April 6 as the most massive killing of children since February 2022.

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I bring a unique, compassionate approach to real estate. A proud mother of two—one a UC Berkeley graduate, the other a UCLA student—I understand the importance of creating homes where families thrive. I live with my parents, who moved to the Bay Area from Ukraine due to the war, and we share our home with three rescue cats.

Outside of real estate, I'm passionate about nutrition, maintaining a vegan and gluten-free lifestyle, and exploring water fasting. I've held a Series 7 license and have a keen interest in trading and financial planning. Supporting local businesses and traveling the world bring me joy and inspiration.

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Photo from the UNWLA archive. Soyuzianky at an exhibition stand dedicated to Ukrainian folk art, 1926. Artistically enhanced using artificial intelligence.

EVENTS 2025

AUGUST

Ha/Su	Пн/Mo	Вт/Tu	Ср/We	Чт/Th	Пт/Fr	Сб/Sa
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

15 AUG THE ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

17 AUG UKRAINIAN CULTURE CELEBRATION | NOVATO

Sunflower-Roots

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

19 AUG



Hromada newspaper extends its deepest condolences to Fr. George, priest of St. Michael Ukrainian Orthodox Church in San Francisco, following the tragic loss of his sister and nephew in the brutal Russian attack on Kyiv.

PROCLAMATION CEREMONY, THE CITY OF SANTA CLARA

UNWLA Branch 107

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<https://www.facebook.com/events/s/proclamation-ceremony-the-city/761196946776436/>

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When: Saturday, 10 AM
Please come and visit Ukrainian booth, bring your children to have fun at the event.

Since 2010, the Kids Fun Festival (KFF) has become one of the largest multicultural family events in the Bay Area. It's a landmark annual celebration dedicated to children of all ages. This family-friendly festival brings together diverse local cultural communities for a vibrant day filled with fun activities, games, performances, and international delicacies.

Kids Fun Festival is organized by the Taiwanese Cultural & Sports Association (TCSA) & it is **FREE!**
<https://www.tcsausa.org/kids-fun-festival/>
<https://www.facebook.com/events/s/15th-kids-fun-festival-%E5%9C%8B%E9%9A%9B%E7%AB%A5%E7%8E%A9%E7%AF%80/570374085838591/>

23 AUG MISSION PEAK HIKE – INDEPENDENCE DAY OF UKRAINE | FREMONT

UNWLA Branch 107

Where: <https://maps.app.goo.gl/NEKz8Fcw9L6PuyAo7>

When: Saturday, 7:30 AM
Ukrainian National Women's League of America, Branch 107 is inviting you to celebrate the 34th Independence Day of Ukraine on the top of the Mission Peak.

It starts from the parking lot at Ohlone College along Mission Boulevard in Fremont, California.

We are meeting 7:30 am PST just at the entrance of the trail (From the

parking lot, look for a sign pointing to Ohlone Trail).

Please bring your Ukrainian Flags and be ready to take a group photo.

Try this 7.3-mile out-and-back trail near Fremont, California. Generally considered a challenging route, it takes an average of 4 hours 20 minutes to complete.

Please note that due to construction work the trail head is now approximately 0.4 miles from the original one.

<https://www.facebook.com/events/s/mission-peak-hike-independence/1253601362317965/>

23 AUG SOUND OF UKRAINE: INDEPENDENCE DAY! | MANHATTAN BEACH, CA

Brighter Ukraine Foundation

Where: Unita, 516 N Sepulveda Blvd, Manhattan Beach, CA

When: Saturday, 6 PM

Join us for Ukraine's Independence Day celebration at "Sound of Ukraine: Culture, Art, Music"

Come to @unita.club in Manhattan Beach to celebrate Ukraine's rich culture and make a meaningful impact. Enjoy an evening of captivating drum beats from the gifted Ukrainian artists Valeriia Vovk and Bohdan Andrukh.

The event will feature a bar, tasty snacks and sweets, and a selection of authentic ethnic crafts and clothing.

We're launching a charity fundraiser for Ukraine – Anti-Drone Systems and vital medical aid.

<https://givebutter.com/IndependenceUkraine?>

<https://www.sharvarok.com/en/listing/sound-of-ukraine-independence-day/488>

23 AUG VADYM KRASONOOKY (MAD HEADS) |

SACRAMENTO

Podiia Entertainment

Where: 2531 Rio Linda Blvd, Sacramento, CA 95815

When: Saturday, 6 PM

Vadym Krasnooky, frontman of the legendary Ukrainian band Mad Heads, is coming to Sacramento with a powerful solo concert. The setlist will include Mad Heads' most iconic hits, original songs, and fresh rock interpretations of traditional Ukrainian folk music.

Vadym Krasnooky is a singer, guitarist, songwriter, radio host, and the founding member of Mad Heads, formed in 1991. The band has performed over 1,000 shows across Ukraine, Europe, the U.S., and Canada. They've released more than 100 songs – including national favorites like "Nadiya Ye" and "A Ya na Mori" – and are known for their energetic rock versions of Ukrainian folk songs.

The evening will also include a Meet & Greet with the artist and a charity auction to support those who protect and defend Ukraine.

Tickets: \$50 – \$60

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/vadym-krasnooky-med-heads-in-sacramento-tickets-1482298537829>

<https://www.sharvarok.com/en/listing/vadym-krasonooky-mad-heads-in-sacramento/566>

24 AUG INDEPEN- DENCE DAY OF UKRAINE

24 AUG UKRAINE'S INDEPENDENCE DAY | SACRAMENTO

**Ukrainian American House,
Consulate General of Ukraine in
San Francisco and U.S.-Ukraine
Business Council (USUBC)**

Where: California's State Capitol, 1315 10th Street, Sacramento, CA

95814

When: Sunday, 5 PM
STRONG TOGETHER. FREE
FOREVER.

August 24 — Ukraine's
Independence Day

This isn't just a celebration. It's a stand.

10:00 AM – 2:00 PM

Freedom Means Business Forum (by invitation only), Kimpton Sawyer Hotel, Downtown Sacramento. Powerful panels. Strategic networking. Diplomats. CEOs. Veterans. Visionaries.

7:00 – 9:00 PM

Kazka Live at the California State Capitol (open to the public, free)

A bold cultural tribute to Ukraine's unbreakable spirit.

Freedom is earned. Business is the weapon. Unity is the answer.

Hosted by Ukrainian American House in partnership with: Consulate General of Ukraine in San Francisco, U.S.-Ukraine Business Council (USUBC), California National Guard <https://www.facebook.com/events/s/ukraines-independence-day/1458993425283737/>

24 AUG UKRAINIAN INDEPENDENCE DAY CONCERT | SAN FRANCISCO

**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: Spreckels Temple of Music, 8204 Music Concourse Dr, San Francisco, CA 94118

When: Sunday, 1 PM

The 26th annual Ukrainian-American Day Concert with the Golden Gate Park Band. This **FREE** outdoor concert at the Music Concourse Band shell (Spreckels Temple of Music) is to celebrate the 34th Anniversary of Ukraine's Independence.

Sponsored by the Ukrainian American Coordinating Council in cooperation with the Ukrainian Heritage Club of Northern California, St. Michael's Ukrainian Orthodox Church, Immaculate Conception Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church, and

UNWLA Branch 107 San Jose.

Contact: Maria Tscherepenko at (650) 281-6927.

<https://www.sharvarok.com/en/listing/ukrainian-independence-day-concert/530>

24 AUG UKRAINIAN INDEPENDENCE DAY | LOS ANGELES

Ukrainian Culture Center – UCC

Where: 4315 Melrose Avenue Los Angeles, CA 90029

When: Sunday, 12 PM – 6 PM
Come celebrate the resilience and unbroken spirit of Ukraine and Ukrainians!

Headline performance by Inna Kovtun. Music and performances by Chervona Kalyna and more.

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 INDEPENDENCE DAY OF UKRAINE CELEBRATION | SAN DIEGO

House of Ukraine & Shield Of Freedom

Where: De Anza Cove Park, 2773 N Mission Bay Dr, San Diego, CA 92109

When: Sunday, 4 PM

Let's celebrate Independence Day of Ukraine together! Be prepared for fun, bonfire, delicious Ukrainian food, Ukrainian folk and modern music (featuring U3Zub), face painting for kids and much more. Just bring your

blankets and beach chairs.

Food will be served from 4:30 pm till 6:00 pm.

We speak Ukrainian and English.

TICKETS:

Early Bird Adult Ticket (buy your ticket before August 15, 2025) – **\$30**

HOU Registered Member Only Ticket (Tickets only for active registered HOU Members, not for their family members. Buy your ticket before August 20, 2025, no member discounts after August 20, 2025) – **\$25**

Early Bird Child Ticket (buy your ticket before August 15, 2025) – **\$10**

Regular Tickets:

Adult Ticket – **\$35**

Child Ticket – **\$15**

LAST DAY OF ONLINE TICKET SALES is AUGUST 23, 2025. TICKETS at the beach are not guaranteed.

Ticket quantity is limited. Don't lose your chance to try our delicious food.

Please help us with set up and serving food. You can see the full description of the roles and duties and sign up by clicking this link: <https://signup.com/go/wWtWWDe>.

<https://www.facebook.com/events/s/independence-day-of-ukraine-ce/749691834109995/>

24 AUG UKRAINIAN INDEPENDENCE DAY PICNIC | IRVINE

Ukrainians in Orange County

Where: William R Mason Regional Park, 18712 University Dr, Irvine, CA 92612

When: Sunday, 10 AM – 6 PM

Join us for a joyful celebration of Ukrainian Independence Day at our new location in the beautiful William R. Mason Regional Park in Irvine! We'll be gathering at Shelter 6, with plenty of space for fun, food, music, and community connection.

Traditional Ukrainian food available for purchase. Live music and performances from local Ukrainian artists.

<https://www.facebook.com/events/s/ukrainian-independence-day-pic/2576254309385338/>

24 AUG

VADYM KRASONOOKY (MAD HEADS) | SAN JOSE

PodiYa Entertainment

Where: 1205 Pine Ave, San Jose, CA 95125

When: Sunday, 6 PM

Vadym Krasnooky, frontman of the legendary Ukrainian band Mad Heads, is coming to Sacramento with a powerful solo concert. The setlist will include Mad Heads' most iconic hits, original songs, and fresh rock interpretations of traditional Ukrainian folk music. It's going to be a night filled with music, energy, and support for Ukraine.

Since the full-scale invasion Vadym has performed a series of benefit concerts using his music to support, and unite people in difficult times.

The evening will also include a Meet & Greet with the artist and a charity auction to support those who protect and defend Ukraine.

Tickets: **\$50 – \$60**

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/vadym-krasnooky-med-heads-in-san-jose-tickets-1482352770039>

<https://www.sharvarok.com/en/listing/vadym-krasnooky-mad-heads-in-san-jose/542>

24 AUG 3RD "UKRAINE'S FREEDOM RUN: INDEPENDENCE DAY BOUND" | SANTA MONICA

Stand With Ukraine Foundation

Where: Parking System Lot 5 South, 2701 Barnard Way, Santa Monica, CA 90405

When: Sunday, 7 AM

Be part of the 3rd annual "Ukraine's Freedom Run: Independence Day Bound", a moving event celebrating Ukraine's resilience and marking Independence Day with unity, pride, and purpose.

Bring your Ukrainian spirit, flags, and friends – walk or run in solidarity with Ukraine's fight for freedom.

After the run, enjoy a light breakfast courtesy of our sponsor @zori_gastrobar

This year's goal: Raise funds to provide 250 tourniquets for defenders in Ukraine.

Dress in blue and yellow to show your support for a free and independent Ukraine!

<https://www.facebook.com/events/s/3rd-ukraines-freedom-run-indep/616275407868553/>

30 AUG CHARITY EVENING "VOICE OF FREEDOM" FOR UKRAINE'S INDEPENDENCE DAY | SACRAMENTO

Hromada

Where: Story Winery, 10525 Plymouth Hwy, Plymouth, CA 95669

When: Saturday, 4 PM – 8 PM

A charity evening in celebration of Ukraine's Independence Day!

Live Ukrainian music and poetry performed by our talented artists: Annychka, Ivanna Taratula-Filipenko (mezzo-soprano), Lesya Zabasta (soprano), Marichka Omelchuk (mezzo-soprano), Sophia Victoria (violinist), Max Veligan (violinist), Ivanna Andreykiw (Ukrainian poetess). Music groups: Palyanytsya and Novi Nochi. Concert host – Oksana Hrytsiuk.

Ukrainian and Georgian cuisine.

Auction in support of Hromada's humanitarian projects.

Tickets: **\$80**

Children under 6 — **FREE**

admission

Ages 7–18 — **\$30**

<https://www.sharvarok.com/en/listing/charity-evening-voice-of-freedom-for-ukraines-independence-day/584>

31 AUG UKRAINIAN

FESTIVAL 2025 (LAWN PROGRAM) | SAN DIEGO

House of Ukraine

Where: Claim Jumper Steakhouse & Bar, 1355 N Harbor Dr, San Diego, CA 92101

When: Sunday, 11 AM

House of Ukraine presents Ukrainian Festival 2025.

Treat yourself to delicious Ukrainian food (11:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.).

Enjoy our lawn program (2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.) featuring the U3Zub, Namysto Dance Group, and more.

<https://www.sharvarok.com/en/listing/ukrainian-festival-2025lawn-program/556>

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/>