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SPECIAL FOR HROMADA

Vitaliy Portnykov | Notes for April

THE MONTH OF HELP



The main event of April was, of course, the decision of the US Congress to provide aid to Ukraine. On April 24, the law on the allocation of \$62 billion to our country was signed by US President Joe Biden, and just a few days later the first aid related to the newly opened opportunities was delivered to the Ukrainian Armed Forces.

This, of course, is crucial for the survival of the Ukrainian state and for countering the aggressive plans of the Russian Federation. In recent months, we have said that Russian troops are preparing for a new offensive to seize new territories, destroy Ukraine's critical infrastructure, and try to turn Ukraine into an uninhabitable country. And from this point of view, Ukraine's possession of new weapons and new missile defense systems is a really significant contribution to the fight against the aggressors.

We have been talking about the need for assistance for the past seven months, since the President of the United States first sent a request to Congress. The attack by Hamas terrorists on Israel on October 7th of last year only made that request more concrete, showing that the danger continues to globalize, that it is no longer just a conflict in Eastern Europe. However, Republicans in Congress continued to insist that the issue of aid could only be resolved through a compromise tied to the resolution of the issue of security measures on the U.S.-Mexico border. When the compromise was finally reached in the U.S. Senate, even those Republicans who were looking for a solution, including such ardent supporters of aid to Ukraine as Republican Minority Leader Mitch McConnell, did not agree to it.

But after it became clear that no compromise on borders could be

reached in the pre-election situation – or perhaps it was already unnecessary for presumptive GOP presidential nominee Donald Trump – the senators went ahead and drafted a separate bill that promised aid to Ukraine, Israel, and U.S. allies in the Pacific region. However, this legislation did not meet the approval of House Speaker Mike Johnson, who refused to bring it to the House floor for a vote. Instead, the Speaker developed his own proposal – four separate bills that were sent to the Senate for approval as a package.

It was the vote on each of these documents that revealed what the Speaker was really afraid of as he sought a realistic model for authorizing the aid. Before the vote, it may have seemed that only a small group of Republicans would vote against aid to Ukraine, and that the decision would be made by a convincing majority of members of both parties. But this did not happen as expected. The Republican caucus in the House of Representatives split almost in half, with the majority of that party's members voting against the aid. The aid to Ukraine was approved thanks to the votes of Democrats and some Republicans. The Speaker himself and most of the chairmen of the leading House committees were in the minority in their own caucus. Therefore, we should agree that it was a serious risk to bring the issue of aid to Ukraine to a vote in the House of Representatives. And yet Mike Johnson took the plunge.

Now the American media is trying to understand what were the main reasons that made Johnson give up on delaying the aid and make a decision that cost his faction its political reputation and could have cost him his own resignation from a high position. Many people talk about the speaker's true political evolution, that after being elected to office, Johnson gained access to information that convinced him that it was time to help Ukraine. Many emphasize that it was the speaker's religious beliefs that came into play as he realized the existential danger posed by Russian aggression. Johnson himself described himself as a "Ronald Reagan-era Republican" when it came to the idea of "peace

through strength," the name of one of the bills proposed by the speaker that would transfer frozen Russian assets to Ukraine.

Some journalists say that Johnson went against the wishes of Donald Trump himself, but the former president supported the speaker both before and after the vote. Here, too, we can speak of a certain evolution of approaches – at least Trump did not interfere in the adoption of a fateful decision for Ukraine and even said that Ukraine should not be left to its own devices. The presidential candidate may have been impressed by conversations with European politicians who visited him on the eve of the vote in the House of Representatives, including former Prime Minister and current British Foreign Secretary Lord Cameron and Polish President Andrzej Duda. Both politicians, respected in right-wing political circles in Europe, were able to persuade Trump to be more cautious on the issue of aid and to explain how fleeting the hopes for an agreement with Moscow are if Vladimir Putin is not afraid to use force.

In any case, journalists, historians and the participants themselves will write and talk about the circumstances of this important decision in their memoirs. The most important thing now is that this aid will not be the last, as they say in the United States and Europe. That the possible change in the political landscape in the United States this fall does not lead to the refusal of new tranches in the future. After all, this is exactly what Vladimir Putin is counting on, as he is confident that time is his main ally and that sooner or later the West will get tired of supporting him. When some observers said at the beginning of the great war that Putin would probably drag out military operations at least until the US elections, many thought it was a fantasy.

But fantasy is becoming reality. And we must respond accordingly – to continue our efforts, to work with the American public, with senators and congressmen, to convince them that helping Ukraine is an investment in America's own security.

Moreover, this thesis is consistent with political reality.



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SPECIAL FOR HROMADA

Oles Doniy

THE CRISIS IN THE USA WILL LEAD TO A CRISIS IN UKRAINE



The joint decision of the US authorities to provide \$61 billion in aid to Ukraine has to some extent lulled a large part of Ukrainian society. However, a thorough article by retired General Wesley Clark draws attention to the more global issues on which Ukraine directly depends – the crisis of the geopolitical influence of the United States and the strengthening of a group of authoritarian states, including in particular the main enemy of both Ukraine and all countries of Euro-Atlantic civilization – Putin's Russia.

On April 20, the law on the allocation of 61 billion dollars was voted in the US Congress, on April 23, the law was supported by the Senate, and on April 24, the law was signed by US President Joe Biden. This ended a rather long saga in which the Democratic and Republican parties used the Ukrainian issue in their internal political disputes. The bill became law because a significant number of Republicans joined Democrats in supporting Ukraine. But if you look at the months-long process not as a normal parliamentary procedure, but by trying to count the kilometers of Ukrainian territory lost to the Russian boot, and imagine (just imagine, because official figures are not published) how many Ukrainian soldiers were killed during this time, the satisfaction of the expected financial aid may not look so exiting. Everything should be done on time, and this banal truth also applies to financing. How many lives and territories have been lost because of the lack of money, and therefore the lack of guns, shells, ammunition, drones, and all the other military equipment that money can buy?

But the venerable General Wesley Clark made a much harsher estimate. In his memorandum to the President of the United States, he did not refer to the epic passage of a single law, albeit an important one for Ukraine, but not one that would be decisive for all geopolitical processes in which the United States is involved. Wesley Clark dared to draw attention to the fact that the United States has lost its geopolitical leadership.

1. The new reality is the emergence of a group of authoritarian countries with Russia as the core on the geopolitical stage. In addition to Russia, Clarke includes China, Iran, and North Korea in the group of authoritarian countries. These authoritarian countries have opposed the world order previously associated with the protection of the United States.

2. These four potential adversaries of the United States are all willing to use force. Russia, after its invasion of Ukraine, may use similar aggression against other neighbors.

3. Nuclear weapons are important. Russian dictator Putin has successfully used nuclear blackmail. "The open fear of confrontation with a nuclear power undermines the credibility of the American government around the world. By seeking the help of a potential adversary like China to prevent Russia from using nuclear weapons against Ukraine, the United States may have further undermined the credibility of its nuclear deterrent." The United States is delaying the modernization of nuclear weapons.

4. The U.S. Army and Navy are insufficiently large and powerful to meet new challenges. The military-defense complex will not keep pace with requirements.

Considering that this statement was written not by an outside analyst but by a high-ranking military officer, it is extremely unfortunate.

5. Economic sanctions against Russia are ineffective and sometimes counterproductive, and Russia has found mechanisms to circumvent them and is increasing its profits from energy sales.

6. The United States has lost its

appeal to the countries of the Global South. "Many leaders in the Global South, assessing the fluctuations in U.S. support for Ukraine, seem to have decided that Russia is a more reliable force."

7. The crisis of the U.S. domestic political system. Clark notes that foreign influences have called into question the electoral process in the United States, the democratic system itself. Democracy is no longer an attractive model of government for other countries.

But Clark has not only military experience, but also political experience, and his radical and rather harsh remarks about the loss of world leadership of the United States and, as a result, the crisis of the democratic world are not criticism for the sake of criticism, the general outlined a program to change the status quo:

1. Establish the sanctity of the U.S. political system as the country's highest value.

2. Strengthen the nuclear deterrent and all the supporting systems that make it credible.

3. Commit to supporting Ukraine in expelling Russian forces from its territory.

4. Strengthen deterrence against China.

5. Force the Iranian authorities to choose between regional hegemony and regime survival.

6. Strengthen deterrence against a nuclear-armed North Korea.

7. "Revitalize the all-volunteer force and the military-industrial base.

8. Preserve fragile U.S. leadership in cyber and space confrontation.

9. Strengthen financial power.

The General describes each of the points in more detail. It is extremely important for Ukrainians that the vector of support for Ukraine in this memorandum is a cross-cutting one. "Russia's aggression against Ukraine has become a litmus test for the rules-based international order. Therefore, defeating this aggression, not just ending the fighting in Ukraine, is essential to upholding the rule of international law and preventing wider wars."

Clark strongly emphasizes the need



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to restore the economic, military and political power of the United States and to communicate with the rest of the world from a position of strength, for example, to stop the export of high-tech products to Russia – to impose secondary sanctions on countries that help the aggressor evade various restrictions.

Wesley Clark's memorandum was published on the website of the influential Atlantic Council think tank, so it will not go unnoticed.

But attention does not mean automatic implementation of the proposals. For example, only the first half of the document, which consists of a sad assessment of the current situation, will be implemented.

The loss of global leadership by the United States (as Clarke argues) automatically affects all countries that are either democratic or democracy-oriented. In this situation, Ukraine has

problems of a double nature. The saga of the passage of the law on financial assistance to Ukraine has shown that there are no guarantees of such assistance in the future. Russia is preparing for a long war, at least it can be predicted as long as the Russian dictator lives, which can be about 15 years on average. Russia has a larger resource base (military, economic, demographic) than Ukraine, so in order to resist the aggressor, and in the long run to defeat the aggressor, Ukraine needs long-term guarantees of support from the Western world, and from the United States in the first place, if the United States sees itself as a leader.

Ukraine's second problem is internal. In the context of the crisis of democracy in the United States and in the world (as Clarke notes), authoritarian tendencies are growing not only in countries oriented toward Russia, China, Iran, and North Korea.

We must bitterly note that there are certain problems with democracy within Ukraine. The ban on free movement across the border, the cancellation of elections, the refusal to provide consular assistance to citizens abroad, etc. are not isolated examples, but a comprehensive confirmation of the change in the internal political system of the country. Russian aggression has dealt a tremendous blow not only to Ukrainian citizens, taking their lives, not only to infrastructure, destroying it, but also to Ukrainian democracy. To preserve democracy in Ukraine, we also need the support and assistance of the Western world. But if the United States has internal and external problems, this support will not come. To support Ukrainian democracy, we need the United States to regain its strength, confidence and global leadership.

GIRLS, YOU'VE BEEN COMPROMISED. TIME TO RETURN TO THE KREMLIN

Nataliya Anon

Democracy isn't the perfect form of government. But the best form as we know it. Sometimes it works both for the most honorable members of our society and for scoundrels too. Therefore, we have to witness the rise and inevitable fall of various "pigs in a poke" and "wolves in sheep's skin" types, as they represent the American Political Fauna skillfully exploiting the crowd's moods. Those people don't care about utter discrediting their party while cunningly pursuing their own interests. Partly their own.

Russia plays its tireless pawns on the US's domestic political chessboard. Activists, representatives of various ethnic minorities and churches, public figures, bloggers, and showbiz stars. For us, common citizens, it's hard to imagine the whole scale. Blackmailed, bribed, and ideological – these are the three categories that underpin the strength of the Russian agent network. Well, there are "useful idiots". The fourth category. Those who haven't quite figured out whose game they are playing.

And if we have fewer questions about "Moscow Marjorie", Victoria Spartz – The Ukrainian Judas – is the reason many Ukrainians still have a heavy heart. Born and raised in Ukraine, still speaking with a noticeable Ukrainian accent, this person decided to betray Ukrainians at a time when her Chernihiv hometown was bombarded by Russian missiles, killing many. She spoke out against aiding Ukraine. She voted against helping Ukraine. Forgetting her Motherland, she referred to Ukraine as "your country" in conversations with Ukrainian journalists. Abhorrent and repugnant. This is a reminder to her voters in Indiana that a person who betrays her homeland in times of great challenge will betray her new homeland without hesitation or shame.

Meanwhile, Marjorie Greene is a different kind of a foe to Ukrainians – self-proclaimed and audacious, actively promoted and transmitted by Russian media. The more attention she gets, the more successful she feels. Therefore, the Ukrainian diaspora must act decisively and harshly. One of the goals – advocating tirelessly to pass a law recognizing current barbaric war as the Genocide of the Ukraini-

an People, and well as establishing criminal and administrative responsibilities for denying it.

We can truly achieve highest results if we join our efforts! Today, Ukrainians in the USA are more united than ever. The diaspora has been bolstered by hundreds of thousands of incomers ready to actively defend Ukraine's interests and fight against its enemies

within the American continent. Greene and Spartz won't be able to stand against this, they are compromised, and it's only a matter of time before their fellow party members stop shaking their hands and becoming their allies.

In present reality, a complex continuation of war awaits us. And victory is on the horizon.



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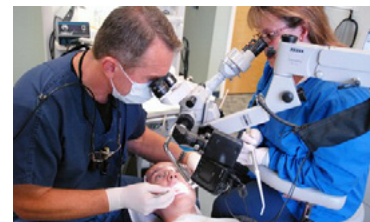
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HISTORIC DECLARATION – CALIFORNIA AND LVIV REGION OF UKRAINE BECAME SISTER REGIONS!

On April 25, 2024, Sacramento, the capital of the State of California, hosted a Ukrainian delegation at the Capitol in the person of Assemblyman Rostyslav Tistyk, Head of the International Platform "Synergy of Ukraine's Recovery" Serhiy Demydenko, Consul General of Ukraine in San Francisco Dmytro Kushneruk, and representatives of Ukrainian non-profit organizations and communities.

"We are all here to witness the Assembly's historic vote on sisterhood between the State of California and the Lviv Oblast of Ukraine, and to thank all the Senators and Assembly Members for their unprecedented support of the Ukrainian people in their struggle against Russia's barbaric and genocidal war," said Yarema Kuzyshyn, co-founder of the San Francisco-based nonprofit organization Hromada.

This historic moment was preceded by many months of committee work, and on January 22, 2024, at the re-

quest of Senator Bill Dodd, Senate District 3, the California Senate unanimously approved Senate Concurrent Resolution 96 (SCR 96) by a vote of 37-0 to establish such a sister state relationship with California.

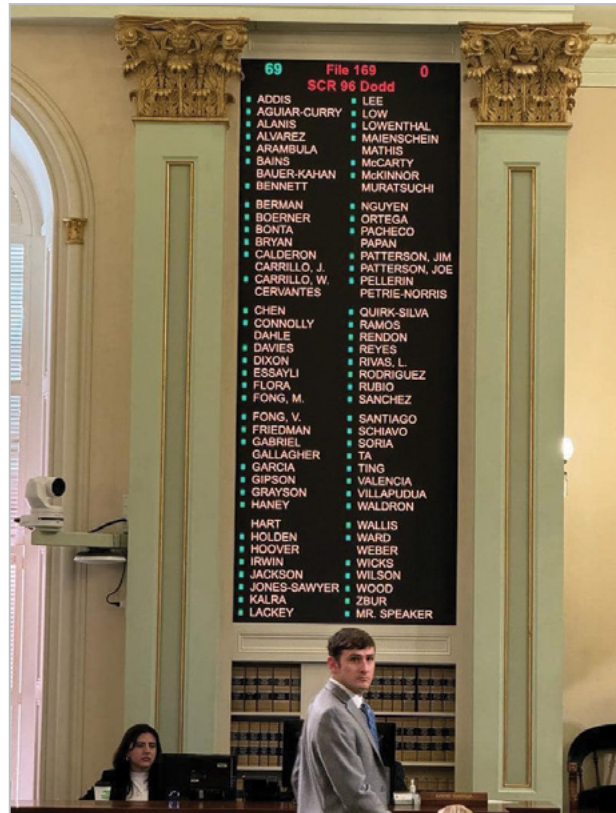
"One of the largest Ukrainian communities in the United States is in California, so it makes sense that we establish a formal relationship with the Lviv region," said Senator Dodd. "We share many common values, aspirations, and interests, including economic cooperation, scientific research, cultural exploration, and technological innovation. In light of the brutal war waged by Russia, it is especially important to foster this sisterly relationship to promote prosperity, understanding, and goodwill in the region."

"In these challenging times for Ukraine, as it bravely continues to fight Russian aggression for more than two years, sisterly relations with California are of profound importance," said Dmytro Kushneruk, Consul General

of Ukraine in San Francisco. "It is a sincere recognition of our shared commitment to freedom, democracy and sustainability. This partnership between Lviv and California is more than diplomatic relations; it is a symbol of hope and solidarity, a testament to the resilience of our people and the unbreakable bonds that unite us."

The following months were also marked by fruitful collaboration and committee work, resulting in the State Assembly passing the resolution unanimously (69-0) on April 25, 2024. This sisterhood was initiated by the international platform "Synergy of Ukraine's Recovery," represented by its head, Sergiy Demydenko, the Consulate General of Ukraine in San Francisco, with informational support from the San Francisco nonprofit organization Hromada, and the participation of activists from local Ukrainian communities.

The concurrent California Senate



Resolution 96 recognizes this close relationship and invites the people of Lviv to join the Sister City relationship with California. SCR 96 was passed by the Assembly after being approved by the Senate.

Ukrainians began arriving in California in the late 19th century and now number more than 100,000, or one in six Ukrainian immigrants in the United States. The City of Sacramento ranks first in the nation in the percentage of its population that is Ukrainian.

Located in western Ukraine, Lviv is home to diverse ethnic and religious groups with a rich tradition of education and science, making it an ideal

partner for educational exchange. It is also a key region for trade and joint initiatives to promote economic growth and job creation. Since the Russian military offensive, the region has hosted hundreds of thousands of internally displaced persons from eastern Ukraine, demonstrating unbreakable resilience and strength.

We thank all of the active participants and initiators of this historic document, especially Senator Bill Dodd, all Senators and Members of the Assembly, Director of the California Senate Office of International Relations Shannon V. Shillenberg, Member of the Ukrainian Parliament Rostyslav

Tistyk, Director of the International Platform "Synergy of Building Ukraine" Sergiy Dymydenko, Consul General of Ukraine in San Francisco Dmytro Kushneruk and his team, Georgiy Shapirstein and Andriy Fedorenko, representatives of the Synergy of Building Ukraine in the United States, representatives of Ukrainian non-profit organizations and communities.

Cooperation is the key to success and development of our regions!

Thank you California!

God bless America!

Glory to Ukraine!

Glory to the Heroes!



ASSISTANCE TO UKRAINE AND CONFISCATION OF RUSSIAN ASSETS IN FAVOR OF UKRAINE

April 20 The U.S. House of Representatives votes to approve a foreign aid bill for Ukraine.

April 24: U.S. President Joe Biden signs bills providing \$95.3 billion in aid to Ukraine, Israel and Taiwan. Arms shipments to Ukraine began immediately.

This was announced during a briefing by the US president at the White House.

"I have just signed the defense aid bill. They will make America safer, they will make the world safer. It will also provide vital assistance to our partners so that they can defend themselves and defend their sovereign countries. And it's also an investment in our security," Biden said.

"In the next few hours, I will do everything I can to get the paperwork to our appropriate authorities so that the missile systems and other weapons

can be sent to Ukraine. This will not only help Ukraine, it will help European security," Biden said.

Biden also announced that the United States would send additional air defense ammunition, artillery, missile systems, and armored vehicles to the Ukrainian army.

Confiscation of Russian assets for the benefit of Ukraine

The main goal of the sanctions bill is "strong measures and policies to counter Iran, China and Russia.

On April 20, 360 deputies voted for the bill, while 58 voted against it.

The part concerning Ukraine provides for the possibility of confiscating Russian state assets in favor of Ukraine and expanding anti-Russian sanctions.

In particular, the US President is authorized to apply the procedure of confiscation of state assets with sub-

sequent transfer of the corresponding funds to special funds – the Compensation Fund, the Ukraine Support Fund.

At the same time, the President may coordinate the algorithm of transfer of confiscated Russian assets to Ukraine with the Group of Seven countries, the EU, Australia and other US partners.

The measures against Russia include: Imposing additional sanctions on Russian oligarchs.

Imposing sanctions on the transfer of Iranian and Chinese UAV technology to Russia that could be used in a war with Ukraine.

Passing a law on the transfer of frozen Russian assets to Ukraine.

The total value of Russian assets abroad is estimated at \$300 billion. Only \$6 billion of this is in the United States. Most of these funds are located in France, Germany and Belgium.

OLESYA YAKHNO: "THE CRIMINALITY OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION STRENGTHENS THE RESOLUTION AND FORCES US TO UNITE OUR EFFORTS"

Snezhana Gusarevych

On the eve of a vote in the US Senate on a bill to provide aid to Ukraine, Israel and Taiwan, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe adopted a resolution on decolonization of Russia. "Hromada spoke with Ukrainian political scientist Olesya Yakhno about PACE's demands and how the resolution will affect further developments in Ukraine.

The Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe has adopted a resolution on the Russian totalitarian regime. How will it affect Ukraine?

PACE's decision on the resolution was consistent and predictable. It is a manifestation of a real position. Long before the elections in the Russian Federation, there was a call in the hall of the Council of Europe not to recognize the legitimacy of the presidential elections. In addition to the war, lawsuits in international courts, and violations of humanitarian law by Russia, new circumstances were added that only strengthened the resolution. While it is difficult to prove the sophisticated manipulation of the elections in the Russian Federation due to the absence of observers and opposition, the evidence of voting in the occupied Ukrainian territories is clear. And that is a violation of international law.

Russia is increasingly accused of moving from an authoritarian system to totalitarianism. There are virtually no free media, no civil society organizations, and no figures who would express a position contrary to the government. All opinions are suppressed and punished. What does it mean to criticize Russia? If you do not support certain government decisions or policies, you are criticizing the country and the people who shape Russian politics. At the moment, their state system completely imposes a framework on how and what you can say and even think – it's all a movement towards totalitarianism. The death of Alexei Navalny has become a loud manifestation and demonstration of the Russian system. People deprived of their freedom and activities frighten the Russian authorities and are perceived as a threat to the Russian political system. The criminality of the Russian

Federation, whether against Ukrainians or against other states or peoples, or against its own citizens, only strengthens the determination and makes it necessary to unite the efforts of those who can fight against this political regime. Russia does not care about its own problems, does not care about the safety of its own citizens, but spends all its resources on the war against Ukraine.

Paragraph 17 reads as follows: "Since the Russian Federation is only formally a federation, the Putin regime has declared war on its own people. Could you explain why PACE wrote it this way?"

For decades the Russian Federation has been saying that Ukraine should change its state system and become a federation. Ukraine's state institutions are not as rigidly vertical as in Russia, for example, where any resistance by citizens is suppressed by the security forces. Ukraine has a civil society. Russia wanted to impose the idea of a federation and fragment our country. It would have been easier for them because some of the powers would have been transferred from the center to the regions. This could have led to the creation of quasi-entities such as the DPR and the LPR. The paradox is that Russia itself does not correspond not only to the name "federation" but also to the constitutional norms inherent in federations. Over the past 20 years, the number of federal subjects has been reduced. In addition, federal districts have been created with their own powers, which are not specified in the Constitution. The rights that were tradition-

ally enshrined in the federations have been reduced and minimized. Russia keeps saying that there are some language problems in Ukraine. It's worth looking at the language rights of national minorities, where the ratio of Russian to the languages of national minorities (more than 200 peoples) does not meet their cultural needs.

Russia abolished the election of governors, the so-called heads of federal subjects. After the Bolotnaya and Sakharov protests in 2011 and 2012, gubernatorial elections were reintroduced, but with a presidential filter. The elections mean that the presidential administration approves the candidates who can run in these elections, and then they compete with each other. However, the federation is different in that the subjects of the regions have specific rights. The center partially delegates its powers to them, and there should definitely be elections there. But there are none in Russia.

The Russian political and information system is organized in such a way that what the Kremlin says should be heard at the federal level. Russia has come to the point where it does not correspond to the name and structure written in the Russian Constitution as a federation.

To sum up, there are a number of legislative contradictions that are open and do not require proof. These include the absence of elections and the reduction of the number of federal subjects. There are also many unproven facts, such as the reduction of rights or the inability to fully respect the rights of national minorities in cer-



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tain subjects of the Federation.

Several paragraphs of the resolution are devoted to sanctions, namely the export of oil and raw materials from Russia to India and from there to the West. What are the gaps in the sanctions positions?

This is an important point in the sanctions policy, and it is always emphasized when a new package of sanctions is adopted or discussed. Oil is the main item that fills the Russian budget, and it is a resource item, and therefore it is used in Russia's war against Ukraine. As far as we know, the Russian budget for next year is designed as a military budget. Military spending exceeds the total spending on all social items. Countries that have not imposed sanctions: India, China – can buy oil quite openly, because there are no violations from the point of view of international law. Other abuses are hidden. For example, the price of oil. The price ceiling has been set at \$60 per barrel. The prices on the closed market are much higher. And this is the limit of abuse. Or shadow tankers, where ships registered in different countries are used. I think the West needs to work more actively on this.

The oil-related mechanism should be accompanied by a number of other steps that control the purchase and supply of oil. And then it will work a priori to reduce purchases by countries that have not imposed sanctions on Russia.

The resolution deals not only with oil and raw materials, but also with banned technologies that Russia bypasses through third countries. This includes the supply of certain parts through China, Armenia and Kazakhstan. The global economy allows us to look for gaps in the sanctions and replace them. For example, it has recently been reported that Russia is using Starliners on the front lines and has acquired them through third countries.

The resolution calls on the United States to provide military assistance to Ukraine. On April 23, the U.S. Senate voted to approve a military aid package of more than \$60 billion for Ukraine, after the House of Representatives backed the measure on April 20 after months of debate. How did Russia react?

Russia's response to Congress' decision to authorize aid to Ukraine was predictable and manipulative. Putin's spokesman Peskov said that providing military aid to Ukraine would only intensify the war and lead to more casualties, and so on. And I must say that this propaganda narrative is par-



Stanford Ignite Ukraine Empowers Participants

The first Stanford Ignite Ukraine program, launched by the Stanford Graduate School of Business and the CFE Accelerator at Ukrainian Catholic University, came to an exciting conclusion in early April, empowering its 42 Ukrainian participants with premier educational resources and networking opportunities across the Silicon Valley business landscape.

Over the seven-week course, these talented, ambitious entrepreneurs and business leaders gleaned valuable insights, learned how to enhance their business models, made very helpful connections, and more. They were united by their collective goal to further their growth and strengthen the Ukrainian economy.

The Ukrainian Catholic University Foundation extends its deepest gratitude to all who contributed to conceptualizing, developing, and supporting this program.

Stay tuned for future updates— including the announcement of the second cohort for the program!

LEARN MORE ABOUT STANFORD IGNITE UKRAINE AT [UCUFUNDATION.ORG](https://ucufoundation.org)

tially and effectively used in the West. On April 20, we saw a hearing in Congress where Congresswoman Green repeated the Russian narrative that everything should be cut off, as if military aid would lead to even greater escalation. This is exactly one of the lines that Russia has been working on and continues to work on. I think the U.S. and the whole world have seen what the lack of military aid leads to.

When Ukraine had and still has a lack not only of weapons at the front, but also of air defense systems, Russia is actively taking advantage of the lack of weapons in Ukraine and continues to destroy not only critical but also civilian infrastructure. Therefore, when Russia says that the presence of weapons leads to escalation, we have just seen what the absence of weapons leads to.

SPECIAL FOR HROMADA

Katerina Manoff | Ukrainian Roots, American Branches

TRUST OR VERIFY?



A refugee from Odesa wanders the streets of a wealthy Washington DC suburb. Her name is Iryna and she is 60 years old. She knocks on door after door. In broken English, she asks for a room to rent. She is desperate: in three days, she will be out on the street. She pleads, "Maybe you know of an available apartment in the area? Maybe you have a friend who can help?"

When you read this story, what do you feel? Do you sympathize with Iryna's plight? Do you mentally start running through your list of acquaintances and resources for new arrivals?

Or are you suspicious of her motives – why is she knocking on doors? Is this some kind of scam?

Iryna isn't a thought experiment. She is a real person who showed up at my friend's door last week (though I am not using her real name). My friend's American neighbor brought Iryna over, hoping a fellow Ukrainian could understand her story and help her out.

Soon after, my friend shared Iryna's story in our group chat, and ideas for helping find a room began flying.

She can check with the priest's wife at our Ukrainian church.

Here's a rental website she can use.

I'm moving in a few weeks, maybe my family will be okay with letting her use my room for a bit.

If she's truly left on the street, I will take her in.

And then there was me.

Typically, I am the one who sends money every time a friend is collecting funds to buy equipment for defenders or medical care for victims of a Russian attack. I've sponsored several refugees. I have an extra room that I've offered to friends and strangers needing to spend a few nights in the Washington DC area.

My family calls me a naive idealist – too trusting, too ready to help. And sometimes I do take trust too far. For example, I am always leaving my phone, my bag, all my personal belongings everywhere, assuming they won't be stolen (so far, so good). I can't help believing that people are generally good and acting accordingly.

But, as I scrolled our chat, something about Iryna's story felt off.

How did she get to the US without a sponsor to help her with housing? I wrote.

My friend explained that Iryna was staying with her son, who'd sponsored her to come to the United States. But, the son's wife didn't like Iryna. *Now they are throwing her out onto the street. They're just bad people.*

My friend had driven Iryna home and caught a glimpse of her son's upscale

condo. And then she texted all of us.

So, there I was with an empty room in my house and (I'd like to think) a kind heart and a gnawing discomfort in my belly. A man who cared enough to bring his mother over from Ukraine suddenly throwing her out? It just didn't seem to add up. If he was unable to keep hosting her, he could buy her a ticket back home. Or help her find a room – she had a job and could pay rent, after all.

What was true? I wished I could speak to the son and hear the complete story, but of course a stranger's family drama is none of my business. I wanted to convince my friends to understand my doubts, but their decision to help wasn't mine to make either.

The entire weekend, I pondered: How do you know when to trust a stranger? When should we take someone at their word and when should we remain skeptical? I've always trusted my gut, and now my gut was waving red flags, while my friends were overcome with pity for poor mistreated Iryna. Why?

This story doesn't have a satisfactory ending. On Monday, we heard that Iryna had found a place to live. I'm not sure if her plight touched someone's heart, or she simply found a good deal on a rental website, or her son changed his mind (if he was indeed planning to evict her). And next time a fellow Ukrainian asks for help, I honestly don't know how I'll respond – how I will remain kind and trusting without getting taken advantage of.

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ПОВНИЙ СПЕКТР СТОМАТОЛОГІЧНОЇ ДІЯЛЬНОСТІ ВКЛЮЧАЮЧИ:

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



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ДЛЯ ДІТЕЙ

Ведмідь і павучок

(українська народна казка)

Одного разу після довгої мандрівки по лісу, ведмідь заліз у свій барліг і міцно заснув. А коли прокинувся, то побачив, що по його лапі повзе павук.

– Що це ти собі надумав? По мені, ведмедеві, лазити?! – роздратовано пробуркотів ведмідь.

Розсердився на павучка і хотів його вбити. Що міг вдіяти павучок проти такого велетня?

– Даруйте, дядьку, я більше не буду, – почав благати павучок ведмедя, – відпустіть мене, а я вам ще в пригоді стану.

– Чим же ти, дрібноту, можеш послужити мені? – здивувався старий ведмідь. – Яка може бути з тебе поміч?

Але пожалів малого і відпустив. Через деякий час у ліс прийшли мисливці. Ходять, блукають у лісі, а дичини нема. Хотіли вже додому йти, та



несподівано натрапили на сліди ведмедя і почали за ним ганятися. Бідний ведмідь не знав, куди подітися. Ось-ось виб'ється з сил, аж раптом угледів під скелею яму і скочив туди.

Павучок це бачив і одразу про все здогадався. Поліз швидко до тої ями і обплів її густою

павутиною. Посидів трохи, аж тут біжать мисливці. Прибігли і стали неподалік од скелі.

– А може, наш бурмило сидить в отій ямі? – сказав один.

– Туди він не міг залізти, хіба ти не бачиш – там повно павутиння.

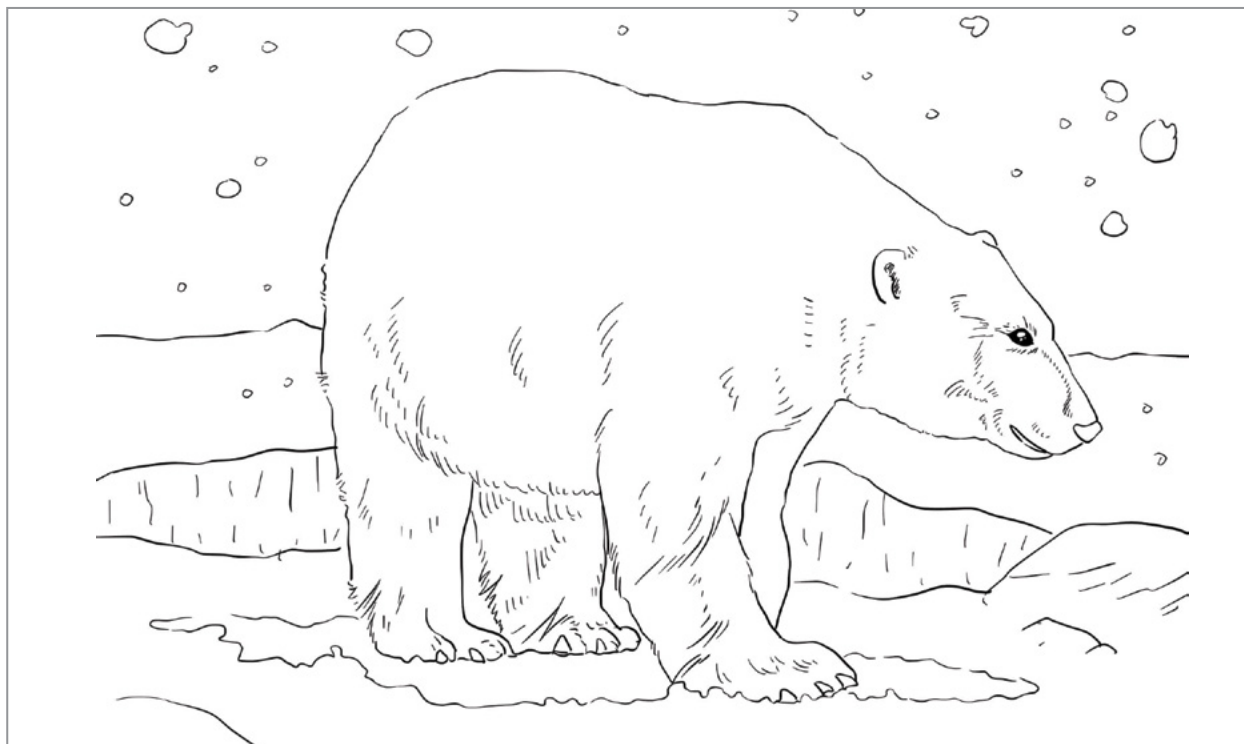
– Це правда! – підтвердили інші мисливці.

Постояли і пішли. А ведмідь сидить від страху ні живий, ні мертвий. І сидів там довго-довго. Врешті визирнув. Лізе з тієї ями і не вірить своїм очам – вся яма в павутинні. А павучок гойдається і сміється.

– Бачите, дядьку, – озвався він, – якби не я, то вас уже на світі б не було. Старе добро не забувається.

– Дякую, що ти врятував мене від смерті, – відповів ведмідь.

Відтоді він ставився до павучка з великою шаную і повагою.



UKRAINIAN NEWS

Total enemy combat losses



According to the General Staff, the total combat losses of the enemy from February 24, 2022 to April 30, 2024 are approximately as follows:

Personnel – 468,720 people were eliminated,
Tanks – 7,307 units,
Armored personnel carriers – 14,046 units,
Artillery systems – 12,011 units,
MLRS – 1,053 units,
Air defense systems – 779 units,
Aircraft – 348 units,
Helicopters – 325 units,
Operational and tactical level UAVs – 9,531 units,
Cruise missiles – 2,126 units,
Ships and boats – 26 units,
Submarines – 1 unit,
Vehicles and tankers – 16,142 units,
Special equipment – 1,977 units.

Military aid for Ukraine



On April 24, **U.S.** President Joe Biden signed bills providing \$95.3 billion in aid to Ukraine, Israel, and Taiwan. Arms shipments to Ukraine will begin immediately.

On April 24, the United States officially announced a new \$1 billion military aid package for Ukraine. The Pentagon announced what weapons

the Ukrainian army will receive.

The new US military aid package includes:

- RIM-7 and AIM-9M air defense missiles;
- Stinger anti-aircraft missiles;
- Small arms and additional ammunition for small arms, including 50 caliber ammunition for anti-drone operations;
- Supplemental ammunition for HIMARS;
- 155 mm artillery shells, including high-explosive shells and improved conventional dual-purpose ammunition, and 105 mm artillery shells;
- 60 mm caliber mortar rounds;
- Bradley Infantry Fighting Vehicles;
- Mine-Resistant Ambush Protected (MRAP) vehicles;
- High Mobility Multipurpose Wheeled Vehicles (HMMWV);
- Logistics vehicles;
- Tactical Towing and Transporting Vehicles;
- TOW anti-tank missiles;
- Javelin and AT-4 systems;
- High-precision aerial munitions and airfield support equipment;
- Anti-tank mines;
- Claymore anti-personnel mines;
- Explosive Ordnance Disposal ammunition;
- Night vision devices;
- spare parts, field equipment, training ammunition, and maintenance.

The United States has also provided the Ukrainian Army with trophy weapons and ammunition seized from Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps. The IRGC intended to transfer the weapons to the Houthis in Yemen.

On April 4, more than 5,000 AK-47 assault rifles, machine guns, sniper rifles, RPG-7s, and more than 500,000 rounds of 7.62 mm ammunition were transferred to the Ukrainian Armed Forces.

On April 26, the United States allocated \$6 billion to purchase weapons for the Ukrainian armed forces from American industry. According to the Pentagon website, the package will include

- Additional ammunition for Patriot air defense systems;
- Additional ammunition for the National Advanced Surface-to-Air Missile System (NASAMS);
- Equipment for integrating Western launchers, missiles and radars into Ukrainian air defense systems;
- Anti-UAV equipment and systems;
- Ammunition for laser-guided missile systems;
- Multifunction radar stations;
- Counter-artillery radars;

- Supplemental ammunition for Highly Mobile Artillery Rocket Systems (HIMARS);
- 155-mm and 152-mm artillery shells;
- Precision air-to-air munitions and Switchblade and Puma unmanned aerial systems (UAS);
- Tactical vehicles for towing weapons and equipment;
- Detonating ammunition;
- Components to support Ukrainian UAV production and other capabilities;
- Small arms and ancillary ammunition.

The Government of **Canada** will provide the Ukrainian military with an additional batch of 450 SkyRanger multi-purpose unmanned aerial vehicles. This was reported by the press service of the Ministry of Defense after a meeting of the Steering Group of the Drone Coalition for the Armed Forces.

Denmark will send Ukraine another military aid package worth DKK 2.2 billion (over \$300 million). The money will be used to develop Ukraine's naval capabilities, as well as for drones and the production of missile components.

This month, the Danish government is preparing another military aid package for the Ukrainian armed forces. It will include elements necessary for the use of F-16 aircraft in Ukraine.

Also on April 25, the Danish authorities agreed to allocate additional funds for military assistance to Ukraine in 2024. According to the plan, Denmark will provide the Ukrainian Armed Forces with another 4.4 billion Danish kroner (about 590 million euros) worth of weapons this year.

Denmark will be the first country in the world to purchase weapons for the Ukrainian Armed Forces from Ukrainian manufacturers. The Danish government has allocated 200 million Danish kroner (about 28.5 million U.S. dollars) for the purchase of weapons and military equipment for the Armed Forces directly from Ukrainian manufacturers.

Spain will provide Ukraine with missiles for the US Patriot anti-aircraft missile system. This comes amid pressure from the European Union and NATO to provide aid to Ukraine.

On April 23, **British** Prime Minister Rishi Sunak announced the largest military aid package in history for Ukraine. It includes boats, long-range Storm Shadow missiles, ammunition and armored vehicles.

In particular, the largest ever package of equipment from the UK includes

- 60 boats, including assault and

submersibles, and naval guns

- More than 1600 offensive and anti-aircraft missiles, plus additional long-range Storm Shadow missiles
- More than 400 vehicles, including 160 Husky armored vehicles, 162 armored vehicles and 78 all-terrain vehicles
- Approximately 4 million rounds of small arms ammunition.

For the first time, the UK Government will supply Paveway IV precision-guided bombs to the Ukrainian Armed Forces. The exact number of bombs to be delivered has not yet been disclosed.

Defense contractor Rheinmetall received an order from the **German** government to supply Ukraine with 20 additional Marder infantry fighting vehicles.

It is known that the Ukrainian Armed Forces will receive Marder infantry fighting vehicles in the 1A3 modification. These armored vehicles have built-in laser rangefinders, which ensure efficient and accurate targeting.

On April 10, the German authorities delivered a new package of weapons, including vehicles, equipment and ammunition, to the Ukrainian Armed Forces. The Ukrainian military received 16 Vector reconnaissance drones, 30 RQ-35 Heidrun reconnaissance drones, 30 sets of anti-drone equipment and 70 infrared cameras.

In addition, Germany transferred

- One Warthog all-terrain vehicle;
- Two WISENT 1 mine-resistant vehicles;
- six thousand 155 mm caliber grenades
- 11 mobile demining systems
- three mine sweepers;
- 680 Haenel MK556 assault rifles;
- 24 boat engines;
- 1 million rounds of small arms ammunition;
- 5,000 detonators.

The Government of **South Korea** handed over 70 ambulances to the Ministry of Health of Ukraine.

On April 5, **Lithuania** handed over M577 armored personnel carriers to the Ukrainian military as part of regular military assistance.

Lithuania's military assistance includes weapons, ammunition, drones, anti-drone equipment, training for soldiers, and repair of heavy equipment.

On April 11, it was announced that the Lithuanian government had delivered a new batch of military aid to the Ukrainian armed forces. Ukraine received anti-drone systems, generators, and folding beds.

Also on April 23, the Lithuanian

government delivered a batch of M577 armored command and staff vehicles to the Ukrainian Armed Forces. In addition, the Lithuanian government plans to supply air defense radars to the Armed Forces of Ukraine.

On April 16, the **Latvian** government decided to supply Ukraine with the first batch of drones as part of the Drone Coalition established to support the Ukrainian Armed Forces.

On April 22, Latvia announced that it would supply Ukraine with short-range air defense systems.

Slovakia provided Ukraine with two mechanized demining vehicles and other technical equipment to assist in humanitarian demining, particularly in the Kherson region.

Financial assistance for Ukraine



- The **European Investment Bank** and the Ministry of Community, Territorial and Infrastructure Development have signed an agreement to provide an additional €5 million for the modernization of Ukrainian hospitals.

- At the end of the month, the **EU** disbursed another tranche of €1.5 billion to Ukraine.

- April 11: **U.S.** Ambassador to Ukraine Bridget Brink announces that the U.S. will provide \$138 million to modernize air defense systems in Ukraine.

- Ukraine receives \$118 million in non-repayable loans from **Japan** as part of World Bank projects for health and reconstruction.

The grants from the Government of Japan include \$70 million under the World Bank's HEAL Ukraine project and \$48.2 million under the World Bank's Shelter Repair for People's Empowerment project.

- The **Norwegian** authorities have decided to provide Ukraine with up to 150 million Norwegian kroner (about 12.7 million euros) for the maintenance of Leopard tanks.

- **Denmark** will provide more than 400 million euros to support critical

infrastructure and reconstruction in Ukraine.

- The **Netherlands** has allocated an additional one billion euros for military assistance to Ukraine and 400 million euros for reconstruction.

- **South Korea** will provide Ukraine with a medium- and long-term assistance package worth \$2.3 billion. The country will also provide \$12 million for the rehabilitation of wounded Ukrainian soldiers through a NATO trust fund.

- **The Drone Coalition**, initiated by Latvia, has already raised nearly 500 million euros for the purchase of drones for the Ukrainian armed forces.

The Netherlands and Denmark have announced a €400 million joint purchase of drones for the Ukrainian armed forces. Canada is investing another €70 million, Lithuania €3 million, and Latvia at least €10 million.

- In just six days, residents of **Slovakia** voluntarily donated more than €3 million to a Czech initiative to buy shells for the Ukrainian military. The collection started on April 16. So far, 309.874 million euros have been collected.

Ukraine's international partners have pledged the equivalent of more than \$700 million for humanitarian-demining projects in 2022-2027. Major donors include the United States, Japan, Switzerland, Norway, Germany, the Netherlands, and others.

Results of Rammstein-21

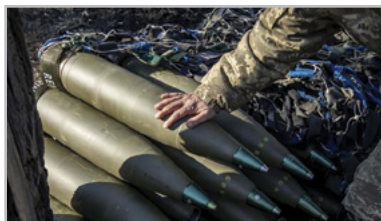


The first F-16 fighter jets will arrive in Ukraine this year, along with trained Ukrainian pilots. The planes will also be accompanied by maintenance personnel.

This was stated by Pentagon Secretary Lloyd Austin before the 21st meeting of the Ukraine Defense Contact Group in the Ramstein format on Friday, April 26.

"Ukraine also needs more artillery and armored vehicles to protect its citizens and retake stolen territory. And we will do everything in our power to help them", the Pentagon chief emphasized.

Czech initiative to buy ammunition



Germany will provide 576 million euros (\$618 million) for the Czech Republic's plan to buy ammunition for Ukraine. This will be enough for 180,000 artillery shells.

Although German Defense Minister Boris Pistorius announced a 478 million euro aid package for Ukraine last month, it does not include the Czech initiative to buy ammunition.

In total, as of April, the Czech Republic has found more than one million pieces of artillery ammunition for the Ukrainian armed forces as part of its initiative. Twenty countries have already joined the process.

According to Czech Prime Minister Petr Fiala, the first batches of ammunition will be delivered to Ukraine in June.

Norway and Latvia Sign Security Agreement with Ukraine



Norwegian Foreign Minister Espen Barth Eide has announced the signing of a bilateral security agreement with Ukraine.

According to Eide, Norway will provide "long-term military, political, financial and humanitarian support" to Ukraine.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy and Latvian President Edgars Rinkēvičs also signed a bilateral security agreement.

"According to the agreement, Latvia will provide Ukraine with military assistance in the amount of 0.25%

of GDP annually. In addition, Latvia makes a 10-year commitment to support Ukraine in cyber defense, mine clearance, unmanned technologies, and unconditionally facilitates our accession to the EU and NATO. Thanks to friendly Latvia!" Zelenskyy wrote on Telegram.

NATO working to provide Ukraine with more air defense systems



NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg said the alliance is working to provide Ukraine with as many air defense systems as possible. This is not just about Patriot air defense systems.

He called the delivery of Patriot "critical" because it is "the most advanced defense system the Alliance can count on."

Stoltenberg also emphasized that delays in providing such assistance hurt Kyiv's efforts to counter Russia's attacks.

"If NATO Allies do not support Ukraine, its people will not be able to defend themselves. And that is why it is so important that we support Ukraine. NATO Allies have so far provided unprecedented support to Ukraine: 99 percent of the military support has come from NATO allies. But we must do more," the NATO Secretary General urged.

In particular, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said: "I will not tell you how many Patriot systems we have, but I can tell you that to fully cover Ukraine for the future, it is desirable for Ukraine to have 25 Patriot systems with 6-8 batteries each. All of our partners are already aware of this and even know where the systems should be located."

U.S. supports the possibility of using Russian assets for Ukraine



On Saturday, April 20, the U.S. House of Representatives passed a bill to use frozen Russian assets to help Ukraine. Bill No. 8038 on the transfer of frozen Russian assets to Ukraine received 385 votes in favor and 34 against. The U.S. Senate is next to support this decision.

Ukraine may receive about \$8 billion in frozen Russian assets as part of the process.

Register of Damages Caused by Russian Aggression Inaugurated in The Hague



On April 2, the International Register of Damages Caused by Russian Aggression was officially opened in the Hague.

According to the Register's website, it will accept claims for compensation for both material and non-material damage caused to individuals, legal entities and the state of Ukraine. The categories of damages will include, among others, claims related to

- Loss of life, torture and sexual violence, and bodily injury;
- Forced displacement and forced relocation of persons;
- Loss of property and income and other types of economic loss;
- Damage to critical infrastructure and other government facilities;
- Damage to historical and cultural heritage sites;
- environmental damage, etc.

In order to submit an application to the Register to report damage or destruction, you must be the owner of the property and have a certificate of

inspection from the local authorities. Subsequently, other owners of destroyed or damaged property, including those whose property is located in the temporarily occupied territories, will be able to submit applications.

Abducted children returned from the occupied territories



On April 3rd, seven children who had been living in the occupied territories were returned to Ukrainian-controlled territory.

Dmytro Lubinets said that the children and their families came from the temporarily occupied territories of the Zaporizhzhya and Kherson regions. They also managed to return a family with two brothers. For the sake of the children, their guardians decided to leave the occupied territories so as not to put them in danger. In addition, one family with a three-year-old girl evacuated to government-controlled territory.

On April 17th, two more families with children leave the temporarily occupied part of the Kherson region for Ukrainian-controlled territory.

On April 19th, 17-year-old Myroslava is returned to Ukraine from Russia. The girl had previously been living in the occupied territories. Representatives of the Ukrainian Children's Rights Network, in cooperation with the Ministry of Reintegration, organized the girl's return as part of the "Way Home" project.

How many Ukrainians need humanitarian assistance?

As a result of Russia's ongoing aggression, approximately 40% of the Ukrainian population is in need of humanitarian assistance.

"The scale of humanitarian needs



in Ukraine remains enormous. More than 14.6 million people – about 40% of Ukraine's population – are in need of some form of humanitarian assistance, 56% of whom are women and girls", said Edem Vosornu, Director of Operations for the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, during a UN Security Council meeting on Ukraine.

She also expressed regret that Ukraine is now "experiencing some of the worst attacks since the beginning of the war."

European Parliament refused to vote on EU budget until Ukraine gets Patriot



The European Parliament has refused to approve a decision on funding for the EU Council because of the bloc's delay in providing Ukraine with additional Patriot systems.

This was announced by MEP and former Belgian Prime Minister Guy Verhofstadt on April 11.

Speaking in the European Parliament, Guy Verhofstadt recalled the words of EU diplomatic chief Josep Borrell that European countries have a hundred Patriot batteries, while Ukraine is asking for at least seven. He suggested that the European Council should refuse to fund the project until these air defense systems are found and delivered to Kyiv. His words were greeted with applause.

In the vote, Guy Verhofstadt's proposal was supported by 515 MEPs, with only 62 against.

"CRIMEA IN THE FUTURE IS A PLACE WHERE MY PEOPLE CAN PROSPER"

ON THE 80th ANNIVERSARY OF THE DEPORTATION OF THE CRIMEAN TATARS

Anastasiia Krupka

Lenura Ziyadin is a 27-year-old Crimean Tatar. She and her family moved to the United States from Uzbekistan in 2010. It was there that her relatives were deported by Soviet authorities in 1944. After arriving in New York, Lenura became an active member of the local Crimean Tatar community, which numbers in the thousands. In particular, she regularly performed with a dance group that preserves Crimean Tatar customs and culture, and she continues to participate in important community events.

– In May, it will be 80 years since the tragedy of the Crimean Tatar people – the large-scale deportation of Crimean Tatars. How did this event affect the history of your family?

– My family was born in Uzbekistan. Unfortunately, we could not live in Crimea, but I have many relatives there. My maternal grandparents were born in Kerch and my paternal grandparents in Bakhchisarai. My grandfather was a soldier in World War II. When he returned to the Crimea, he found that his entire family had been deported to Samarkand. My other grandparents were also sent to Uzbekistan when they were young.

I had the opportunity to hear stories from my grandparents about those times. Unfortunately, they died before I was ten years old. However, my grandmother wrote down some of their stories, such as how she was separated from her siblings. She searched for them all her life! But she could not find any of them. The children were taken to other families and their names were changed. I remember so well how we used to sing Crimean Tatar songs with my grandmother in the summer when we were walking in the yard...

– Do you keep in touch with your Crimean relatives now?

– Yes, many of my aunts and uncles live there. We talk about everything, but they always avoid any political topics, especially on the phone. They are afraid of being overheard. However, they do talk about their daily struggles and the discrimination they con-



Festival in Pennsylvania

stantly face. For example, in Crimea there is a problem of discrimination in the workplace. It is particularly acute when people have names of non-Slavic origin. This affects businesses and people who are looking for work every day in architecture and tourism (although tourists now come mostly from Russia). All of this comes at a time when the cost of living in Crimea has skyrocketed, including the price of food and other goods. In addition, the Crimean Tatar language can now only be taught in schools in small towns and has been completely removed from schools in large cities.

– This, of course, has consequences for Crimean Tatar culture in general. Do the Crimean Tatars in the occupied Crimea manage to preserve it?

– According to my relatives, they still manage to get together. Recently, for example, they held several events to celebrate the end of Ramadan. As far as I understand, simple celebrations with music and dancing are allowed, while large religious gatherings are mostly denied. But this is just my guess, because most people who live in Crimea now are afraid to talk about it.

– There are several thousand Crimean Tatars living in the United

States. There is a big center in New York City. How long has it been in operation?

– Our community center was founded in 1977 by the first Crimean Tatars to immigrate to the United States. Many of them came from Turkey. We also have a mosque and a children's school here. The latter is open every Saturday, and our young people are taught religion, the Crimean Tatar language, and dance. We also organize big events in the community throughout the year to bring people together. The biggest gathering is Qirim Gece-si, with performances by a children's dance group and our professional dancers from the Efsane collective, which means "legend" – Dinara Faizova, Uriya Kermenchikli, Ayshe Kubedinnova.

During Ramadan, our community center holds daily dinners, called iftar, for all those who are fasting. The center is a non-profit organization and is supported by donations from community members. We are currently raising funds to complete the renovation of the building, which has required a lot of work. In my opinion, our center is a true embodiment of Crimean Tatar unity, because without the contribution of each family, it simply would not exist.

– How do you get involved in the life of the Crimean Tatar community?

– I was part of a dance group after I moved to the United States. I still perform when we are invited to dance at big festivals. But mostly the group is for young people, up to about 25 years old. It's just that after that, people tend to go to college or get married.

My whole family is active in the community. My nephews go to Saturday school every week. We just finished Ramadan, and we have a tradition that on the eve of Ramadan, every Crimean Tatar family prepares a fried dish, usually chebureks, and the next day they visit their elderly relatives with these dishes.

– Are there many students in the school now?

– After the recent immigration we have a large class, I think about 40 students. A lot of people who moved from Crimea to Ukraine after 2014 came to the United States in the last three years.

– Does the community support any Crimean Tatar initiatives outside of New York?

– Yes, for example, we communicate with our community in Canada, we went there to perform a few years ago when they organized an event in cooperation with the Ukrainian community. In 2017, there was a big Ukrainian festival in Pennsylvania, where many representatives of the Crimean Tatar people also participated. There was a joint program that emphasized that Ukraine is one.

In New York, there is no Mejlis (the only supreme representative and executive body of the Crimean Tatar people, in its present form it was founded in 1991 – Ed. But its chairman, Refat Chubarov, and the leader of the Crimean Tatar people, Mustafa Dzhemilev, always visit our center when they come to the United States.

– How do you see the future of Crimea?

– Nowadays, the focus of conversation among Crimean Tatars in Crimea has changed a bit in the context of reintegration. If before everyone was just hoping for the return of Ukraine, now everyone is more focused on the war on the mainland. They are worried and expect it to end as soon as possible.

After so many years of struggle, for me the future of Crimea is a place where my people can live, grow and prosper without being persecuted for simply expressing their culture and religion. I want my people to finally be able to settle in their homeland and not be forced to change cities and



Dance group in traditional costumes



Crimean Tatar Community of New York

countries, to rebuild everything over and over again. Of course, I also want peace for Ukraine and the Ukrainian people. Although I have never lived in Crimea, it will always be my home. I was there only once, after the occupation, but now I always think about what it was like before. And I dream of going back there one day.

– What do you think we can do now to reintegrate Crimea? How can we spread the Crimean Tatar culture in Ukraine?

– I think this can be done by recognizing and promoting our holidays and important dates, such as Oraz Bay-

ram, the Day of Remembrance of the Crimean Tatar Genocide on May 18th. We also integrate our dance into concerts and popularize Crimean Tatar art. For those students who are interested in learning Crimean Tatar as a supplement to Ukrainian, English, or other languages they are studying, it can be taught in schools. The most difficult thing for us now is to preserve the language, because many of our ancestors, who were deported from Crimea when they were young, were never able to fully master it and pass their knowledge on to the next generations. That is why it is very important to help us.

INTERVIEW WITH MAVKA

AN ORWELLIAN PLOT ABOUT THE WOMEN'S PARTISAN MOVEMENT IN OCCUPIED MELITOPOL

Anastasia Vararu

Because of raids in the city, the call had to be postponed several times: final preparations, a control message, and then it failed again. I wait several days. Finally, through a secure chat on Telegram, I receive a call from the contact. The signature: Evil Mavka. The avatar graphically depicts the stern face of an attractive woman on an orange background. She has dark hair, a wreath of flowers on her head, raised, dark eyebrows and focused, squinted eyes. Her lips are tightly sealed...

– I'm finally in touch," I hear a woman's friendly voice on the other end of the line, smiling. I immediately thank her for the call, introduce myself, but the name of the person I'm talking to remains unknown. This is an interview with one of the founders of the women's guerrilla movement in Melitopol, the "Evil Mavka".

Two realities of life under occupation

At the beginning of the interview, when the interviewee hears about the readers of the newspaper Hromada, she remembers her previous experience with foreign media.

– After this conversation I realized that it turns out that people have no idea what is really going on here. That for the pro-Ukrainian population the reality of the occupation resembles the plot of an Orwellian novel. Everything is saturated with propaganda. You can't trust anyone, and every aspect of life is controlled by the state. By the way, the first thing the occupation authorities did was to cover the whole city with cameras. Melitopol has probably never seen so many cameras. Our daily life is filled with a feeling of constant paranoia and fear. You have to be prepared for sudden checks in the evening. This is a constant practice of the racists: to suddenly burst into a house with searches. Without explanation. They like to make demonstrations and record the arrest of a "dangerous terrorist" on camera. They demonstrate how they found grenades in the apartment during the search and that there must be an American flag," the woman laughs into the phone and continues.

– They won't recognize you as a ter-



rorist without it. And this is really funny. It seems like we used to live here and every family had an American flag at home. If before, in 2014, the proof of involvement in Right Sector was Yarosh's business card, now it's an American flag.

Betrayed your neighbor and got a piece of bread, betrayed the country and got a position in government.

In addition, the enemy has developed a system of denunciation. There are many chatbots and groups where anyone can post a gag order. The administrators are surprisingly careful to keep things in order. We've never had this practice of snitching on a neighbor before, but now the Rashists have

explained how it works," he says ironically. "They taught us how to do it. They reward you for fighting terrorism.

This means that it is difficult to trust even those with whom you have lived in the same house for years. Small talk on the street or exchanging pleasantries with neighbors no longer exists as a form of communication.

According to Mavka, the reality for the workers is somewhat different. It is aptly characterized by the last words of the first stanza of the poem "The International" by Eugène Potier:

"We are ours, we will build a new world. Those who were nothing will become everything."

– Let's face it, there are those in Melitopol who were waiting for a "new

world," the heroine continues, "for them, of course, this reality is completely different. If you betray your neighbor, you get your bread; if you betray your country, you get a position. And you should see this new 'intelligentsia'. Ex-janitors and masseuses are offered "dignified" positions in the administration by the racists.

The General Context of Occupied Melitopol

The heroine also said that forced passportization is one of the main forms of pressure on the population. Without a Russian passport you can't call an ambulance or get a job. Apartments are being nationalized en masse. For those who have left the city and want to sell an apartment, returning to the occupied city and obtaining a Russian passport to obtain documents is a mandatory step.

The situation with food is no better: lack of hryvnia, high prices and exchange offices with unfavorable rates. Grocery stores have a poor selection of low-quality and expensive Russian-made goods. Pharmacies sell medicines of poor quality at inflated prices.

Humanitarian aid is rare. And when someone gives something away, "it's not even good for dogs." Instead of pensions, people have received food parcels. Local officials say this is a temporary phenomenon. So, the "Evil Nymph" movement opposes such realities, this "Russian world".

About the activities of the movement, the number of its members and the main challenges

At present it is difficult to calculate the exact number of participants. One of the founders says that some of the women take active steps, such as distributing leaflets, drawing Ukrainian flags, burning Russian flags, etc. But there are also those who write diaries, create layouts and print materials on their printers. So we can say that today the movement consists of several hundred women.

– Each of them does what she can," says Mavka. "Even telling a story can be a big risk and a big responsibility for many of them.

Regions covered by the Movement

– At present there are girls from almost all the occupied regions. Kherson and Zaporizhzhya regions. Recently, girls from Donetsk and Luhansk regions started to join us, which is a big breakthrough for us. For a long time we had no news about the resistance from these regions, but now girls from there have started writing to us, sending us their diaries and showing active



support. So the movement is growing fast. But most of the participants are from Crimea. The involvement of girls from Crimea has encouraged us a lot. It made us realize that we are doing a really important thing that supports not only women in Melitopol.

– *"Is there a chance to at least pass on something from the Ukrainian side?" I ask the leader of the movement at the end of the conversation. I really want to find at least one way to show support in practice.*

– There are rumors sometimes, but to be honest, I have not come across them. I am not an expert on cryptocurrencies, but it seems that there are no secure ways to do this yet. That's why we can't accept donations right now.

– *So you produce all the materials at your own expense?*

– Yes, we do. Someone can use their own printer. Technically, those who have left help with layouts and design. If a girl wants to join, we ask her what she can do and how she can help. For example, if a girl can use a printer, she can print flyers and send them out. Others can draw symbols or burn Russian flags. Each girl chooses an activity according to her skills.

– *Tell us please, what gives you the strength to continue your activities against all odds?*

– The good news from the front is encouraging. The support from the Ukrainian side is also encouraging. I cannot say that it is easy for us, and we are always positive. Many women from

other cities sometimes write to me just to talk. While waiting for the liberation, hope can fade, so it is important to have a place where you can find like-minded people. Especially when you lose confidence in your surroundings. We are now talking as a team about psychological support and are considering setting up secure communication with professional psychologists who have lived through the experience of occupation. We are looking for partnerships.

I want everyone who is under occupation to find the strength to resist, despite and despite. Because the more of us there are, the more chances we have to make Ukraine our home again. The Ukrainian Armed Forces are doing their job, but we have to do our part. One day Melitopol will come home, and we will dance and rejoice even louder than Kherson.

Founded in early 2023, the Ukrainian women's nonviolent resistance movement "Evil Mavka" actively resists the occupying forces, using Mavka as a symbol of Ukrainian defiance. Through a Telegram channel and a chatbot, the activists coordinate the resistance and remain anonymous. By handing out leaflets, burning Russian flags draped over the city, and drawing Ukrainian symbols, they risk their freedom and even their lives.

Russian Telegram channels and accounts systematically threaten members of the movement, promising to "hunt them down" and end the resistance.

DISINFORMATION AS A WEAPON: RUSSIAN PROPAGANDA WAGES A LARGE-SCALE INFORMATION WAR AGAINST UKRAINE

Inna Mikhno

Disinformation is a separate weapon used by the Kremlin in its war against Ukraine. Its methods are constantly evolving in order to mislead as many Ukrainians as possible and the whole world. One of the waves of propaganda is accusing the West of supporting Ukraine and "fomenting war". Seeds of falsehood and fear are being sown in the Ukrainian information space to promote the idea that: "the country of Ukraine does not exist, it is only a 'puppet pseudo-state' run by the U.S. government."

One of the main goals of Russian propaganda is to keep Ukrainian society in maximum tension. The Russian army violates all norms of warfare and international humanitarian law. Russia is trying to increase the sense of fear by spreading numerous fakes on various issues. Myroslava Markova, editorial director of VoxUkraine, told Hromada about the information attacks Russia has been using since the beginning of the war, and the narratives and fakes it is promoting against Ukraine.

Human Shield

Russia's information campaigns should be divided into Russian information attacks against the Ukrainian population and those aimed at other countries. Attacks against Ukraine are first and foremost attempts to sow panic. After all, the greatest damage caused by propaganda is information chaos in a huge flow of news and the number of versions of events. People become confused and lose their sense of trust.

According to Myroslava Markova, from the very first days Russia attacked Ukrainians with a huge number of fakes through social networks and individual media. Their main goal was to confuse and undermine confidence in the Ukrainian government and army.

"These were attempts to demonize the Ukrainian army, to show that it was allegedly using the population of Ukraine in the cities as human shields. We remember these stories about Mariupol, Kherson region and certain localities. Even today we see such fakes. Recently, a fake video was



circulated showing the residents of Kharkiv allegedly lining up to leave the city because there is a threat of a Russian offensive and the Ukrainian army allegedly wants to use civilians as human shields. These elements, which we call "fear propaganda," are being reproduced by Russia over and over again," the expert noted.

Undermining trust

At the same time, the look of the fakes and the tools used to spread them have changed. Ukrainians have lost trust in pro-Russian media operating in Ukraine, as well as in politicians who have been systematically spreading Russian narratives for years. Russian websites have also been blocked. Still, Russian propaganda has managed to adapt as much as possible to social media.

According to Myroslava Markova, the Russians have developed a whole network of Telegram channels through which they skillfully promote their narratives. In the occupied territories, "networks" of local Telegram channels are created, first disguised as regular news platforms, and then propaganda. Eventually, Russian propaganda began to imitate major Western media outlets and engage in identity theft.

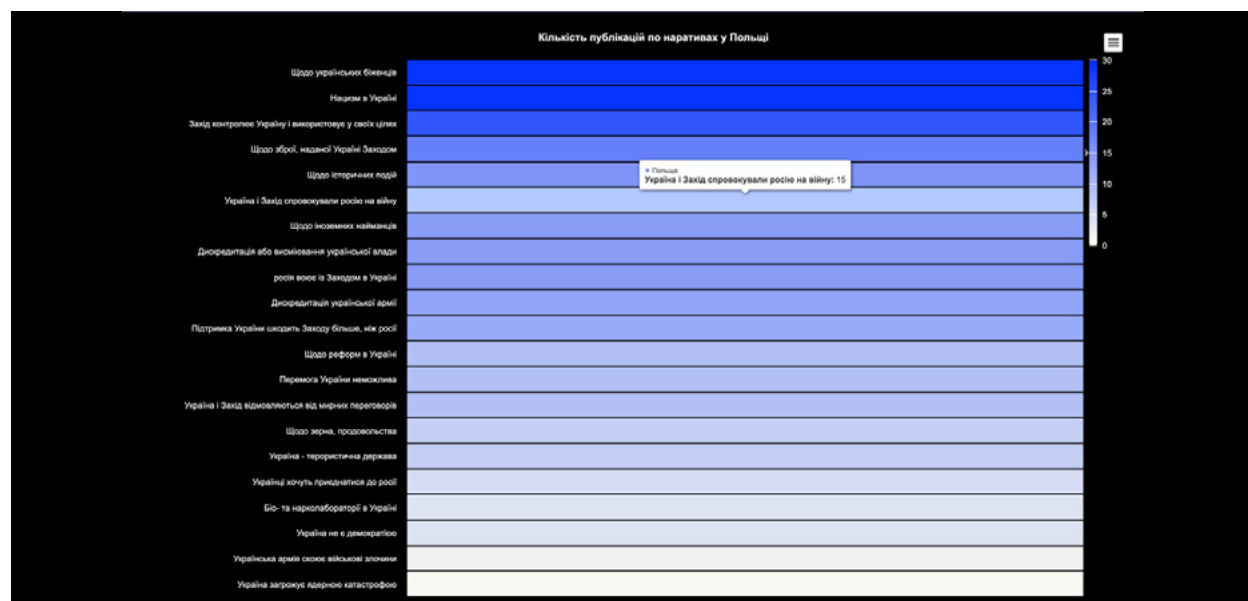
"Propagandists took video excerpts, added logos of recognizable media outlets, and signed them in English to make it look as if the news was being spread by Western media. When

Russia attacked the railway station in Kramatorsk with the Tochka-U missile system in 2022, fake videos were circulated, alleging that the BBC accused the Ukrainian army of using such weapons, which resulted in civilian deaths. Moreover, these videos were fabricated in such a way as to be as similar as possible to BBC reports. Russia is increasingly trying to mimic sources that Ukrainians trust. There are a lot of fakes created with the help of artificial intelligence. They use video excerpts from the Ukrainian telethon "United News", other recognizable TV channels, faces of popular TV presenters, and superimpose a generated audio track. In such "broadcasts," propagandists convince people that conscripts are being mobilized right at gas stations, and that bank accounts are being blocked for evaders. Such videos look quite plausible," Markova noted.

She added that Russia is now actively intimidating Ukrainians with new offensives in Sumy and Kharkiv regions. All of this is aimed at exhausting the population, undermining morale and encouraging actions favorable to the enemy: provoking protests, intensifying disputes between different groups of the population.

Is the West fomenting war in Ukraine?

Such tactics do not always work, however, and Russia is resorting to



increasingly brazen information and psychological operations. During the attack on Ukraine's civilian infrastructure, various campaigns were spread to provoke panic and weaken critical thinking among the population. In this sense, the propaganda directed at Western countries has also changed.

"At first, Russia tried to justify why it violated all sorts of international treaties and attacked a sovereign country. In this sense, the propaganda directed at Western countries has also changed. Fakes were launched about the oppression of the Russian-speaking population, the undemocratic nature of Ukraine, and the 'civil war' that has been going on in the east since 2014. Information attacks promoted the idea of the government's illegitimacy against the backdrop of discussions about holding regular elections in the country in the midst of war. In general, they tried to manipulate the issue of Ukraine in the context of money in order to influence the societies of Western countries. The idea was formed: it is not profitable for you to transfer financial aid to Ukraine, to support refugees and to pay social benefits. In Germany, for example, the narrative that the transfer of weapons makes the country an accomplice in the war was very strongly pushed. The narrative that the "conflict in Ukraine" will escalate into World War III if Western countries continue to transfer weapons was reinforced. In Poland, which received the largest number of Ukrainians, Russian fakes manipulated the issue of refugees, who were demonized by fake news. They talked about conflicts with the locals, about the deterioration of the crime situation in the country because of the Ukrainians.

Later, these messages also turned into manipulations based on Poland's financial support for Ukraine," Markova said.

Government is corrupt and mobilization is ineffective

Most often, VoxCheck records falsehoods about mobilization and corruption in Ukraine. According to Myroslava Markova, disinformation is effective when it contains an element of truth.

"Of course, Ukraine has been a corrupt country for a long time, which is why we have created anti-corruption institutions. Even in times of war, there are corruption scandals. This is a fact. Is there a problem in Ukraine with mobilization and discussion of the relevant bills? Yes, it is. There are people who try to avoid military service. We have many disputes about how the mobilization process should be conducted. These problems, like the issue of corruption, cause a strong public reaction. And it is clear that Russian disinformation creates most of the falsifications around these issues. For example, in Kherson a fake was spread about the lack of doctors in medical institutions, because allegedly all of them were mobilized. There are also separate fakes about "forced mobilization of women" and "brutal arrests of deserters". The Russians used their fakes to try to create discord between different ethnic groups in Ukraine. To this end, they claimed that the state was allegedly mobilizing only certain ethnic minorities (for example, Hungarians) and sending them immediately to the front. Propaganda distorts the real facts in order to portray the government's struggle against the popu-

lation and call for actions favorable to Russia. Unfortunately, it works," the editor-in-chief points out.

Russia is trying to convince both Ukrainians and Western countries that the weapons it is providing are not reaching the front lines because corrupt officials are reselling them. In this regard, numerous fakes are being spread about corruption in the political leadership: about the alleged purchase of valuable property by the country's leadership and government representatives. Russia is spreading all this in order to undermine the confidence of the Western public in Ukraine as a recipient of aid and to discourage the people in the country. The aggressor is not trying to turn Ukrainian society against individual corrupt politicians or ineffective political leaders, but rather to shape the opinion of Ukrainians and our Western partners: Ukraine is a failed state, and such an autonomous country should not exist.

Is Ukraine a puppet state?

So one of the narratives that Russian disinformation has been trying to instill in Ukrainian society for years is that Ukraine is not an independent and sovereign state. It is worth noting that this thesis was promoted quite successfully before the war.

"One of the main goals of Russian propaganda is to undermine confidence in Ukrainian institutions, the presidency, and the government in order to prove to Ukrainians that their state is not viable. Ukrainians are resistant to these narratives. But in the context of Western propaganda, Russia is launching a narrative about Ukraine being controlled by the West, and un-



fortunately this narrative is quite effective. In Europe, some speakers or ordinary citizens do not dare to talk about radical support for Ukraine and condemn Russia's actions because of this imposed narrative: it is bad to be pro-American, pro-imperialist, because Ukraine is strongly supported by the United States. And therefore it is supposedly automatically controlled by the US government. Many in the West believe that the leaders of the Western world use Ukraine only as a tool in their confrontation with Russia, and therefore Russia's attack on Ukraine was a forced act of defense against the West," Myroslava Markova points out.

She adds that the most common narrative in Russia is that Ukraine is controlled by the United States. This narrative can be traced in various falsifications: that political decisions regarding Ukraine are made exclusively by the US government, that the Ukrainian government is not independent, that the election of the president and the commander-in-chief of the armed forces is also the will of the United States. The issue of conflict within the military and political leadership of Ukraine was also exaggerated. Russia spread all these falsehoods in huge waves of information.

"Falsehoods were spread about the conflict between President Zelenskiy and the US government. That if there is no unity within the country, Ukraine cannot resist Russia. The biggest narrative is that Ukraine is completely non-autonomous. The idea that the decision on whether to continue to confront Russia or to lay down arms will be made not by the Ukrainian

leadership, but exclusively by Washington, is constantly being thrown into the information space.

Russian propaganda also tries to show that the public in the United States is not very supportive of Ukraine. Pro-Russian protests were organized in Washington, D.C., where speakers called on the government and the American people not to oppose Russia, trying to show the mass sentiment among Americans that they do not support providing aid to Ukraine. In other words, Russia continues to try to sow doubt: "Should the United States continue to support Ukraine?" All this is an attempt to influence the American public so that Americans will vote in the elections for politicians who will put forward anti-Ukrainian theses. Thus, this is an attempt to contribute to the change of the political regime and "bring" pro-Russian politicians to power in the United States," Myroslava Markova says.

Expert pseudo-network

Today, social media are the platforms for spreading fakes and disinformation, as well as for disseminating IPOs. In addition, according to Myroslava Markova, there is a whole network of pseudo-experts that Russia uses to promote its narratives. In particular, VoxCheck, together with the Center for Countering Disinformation at the National Security and Defense Council, has identified at least 26 pseudo-experts whose activities show signs of a network. These pseudo-experts systematically promote pro-Russian narratives in the West.

"These people received the same awards, had the same connections to Russian state media, talked to each

other on YouTube channels, and spread pro-Russian narratives about Ukraine. We identified typical strategies for spreading disinformation through their own or friendly expert channels. This includes one of the most famous and now scandalous interviews with Putin by former Fox News host Tucker Carlson. In the very first episode of his own show on social media platform X, Carlson accused Ukraine of blowing up the Kakhovka hydroelectric plant, and he has repeatedly spread pro-Russian narratives about Ukraine's undemocratic nature. Other pro-Russian spokesmen include American journalist Danny Haifon, a pro-Russian spokesman, and the equally well-known scandalous American columnist Scott Ritter. Together they record videos, which are broadcast by the Russian television channel Russia Today, and refer to these Western experts in their narratives. There is one pseudo-expert named Brian Berletik. He calls himself a "geopolitical analyst" and has his own YouTube channel, The New Atlas. Berletik claimed that the Ukrainian government was using 'Nazi' units to 'suppress' pro-Russian sentiment among Ukrainians," the VoxCheck expert pointed out.

"There are many such speakers not only in the United States, but also in Europe. This is a whole strategy of Russian propaganda – to use for their own purposes people with an established audience, who used to be journalists, are well-known bloggers, artists or actors, and so on.

The Russian trace

Of course, not all forgeries have a Russian trace, and according to Myroslava Markova, it is very wrong and



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even dangerous to attribute any dissatisfaction of Ukrainians to the Russian IPSO.

"I think that criticism is normal in a society that monitors the actions of the authorities. Discussion is a healthy reaction of the society. It is normal that some issues cause controversy. The problem is that Russian propaganda is trying to manipulate this. But it is very dangerous for us to ignore socially important issues and say that it is only external Russian disinformation influence. Ukraine has quite active citizens who can defend their interests," the analyst concluded.

For reference: VoxUkraine is an analytical platform that created the independent fact-checking project VoxCheck. The team exposes disinformation, manipulation and Russian propaganda both in Ukraine and abroad. VoxCheck is a signatory to the Poynter Institute's International Fact-Checking Network Code of Ethics. VoxCheck is



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Anti-War Rally - Washington, D.C.
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Google News Initiative

a member of the Meta fact-checking program to flag and refute false content

on Facebook and Instagram (over 4.4 thousand fakes have been refuted).

UKRAINIAN ARTISTS IN THE COLORS OF CALIFORNIA

**Nadiia Banchyk, Secretary
of the 107th Branch**

In recognition of March as Women's Month, the Ukrainian American Federation (UAF) Lesya Ukrainka Chapter 107 hosted a one-day event titled "Women in Art: An Exhibition of Artwork by Women of Ukrainian Descent Living in the San Francisco Bay Area" at the Google Cuddle, a welcome center for Google employees.

The temporary booths feature paintings. Bright Petrykivka-style flowers and abstract compositions; portraits of girls in Ukrainian dress and oils of San Francisco life that look like frozen movie stills; impressionistic landscapes and sketches of old Odesa, with laundry hanging on balconies and the inevitable cats; colorful mosaics and whimsically carved woodwork. There are ceramic vases, ashtrays and wooden Easter eggs on the tables... The well-dressed artists talk animatedly about the style and content of their works and those of their colleagues. In the small room, all this creates an uplifting and at the same time relaxed atmosphere that invites free communication and fills souls with a sense of participation in creation.

The artists are mostly young. Some have been here for 20 years, while others have arrived more recently, fleeing a full-blown war. There are professionals and amateurs.

Olha Bolzovska, for example, shows her mosaics. She works as a masseuse but graduated from a printing school in Lviv. "After graduation I worked in a printing house: I put letters together. I didn't like it then. But during the Covid pandemic, when my husband and I were at home like everyone else, we came up with the idea of making mosaics. My husband makes wooden tables, and I decorate them with mosaics, and I liked making mosaic pictures," Olha shares her "secrets" of creativity.

...Pencil and pen drawings in the form of postcards, stylized as 1910s – gates and corners of Odesa, Californian courtyards, Italian landscapes... Olena Kovtash is originally from Zaporizhzhia, but she discovered her artistic talent during a trip to Odesa, also during the Covid. "But there was no Covid on Deribasivska Street, people without masks, lively, you could hear Odessa jokes! The guide Svitlana led

us with great enthusiasm not only to the well-known monuments of the city, but also to picturesque corners, courtyards, carved gates... When I returned home, I drew these postcards and sent them to Svitlana, who then distributed them on excursions". Perhaps this hobby determined Olena's profession – graphic designer – and she makes postcards in her spare time.

...The silhouette of Azovstal in red tones, with the portrait of an indomitable warrior underneath, one of those who bled to death defending the plant for almost two months against the unequal forces of the Russian invaders... Another picture of the war is a girl in an embroidered shirt with a military jacket draped over her shoulders, a defender Yulia Mykytenko. This is how the current war is reflected in Oksana Fedko's work.

...A series of sketches of huts – different in architecture, size and character. Each cabin is its own world. In this way, Yevheniia Zlotar reflects both her nostalgia for her native Kharkiv and her admiration for the diversity of cultures. The artist spent time in Scotland and now lives in San Jose. "I was looking for answers to the questions: "What is home for me? I don't just belong to Ukrainian culture, I belong to many cultures. In her everyday life, however, Yevheniia embraces her Ukrainian roots – "in her clothes, in her jewelry, and in her cooking - borsch is borsch," she said, half-jokingly.

Nora Mason is also drawn to her homeland. She was the only representative of the older generation of Ukrainian immigrants and allied women in the exhibition: she left her native Lviv with her mother in 1943, when she was only two years old. Her black and white photographs of the house in Lviv where she spent her first two years, taken several decades after her departure, seem to transport the viewer back to the world of the past, to the most sacred place on earth where the first steps were taken.

Each exhibit has a personal story behind it. But the one that attracts the most attention is the artillery tube that rotates like a globe. It is painted in the style of Petrykivka: bright poppies, sunflowers, cornflowers – and an inscription: "Freedom has a price".

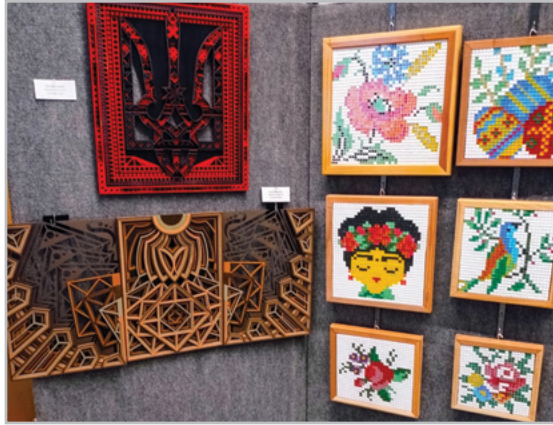
- "This pipe fought at the front in the first months of the full-scale invasion," says Lyubov Spitsyna, who represents

the work of painter Maria Malyarenko (who else could it be, with her name!), because Maria lives in Los Angeles and could not come to the exhibition. "This work embodies the ability of Ukrainians to turn what kills into what inspires; the ability to treat any situation with love. The pipe came to Maryna from the front with great difficulty through the nonprofit organization Volia. After it is shown at several exhibitions, it will be auctioned and the money will be transferred to the Armed Forces," Lyubov Spitsyna explains.

The exhibition was organized by Maria Vladimirova, the cultural affairs officer of our department. "The idea for the exhibition came up a long time ago, and now we have the opportunity – Google provided us with this space for the event. I did not choose the artists – they found me when I announced the exhibition on Facebook. We didn't want to limit ourselves to Ukrainian artists, but decided to present artists of Ukrainian origin as broadly as possible: some of them go back to their roots, others spread their "crown" and enter the world of American culture with its diversity.

The exhibition was followed by a discussion and then a reading of Ukrainian poetry. The reading was attended not only by Ukrainian women, but also by a guest: Munsu Rishi, an American of Indian descent. She has been interested in Ukrainian culture for a long time and came to the poetry night organized by our department last year. Now she read several of Lesya Ukrainka's poems in English translation, as well as a wonderful poem by a Ukrainian soldier in the current war, which echoes Lesya's fiery lines. Along with the Ukrainian poets, the poems of our contemporary Olena Bilyak, who lives in San Francisco, were also read. Her poems are dedicated to her hometown of Lviv and to understanding war, the horrors of which are impossible to get used to – even here, across the ocean. "Don't get used to it!" one of her poems demands.

...An exhibition of artworks, poetry, free communication – all combined in a small hall, creating an atmosphere of warmth and love that overcomes the horrors of war. And the works of Ukrainian artists, like herself, were organically woven into the colorful fabric of California life.



Mosaics by Olha Bolzovska and woodwork by Iryna Kulchytska



Maria Vladimirova (right) and sculptor Maria Litichevska



The window of your home. Nora Mason



Watercolor by Natalia Shevchenko



Tubus and other works by Maryna Maliarenko



Oksana Fedko. Portrait of Yulia Mykytenko

MYKHAILO VYNNYTSKYI: UKRAINE IS THE FRONT LINE OF THE 21ST CENTURY

Lukian Selskyi

In addition to the Russian occupation, the number of Ukrainians in different latitudes of North America has increased rapidly. Driven by war, often deprived of their homes in their homeland, they quickly adapt to new conditions, build families, households, quasi-communities, and seek to realize their potential. One of the most important challenges in a new country is to adopt the values and traditions inherent in the local culture, educate children, master the language, and at the same time preserve their Ukrainian identity.

Are stability and self-realization mutually exclusive for Ukrainians in the United States? Is American education really weaker than Ukrainian education? Why should Ukrainians integrate but not assimilate in America?

Professor Michael Wynnnyckyj shared his extensive answers with the community. Mr. Wynnnyckyj is a native of Canada, a Cambridge graduate, one of the long-time leaders of the Kyiv-Mohyla Academy, a lecturer at UCU, and now the Deputy Minister of Education of Ukraine. He has emigrated to Ukraine for more than two decades, where he has made a significant career advancement, established a family, and become one of the most renowned public intellectuals in the country.

L.S.: *One of the most significant challenges facing Ukraine is the exodus of individuals from the country since the onset of the full-scale invasion. Some have expressed doubt about their ability to return, while others have expressed hesitation. What are the key factors to consider in this situation?*

M.V.: I am far from thinking that all is lost. Yes, the population of Ukraine has decreased significantly over the past ten years as a result of hostilities with Russia. But I do not see this as a tragedy. We are unique as a nation because we have a very developed diaspora in almost every country. There are not many such global nations in the world – Jews, Armenians, Chinese... The history of the Ukrainian diaspora in the United States goes back 140 years, and in Canada about 130 years. In fact, this is the history of the



existence of Ukrainian communities that have been actively developing outside Ukraine for generations. And what is happening now in our country is strengthening Ukrainian communities in other countries. Whether this is good or bad depends on how the Ukrainian state treats the diaspora, and whether the current influx of Ukrainians to other countries will lead to the strengthening of communities or the assimilation of those Ukrainians who have recently left. Yes, on the one hand, Ukrainians are scattered all over the world, it's true, but on the other hand, Ukraine would not have the support it has in the world today if we were not a global nation. Therefore, as a person who was born and lived almost thirty years of my life in Canada, then four years in England, and the last twenty-plus years in Ukraine, I do not consider emigration a great tragedy.

L.S.: *In Ukraine today, the attitude towards Ukrainians who are outside Ukraine is ambiguous.*

M.V.: I absolutely understand and do not condemn those people who are leaving Ukraine now. Some of them are real refugees, others are economic migrants. For a large number of Ukrainians who grew up in the USSR or in the years after its collapse, the desire to leave the country was latent and deep-seated – if only they could go abroad and everything would be fine! In the last two years, this part of the population has become more active and has taken advantage of the opportunities that have arisen in connection with the war. I think this is quite normal. In every society there is a layer of

people who seek stability, material comfort and economic prosperity. The waves of emigration to North America in the last one hundred and twenty years have consisted mainly of such people. It has been an economic migration, except for the one that took place immediately after the Second World War.

On the other hand – and here I speak as a descendant of political migrants who fled Soviet repression, not in search of comfort – we must understand that everything has a price. My main motive for moving to Ukraine was to find opportunities for self-realization. This may sound strange to some people, because I came from the comfort of Canada to the very unstable land of my ancestors. But I can say with absolute certainty that I would never have achieved what I have achieved in Ukraine if I had stayed in Canada. The price of achievement is lack of stability. In my 22 years in Ukraine, I have lived through two revolutions, and now I am living through a war.

Stability and self-realization are two opposite things. If you want an analogy, Europeans went to North America 150 to 200 years ago. There were conflicts between cowboys and Indians. They went for self-realization, not stability and economic prosperity. This was the frontier of that civilization.

Ukraine is the frontier of the 21st century. This means there are great opportunities, but not for everyone. There are risks. Not everyone is ready to take risks.

We are now seeing another large

move of Ukrainians. We are strengthening our diaspora with economic migrants and those who want to make their mark on history. This is a division. We must remember that both are Ukrainians.

I hope Ukrainians live in America, Canada, Australia, and Argentina, with Ukraine always close to their hearts. We in Ukraine will also have a special attitude toward the global Ukrainian diaspora.

L.S.: *People who move to America often have good prospects, but it can be hard to find a job in their field because higher education in Ukraine isn't highly valued in the United States. Ukrainians often take jobs that aren't prestigious in Ukraine. For example, plumbers.*

M.V.: A plumber in Ukraine earns more than a marketer.

L.S.: *You don't need a high school education to become a plumber in Ukraine. In America you need an education and a certificate, and you have to work and be responsible for your work. This is different.*

M.V.: If it's so hard, go back! In Ukraine we need people who will work.

L.S.: *I'm going to draw two conclusions from this. Ukraine has a serious crisis in vocational education. The second is that fewer American youth want to go to college. They can make a living without going to college.*

M.V.: There's a crisis in vocational education everywhere. It is not just a Ukrainian problem. We are moving from an industrial to a post-industrial society. This means that there is a demand for creative jobs that require a university degree. At the same time, there are not enough people working in blue-collar jobs.

Young people in America don't see the point of going to college. Over the past five years, more than 75% of Ukrainian high school graduates have gone on to college. In the USA, less than 40% of high school graduates go to university. And this has always been the case! Higher education in the USA is expensive. The Biden administration is trying to make college more popular with young people.

As for the myth that Ukrainian university degrees are not valued in the United States, this is not entirely true. Diplomas from the National University of Kyiv-Mohyla Academy, Taras Shevchenko National University of Kyiv, and the National Technical University of Ukraine "Igor Sikorsky Kyiv Polytechnic Institute" are valued all over the world. Just like my Cambridge degree, for example. But when it comes



to less prestigious universities, their diplomas are not really in demand because they are not known outside their country. It doesn't matter if they are Ukrainian or American. When we talk about American universities, the Ivy League + Stanford are not representative of all higher education in the United States. Just as our top institutions are not representative of Ukraine.

And the problem here is not that we have some kind of low quality education. If we compare it with the American one, ours is much more accessible and cheaper.

L.S.: *But what about quality?*

M.V.: In Ukraine, as in America, there is a very steep pyramid of quality. For example, if you ask Google "How many universities are there in the United States?" you will get a number of almost 5,000 universities. The population of the United States is about ten times larger than the population of Ukraine. Accordingly, we should have

about 500 universities. In fact, our country has much fewer universities, and the average Ukrainian will think that we have many universities that are worthless.

Again, every country has a pyramid of quality. At the top are the top universities, and then there are the secondary universities. And just like in the United States, there are companies in Ukraine that call themselves universities, but they are really just selling diplomas. We in the Ministry of Education are fighting this.

L.S.: *And according to the latest news, you're doing a good job?*

M.V.: Yes. But here's what I would like to point out, as a child of immigrants who came to North America after the Second World War: I have seen many waves of immigrants, and I remember very well that there has always been a tendency among newcomers to look for something wrong with Ukraine. For me, this is a way of

justifying themselves and their decision to emigrate. You should not do that. You just have to understand that as an emigrant you have to start your career at the bottom of the social ladder. My father was once a simple worker and later became a professor. It's interesting that I went through something similar when I came to Ukraine as an immigrant. I had to prove that my Cambridge degree was equivalent to a Ukrainian doctorate.

L.S.: *Please explain this in more detail.*

When you decide to become an immigrant, you should be prepared to start your life at a lower social level than at home. And this process of adaptation will take up to ten years. If you are not ready for it, my dear compatriots, come back! Ukraine is waiting for you! If you have decided to live and build your life in the United States, do not complain that Ukraine has not given you anything. Each of us makes his own decisions for which he must take responsibility.

L.S.: *Do you know many examples of people from America or Canada who came to Ukraine for permanent residence?*

M.V.: Yes! Once, together with my students from Mohylivka, I conducted a study on the phenomenon of "Diaspora Ukrainians living in Ukraine". At that time we counted about five hundred and forty people who were born in the Diaspora, grew up outside Ukraine, and moved to the country of their ancestors for permanent residence. Some of them took Ukrainian citizenship, such as myself, Ulana Suprun, Natalie Jaresko, and myself. There are not as many such examples as we would like, but Ukraine's requirements for citizenship are quite strict

– not everyone is ready. In fact, I'll repeat the obvious: always and in every society, there is a larger number of people who seek stability and a smaller number who seek self-realization. This is a normal statistic. To draw an analogy, in any society there are always fewer entrepreneurs and more employees.

When I came to Ukraine, for a long time I was not considered a "real" Ukrainian. At some point it was bound to come up in conversation: "Mr. Mykhailo, what kind of passport do you have?" Because in Ukraine at that time, your national identity was linked to your passport. Even if you spoke Russian, you were considered more Ukrainian than a non-citizen who spoke perfect Ukrainian. Perhaps it was this rejection of my citizenship by society that prompted me to get a Ukrainian passport.

Growing up in Canada, I was raised with the belief that once the Soviet Union collapsed, everything would be fine in Ukraine, relatively speaking. In the nineties, a lot of young people from the Ukrainian diaspora went to Ukraine and were very disappointed. They realized that they had been brought up in an illusion and that the "cherry orchard near the house" was a myth. We were told about one Ukraine from birth, but in reality it turned out to be something completely different.

The diaspora formed its own "Ukrainian-ness". And it was definitely different from the various ethnic groups in the United States or Canada. We spoke Ukrainian at home, celebrated Christmas on January 7th, painted Easter eggs, and collected paintings by Ukrainian artists. Once a week we would gather in churches. Not because we were particularly religious, but because it was a place where you

could definitely meet your "own" people. And when we came to Ukraine from this environment, we were surprised: no one really goes to church, and a large number of people speak Russian. It was a shock for us.

I'm telling you this to say that those who have recently left Ukraine will experience something similar. On the one hand, they will remember all the bad things and thus justify their decision, and on the other hand, when they want to return and share their experience, they may find that their compatriots are not ready to accept them.

L.S.: *The vast majority of Ukrainians who travel abroad, especially to the United States or Canada, say that education in these countries is much weaker than in Ukraine. On the other hand, as a parent whose son attends a Ukrainian school, I have many reasons to complain about the quality of Ukrainian educational programs. So where is education better? And is it even possible to compare them?*

M.V.: They are incomparable. The Ukrainian educational system performs the function of knowledge transfer very well. If we believe that the purpose of education is to transfer knowledge, then the Ukrainian education system does it much better than the North American one.

If we believe that the purpose of education is to educate, to develop what we call competencies, that is, the ability to do something, to socialize a young person, that is, to make him or her a part of society, to form certain standards of behavior and attitude toward others, certain ideas about the world around him or her, then North American education is better.

Coming to North America and sending a child to school, a person from Ukraine says after a while: "They can't teach math here because they don't know trigonometry." And it is true. On the other hand, a child from Ukraine is asked to write an essay, and he or she will not be able to do it well. And the problem is not the language, but the world view and the ability to express their thoughts. And here is a paradox: you cannot impose knowledge on a developed worldview, but you can impose a worldview on knowledge. The factual part of education is the foundation. And the worldview part of education should be built on this factual foundation. That is why I consider the Ukrainian educational system to be the best, although it can and should be influenced by the best practices of the American system.

We should not turn Ukrainian edu-



cation into Western education, but at the same time we realize that with the opportunities provided by Google today, the knowledge component has become less important than it was 20 years ago.

We are now intensifying the transformation process in universities, and I am convinced that in time Ukrainian universities will offer a much higher level of knowledge and skills than North American universities. Opponents may criticize that our universities will never be as highly ranked as Harvard or Princeton. But I would like to point out that rankings have nothing to do with the quality of education. I myself am a graduate of one of the world's top universities, but I would never send my children there for a bachelor's degree. A bachelor's degree is not about research or a research environment, it is not about science. It is about the transfer of knowledge and the formation of a personality. And this is better done in Ukraine at the moment. I am absolutely convinced of that.

L.S.: Do you have an idea to create Ukrainian state educational institutions abroad? And are you ready to open a branch of a Ukrainian university in North America?

M.V.: We already have several universities that are establishing their branches abroad, especially in China, Poland, Georgia and Moldova. As for America, you have to understand that the United States is the only country in the world where private education dominates. Neither Europe nor Canada has a dominant private education system. The fact that Stanford, Yale, Harvard and Princeton are private institutions is something of a global anomaly. And it has to do with the uniquely American tradition of philanthropy.

I would like to draw your attention to a little-known fact: Harvard's endowment is \$85 billion. And by the way, until recently, the financial manager of this endowment was a Ukrainian, Orest Grabovich. I say this to emphasize that Ukrainians, as a rule, always become leading experts in the professions they choose. And this is the strength of the Ukrainian diaspora in every country of the world.

Private education can only exist with significant financial infusions from business. And such flows have been forming for hundreds of years. The Harvard endowment was created almost two hundred years ago. If we are ready to wait two hundred years, we will have a chance to create something similar in Ukraine.

L.S.: But would you like to see a

Ukrainian university in the United States?

M.V.: Why? A university has three missions: to teach, to research, and to develop its community. Universities are always rooted in their environment. For example, locally, Stanford is part of Silicon Valley and a very important part of it. And Harvard is an important part of the Boston cluster. The Kyiv-Mohyla Academy is an important part of Kyiv's Podil district. And Kyiv-Shevchenko University is an extremely important part of Kyiv. Establishing branches of universities abroad is a good business, but we should not forget that one of the missions of any university is to develop the community in which it is located.

L.S.: For example, the Ukrainian Catholic University (UCU), which is a private institution, is shaping its geographical environment quite expansively. Isn't it becoming pan-Ukrainian?

M.V.: 80% of UCU students come from Lviv or the Lviv region. It is very important for Western Ukraine and for Lviv. But first of all, like any other university, it is part of its community. Branches of this university may be opened in other cities with a different name and format, but UCU is first and foremost a Lviv university.

L.S.: In this case, doesn't the state-run Kyiv-Mohyla Academy, for example, need additional funds and perhaps private ownership or partial private ownership?

M.V.: Over the past 10 years, the policy of the Ministry of Education and Science has been moving towards greater autonomy for universities. And we are ready to free state universities from the trap of the "budgetary institution", where the state controls both expenditures and revenues. And we already have several universities that are definitely ready for this. At the moment, the ministry is not ready to give this autonomy to all of them, because it means that the management of these educational institutions will have to be able to earn money through market methods in order to stay afloat. And if we put the whole system under autonomy now, most of our universities will simply not survive. Especially under martial law. So we have to do it gradually.

L.S.: When Ukrainians move to America, especially during the war, they usually try to keep in touch with other Ukrainians as much as possible, going to Sunday school and church. Do you think this prevents them from adapting well to a com-

pletely different mentality, social issues, and understanding the country they came to?

M.V.: This is actually a very difficult question. I will answer it as a person who grew up in Canada, not in the United States. And it is worth remembering that the difference between the diasporas of these two countries is quite significant. I remember very well when American scouts came to Canada to visit camps and said that they spoke American. We were very surprised at that time: what does that mean – American? We speak English, French, Ukrainian... But not Canadian. And this is the basic difference between the two countries. When you come to the United States of America, you become an American, and you either assimilate into this American identity or you remain an immigrant. In Canada, there is less of that pressure to assimilate. There is something called multiculturalism – everyone is Canadian by blood. For example: Ukrainian Canadian, French Canadian, Japanese Canadian. And I think there is a certain contribution of Ukrainians in this, because the policy of multiculturalism was largely introduced under the influence of the Ukrainian diaspora.

L.S.: What should Ukrainian-Americans do?

M.V.: There is no need to contrast "Americanness" with "Ukrainanness". To be an American is a certain institutional affiliation: to live in the United States, to vote in presidential elections, but to retain one's Ukrainian ethnicity. And in my opinion, this combination of ethnicity and institutionalism is quite normal. We in Ukraine are used to talking about a Ukrainian political nation. A person who is Jewish and lives in Ukraine considers himself a Ukrainian. And that is normal. The same is true in the United States: a person who is Ukrainian remains Ukrainian, even though he or she lives in the United States and has American citizenship. In my opinion, this ability to integrate while remaining ourselves is our strength. Integration into the professional and social life of North America does not mean forced assimilation. That is why I always say: if you have already decided to live in the United States or Canada, integrate as much as you can. My father did that and became a professor, and my uncle became a major in the Canadian army. At the same time, they remained Ukrainian. There are many such examples of integrated but not assimilated Ukrainians.

IRYNA ARTYM – ПРОЩАННЯ

Jaroslav Zurowsky

Going through boxes of old books which I acquired over the years or books which found me in one manner or another, I came across a book of short stories by an author I had never heard of. So naturally, I had to read it.

The collection, ПРОЩАННЯ, appeared in 1946 in Augsburg, Germany, self published by the author, Iryna Artym, about whom nothing can really be found. It seems she was still living in Germany in the mid-1950s. But other than that, nothing. Nor does it seem that she published anything after that which is readily accessible.

Contemporary literary types would correctly classify this book as "chic lit." It is not the greatest literary masterpiece Ukrainians have ever produced. However, it deals with topics most Ukrainian literature does not

touch on, especially in the post war 1940s.

Iryna Artym brings up issues such as date rape and the implications of it; love and romance in the 20th century, such as the dentist who ends up with his receptionist; and can an Ukrainian woman have an affair with a German soldier who occupied and devastated her homeland in post war Germany; can/should a woman abandon her ailing husband for a young doctor and a more comfortable lifestyle. Once you leave your hometown, can you ever return home to reclaim what was left behind decades ago? How do you deal with the American GI butcher who brings you slabs of meat for the household?

The stories are well written and read quickly. Some literati will complain that they are somewhat simplistic tales which is true, while others will say that

they are too cosmopolitan. But those complaints aside, Iryna Artym has to be praised for this collection and for daring to bring up issues no one else does. Individual readers can debate among themselves how successful she is in dealing with the topics she raises. ПРОЩАННЯ is not great literature but it is better than much of the writing out there and it deserves to be read and noted, especially by those studying Ukrainian émigré literature or by those studying Ukrainian women's writing as it provides another facet of the human experience, the experiences faced by those of humble backgrounds who must deal with everyday issues.

Iryna Artym is most probably not alive anymore. However, a new generation should take a look at ПРОЩАННЯ, so that this collection does not remain hidden and forgotten.



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EVENTS 2024

MAY

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 MAY

UKRAINIAN
MOVIE "TASTE
OF FREEDOM" /
PALO ALTO

Ukrainian Films USA

Where: Landmark's Aquarius Theatre, 430 Emerson Street Palo Alto, CA 94301

When: Wednesday, 7 PM – 9 PM
Life is Feast – You Be the Chef
A romantic story about the power of dreams, culinary legacy and love
Palo Alto screening will take place at Landmark Aquarius on May 15 at 7:00 p.m. (in Ukrainian with English Subtitles).

Synopsis: Varya is a young aspiring cook who runs away from her small Ukrainian village to prove herself as the head chef of a prestigious European restaurant. She experiences a series of spectacular failures until she finds an old cookbook by Olga Franko, a renowned female chef and activist who was forbidden to cook during Soviet times. As Varya works her way through the book's recipes, the ghost of Olga Franko appears and encourages her to uncover the culinary secrets of her heritage. However, Olga warns Varya that once she masters the recipes, she will have to choose between the life she always wanted and the culinary roots she wanted to leave behind.

Genre: drama, comedy, culinary, fantasy
The film is in Ukrainian with English subtitles.

Age restrictions: 12+
* All sales are final. No refunds.
* Our tickets are General Admission, seats will be reserved on a first-come, first-served basis.

Tickets: \$24
https://www.eventbrite.com/e/ukrainian-movie-taste-of-freedom-palo-alto-tickets-892170274307?aff=odeccpe&email_campaigns&mipa=ABIdvVsGmcnm5nPH09cjOJD-B1xIBDlrhhRCaCvynybL2Ux4PX5U-TmFLbYMS93tJvtWzEpjJUUW0G6d4uVGp257cvCzebtSgxt7UTChMWp3Uha6jYg5VSx5boalwoFGJ0rwMnpWuz0XvcEljmJV2-RWP6o54bfahbA5JdwC-Y-FUuvsTRlq3vFD0lwGogTJwWeRHYgd-w-J_CVWd19YPQgByCRF-3IQTCGXRhlvlVdXmA88JLcvD641zVIFLHYAI4jpzi23Vz7OocCFIdjWSj0QqTk6Zxu0FA8w

16 MAY
LATEXFAUNA |
SAN FRANCISCO

MoLoKo, Ukrainian American Coordinating Council and 2 others
Where: City Night, 715 Harrison St, San Francisco, CA 94107

When: Thursday, 7 PM – 11 PM
Latexfauna is going on a charity tour through the USA and Canada!
So get out your Brokeback Mountain jokes, because LATEXFAUNA has set its sights on the ocean and is ready to give the Americans some real latex fever.
Let the people of the New World revel in the orgasmic music of the Naddiprians like a young depraved lady in a horsewoman pose. Our stallions will ride across the deserts and prairies from east to west, stopping at Canadian labersexuals along the way. And if we are lucky, we will bring dollars to help Ukraine.

7 PM Doors
8 PM Show starts
Experience the electrifying energy of LATEXFAUNA's live concert, where Ukrainian indie vibes collide with captivating melodies. Immerse yourself in a musical journey as the band weaves introspective lyrics into a tapestry of eclectic sounds. From pulsating rhythms to soul-stirring vocals, their performance promises an unforgettable night of indie magic that transcends boundaries. Join the crowd as LATEXFAUNA crafts a sonic landscape that resonates with both

emotion and innovation, leaving you entranced by the spirit of Ukrainian indie brilliance.

Tickets: \$65
<https://www.facebook.com/events/309487482064630/>

19 MAY
UKRAINIAN
MARKET,
VYSHYVANKA
DAY, FAMILY
DAY IN LOS
ANGELES

Victoria Kuzina
Where: Ukrainian Cultural Center - UCC, 4315 Melrose Ave, Los Angeles, CA 90029
When: Sunday, 1 PM
Spring Fair
Delicious Ukrainian dishes, Family Day concert, entertainment for children and adults
<https://www.facebook.com/events/437423688666276>

8 JUN
ANNUAL
UKRAINIAN
SUMMER
PICNIC,
CUPERTINO

UNWLA Northern California, Branch 107
Where: Blackberry Farm Park, 10120 Adelheid Ct, Cupertino, CA 95014
When: Saturday, 11 AM
We are inviting everyone for Annual Ukrainian Summer Picnic hosted by UNWLA Branch 107 on June 8th in Cupertino, CA
<https://www.facebook.com/events/799954825520719/>