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## UKRAINE & ISRAEL ARE BATTLING THE AXIS OF EVIL



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SPECIAL FOR HROMADA

Vitaliy Portnykov | Notes for October

# THE GLOBALIZATION OF WAR



When, almost immediately after Russia's attack on Ukraine, I said that a long war would lead to the globalization of the conflict and the emergence of new threats, such assessments were met with misunderstanding both in the West and in Ukraine itself. Even for those in the civilized world who supported Ukraine in its confrontation with Russian aggression, the war looked like a larger-scale conflict in the post-Soviet space, a struggle, although barbaric and illegal, for Russian "spheres of influence." In Ukraine, they also did not really understand what the Middle East or Taiwan had to do with it. When the then Speaker of the House of Representatives of the American Congress, Nancy Pelosi, during her trip to, noted that it was about the confrontation between democracies and dictatorships, it could have seemed more like a beautiful image than an element of real politics, and in Kyiv they tried to stay away from Taiwan as much as possible, so as not to offend Beijing.

But what began to happen in the Middle East demonstrated that it was not about insults, but about politics, about what the Russian-Ukrainian war would turn into if it was prolonged – a global confrontation. And, of course, it is not only about the inhuman cruelty with which Hamas terrorists killed Israeli civilians, but also about how Russia reacted to the situation, how it was in no hurry to judge this atrocity or even express official compassion. And now, as I write this text, a Hamas delegation is holding talks in Moscow, and the Russian leadership is ignoring Israeli protests about it. By the way, a delegation from Iran has also arrived in Moscow, the same Iran that supplies Russia with drones for attacks on Ukraine's infrastructure and is at the same time one of the main sponsors and political patrons of Hamas terrorists. This is a

real – and demonstrative – consolidation of the "terrorist international," and Moscow no longer considers it necessary to hide its affiliation with it, even boasting of such affiliation! And this is also a new horrific world that has been built in recent years by the efforts of Vladimir Putin and his entourage.

No wonder the world media call Vladimir Putin the main beneficiary of the war in the Middle East. It is not difficult to understand why. Indeed, the events surrounding Israel and the Gaza Strip are now on the front pages of all the world's publications and in the first frames of television channels. Thus, the Ukrainian war seems to have faded into the background, both in the media and in politics. Despite the fact that the war continues, and the suffering of civilians continues along with it.

Another important aspect from which Putin benefits is crude oil prices. They have gone up again because of this war. And Putin, like his Iranian allies, needs high crude oil prices because they are the main salvation of his economy, the main opportunity to continue its militarization. If Israel would not be at war now, but in the process of negotiating with Saudi Arabia, we could now discuss not an increase but a decrease in crude oil prices. But the Hamas raid disrupted these agreements for a long time.

The war in the Middle East has created a competition between two important conflicts for the United States. And even though President Joseph Biden compared the war in Ukraine to the war in Israel in his address to the nation, we can already see the presence of other views, whose proponents call for focusing on the Middle East first and foremost. But even if this point of view does not win, "physical" competition will not go anywhere, and the US military will have to decide whether to send missiles to Ukraine or Israel.

At the same time, it is important for Putin to position himself as a defender of the interests of the "global South." Russia, whose army committed atrocities in Bucha and Izyum, and now has again begun attempts to destroy Ukraine's energy infrastructure, condemns not the terrorists from Gaza, but Israel for its response. In addition, of course, it finds sympathy not only in the Arab world, but also still has the op-

portunity to accuse the West of "double standards." This cynicism could be perceived with disgust, but in fact, it receives solid support in the "global South." And so, Russia gets an additional opportunity to prove that it is not at war with Ukraine, but with the "Nazis" and NATO.

The most dangerous thing may be that the conflict in the Middle East is not the last such war. The question is not only that the Kremlin is interested in globalizing conflicts, but that Putin's actions themselves lead to such consequences. If the Russian president starts cooperating with, for example, North Korea and offers Kim Jong Un new technologies in exchange for shells for the Ukrainian front, this rearmament of the DPRK army creates the temptation of revenge in the Korean War. If Wagner mercenaries are still based near the Polish border, it creates the temptation of a "hybrid war" with NATO. And every mistake here leads to new serious consequences – and Putin is known to be a master of mistakes.

So, now we need to learn to live in a world of such global conflicts. And not just live, but also make efforts to ensure that the war in Ukraine remains an important part of the world's attention. We need to understand that the localization and end of this war is the key to reducing global problems.

Furthermore, this is not just a statement of reality in this text. It is also an awareness of the need for appropriate work at the state and public level. Ukraine will have to fight for attention and continued assistance in Congress in a difficult election year, when the Ukrainian issue will obviously become one of the topics of the competition between the candidates for the presidency of the United States. The Ukrainian diaspora will need to establish a productive and effective dialog with the U.S. Jewish community, as Ukraine and Israel now have common enemies – Russia, Iran and the world of dictators. And at the same time, we cannot forget that we are not talking about some political and diplomatic processes, but about a real war. A war that does not stop for a single day. It is about people's lives. And what is also important is not to relax, not to think that the main challenges are over. After all, even this

month we have seen that the Russians are not just defending their positions in the occupied Ukrainian territories, but going on the offensive at every opportunity, as was the case near Avdiivka, which the Russians tried to turn into a second Bakhmut with their failed offensive. That is why weapons assistance remains so important for the Ukrainian army – not only to try to

liberate our territories from the enemy, but also to prevent the occupation of new Ukrainian lands. If you think for a moment: we are not on the front pages simply because Ukraine is no longer a territory of mass murder. Meanwhile, we are not a territory of mass murder because the defenders of Ukraine do not allow the enemy to enter new lands. And this is another huge achievement

of our struggle. An achievement that convinces us that we can succeed not only in the sprint, but also in the marathon that the enemy is trying to impose on us now.

All that matters is to learn to run in the right rhythm and stay ahead of Putin with his cruelty, megalomania, and lack of understanding of Ukraine and the modern world.

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## SPECIAL FOR HROMADA

Oles Doniy

# HOW WILL THE WAR BETWEEN ISRAEL AND HAMAS AFFECT UKRAINE?



The morning of October 7, 2023, was one of the most tragic in the history of modern Israel. The Gaza Strip, a Palestinian exclave on the border with Egypt, became a springboard for an attack on Israel. More than 2,000 shells were fired in the Israeli direction, and hundreds of Hamas members crossed the border and started a massacre. More than a thousand dead, more than 2 hundred kidnapped and captured – the attack came as a shock to all of Israel. In response, Israel launched a massive bombardment of the Gaza Strip, and at this point, more than 7,000 people have been officially reported dead in this Arab territory.

One could write a separate book about the tragic fate of the Jewish people, who lived on these lands 2,000 years ago, were eventually scattered around the world, had a dream of returning to their historic homeland, and made a difficult attempt to realize this dream. One could write an equally voluminous reference to the tragic fate of the Palestinians, whose ancestors came to these lands a thousand and a half years ago, lived there all this time, and are unable to build a successfully peaceful state. And, of course, every decent person condemns aggression. But we are obviously primarily concerned about how the new armed flashpoint will affect the situation with the Russian-Ukrainian war, whether the attention of our allies will not be scattered, whether there will be enough money and weapons to support not only Ukraine but also Israel. And, finally, whether the

emergence of another outbreak of tension does not mean that the world is steadily moving toward World War III.

First, about few lessons. 1. It turns out that such structures as the much-hyped Mossad intelligence service can make epic mistakes. The world has been taught so much by movies, books, and articles about its all-powerfulness that it probably believed in it. And any narcissism has a negative impact on professionalism. At least, I would like to believe in the unprofessionalism of Israeli intelligence officers who missed such a large-scale operation rather than in the conspiracy theory that Israel knew but deliberately allowed the attack to happen in order to get a pretext to solve the Gaza Strip problem once and for all by driving the Palestinians out of the country.

2. Our Western allies and the United States in particular, support us, but it should be taken into consideration that there are countries that they support more. To support Israel, the United States has sent aircraft carriers, cruisers and destroyers, unequivocally sending a signal to Iran that if it tries to support Hamas's aggression, the full force of American military power will be immediately used. We have been repeatedly reminded that on the eve of February 24, 2022, American intelligence had information about the upcoming attack by fascist Russia. Nevertheless, instead of aircraft carriers, our allies moved their embassies out of Kyiv, as if to roll out the red carpet for Putin. Moreover, we have to fight for the support of the United States and other Western allies, because it is not given as a gift.

3. The situation of "multi-vector" in the Middle East is over for Ukraine. From a geopolitical point of view, Ukraine has no choice but to unequivocally support Israel. Otherwise, we will be left without allies. In this situation, it is worth recalling that for years Israel has been seriously offended by Ukraine's position on UN votes, when Ukraine methodically supported essentially anti-Israeli resolutions, at

least that is how Israel interpreted them. It remains to be explained why this happened: whether Kyiv was trying to break through economically to the markets of numerous Arab countries, or whether it was inspired by Russian intelligence and the Russian Foreign Ministry, in whose direction the Ukrainian Foreign Ministry acted.

Now let's talk about what we should expect. The world was already moving fast in its polarization, and now this movement is accelerating. Against the backdrop of the Israeli-Hamas conflict, on October 17, Putin arrives in China for the Belt and Road Forum and meets with Chinese leader Xi Jinping. Serbian President Aleksandar Vucic and the already rather odious Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orban are not averse to attending the same event as Putin. Although, the formal agreements between Russia and China at this forum were scanty, Xi Jinping demonstratively singled out Putin above all the guests, giving him the attention to be the first among the rest of the Chinese satellites, which gives us reason to suspect that Chinese equipment or at least components will appear in the Russian army, weakened by Ukrainian strikes.

The next day, on October 18, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov moved from Beijing to North Korea. At the same time, the UK's Royal United Services Institute (RUSI) made publicly available dozens of commercial satellite images that showed clear images of about two dozen Russian ships that had been methodically sailing between North Korea and Russia. These ships have already transported several hundred containers since August from a North Korean port to Russia. Formally, it is impossible to say what kind of cargo these ships were carrying, which gives the DPRK grounds to make loud statements that it is not supplying weapons to Russia, but containers of identical size and color were later transported to a large Russian ammunition depot near the border with Ukraine, and those were hardly soft toys. So, a



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logical question arises: Isn't the DPRK becoming a kind of transshipment hub for illegal arms shipments from China to Russia? Of course, Russia is not giving up on North Korean weapons, especially since most of them were made according to old Soviet models, but Chinese production is at least an order of magnitude larger, and therefore potentially more dangerous if sold.

But what about the Western world? Will it not forget about Ukraine against the backdrop of the war in Israel? So far, we have been helped by the idea of the current US administration to combine aid to Israel and Ukraine and vote for it as one package. Although some experts see pitfalls here as well, because in this case, for the Arab world, these wars will be equalized, and Ukraine will be clearly associated with Israel, to which, if not in the political elites, then in the broad masses of the Islamic world, there are feelings of

close to hatred. As already noted, from a geopolitical point of view, Ukraine must clearly choose a camp and define its position, and this position is with the Western world, which is on the side of Israel. Instead, the Kremlin is playing games in the Middle East that should not contribute to the victory of any of the parties, but to the maximum incitement of hostility. That is why Putin finds the time and opportunity to talk to Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu, and then to host Hamas terrorists in Moscow on October 26.

The victory of the new Prime Minister Robert Fico in Slovakia, who is known for his stable pro-Russian rhetoric, raises the question of how long Western allies will have elites in power who are committed to supporting Ukraine.

On October 26, journalists from the "Skhemy" program revealed that Russia is ramping up the construction of military plants across the country. Satellite

images of the Kazan Aviation Plant, the Irkutsk Aviation Plant, the Ural Civil Aviation Plant, and the Dubna Kronstadt Machine-Building Plant were released. New workshops are being built there, new hangars are being erected, and they work in three shifts. The plan is to double its own production, with 6,000 Shahed kamikaze drones planned to be produced. Russia is preparing for a long war, and is trying to create vicious cycles. Iranian, North Korean, and even Chinese weapons are seen as temporary substitutes. In the future, the Kremlin wants to be independent of its allies and carry out its own aggressive intentions using its own resources.

Therefore, in order to be less dependent on any new wars and conflicts in the world, less dependent on Western aid, Ukraine should finally produce more of its own weapons. How to push the Ukrainian leadership to do so is still an unanswered question.

## SPECIAL FOR HROMADA

Katerina Manoff | Ukrainian Roots, American Branches

# WAR GUILT: HOW TO BATTLE OUR INVISIBLE BURDEN



If months were feelings, February 2022 would be shock and March 2022 would be despair. But by April, as war became our new normal, heart-wrenching guilt bloomed in Ukrainian souls. And over 600 days later, guilt hasn't let go.

## My Guilt and Yours

In the first weeks of the war, I did not permit myself to feel happiness. I did not permit myself to stop thinking, stop reading, stop volunteering until I reached the point of pure exhaustion. I alternated between frenzied action and catatonic despair. My husband carried the load at home. My friends checked in, increasingly concerned.

When I began taking the first steps back toward normalcy, I'd feel guilty for the tiniest slivers of joy. For smiling. For having a light conversation with neighbors. For spending a whole evening – and then a whole day – without checking the news. Even after I'd eased back into daily life, I felt guilty for making unnecessary purchases, for going on vacation, for planning a party for my children and their friends.

My story is universal: I don't know a single Ukrainian who hasn't felt guilt over their actions during the war or lack thereof. When I ask my friends, "Do you feel guilty for not doing enough?", every single person answers yes. (Interestingly, this guilt almost always seems to be internal and self-imposed: when I ask, "Has another person ever accused you of not doing enough?", my friends shake their heads.)

It seems that none of us can outrun guilt – not even the most dedicated activists and volunteers. Those who volunteer twenty hours a week feel they

could have volunteered forty. Those who donated \$1,000 to the army feel they have donated \$10,000. Even those who spend every free minute gathering support for Ukraine still feel guilty for staying safe from Russian rockets.

Guilt is a ubiquitous feeling in Ukraine as well. From our perspective in the US, friends who stayed in Ukraine appear to be standing on the moral high ground. We feel guilty for not being there. But those who are there – in Kyiv, Lviv, Odessa and everywhere in between – often feel guilty that they aren't doing enough for the men and women at the front.

## Justifications and Comforting Words

How do we eradicate war guilt? We can't. As long as there is war, there is guilt. So instead, we often push the discomfort deep down, seeking rationalizations and comforting stories to soothe ourselves.

Our children are one common justification. For leaving Ukraine, for refusing to return after the war, even for taking an indulgent vacation. When I vacillated about the ethics of a summer trip to France, friends reassured me, "But you're doing it for your children."

Mental health is another common approach to relieving our guilt. We remind ourselves to put on our own oxygen mask – to remain effective in helping others, we must first help ourselves. I've seen Ukrainian-Americans use this logic to justify travel and parties and picture-perfect Instagram pages. It's Self-Care: The War Edition.

When we fail to reassure ourselves, we might search for absolution from others. We share our guilt with friends or strangers, hoping to hear that it's okay, that we're not bad people. And other fellow Ukrainians are usually quick to offer this reassurance and comfort.

## Combat Guilt with Action

Sometimes, these approaches work. In the first months of the war, thinking about my children and my oxygen mask and my friends' warm words alleviated the pain. But now, these same strategies usually ring hollow. Because, let's face it, I don't need that trip to France

for my mental health, and my kids don't need it either.

Is there a better way to combat our war guilt? I believe there is. For me personally, the best antidote to guilt is action. Whenever I feel guilty for soaking in an ocean of privilege while my homeland suffers, I do more for Ukraine.

I know there are selfless volunteers who already dedicate their lives to buying drones or delivering humanitarian aid or doing essential advocacy work. I know that doing more is not the right answer for these incredible role models, who are already doing too much. These are the heroes who truly need to rest and put on their oxygen masks.

But let's be honest. Most of us are not doing anywhere near enough for our beloved motherland. 600 days into war, most of our lives have not changed significantly. For too many Ukrainian-Americans, the initial sparks of energy and patriotism have died down and we're back in the grind of work, family, and friends.

If this is you, then I invite you to embrace your guilt. To listen to it carefully, and then do something. Send another donation to your favorite charity. Write another email to your congressman and senators. Sign up to volunteer (and yes, I know you're busy, but with opportunities like my nonprofit ENGIN, which accepts volunteers every day with no special skills required and a commitment of just 1 hour/week online, everyone can find a way to help).

For me, viewing guilt as a call to action has completely transformed my perspective. I am grateful to my guilt for reminding me when I've strayed too far from making the world a better place and too close to the pull of hedonism and self-indulgence. I appreciate my guilt for pushing me to be a better person.

In writing this article and speaking with friends across the US and Ukraine, I've come to see that the guilt we feel is simply a symptom of being human. So, we shouldn't worry about feeling guilty. Perhaps, what should worry us most is feeling no guilt at all.



ДЛЯ ДІТЕЙ

# Дві кізочки

Дві маленькі кізочки пішли в ліс. А щоб туди потрапити, треба перейти річечку. Міст був старий-старий з дірками і кізочки, коли йшли по ньому, дуже боялися, щоб не впасти вниз. Обережно ступаючи, вони підходили до берега. Ненароком одна подивилася вниз.

— Ой, горе!

На неї дивилося з води велике чудовисько. Кізочка швидко показала йому ріжки, чудовисько теж показало знизу ріжки. Вона посварилася йому ніжкою — чудовисько теж посварилося. Злякалася кізочка і сказала своїй сестричці:

— Тікаймо звідси, тут, щось таке страшне сидить!

І вони чимдуж дременули назад додому.

— Ніколи більше не підемо в ліс пасти, в річці сидить зле і страшне чудовисько, — скаржилися вони мамі.



— Мої дітки, а ви до нього засмійтеся, — повчала вона діток.

Кізочки знову прийшли до мосту. Вони подивилися вниз. З води на них дивилися дві кізочки. Вода була спокійна і все

добре було видно. Тоді сестрички зрозуміли, що то були вони самі. З тих пір вони ходили пасти в ліс і щоразу дивилися з мосту у воду. Завжди досхочу веселилися і посміхалися до води.

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# EVENTS IN THE USA IN SUPPORT OF THE VETERANS RESOURCE CENTER KYIV-MOHYLA ACADEMY

**Maria Klymchak,**  
Director of Programs at the Kyiv Mohyla Academy Foundation in America

*The year 2023 will go down in the history of our community in the United States as a year of numerous charitable events to help Ukraine, support the Armed Forces, raise funds for humanitarian needs, as well as for cultural institutions, museums, and schools. People of goodwill do not stand aside from the war in Ukraine and in this difficult time contribute to the victory over the moscovites.*

The Foundation of the Kyiv Mohyla Academy in America invites you to participate in the charity events "Academy of Victories" to support the Veterans Resource Center of the Kyiv Mohyla Academy. This project includes various areas of work, including innovative educational programs, psychological support, and the return of veterans to active professional and social life. This project also includes the inclusiveness of the university campus: accessibility of all buildings for people with disabilities and special needs.

Importantly, the Kyiv-Mohyla Center for Mental Health and Psychosocial Support, with its regional centers and active psychological assistance projects in Donetsk, Luhansk, Kharkiv, Dnipro, Zaporizhzhia regions and the city of Kyiv, was founded and began working with veterans and other social groups of Ukrainians affected by the war in 2015. After the liberation of Bucha, Kyiv-Mohyla Academy opened a similar center in Bucha.

Founded in 1615 and revived on September 19, 1991, the Kyiv-Mohyla Academy shapes new generations of national leaders, fosters critical thinking, and elevates the ideas of freedom, victory, and love for one's people – values that anchor Ukrainian identity. Three important events will take place in December 2023:

**December 1** – the first charity banquet at the University of California, Berkeley. Berkeley is one of the most prestigious universities in the United States, founded in 1868. Among the alumni, teachers and scientists of this university are 51 Nobel Prize winners.

**December 3** – the second charity



banquet at the Ukrainian Cultural Center of Los Angeles.

**December 9** – the third charity event in Chicago, at the Ukrainian Institute of Contemporary Art.

The return of veterans to active professional and social life is one of the main tasks that Ukrainian society has already faced. That is why the Kyiv-Mohyla Academy Foundation in America initiates these events to tell about Mohyla, about the new challenges and achievements of the oldest Ukrainian University, and to pay tribute to the memory of Mohyla students who gave their lives for Ukraine in this war.

The main guest speakers will be graduates of the Kyiv-Mohyla Academy:

**Yuriy Horodnichenko**, President of the Board of Directors of the Kyiv-Mohyla Academy Foundation in America, one of the world's leading economists, Professor of the Department of Economics at the University of California, Berkeley.

**Taras Lukachuk**, founder of the Kyiv-Mohyla Foundation (Kyiv 2023) and teaching scholarships for teachers of the Faculty of Economics and the Department of English, former president of Jacobs Kraft Suchard, and Mondelez in the regions of Ukraine, Eastern Europe, Middle East and Africa.

**Oleksandr Kostiuk**, PhD in Engineering, Director of the Information and Computing Center of the National University of Kyiv-Mohyla Academy, graduate of the Executive MBA program, Kyiv-Mohyla Business School. Volun-

teer, platoon commander of the Territorial Defense Forces, Lieutenant of the Armed Forces of Ukraine. From the first day of the full-scale war, Oleksandr stood up to defend Ukraine as part of the 130<sup>th</sup> Territorial Defense Battalion of the Armed Forces of Ukraine. On December 13, 2022, he was seriously injured when he encountered an enemy mine in the Bakhmut direction.

Last year, on Christmas Eve, Oleksandr Kostiuk posted a photo of a car that had been blown up by a mine on Facebook: "We were in that car... I was on rotation from a position that had already become familiar. On the road that was traveled so often and so intensively that sometimes traffic jams formed. The road that was checked by sappers. And more than once. But even the observance of all these conditions did not help to avoid a mine explosion. Because when you are told that every step to the left or step to the right in war is a big risk, you should know that this is not an exaggeration. Because Ukrainians have to overcome difficult obstacles to gain their independence, at the cost of their own efforts and the blood of their sons and daughters.

I was lucky. The steering wheel was on the wrong side, which could have been fatal. I was lucky to have my comrades who pulled me out, provided first aid and evacuated me in time. I was lucky to get to the doctors who know their job. I am happy that I came out of this situation with a shield.

Now I am in a Kyiv hospital with an

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amputated foot. Surgeries have become a daily routine for me, and I need painkillers like water. A long process of rehabilitation begins. A full-fledged marathon. I believe I will be able to return and plan to continue my fight in the Armed Forces. Thank God, modern treatment technologies allow this.

At the same time, the war continues for hundreds of thousands of my fellow soldiers who are ready to keep fighting, despite all the risks. In spite of everything they have to face every day. These people are titans. All they need is to remember the importance of the cause on the altar of which they put their health and lives. Please remember that.

Glory to Ukraine! Glory to the Heroes!"

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Mohyla Academy, improving information technology, without of which the

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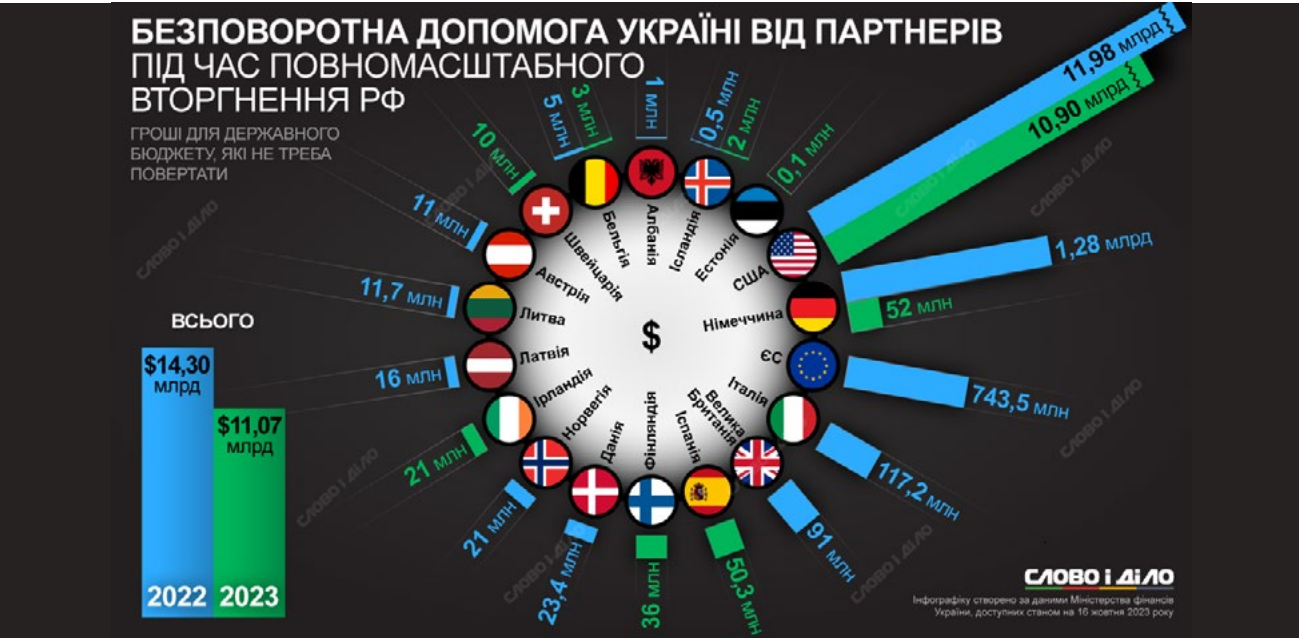
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## UKRAINIAN NEWS

## Total enemy combat losses



According to the General Staff, total enemy combat losses from February 24, 2022 to October 31, 2023 are approximately as follows:

personnel – about 300,810 individuals were eliminated,  
tanks – 5,211 units,  
armored personnel carriers – 9,804 units,  
artillery systems – 7,227 units,  
MLRS – 844 units,  
air defense systems – 562 units,  
aircraft – 321 units,  
helicopters – 324 units,  
operational and tactical level UAVs – 5,440 units,  
cruise missiles – 1,546 units,  
warships and boats – 20 units,  
submarines – 1 unit,  
motor vehicles and tankers – 9,590 units,  
special equipment – 1,016 units.

## Military aid for Ukraine



The US Department of Defense has officially announced a new military aid package for Ukraine.

The statement was published on the Pentagon's official website.

The aid package will include weapons worth a total of \$200 million.

Ukraine will receive:

- AIM-9M air defense missiles;

- equipment for countering c-UAS drones;
- ammunition for HIMARS;
- artillery shells of 155 mm and 105 mm caliber;
- high-precision aerial projectiles;
- means of electronic warfare;
- TOW anti-tank guided missiles;
- AT-4 missile systems;
- small arms and more than 16 million rounds of ammunition;
- explosive ammunition;
- spare parts, training equipment, technical and other field equipment.

**The US government will provide Ukraine with long-range ATACMS mis-siles on a regular basis.**

This was announced by Foreign Minister Dmytro Kuleba on the Breakfast with 1+1 program on October 19.

**Germany** is preparing to provide Ukraine with an additional €1.4 billion in a new winter aid package. It will include, among other things, strengthening air defense.

This was stated by the Prime Minister of Ukraine Denys Shmyhal on Tuesday, October 24.

**Before that, Germany announced the transfer of a new batch of weapons to Ukraine. The aid package includes air defense systems and armored vehicles.**

The Ukrainian military received another IRIS-T surface-to-air missile launcher and ammunition, as well as a TRML-4D radar station and four armored personnel carriers (model not specified).

**In addition, it was delivered to Ukraine:**

- 4 HX81 tank tractors;
- 4 tank trailers;
- 6 border guard vehicles;
- 8 Vector UAVs;
- 5 surface drones;
- 4 GO 12 radars;
- ammunition for MARS II;
- 10 thousand safety glasses.

The German government also reported that since the beginning of the year, the country has allocated a total of 5.4 billion euros for military aid to Ukraine.

**In addition, this month, the German authorities provided the Ukrainian Armed Forces with another package of military assistance. It included air defense systems, equipment, and ammunition.**

Among other things, Ukraine received three Gepard anti-aircraft systems capable of shooting down air targets at low and ultra-low altitudes, as well as 20 RQ-35 Heidrun reconnaissance UAVs and 20 Vector reconnaissance drones.

In addition, Germany donated 3 HX81 tractors and 3 semi-trailers, 13 border guard vehicles, and 3,872 DM125 artillery smoke shells.

The German government plans to provide 195 million euros to secure energy supplies and support Ukrainian companies.

The **Denmark** government will provide the Armed Forces of Ukraine with free military assistance worth DKK 3.7 billion (approximately USD 520 million).

It is noted that the aid package will include armored vehicles, artillery ammunition, drones and small arms.

The Ukrainian military will receive, among other things, T-72 tanks, BMP-2 tanks, armored engineering recovery vehicles and 155-mm artillery ammunition.

The **Australian** government has decided to provide Ukraine with a new military aid package of \$12 million.

According to The Canberra Times, the new aid package will include demining equipment, portable X-ray machines, a 3D metal printer, and anti-drone systems developed by Australian companies DroneShield, Micro-X, Minelab, and SPEE3D.

According to Australian Defense Minister Pat Conroy, 3D metal printers can be used to print spare parts, while demining equipment and portable X-ray equipment can provide vital assistance to Ukrainian personnel on the battlefield.

The government will also send an Australian Royal Australian Air Force E-7A Wedgetail aircraft to Germany to support international humanitarian and military assistance efforts in Ukraine.

**Canada** has provided the Ukrainian military with a batch of updated Canadian-made armored vehicles – Senator MRAPs.

It is noted that, unlike the previous version, the new armored vehicle has improved mine protection, which provides additional advantages in performing various tasks on the battlefield.

**Croatia** has transferred its entire arsenal of Mi-8 helicopters to Ukraine. Their exact number is unknown.

This was announced at a meeting between US Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin and Croatian Defense Minister Mario Bazonic on October 20.

## New Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives names conditions

## for providing aid to Ukraine



The new Speaker of the US House of Representatives, Mike Johnson, said he supports providing aid to Ukraine, but with conditions.

This was reported by NBC News.

Johnson was asked whether he supports increasing aid to Ukraine. "We'll have conditions on that, so we're working on that," the Republican said.

"We want accountability, and we want the White House to set clear goals. But we intend to have these discussions. It will be very productive," Johnson said.

## PACE declares the Holodomor as genocide of the Ukrainian people



The Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe has adopted a resolution declaring the Holodomor as genocide of the Ukrainian people.

This was announced by President Volodymyr Zelenskyy and Foreign Minister Dmytro Kuleba on X (Twitter).

The document was supported by 73 MPs present in the hall, with one MP voting against. Zelensky thanked the PACE for this decision.

"The restoration of historical justice and the memory of the Holodomor victims sends a clear message: a fair punishment for all past and present crimes of Moscow is inevitable," the Head of State emphasized.

Kuleba added that PACE also called on all parliaments of the Council of Europe member states and other par-

liaments to follow suit.

"This is right from a moral, historical and political point of view," the Foreign Minister emphasized.

## "As long as it takes" – the allies announced how long they will support Ukraine



Ukraine has expanded its cooperation programs with partner countries, Ukrainian Defense Minister Rustem Umerov said after Ramstein. Following the 16<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Allied Contact Group on Ukraine's Defense (UDCG) in Brussels, we can report on some of the agreements reached. Here is a partial list of actions taken by partner countries to support Ukraine:

**USA:** USD 200 million; the new aid package will include air defense ammunition, artillery ammunition and missiles, enhanced aviation weapons, and anti-tank weapons.

**United Kingdom:** EUR 115 million – a full package of assistance to finance demining and equipment maintenance.

**Denmark:** delivery of F-16s in early 2024.

**Finland:** a new aid package worth EUR 95 million.

**Canada:** USD 25 million for warm uniforms for the military and preparations for the winter campaign.

**Belgium:** will train F-16 pilots and mission planners, two Belgian companies (Sabena Engineering and Patria Bec) will provide substantial technical support to the F-16 fleet. Belgium will again accept a group of Ukrainian technical specialists for training. Belgium will provide Ukraine with F-16 fighters starting in 2025.

**Norway:** USD 18.5 million for demining.

**Spain:** to provide additional air defense systems, warm clothing for soldiers and generators to prepare for winter, and EUR 1.5 million for humanitarian demining.

**Germany:** reinforcement of the Ukrainian system with additional missiles and tanks.

**Bulgaria:** a memorandum of intent was signed between the Ministry of Defense of Ukraine and the Ministry of Defense of the Republic of Bulgaria. The memorandum defines, but does not limit, the main areas of further co-operation between the countries in the defense sector. It includes, among other things, cooperation in the areas of cyber security, strategic communications, and logistical assistance. Bulgaria will help with language courses for F-16 pilots.

**Lithuania:** 2 NASAMS anti-aircraft missile systems, 155 mm artillery ammunition, as well as power generators, army camping beds and warm uniforms for the winter camping.

## Ukroboronprom and German Rheinmetall set up a joint venture



"Rheinmetall – Ukrainian Defense Industry LLC was registered on October 18. I am pleased to announce this during the German-Ukrainian Business Forum in Berlin," the statement reads.

The newly established enterprise will provide maintenance and repair equipment supplied by partners to Ukraine. This enterprise will also localize the production of leading models of Rheinmetall AG equipment.

The German government recently ordered 150,000 rounds of ammunition from Rheinmetall for the Ukrainian army. It was also reported that Rheinmetall has begun supplying Ukraine with SurveilSpire automated intelligence systems.

## Russian producers of Kinzhal missiles still receive components from Europe



Contractors of Russian companies that produce the Kinzhal supersonic missiles have so far avoided European sanctions, allowing them to import the goods they need directly from various EU countries.

This is stated in an investigation by The Insider.

During the war, Rostec increased the production of Kinzhal, a supersonic missile based on the Iskander. One Kinzhal costs the Russian budget \$10 million.

"Iskanders and Kinzhalas are manufactured by the Kolomna-based Design Bureau of Mechanical Engineering Corporation (NPO KBM). It is part of the High-Precision Complexes holding of the Rostec state corporation.

As journalists have found out, manufacturers receive American chips for missiles from Texas Instruments, Analog Devices and Altera through the Chinese company ETC Electronics Limited.

In addition, the goods required for the production of Daggers are also imported from Europe. For example, KBM receives heat and cold chambers manufactured by Espec from Moscow-based OSTEK-Test LLC. Even during the full-scale war, this company continued to import Espec equipment from Poland.

A lot of supplies come from Germany.

The lathes were supplied by KEB-Rus LLC, a partner of the German company KEB, an authorized supplier of components and developer of control systems for technological processes and equipment.

The company is developing new products based on them. During the war, KEB-Rus imported, cables from Germany, for example.

Other European countries involved in the supply include Lithuania, Latvia, Belgium, the UK and others.

As a reminder, about 30 foreign microchips were found in the X-101 missiles that Russia fired at Ukraine in August. The missiles were manufactured in April of this year.

In addition, the Iranian kamikaze drones used by Russia in its attacks on Ukrainian cities are equipped with

European components.

## New EU sanctions against Russia impose restrictions of more than 5 billion EUR – Bloomberg



According to journalists, the new package of sanctions will include restrictions on the export of welding equipment, chemicals and other technologies used for military purposes. It also considers license bans on software and restrictions on imports of processed metals and aluminum products, transportation goods, and diamonds.

The total amount of all trade restrictions that may be imposed is estimated at EUR 5.3 billion.

It is also expected that 100 individuals and four dozen legal entities will be included in the sanctions list. A ban on the repatriation of Russian assets to the EU and restrictions on the participation of Russian citizens in "sensitive" sectors are also being discussed.

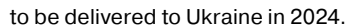
## The Pentagon tells how long the training of Ukrainian pilots on the F-16 can last

Pentagon spokesman Pat Ryder said that training of Ukrainian pilots on American F-16 fighters could last at least 5 months, depending on the speed of progress of the Ukrainian military.

Pilot training on American F-16s began in mid-August.

At the same time, the Netherlands has decided on the timing of sending F-16s to Romania to train Ukrainian pilots. The first fighter jets are expected





According to him, the children were returned as part of the Bring Kids Back UA action plan initiated by President of Ukraine Volodymyr Zelenskyy. NGOs and international partners were involved in this process.

# ЯК СОЮЗИНИ ДОПОМАГАЮТЬ УКРАЇНІ ПІДГОТУВАТИСЯ ДО ЗИМИ

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Системи 3RK Avenger	Ракети для ППО	Обладнання для систем ППО	> \$90 млн для розмінування	\$206 млн для потреб вразливих верств населення	\$1,25 млрд для зарплат та соціалплат
<b>Німеччина</b>					
					
1 система Patriot	≥ 2 системи IRIS-T	3 3СУ Gepard	снарядів для 3СУ Gepard > 10 000	Ракети для ППО	€20 млн для невідкладних потреб
<b>Норвегія</b>					
					
Ракети для ППО	> \$106 млн для закупівлі: газу	\$92 млн для потреб вразливих верств населення	> \$24 млн для закупівлі ППО	€30 млн для закупівлі: газу	€12 млн для потреб звільнених територій
<b>Велика Британія</b>					
					
3У Terrahawk Paladin	> \$12 млн для відновлення енергоінфраструктури	> \$41 млн для потреб вразливих верств населення	\$500 млн для соціалплат	6 пускових установок 3RK Hawk	2 3RK NASAMS
<b>Словаччина</b>					
					
23 автобуси для Києва	Системи ППО	Ракети для ППО	€0,15 млн для потреб вразливих верств населення	> €25 млн внесок у Фонд енергетичної платформи України	\$123 млн для потреб вразливих верств населення
<b>Латвія</b>					
<b>Болгарія</b>					
<b>Швеція</b>					
<b>ООН</b>					

"Only what we can document is about 20 thousand abducted children. This is a scary figure, but the real number is even higher. Therefore, we need to continue this track. We are ready for further coordination and cooperation," Zelenskyy emphasized.

On October 1, the Ministry of Internal Affairs became the main body responsible for searching for Ukrainians missing under special circumstances.

# DPR AND PALESTINE

## *Different regions – the same Kremlin methodology*

**Anton Shramenko**

No sooner had everyone recovered from the massacres committed by Hamas terrorists in Israel than Russian propaganda began to spread the word that it was all a staged event "just like the one in Bucha." In particular, in one of her programs, propagandist Skabeyeva said the following:

"Israel failed to create a new Bucha from the Jewish kibbutz Far Aza. A female journalist who wrote about dozens of Israelis burned by Hamas fighters and beheaded babies retracted her statements, saying that she had not seen the victims with her own eyes, but had written a report based on the words of Israeli soldiers. The Israeli soldiers themselves did not confirm the information, but it was, as they say, too late. The beheaded children, who, thank God, are allegedly not there, are already on the front pages of all Western media... The order (fulfilled by Western journalists) is only one: to dehumanize the Palestinians, as all Russians were dehumanized before."

We can see how the Kremlin propagandists do not even hide the fact that in "debunking" the news about the atrocities of terrorists from Palestine, they are using the same methodology that was used to refute the news about the atrocities of the Russian military in Bucha, Borodyanka, Mariupol and other Ukrainian cities. Meanwhile, the parallel between the terrorists' propaganda myths goes even deeper. It begins with the creation of the myth of the Palestinians as a separate people suffering from "bloodthirsty Israelis," just as Russian propaganda has managed to create and play out the myth of a separate "people of Donbas" suffering from bloodthirsty "Ukrainian Nazis" during the 10 years of war in Ukraine: "8 years of bombing Donbas".

**The political analyst Karl Volokh says:** "In fact, the myths about the 'brotherly peoples' and the separate people of Donbas were created by the Soviet school of political technology. And to our great regret, they have managed to deeply penetrate the minds of a certain number of people, even in Ukraine. There is an absolute analogy between the Palestinians and the 'people of Donbas'. Who are the Palestinians? They are part of the same people, called the Arab people. And so, when enemy propaganda speaks of



*Illustration from the Soviet magazine Perets*

the Palestinians, they are presented as a people who allegedly have nowhere to live. But the Arab people have 20 countries and 15 million square kilometers of land. Israel, together with the disputed territories, is 30 thousand square kilometers. That is, 1/500 of the territory possessed by the Arab people and this is the only country that the Jews have.

The emergence of the myth of the Palestinians as a separate people was described in his book by former Romanian intelligence general Ion Mihai Pacepa. According to his analysis, before 1967 there were Arabs, at least the Arabs of Palestine. And after 1967, the Palestinians miraculously appeared. This is another narrative that is very firmly in people's minds: "the Jews came to the land of the state of Palestine and cut off the land from the Palestinians." But in fact, there has never been a country called Palestine in history. This is not the name of a state; it is the name of a territory. It appeared in the first century AD, when Emperor Titus destroyed the Second Temple and expelled the Jews from their land because they were constantly rebelling against the Roman Empire. And to erase any memory of the Jews' rights to this land, he changed its name. Previously, it was the land of Israel, Judea, Samaria, and Gaza, and he called it Palestine. In our time, after the First World War, this land was part of the Ottoman Empire. The British, who were fighting the Ottoman Empire, entered the area and received a mandate from

the League of Nations to govern this territory: to create a national center for the Jewish people.

That is, Palestine has never been a separate state with a separate people. Even the name was introduced by the Roman emperors and before invented by the Greeks. Those who are now called Palestinians are Arabs who lived on this territory as part of various states, including Arab ones. And now people print some maps and say: "look how Palestine has shrunk!" By the way, for some reason no one printed maps before the 21<sup>st</sup> century, when this territory was 4 times larger, and most of it was given to an Arab state called Jordan. That is, "poor Palestinians with nowhere to live" is one of the narratives of propaganda. It is absolutely false and manipulative.

Michail Pachepa writes that in 1967, when it became clear after the Six-Day War that it would not be possible to deal with Israel very easily, the leadership of the USSR KGB began to work for a longer term—they invented the Palestinian people. And by the way, until 1947, it was the Jews who moved to this territory who were called Palestinians – Golda Meir wrote about this. And since 1967 the Arabs, who had previously been very ashamed of this name and said that no, we are not Palestinians, suddenly became Palestinians. And today no one doubts that those are the people who have always lived there. Although, Arabs appeared on the territory of Palestine 6 centuries after the very name of this region appeared."

Let us look at what is happening now in the so-called DPR and LPR. History is being rewritten to fit the fictional myths about a separate people of Donbas. Special textbooks have already been published: "The History of the DPR" and "The History of the LPR" – as if it were the history of some autonomous state entities. Residents of these occupied territories really believe that they are some kind of separate people from Ukrainians. Similarly, the hatred of this "special" people of Donbas towards Ukrainians and Ukraine has been winded up for years. Likewise, Hamas propaganda spreads a narrative about the inhuman actions of Israelis, and this narrative overshadows the fact that Israel is defending itself against terrorism. The murderer has already come home to the Israelis, and the propaganda is pushing into the



*Based on an interview with Karl Volokh for the program "Chronicles of the Information War" on EspressoTv.*



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# BRAVE1: HOW TECHNOLOGY HELPS UKRAINE WIN THE WAR

**Karina Nikitishina**



*On April 26 this year, Brave1, the only Defense Tech development cluster in Ukraine, was launched. Thanks to the creation of a single platform, effective cooperation between military technology developers, entrepreneurs, startups, the state and the army has become a reality, which can not only bring our victory in the war closer, but also potentially turn Ukraine into a world leader in defense technology. "Hromada was fortunate to talk to Iryna Supruniuk, Head of Communications at Brave1. In this interview, Ms. Supruniuk talks in detail about the project's goal, the successes of the cluster's six months of operation, the process of passing the development expertise, and the prospects of Ukrainian technologies on the world market.*

**How did you join the Brave1 team? Tell us a little about yourself and your experience.**

I've been working in the team since March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2 months before the project was launched. Before that, I worked for almost 3 years at TechUkraine, a platform that unites the tech community. Therefore, I have a background in tech and Ukrainian interaction with domestic stakeholders working in this niche. I have worked on many international projects related to the promotion and representation of the industry both domestically and abroad. Prior to that, I worked for 10 years in various business and political projects, and was engaged in cultural diplomacy, so ev-



everything that somehow relates to communication is my field of expertise.

With the full-scale invasion, the focus naturally shifted. I began to pay more attention to the prospects of Defense Tech, cybersecurity, certain solutions that work in favor of the security and defense forces, drones of various types, etc. When I received an offer directly from our cluster leader Natalia Kushnerska, it was a very resonant topic for me. I was definitely interested in joining the work on such an important project for the country, developing this completely new area that will help both the battlefield and the country's economy.

**Can you please explain why Brave1 was created and what are the main functions of the cluster?**

The overall goal of the cluster is to aggregate all activities related to the Defense Tech industry. The task was primarily to show our security and defense forces solutions on the market that can be useful in effectively countering the enemy, protecting people from military aggression and attacks that are constantly being conducted on our cities and villages. Our main goal is to be a platform that connects two worlds that hardly ever intersect: innovators, the business sector that produces innovative tools and solutions that are essential for the battlefield, and the military sector, which often simply does not know what exists on the market. This way we can showcase solutions that can be scaled up

for widespread use by security and defense forces.

Brave1 was created by several state institutions that determine the country's defense policy: the Ministry of Digital Transformation, the Ministry of Defense, the General Staff, the National Security and Defense Council, the Ministry of Strategic Industry, and the Ministry of Economy. We are working in several areas: one of them has already been announced, a platform for unification and demonstration, we call it Showcase. This is a demonstration for the security and defense forces of what is available on the market so that they can prioritize what can be quickly integrated into their work on the front line or in the rear. Also, one of our tasks is to support and develop the projects we find. For almost 6 months of our activity, we have received more than 650 applications for various developments from manufacturers, developers, and startups working in the Defense Tech industry. Almost 300 of them already have the BRV1 status, which means they have successfully passed the military expertise of the General Staff. The examination is carried out quite quickly: in 2 weeks, the team receives detailed feedback on the priority of their development for the security and defense forces at the moment, and what improvements may still be needed. If the priority priority and readiness are high (TRL7-9), the developments are transferred to the Ministry of Defense for the fast track – codification and ap-



proval for use.

We did not even expect this to be a topic with such a dynamic development. If we take the numbers for comparison, the market for tech startups in Ukraine is estimated at about 2,000 startups, with about 1,500 of them actively operating. We have 650 applications received in just six months. So, it can be said that this issue concerns each of us: it is the defense capability of our country, helping our relatives, friends, and colleagues at the front, so everyone is trying to join the field that can dramatically change the course of hostilities, learn how to use the resources we have effectively, knowing that the enemy has hundreds of times more. We fight with our minds, so our task is to find something that can break the traditional format of warfare. And, as we can see, last year, flying drones became an extremely effective type of not only weapons, but also intelligence and logistics. This year, maritime drones are radically changing the parity between our military and the Russian Navy in the Black Sea.

The Brave1 team is currently focusing on two areas that are the most requested by the General Staff. The first is ground-based robotic systems, robots of various types: kamikaze, combat, logistics, demining, etc. More than 70 developments in this area are already available on the platform. If you have heard of the Robot Army, we are working on it. The second area, which is related to the previous one, is electronic warfare and electronic intelligence. They help defend against the means that are used by our enemy on a large scale. We need these means to protect our equipment and people on the battlefield.

**In order to process each application in just 2 weeks, we need a large team of experts who are specialists in this field. If I understood correctly, not only developers can submit their ideas on the Brave1 website,**

**but also certain specialists can apply for experts?**

Not exactly. We have a single platform through which all applications are submitted, and we control them at every stage to ensure that none is lost. The application comes to us for internal compliance, i.e. to determine whether it is a Defense Tech, and to track connections, for example, with the Russian Federation. After that, the application is sent to the General Staff experts for military expertise. It is carried out by our partners from the General Staff among more than 500 experts, who are very specialized people: representatives of the branches of the military, scientists from military universities, specialized departments, etc. We have 12 priority verticals in which we work: from all types of drones to artillery, optics, navigation, medical technologies, cybersecurity, AI, etc. Our partners perform military expertise with an understanding of the needs on the battlefield, can give a competent assessment of the relevance of the technical characteristics of certain solutions in a particular area, can compare solutions with analogues available on the market, evaluate pricing, and so on. In this way, we also give the consumer the opportunity to see these solutions immediately and think about how they can be used. Military expertise takes 5-7 days, which are included in the total 2 weeks. If a development is a priority and receives a medium or high score from the General Staff experts, it receives the BRV1 status, which allows it to apply for a grant program. We help with testing, trials at the testing grounds, with the necessary documents, investors, matchmaking with local and international partners, and any other issues to "grow" these products to the desired level.

However, we do not completely eliminate solutions that are rated below the average score, because we understand that, although they are not

currently a priority for the security and defense forces, they are still promising in general. If the General Staff's experts did not rate the solution so highly, it goes to the business expertise. We select people who have significant experience in the technology industry or related businesses, who can evaluate the product from the market perspective and how this solution can be developed. These can be, for example, CEOs, funders, investors, and those with a fairly solid background in this area. This is where market experts can apply and be involved to evaluate products. We also give projects the opportunity to develop in this direction.

**Do you accept ideas from foreigners? For example, let's say I'm a US citizen, but I am ready to come to Ukraine and offer my own development, is this possible?**

At the moment, we work exclusively with companies based in Ukraine. The first stage of our development is to identify everything that is on the market, produced and aggregated in Ukraine. If there is a person who wants to come to Ukraine, we welcome it. Last month, there was the International Defense Industries Forum in Kyiv. It was a very large conference that brought together more than 200 international companies involved in the defense industry, with representatives from more than 40 countries. The key call to action was to come to Ukraine now, to develop their capacities here. The expertise and experience that we have accumulated, the speed of R&D in this segment, have been gained due to the fact that, unfortunately, there are intense battles going on. Developers can get feedback very quickly through testing on the battlefield, which is of interest to international companies, as they can immediately understand the challenges and opportunities. We are already cooperating with some international companies, a community that is actively trying to help us, and we are



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really grateful for that. One of the areas we are working on is testing products and solutions from abroad at training grounds, thanks to our partners from the General Staff and the Ministry of Defense. International partners can apply through the platform (<https://portal.usf.com.ua/apply-for-cooperation>). But today, our main focus is on Ukrainian companies working in this area.

### How many successful projects are there so far? How much money has been allocated to them over the past six months?

The grant program comes in two packages: 5 and 25 thousand dollars. Companies with BRV1 status (who received medium and high marks after the military expertise) are eligible to apply for a grant. Since July and as of October 19, we have funded 68 projects worth \$1,220,000, and 8 projects are still at the stage of signing contracts. Next year, we expect to increase the amount of grants that can be issued by our project, because

we understand that these are small amounts, especially when it comes to R&D and products of niche equipment and components.

### Brave1 was created primarily because of the war. How will the cluster continue to operate after the victory, or will it be transformed?

One of our key tasks is also to integrate into the Euro-Atlantic security space and enter international markets for our companies in the future. We work together with the Ministry of Defense to codify NATO standards for our projects so that they can enter international markets, develop their economies and capabilities, build capacity, and integrate into the global world with solutions that have proven their effectiveness and are Made in Ukraine. Battlefield proven solutions are a strong argument for our partners in the outside world. It is important for us to convey that Ukraine is already a large R&D "laboratory" for Defense Tech solutions that exist in the world. That is why there is a significant interest in internatio-

nal defense corporations opening and localizing here, developing joint ventures, interest in investing in our projects, and effective joint development.

We would like to see new unicorn companies emerge in Ukraine. We have every reason to develop Defence Tech and become a global market leader in this field, because speed, adaptability, creativity, and the ability to work with new ideas at a fairly low cost are our competitive advantage. We will try to use everything to bring our victory closer, and in the future, to become the engine of our economy. We will be able to defend ourselves against any external threats and build the capacity of Ukrainian entrepreneurship with high added value. We are often called the second Israel, but I believe that we can produce even more solutions. All thanks to those engineers and talents who have extensive experience in using these means on the battlefield, in a mode that was in no way envisaged in NATO doctrines.





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# YULIA'S GRANDMOTHERS FOUNDATION. WAR AND SHELTERS FOR THE ELDERLY IN UKRAINE

**Inna Mikhno**

*The de-occupied territories are still recovering from what they have experienced. Most of these villages are inhabited by the elderly, who often find themselves in difficult conditions. And the greatest despair is to see an old lady who weighs no more than 40 kg and is barely limping, pulling a wheelchair, not daring to ask volunteers for another package of food for her bedridden sister. Thanks to the volunteers, hundreds of such old ladies receive not only vital humanitarian aid, but also the attention they deserve. The situation in shelters for the elderly and people with disabilities has become even more complicated, as even before the war, basic needs were not met in some places. Only deep compassion and a desire to provide can help the disadvantaged not to lose faith in goodness and victory. In fact, the elderly do not need something impossible – they dream of ordinary human happiness. All they need is to feel the warmth of your hands during a heart-to-heart conversation.*

In an interview with Hromada, Yulia Karpova, a radio host at the Kyiv's Hit FM radio station and founder of the Yulia's Grandmothers charity foundation, spoke about the sphere of care, the needs and problems of elderly institutions in Ukraine, and the psychological state of the disadvantaged.

## **Echoes of the occupation**

**Yulia Karpova says:**

I was struck by the fact that the elderly shelter in Hornostaipol, which is located near Chernobyl in the Kyiv region, survived the occupation only because of an uncleared field of corn. When they ran out of food, the workers broke the frozen corn, ground it, and baked pancakes for the elderly. There were a lot of bedridden people in the shelter, so you can't hide everyone in a bomb shelter – and all those rockets were flying right over them. We just had to sit and wait. People experienced severe hunger. The Prybirske shelter was also under occupation, but they had food supplies. The Russians in that village were shooting everything,



any Ukrainian symbols, so in order to survive, the workers had to hide a huge portrait of Shevchenko in towels in the basement.

Before the deportation, the veterans' home for former artists and actors in Pushcha-Vodytsia was also heavily shelled by Russians, as the hero cities of Gostomel and Irpin are located nearby.

In the Zhytomyr and Dnipro regions, shelters accept IDPs from the shelled Donetsk, Luhansk, and Zaporizhzhia regions. In the city of Mogilev, I met a woman from Bakhmut. People are hoping to return to their homes with tears in their eyes, not wanting to realize that their city is gone.

## **Each of our trips is about basic food**

As a rule, volunteer visits are made upon request, but in general we come to each shelter once a month and a half. The whole team is actually me and three other people, plus a photographer for reporting. Sometimes foundations help us with the collection, and there are regular companies that are ready to provide as much as needed. If something is missing, we put out a call among our friends, on social media, or on the radio.

Long-term storage products are a stable demand. There is a great need

for hygiene products, especially diapers for bedridden people. Bed linen, clothes, detergents. In addition to the main request, we always have gifts for everyone. It is only on our second or third meeting that the elderly decide to ask for something for themselves. They all love sweets, some of them a small ring of sausage or a jar of herring – they don't ask for grandiose things, they dream of simple things. But they are extremely important to them. "I like to embroider so much, bring me an embroidery kit to keep me busy." They ask us to bring movies to watch together on the TV in the hall. Some people like bananas and oranges. They like things that were in short supply in the Soviet Union. Everything that was considered a luxury.

## **My most cherished dream**

Since the foundation's beginning, I have seen dreams come true – and not just one. My ward Valiukha lives in a shelter, and her daughter with cerebral palsy lives in another. She constantly asked me to arrange a meeting for them, because she hadn't seen her daughter for 5 years! And it happened. Valiukha found the meaning of life – she weaves rugs from old things and spends her leisure time in this way. She once asked me where she could use all this stuff. Now these rugs are sold





at various charity fairs, and in this way we raise money for shelters. She feels like the main person in this work and always calls with the feeling that she is important: "Yulia, I'm ready, I've done everything, come and get my work." In another shelter, there is Dmitriy, a blind man who loves to sing romances. During one of his performances, his friend in a wheelchair thought out loud that if he had a guitar, they would make a great duet. My military comrade who was with us heard this. Now they organize joint concerts, and when we gave him the guitar, the old man cried like a child, because it was his biggest dream. In another shelter, there is an old lady on a walker, and when we see each other, she shouts back "Hello!" in a very loud and cheerful voice. Eighty years old, and she smiles so sincerely!

A special event took place in the Pryborsk shelter. There are 30 people living there, and they are not even on the map. I found out about its existence by accident. I really wanted to give them a gift for the New Year. So I arranged for a festive performance with the famous singer Viktor Pavlik. It was a surprise for the staff of the institution, and a sensation for all the wards! A week later, the staff called me and said: "Yulia, you can't imagine what happened! Every day these elderly people used to discuss death and war, but now the main topic for them is that the real Vik-

tor Pavlik has come to visit them!" A year has passed, and they still recalling this event with joy.

#### **Charity is not about pity**

It is difficult to collect financial aid, so I always emphasize that it is not necessary to help with money, it is enough to give a gift, such as a chocolate bar. The Foundation's difficulties are caused by the lack of funds. But the hardest part is that volunteering is often perceived as a manifestation of pity. The most difficult thing is to explain to people that they should at least stop flipping through stories on social media with calls for donations. Charity should not be perceived as something poor and miserable. Charity is not about pity, it's about sharing what you have in abundance.

When I started the foundation, I realized that old people are not the most popular topic. And the fact that, first of all, attention is focused on the military, on our Victory. And this is right, as well as the fact that most donations go to the army. In times of war, the state needs to focus on our military. But we also need to take care of people in shelters. They are in shelters because they have no one left. We all need a decent old age. And this means good conditions, clean rooms and fresh bedding. This feeling that you are growing old, not like a street dog, but like a human being, is very important.

So, when you send some help, it is extremely important that this help is worthy. It can be just some things that you would wear because you like them. Because sometimes, unfortunately, people send clothes that should be in the trash. Sometimes we receive a lot of such boxes. Unfortunately, this is due to the lack or absence of a culture of charity. It should be clearly understood that when a person receives charitable assistance, they already feel ashamed because they cannot give themselves something, cannot cover their needs, and it is already difficult.

#### **A reliable shoulder**

The war has had a great impact on the psychological state of these people. Their condition resembles a child in despair. They do not cry, but it is such a deep pain and emptiness. And when you ask them about their affairs, they want to turn the whole conversation into tears. They want to cry out their pain. But our task is to comfort them. When they start telling you how bad things are, that they are in pain and that they will not be able to see victory, you need to immediately switch them to positive thoughts. One grandmother used to dance polka with her husband in her youth, another one used to recite poetry. They are emotionally broken. These are people who cry for themselves, and sometimes, like children, sobbing. That's why the most import-



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ant thing when you visit the elderly is to give them time and just talk to them. The difficulty is not to let yourself or them cry.

### The perfect model

Today, such care facilities need technical support, and their employees need decent salaries, because it is all deserved and fair. There is a shortage of staff, because the salaries are meager, and they do a titanic job. Shelters' requests include not only food, sometimes they ask for a new meat grinder or a food processor. What they lack is better working and living conditions, a washing vacuum cleaner to make the physical labor of women who keep the place clean and hygienic easier.

The absence of loved ones, employment – all this affects mental and physical health. Everyone needs motivation. Ideally, nursing homes cooperate with children's homes. Then the children have someone to take care of them, and the elderly are busy. Abandoned children and the elderly find grandparents and grandchildren for each other. And this experience is being im-

plemented in European countries and has excellent results. Old people are more motivated to live. Old age abroad is cool. These are very high standards that can become a strong incentive for the development of the social sphere in Ukraine. And if people came to us and practically shared similar experiences, it would be global assistance.

And all international funds that come to Ukraine in person are more focused on helping the military and rebuilding. Or these are funds that just bring food. They do not go to people's rooms, do not communicate, and this is very important. I am sure that if a foreign foundation saw these old people living out their lives, it would be a different kind of help. Because psychological help is also important. It doesn't matter if you come into the room with just a pack of cookies, it's important to show personal attention. When you take an interest in their name and their life story, you become their best friend and earn their trust. They just call me to ask how I am doing. They behave just like grandmothers who have grandchildren. And

I have a lot of grandmothers now. The ultimate goal of Yulia's Grandmothers is for every care facility in Ukraine to become our client and for every grandparent to have their own grandchildren.

### \*Brief reference

Yulia's Grandmothers Charitable Foundation was founded in the spring after Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine. At that time, a team of volunteers led by Yulia Karpova provided assistance to people from de-occupied villages in the Kyiv region. First of all, these were lonely elderly people who needed everything from food to hygiene products. Now the Foundation is focused on nursing homes and care facilities. These are four shelters in the Kyiv region and the Scene Veterans' Home in Kyiv. There is also a large shelter for 250 people in Zhytomyr and a large care facility in the Dnipropetrovs'k region.

Instagram of the Foundation:

[@yulynibabusi](https://www.instagram.com/yulynibabusi),

Facebook: [yulynibabusi](https://www.facebook.com/yulynibabusi).

*Photo from the archives of the "Yulia's Grandmothers" Charitable Foundation*

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# MEN'S DAY

**Myroslav Hrehk**

When we talk about men, we first of all think of our fathers, their wisdom and strength. We think of our fathers' hands – strong, calloused hands that can do everything. When we were very little, they threw us up, glad to see us born. When we grew a bit older, they put us on their shoulders, walking with us during national festivals. Then came the years of education and upbringing, and guiding us to the righteous path. In teenage and young adult years, they pushed us to make our own choices, guided us and taught us how to defend and fight. When we became adults, we saw how worn out, streaked with veins and wrinkles our dear parents' hands had become...

The month of November is rich in celebrations of the male gender:

- November 4, Saturday, the celebration of Men's Day;

- November 12, Sunday, Father's Day, which is popular in Eastern Europe (Estonia, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden);

- November 16, Thursday, National Parental Involvement Day in the United States. This day provides an annual opportunity for schools and families to honor and highlight the significant contributions that parents and guardians make to children's success at school and at home;

- November 19, Sunday, World Men's Day, which is supported by a number of international organizations. This holiday, although it has deeper (of course, joined) roots than "Men's Day", which is celebrated on the first Saturday of the last autumn month, is celebrated on November 19. It just so happened. This day is the birthday of the father of the man who managed to promote this holiday to the international level, a doctor from the University of the West Indies named Dr. Jerome Teelucksingh. Here is the history of the holiday: Inaugurated in 1992 on February 7 by Thomas Oaster, the International

Men's Day project was conceived a year earlier, on February 8, 1991. The project was re-initiated in 1999 in Trinidad and Tobago. Malta has been celebrating International Men's Day for the longest time, since February 7, 1994. Now, since Malta was the only country to celebrate the February date to note men and their contributions to society, the Malta Committee voted in 2009 to move the date of International Men's Day to November 19.

Jerome Tiluksingh, who revitalized the event, chose November 19 also to celebrate how the Trinidad and Tobago soccer team united the country on this date in 1989 with their efforts to qualify for the World Cup. Tiluksingh promoted International Men's Day as not just a gender day, but a day to address all issues affecting men and boys. Regarding International Women's Day and its activists, he said: "They strive for gender equality and patiently try to eliminate the negative images and stigma associated with men in our society."

Should we compare Men's Day with the seemingly similar Women's Day? Well, perhaps only in essence, because men and women are so different... However, objectively, they are simply unthinkable without each other and are doomed to extinction.

It should be noted that the World Men's Day is not as popular as the similar Women's Day, and is not celebrated with such pomp. But it does exist. Finally, historical justice has been restored, many men will say, and they will be wrong! Historical justice has never disappeared. Are there many men with flowers on this day? How many men are remembered on this day by our dear women, not with an evil word, but at least with a quiet, kind word? Historical justice in its rightful place – all this is what we can and should expect from men on behalf of our women on their Women's Day.

Despite the new trends in modern history, the establishment of legal and cultural equality between men and

women, it is still the case that, rather by nature, the vast majority of men bear the main responsibility for both "work" and "defense". And it is not for nothing that God created man to be a man capable of many responsibilities and experiences, and a woman to be a man's helper, calling on him to love and protect her, and in this man has been faithful to God to this day. Of course, not every man meets all expectations; unfortunately, there is a rather noticeable fly in the male ointment. But the exception is not the rule! It is a man who, overcoming difficulties and distances, high emotional and psychological stress, a lot of extremely mean moments of harsh reality, strives to please a woman, earning, achieving, deserving, winning and gaining.

According to the DiloVaMova.com project, World Men's Day is a very young holiday, celebrated on the first Saturday of the last autumn month. It was initiated by a man who loved his woman. And the creation of a new holiday, Men's Day, was some kind of additional, incomprehensible care for them, for women. It was an attempt to create a holiday where a woman, having pushed off from the endless hustle and bustle of everyday life, would remember the warmth of her home, calm down from her worries, even if only for a short time, forget about her problems and do what comes easiest to her, remember her man.

Recall that November 19 is the International Men's Day, which originated in 1999. It is celebrated in the United States, Australia, the United Kingdom, Trinidad and Tobago, Jamaica, Malta, India and Singapore, South Africa and a number of other countries. The purpose of the events is to draw attention to gender discrimination against men in determining the importance of their role in the family and raising children. This is an equally important topic of gender equality, responsibilities and rights, and one of the main ones that is on the list of mandatory ones when it

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Since ancient times, men have had the duty to defend their family hearth, their land, their country from enemy encroachments, to take up arms and go to battle with them. Today, this is especially true when our country is attacked by an insidious enemy – the raishists, the Kremlin's morder, who set out to destroy our identity, our nation, occupy our territory, and turn us into slaves. Hundreds of thousands of our fathers, husbands, and sons went to the front to fight as part of army units, volunteer organizations, and partisan groups. Their faithful women friends stood by their side and shared their fate. Many of them were killed on the battlefield, many were wounded. On this day, we cannot but remember them. Glory to them, memory and honor! Many children were orphaned and will never be able to feel parental care and affection. Is there anything more unjust and pitiful in this world? In a world that understands only the right of force, which for some reason has forgotten about kindness, compassi-

on and mercy. And in order to change this, to win, to build a happy, bright future for their children, for the children of the whole world, for future generations, the best sons and daughters of our people went to fight. Men's Day is not only a purely male holiday, it is also a holiday for women, children, and the entire society.

How was Men's Day celebrated in modern Ukraine? It wasn't. Only in 2020, while searching for information about the possibility of the existence of the International Men's Day (IMD) in the world, Ruslan Bulgakov began communicating with IMD representatives on the official International Men's Day website. After that, and after meeting and communicating with the founder of the IYD, Dr. Jerome Teelucksingh, he received a letter from him appointing Ruslan Bulgakov as the IYD Coordinator in Ukraine.

In 2021, a decision was made to popularize International Men's Day in Ukraine, and on August 19, 2021, the relevant NGO was formed and registered (Registration number 1520852)

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/indinua>.

Since 24.02.2022, after the beginning of the full-scale invasion of Ukraine by the Russian Federation, the NGO "ICD IN UKRAINE" has been conducting public, charitable, volunteer and informational activities.

In order to disseminate information and assist in the search for missing citizens during the armed aggression of the Russian Federation, the Information Project "Semper Alive" was established by the decision of the Commissioner of the NGO "International Men's Day in Ukraine" on July 15, 2022. The main principle of the Semper Alive Information Project is defined as: "To give people the opportunity to hope for faith and believe in hope."

In conclusion, I would like to address our readers: On November 4, on Men's Day, remember your fathers, husbands and sons, those who are no longer alive, and give the living your attention, respect and love, and on November 19, celebrate this Day together and with the entire international community.

## EVENTS 2023

## NOVEMBER

Нд/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		

## 12 NOV MARCH TO REMEMBER — 90<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF THE HOLODOMOR GENOCIDE

### Ukrainian American Coordinating Council

**Де:** San Francisco City Hall, 1 Dr Carlton B Goodlett Pl, San Francisco, CA 94102

**Коли:** Sunday, 12 PM - 2 PM

Join the Ukrainian American Coordinating Council, Ukrainian Community and Friends of Ukraine in a powerful show of support and remembrance of the Holodomor, the artificial famine that resulted in Genocide and millions of Ukrainians killed.

On the anniversary we come together to remember and educate  
12:00 pm - Gathering of Community with Flags and Signs.

12:30 pm - Memorial Service and Speeches by Dignitaries, Politicians, Guest Communities and Leaders

1:30 - March (Route To be updated)

<https://www.facebook.com/events/351119450668557/>

## 13 NOV UKRAINIAN NIGHT AT THE MOVIES

### Ukrainian Night At The Movies

**Де:** Cameo Cinema, 1340 Main Street St. Helena, CA 94574

**Коли:** Monday, 6 PM

Fundraising Event: Film, Silent Auction, Snacks and Meet the Ukrainian Students

FILM "OLGA" - While in exile in Switzerland, a 15-year-old Ukrainian gymnast prepares for the European Gymnastics Championships when Euromaidan protests begin in Kyiv. (ENGLISH SUBTITLES)

SILENT AUCTION – Before the film, auction will help raise money for the tuition room and board of our Ukrainian Students attending Pacific Union College in the Napa Valley. Sponsored by MISSION:UKRAINE

MEET THE STUDENTS: You will have a chance to meet our MISSION:UKRAINE students at this event.

**Tickets: \$75.00**

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/ukrainian-night-at-the-movies-tickets-714153330837>

## 18 NOV UKRAINIAN DOCUMENTARY: AGAINST ALL ODDS

### Volunteer Movement & Army SOS

**Де:** The Polish Club Inc., 3040 22<sup>nd</sup> Street, San Francisco, CA 94110

**Коли:** Saturday, 5 PM – 8 PM

Screening documentary by

Artyom Litvinenko "Against All Odds". In this movie the first month of Russian Invasion is discussed in details by current and former defense ministers Reznikov and Zahorodniuk, American general Ben Hodges, former USA ambassador to Ukraine William Taylor Jr., and Polish Military Representative to the NATO and EU Military Committees general Andrzej Fałkowski. Defenders of Kyiv, Gostomel, Irpin and Moshchun also share their recollection of the events that took place during the first days of the invasion. We recommend a donation of \$15-20 for admission.

**Tickets: FREE**

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/ukrainian-documentary-against-all-odds-tickets-733865440287>

## 1 ГРУД/DEC BENEFIT TO SUPPORT KYIV-MOHYLA VETERANS CENTER

### Kyiv Mohyla Foundation

**Де:** The Faculty Club, Minor Lane, Berkeley, CA 94720

**Коли:** Friday, 6 PM

Please join KMFoundation's efforts by coming to our event and/or making a donation! Ukraine's veterans deserve our support!

DONATIONS: <https://www.kmfoundation.org/academy-of-victories>

AUCTION of Ukrainian flags signed by the Chief Commander of the Armed Forces of Ukraine General Valeriy Zaluzhny, specifically for the Kyiv-Mohyla Academy. One flag per event. Learn more: <https://www.kmfoundation.org/academy-of-victories>

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/benefit-to-support-kyiv-mohyla-veterans-center-tickets-740341319817>

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