



Ukraine's Independence Forged - Everyone is a Soldier!



SPECIAL FOR THE NEWSPAPER «HROMADA»

Vitalii Portnikov | NOTES FOR AUGUST

INDEPENDENCE AND 6 MONTHS OF THE WAR



The first six months of the war waged by Putin against Ukraine on February 24 have already changed Ukraine, Russia, and the whole world

beyond recognition. It can be said with confidence that the center of global issues has shifted here: to Kyiv and Mariupol, to Kramatorsk and Bucha, to Chernihiv and Sumy. Could someone imagine such a situation a few months ago?!

No doubt, Ukraine has matured. Even after 2014, the majority of its citizens did not understand the goals set by Volodymyr Putin, means he was ready to use, and support the

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HOW HAS UKRAINE CELEBRATED INDEPENDENCE DAY IN 2022

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"Parade" of Russian broken and burned armored vehicles for the 31st Independence Day. About 80 units were presented at Khreshchatyk in Kyiv: tanks, armored trucks, self-propelled artillery installations and other equipment. Photo by Yan Dobronosov

SPECIAL FOR THE NEWSPAPER «HROMADA»

Oles Donii

FREEDOM OF SPEECH THAT IS WORTH FIGHTING FOR



I wanted to write an article about freedom of speech, to tell you about

the Leaders' of the Public Opinion Forum, and the Russian fascists are trying again to make it impossible to realize such an idea. Yesterday Russia shelled the railway station in Chaplin in the Dnipropetrovsk region. At the moment, at least 25 Ukrainians have been killed, among them 2 children: an 11-year-old boy and a 6-year-old boy. Earlier or later, one could expect Russia starts targeting

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TELEHELP UKRAINE

How do Ukrainians continue getting medical care despite the war

Karina Nikitishina

TeleHelp Ukraine is an online platform of free medical and psychological assistance for Ukrainians, as well as the result of the efforts of Uk-

rainian students, volunteers, and doctors from different parts of the USA.

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*Hromada- Laub- Lone Pine
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Concert*

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Efforts and Lone Pine Ukrainian Family Aid.**

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Contact Yarema Kuzhyshyn to donate silent auction items or to offer additional venue for a new concert at 971-998-6571 or k_yarema@yahoo.com.



Purchase tickets

Go to hromada.us/concerts, indicate in comments for September 24 concert. Or you can pay by the door: \$45 or \$65 per ticket.



September 24 Concert

Location: Lawrence Jones Middle School Theater (5154 Snyder Lane, Rohnert Park)

Time: 2-4pm

Regular tickets: \$40 per person

Premium tickets: \$60 per person (includes after-party with the performers)

Ola Herasymenko Oliynyk - famous Ukrainian musician, renown performer on bandura, a traditional Ukrainian string instrument. She will perform several songs and instrumental pieces.

Ivanna Taratula - mezzo-soprano, former singer of Lviv National Opera House, will perform the most famed pieces from her repertoire.

Oleksandra Zabashta - soprano, former soloist of Kyiv National Theatre of Operetta, will perform the most famed pieces from her repertoire.

Anytchka - renown Ukrainian lemko singer (lemko is a dialect of Ukrainian language), will sing several most popular songs.

Oleksandra Bobrychenko - Ukrainian folk and contemporary dancer, choreographer and dance teacher. She will share her dancing compositions based on classical Ukrainian dances.

Flutist Olha Shevchyk and pianist Natalie Kokhanny, as instrumental duo, will show the harmonious possibilities of flute and piano collaboration, as well as flute and bandura. Both musicians are alumni of Lviv National Musical Academy.

Folk Duet Oksana and Svyatoslav Stus will sing acapella a few traditional Ukrainian folk and patriotic songs.

The vocal ensemble "Kolyada" will present the Ukrainian anthem and several folk songs. Kolyada (means caroling in Ukrainian) performs classical choral works, folk songs and Christmas carols.

THERE IS ONLY THE POWER OF DESIRE FROM SAN FRANCISCO TO LVIV

Olesia Boklah

As a rule, I write exceptionally about my feelings and philosophy, however, having heard the story of this tender girl and irresistible volunteer, I couldn't stop myself not to share my impressions with readers.

In the USA, where she came from Dnipro at the age of 15, Olha had been working as a fitness coach, helping people to become stronger and get rid of chronic pain, recover after injuries thanks to physical exercises. When the invasion starts, the woman immediately texted her friend who served in 2014. "I knew that the first attack of Ukrainian areas would make him route to the front, that is why I asked what they needed. I have just bought a new apartment, began climbing up the career ladder with courses, and nothing predicted my long-term staying in Motherland," in such a way she described her state in February.

Firstly, like in 2014, Olia joined several protests in San Francisco and was packing humanitarian aid in warehouses. But her heart was stung by the struggles, besides, the citizen was getting that this year's war is much larger and required a bigger contribution. Actions had to be quick. And the girl found a small group of volunteers in the Bay Area that handed over suitcases with help to Ukraine through travelers. Together they organized "Who flies?" on Facebook. The initiative gathered a lot of people who agreed willingly to take extra packages. Volunteers also took turns flying to Warsaw with the aim to transport cargo and return. Then, little by little, the volunteers ran out, and April break was long enough. Apart from everything mentioned above, the community faced a problem with logistics in Lviv. There was no person to be res-



ponsible for unpacking, sorting, and internal transportation of parcels and boxes on a permanent basis. During that period, Olha collected 7 bags for her military friends. And the wish to be near the family members, who refused to leave Ukraine for the sake of local volunteering, and comrades-defenders, gratitude to the native place, and the sad cry of the Ukrainian woman in the soul became a turning point for her in deciding definitely to fly to the land where the woman was born. Though she mentioned that she was afraid of worrying her relatives and didn't tell them about her entry until she got off the bus at the station.

She crossed the Ukrainian border not with 7 suitcases, but with 57. Such a trip around Europe because of transfers was quite risky, since not every plane could withstand such a load. Fortunately, not all seats were bought, and for an additional fee the

airline allowed a record number of suitcases to be transported. Upon arrival at three o'clock in the morning, the woman was met by strangers who later proved to be a support and reliance for Olha. She settled in a rented apartment with 3 people from Odesa. The girl's activities were focused on promoting the welfare of battalions. She did not let herself go of a clear realization: if equipment and food are not supplied to the army, there may not be any children and women who need to be lent a hand. The biggest needs for soldiers are tactical medicine (tourniquets, hemostatic bandages, first-aid kits), uniforms and shoes that often tear or deteriorate, ballistic headphones, drones, batteries, and walkie-talkies. She has to spend a lot of time searching for urgent requests and profitable options. In social networks, the girl is almost a star not according to

likes, but to the insights and a range of letters with requests for rescue. Autumn will come soon – their group is preparing for plenty of lists with thermal clothes, sleeping bags, and raincoats. Many people write for cartridges, and she wants to scream and call out to the whole world because volunteers are not allowed to purchase ammunition for weapons. The impotence cripples a woman morally. The patriot names a noticeable difference between activism in America and Ukraine. In the States, volunteering is not accompanied by sirens and periodic bomb fallings. Also, Olia and her friends save bottles of water and canned provisions in the dwelling due to the uncertainty of the course of events in autumn and winter. Since May, the girl has been living on accumulated money and renting an apartment in San Francisco. One of her goals for the future is to combine online work, studying, and volunteering.

According to Olia, the routine of a volunteer is emotionally oversaturated. Not only with unpleasant, but also with funny cases. For instance, in Warsaw, a woman was delayed due to documents drawing up, while a reserved driver refused to wait and left in time to bless paskas at Easter. Volunteers didn't persuade him even by offering to pay for his hotel and other expenses. At first seconds, the girl thought that he was joking, but it turned out that the proverb "it is only after Easter" is still relevant today. Self-sacrifice leads to the cognition of new verities: Olha, an empath by nature, wanted to help everyone, but the implementation of plans in practice simplified her ambitions and demon-



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UKRAINIAN NEWS

Total combat losses of the enemy



According to the General Staff, the total combat losses of the enemy from February 24 to August 29, 2022 were approximately:

personnel – about 47,100 people were eliminated,
tanks – 1,947 units,
ACV – 4,269 units,
artillery systems – 1,060 units,
RSZV – 279 units,
air defense equipment – 149 units,
warplanes – 234 units,
helicopters – 203 units,
UAVs of the operational-tactical level – 844 units,
cruise missiles – 196 units,
ships and cutters – 15 units,
automotive equipment and trucks – 3,188 units,
special equipment – 101.

Biden marked Ukrainian Independence Day with nearly \$3 billion in security assistance



Biden said that approximately \$2.98 billion "will allow Ukraine to acquire air defense systems, artillery systems and munitions, counter-unmanned aerial systems and radars to ensure it can continue to defend itself."

Wednesday's package of nearly \$3 billion is authorized through the Ukraine Security Assistance Initiative, or USAI, which uses funds appropriated by Congress. The USAI finances America's defense industry to scale up arms production.

"This announcement represents the beginning of a contracting process to provide additional priority capabilities

to Ukraine in the mid- and long-term to ensure Ukraine can continue to defend itself as an independent, sovereign and prosperous state," wrote Pentagon press secretary Air Force Brig. Gen. Pat Ryder in a statement.

New to this security package is the counter-drone capability.

Previously, since February 24, the United States have provided military aid for almost 10 billion dollars.

By months:

February – 350 million,
March – 1,000 million,
April – 2322 million,
May – 950 million,
June – 1,450 million,
July – 1,490 million,
August – 2325 mln.

The Government of Slovakia will send 30 infantry fighting vehicles to Ukraine



The Minister of Defense of Slovakia Jaroslav Nad noted that MiG-29 fighters would come to Ukraine in September, and their cost is estimated at hundreds of millions of euros. The number of aircraft transferred in the future was not reported.

Slovakia will receive 15 Leopard2A4 tanks from Germany instead or money from the EU.

"Besides, Slovakia, Poland and the Czech Republic decided to launch programs to expand the production of artillery systems, ammunition and other military equipment for Ukraine," Danish Defense Minister Morten Bodskov declared.

It is known that with the beginning of Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine, problems arose in Slovakia with the repair of Russian-made MiG-29 fighters. Therefore, at the end of August, the Ministry of Defense finally landed these machines. The Ministry of Defense is

now looking for a way out considering the problem of fighter jets monetization. Jaroslav Nad evaluates the cost of 30-year-olds warplanes as 300 million euros. He negotiates with the allies on the topic of redemption.

Slovakia's interest is to deliver these planes to Ukraine. Therefore, the second possible scenario is providing Ukraine with aircrafts and receiving the corresponding budget necessary for defense from another country. On June 27, the mass media announced that the air military forces of the Czech Republic will protect Slovakia's airspace from September 2022 and at least until the end of 2023.

On July 25, Slovakia announced that the country is ready to transfer its MiG-29 fighters to Ukraine. At the same time, Slovakia emphasized: they cannot allocate the necessary aircraft to Ukraine without being paid for them.

Germany will compensate for the armored vehicles provided to Ukraine by Eastern European countries,- Scholz



Czechia will get 15 tanks of the Leopard 2A4 model from German instead of several dozens of Soviet tanks that were donated to Ukraine.

This was proclaimed at Monday joint press conference in Prague by German Chancellor Olaf Scholz and Czech Prime Minister Petro Fiala, – the BBC informs. Germany is going to reimburse for military equipment given to Ukraine by other Eastern European countries, particularly Poland. The newspaper notes that this was known earlier, but on Monday Fiala and Scholz announced it officially as a finally resolved case.

Apart from the free Leopard model 2A4, the Czech Republic, according to the local press, intends to buy 50 tanks of the newer model 2A7+.

Olaf Scholz, while speaking in Prague, assured that Germany will continue to help Ukraine with weapons directly. "In the following weeks and days we will send new modern weapons to Ukraine, such as anti-aircraft systems and reconnaissance drones [...] Our goal for the armed forces of Ukraine is to stay them modern and always able to defend the country," Reuters quoted Scholz as saying.

In a speech on the future of Europe in Prague, Scholz said that the center of gravity of the EU is shifting to the East of Europe.

The Chancellor of Germany, also, appealed to Ukraine to join the EU and called Russia a "neo-imperialist autocracy". Earlier Olaf Scholz visited the Ukrainian military during tank trainings in Germany and promised further military support.

Norway plans to fund supplying Ukraine with gas with \$200 million

The Norwegian government offers to allocate 2 billion Norwegian crowns (\$200 million) in order to help Ukraine with gas supply until the winter period.

This was reported on the website on Monday, August 29. "The war led to the vital need in immediate outside support for Ukraine. Ukraine

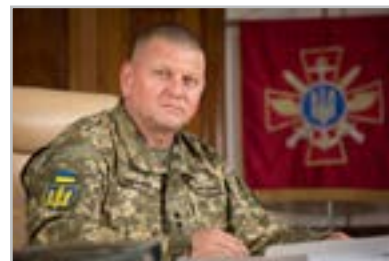


asked Norway to take the key role in ensuring access to energy resources. We are monitoring the situation and suggest to spend 2 billion crowns for the purchase of gas by Ukrainians during autumn and winter," the Prime Minister of Norway stated.

As of August 25, it is promulgated that against the background of Russia's reduction of gas supplies to EU countries due to political pressure, Norway was able to become the main supplier of gas in Europe, taking this role away from Russia.

On August 26, a package of sanctions against the Russian Federation, approved by the European Union on July 21, came into force in Norway.

Zaluzhnyi said about the losses: almost 9 thousand Ukrainian heroes



The Commander-in-Chief of the Ukrainian Armed Forces Valerii Zaluzhnyi mentioned that almost 9,000 Ukrainian heroes died in the war against the Russian invaders.

In mid-May, President Volodymyr Zelenskyy stated that from 50 to 100 Ukrainian soldiers may die in the battles with the Russian occupiers in the most difficult areas in the East of the country.

At the beginning of June, the adviser to the head of the President's Office Mykhailo Podolyak reported that the losses of the Ukrainian military now amount 100 - 200 people every day.

On June 6, Defense Minister Oleksiy Reznikov reported that Ukraine has nearly a hundred servicemen killed every day and up to 500 – wounded.

The charity foundation of Serhiy Prytula bought a satellite with money for "national Bayraktary"

Serhiy Prytula's charity fund bought the satellite for 600 million hryvnias which were collected by Ukrainians.

He reminded that in May, more than 600 million hryvnias were collected for the project "Narodnyi Bayraktar". However, the Baykar company undertook to hand over three attack drones to Ukraine for free.

"We started negotiations with the Ministry of Defense of Ukraine and after long consultations such a solution was worked out. Ukrainians, you are the space: we bought a satellite. It's not just a simple satellite. It gives us access to the database of images of the ICEYE satellite constellation. Radar instruments on ICEYE satellites boards will make it possible to see everything that will happen on Earth in the right place around the clock and in any weather, even in cloudy. And we bought this opportunity for more than a year in advance. Today our army will receive high-quality satellite images as quickly as possible, which will help us with the planning of operations. There will be plenty of «bavovna»!" said Prytula.

US MUST ARM UKRAINE NOW BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE

By Debra Cagan, John Herbst and Alexander Vershbow, opinion contributors to The Hill – 08/17/22

Nearly 20 of our fellow experts and national security professionals — whose digital signatures appear at the end of this op-ed — agree: The war in Ukraine has reached a decisive moment and that vital U.S. interests are at stake.

Long before the Kremlin first invaded Ukraine in 2014, we have — from senior positions in the U.S. government and military — followed Moscow's foreign policy and the grave dangers it presents to the United States and our allies. We have carefully watched Moscow's major offensive since February and the response of the Biden administration and its allies and partners. We have maintained close touch with Ukrainian, U.S. and European officials. Two of us just returned from meetings with Ukraine's defense and military leaders.

Although the Biden administration has successfully rallied U.S. allies and provided substantial military assistance, including this month, to Ukraine's valiant armed forces, it has failed to produce a satisfactory strategic narrative which enables governments to maintain public support for the NATO engagement over the long term.

By providing aid sufficient to produce a stalemate, but not enough to roll back Russian territorial gains, the Biden administration may be unintentionally seizing defeat from the jaws of victory. Out of an overabundance of caution about provoking Russian escalation (conventional as well as nuclear), we are in effect ceding the initiative to Russian President Vladimir Putin and reducing the pressure on Moscow to halt its aggression and get serious about negotiations.

Moscow's imperialist war against the people of Ukraine is not just a moral outrage — a campaign of genocide aimed at erasing the Ukrainian nation from the map — but a clear danger to U.S. security and prosperity.

American principles and interests demand the strongest possible response, one sufficient to force the Russians as much as possible back to pre-February lines and to impose costs heavy enough to deter Russia from invading a third time. With Russian forces struggling to regroup in the east and stave off Ukrainian efforts to retake Kherson in the south, now is the time for Ukraine's allies to pull out all the stops by providing Ukraine the means it needs to prevail. Dragging out the conflict through so-called strategic pauses will do nothing but allow Putin to regroup, recover and inflict more damage in Ukraine and beyond.

But so far, neither the administration nor European allies have succeeded in making clear why this is important to the United States and the West. It is important because Putin is pursuing a revisionist foreign policy designed to upend the rules-based security system that has ensured American and global stability and enabled prosperity since the end of World War II. Putin's aggressive designs do not end in Ukraine. As Russian officials have repeatedly made clear, if Russia wins in Ukraine, our Baltic NATO allies are at risk, as are other allies residing in the neighborhood.

Prudent policy today identifies tomorrow's risk and seeks the right place and time to deal with that risk. For the U.S. and NATO, that time is now — and the place is Ukraine, a large country whose population understands that its choice is either defeating Putin or losing their independence and even their existence as a distinct, Western-oriented nation.

With the necessary weapons and economic aid, Ukraine can defeat Russia.

If it succeeds, our soldiers are less likely to have to risk their lives prote-

cting U.S. treaty allies whom Russia also threatens.

What does defeat for Putin look like? The survival of Ukraine as a secure, independent, and economically viable country. That means a Ukraine with defensible borders that include Odesa and a substantial portion of the Black Sea coast, as well as a strong, well-armed military and a real end to hostilities. That should ideally include the return to Ukrainian control of all territories seized since Feb. 24 and, ultimately, the lands stolen in 2014, including Crimea. Such a peace is only possible when Putin realizes he is soundly defeated and can no longer achieve his objectives of dominating Ukraine or any other nation by force.

It would be a defeat for Ukraine (and the United States) if in haste to end the fighting, the West encouraged Ukraine to cede territory in return for a ceasefire. That would continue the pattern since at least Moscow's aggression against Georgia in 2008 in which the West pushes for a ceasefire that effectively ratifies past Kremlin aggression and does not actually force it to stop shooting or taking more territory. (More than 10,000 Ukrainians died after the Minsk agreement ceasefires with scores and even hundreds of Russian violations daily.) A ceasefire would not end Russia's aggression or its occupation of Ukrainian land; it would simply give Moscow a pause to consolidate its gains and then resume its offensive. Moreover, the vast majority of Ukrainians in recent surveys oppose any territorial concessions in exchange for a ceasefire with Moscow.

Such a plan would also condemn millions of Ukrainians to live under a regime that has committed numerous war crimes, whose senior officials and media have called for de-Ukrainianization of Ukraine, which is already being subjected to forced Russification, including the illegal and involuntary deportation of nearly 400,000 Ukrainian children to Russia for adoption. These measures have prompted a growing number of scholars to describe Russian policy as genocide.

Moscow's plan now is to make as many gains on the battlefield as possible; to conduct sham referendums in the newly occupied Ukrainian territory as a prelude to their annexation; to undermine unity in the West's support for Ukraine by cutting off gas supplies going into the winter; and to blockade Ukrainian ports to produce destabilizing food shortages in the Global South designed to blow back on the West. For all of these purposes, Moscow needs time. Which means the United States and its allies must keep the pressure on Moscow.

The Biden administration should move more quickly and strategically, in meeting Ukrainian requests for weapons systems. And when it decides to send more advanced weapons, like HIMARS artillery, it should send them in larger quantities that maximize their impact on the battlefield.

Ukraine needs long-range fires to disrupt the Russian offensive, including Russian resupply, fuel, and ammunition stocks. That means the U.S. should send ATACMS munitions, fired by HIMARS with the 300km range necessary to strike Russian military targets anywhere in Ukraine, including occupied Crimea. And Ukraine needs constant resupply of ammunition and spare parts for artillery platforms supplied from various countries, some of which are not interchangeable. These systems are constantly in use, which makes maintenance and spare parts resupply critical. How and where these tasks are accomplished and the logistics infrastructure to quickly get the equipment back where it can be of greatest use can also make a huge difference.

Beyond this, Ukraine needs more short- and medium-range air defense to counter Russian air and missile attacks. An increasing problem is the

need to deploy adequate countermeasures to hamper the growing prevalence of Russian-produced drones and new ones it is trying to procure from Iran.

The administration has been reluctant thus far to take such decisive steps for fear of provoking Russia, or as National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan recently said at the Aspen Security Forum, "to avoid World War Three". Putin and other senior Russian officials have at numerous points in the run-up to and following Moscow's Feb. 24 offensive reminded the West of the dangers of nuclear war. But the U.S. is also a nuclear power, and it is a strategic mistake to suggest that nuclear deterrence no longer works. Nuclear deterrence still works.

It is to Putin's advantage to threaten nuclear war, but not to initiate it. And we have seen the Kremlin make nuclear threats that proved hollow — for instance in connection with Finland and Sweden joining NATO. If we allow Putin to intimidate us from providing the weapons Ukraine needs to stop Russian revisionism, what happens when he waves his nuclear wand over the Baltic states? And why would the administration assume that Putin would not dare do that with Estonia or Poland if the tactic worked for him in Ukraine?

The stakes are clear for us, our allies, and Ukraine. We should not fool ourselves. We may think that each day we delay providing Ukraine the weapons it needs to win, we are avoiding a confrontation with the Kremlin. To the contrary, we are merely increasing the probability that we will face that danger on less favorable grounds. The smart and prudent move is to stop Putin's aggressive designs in Ukraine, and to do so now, when it will make a difference.

Signed,
General Philip Breedlove, USAF (ret.); 17th Supreme Allied Commander Europe and distinguished professor, Sam Nunn School, Georgia Institute of Technology

Debra Cagan, former State and Defense Department official; distinguished energy fellow, Transatlantic Leadership Network

General (Ret.) Wesley K. Clark, 12th Supreme Allied Commander Europe; senior fellow, UCLA Burke Center

Ambassador Paula J. Dobriansky,

former under secretary of state for global affairs

Ambassador Eric Edelman, former ambassador to Finland and Turkey; former under secretary of defense for policy

Dr. Evelyn Farkas, former deputy assistant secretary of defense for Russia, Ukraine, and Eurasia; executive director, McCain Institute

Ambassador Daniel Fried, former assistant secretary of defense for Europe; Weiser Family distinguished fellow, Atlantic Council

Ambassador John Herbst, former Ambassador to Ukraine and Uzbekistan; senior director, Eurasia Center, Atlantic Council

Lieutenant General (Ret.) Ben Hodges, former commanding general, US Army Europe

Ambassador John Kornblum, former ambassador to Germany

David Kramer, former assistant secretary of state for democracy, human rights, and labor

Jan Lodal, former principal deputy under secretary of defense for policy; distinguished fellow, Scowcroft Center for Strategy and Security, Atlantic Council

Robert McConnell, former assistant attorney general; co-founder, US-Ukraine Foundation

Ambassador Stephen Sestanovich, former ambassador-at-large for the former Soviet Union; senior fellow, Council on Foreign Relations; professor, Columbia University

John Sipher, former officer and chief of station, CIA Clandestine Service; nonresident senior fellow, Eurasia Center, Atlantic Council

Ambassador William Taylor, former ambassador to Ukraine

Ambassador Alexander Vershbow, former NATO deputy secretary general; former assistant secretary of defense; former ambassador to Russia and NATO

Ambassador Kurt Volker, former ambassador to NATO; former special representative for Ukraine negotiations; distinguished fellow, Center for European Policy Analysis

Ambassador Marie Yovanovitch, former ambassador to Ukraine

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<https://thehill.com/opinion/national-security/3605064-us-must-arm-ukraine-now-before-its-too-late/>



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO PACK BOOTS FOR UKRAINIAN REFUGEES

My New Red Shoes, a Redwood City-based nonprofit, has partnered with **USA for UNHCR**, the UN refugee agency, to get 100,000 pairs of winter boots in the hands of Ukrainian families fleeing the war with Russia. The organization needs volunteers between now and early October to help sort and prepare the boots for shipping.

Here's how you can get involved:

- Individual volunteers and groups are **welcome to sign up**. (Groups of 10 or more can contact volunteer@mynewredshoes.org to request other scheduling options.)

- Shifts are three hours long, and there are openings every weekday morning and afternoon, as well as weekend mornings.

- No experience is necessary, and the only requirement is to wear a mask and closed-toed shoes.

A few hours of your time can make a tremendous impact for the good of the people of Ukraine. Thank you for your support.



GIVE THE GIFT OF ENGLISH TO UKRAINIAN YOUTH

ENGin is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization that pairs young Ukrainians with English speakers for free online conversation practice and cross-cultural connection.



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[Vitalii Portnikov: NOTES for August] the beginning is on page 1

vast amount of Russian people, sincere adherents of the deceitful imperium expansion, gave him. Though the Crimean Putin's ranking that was growing during 2014 by leaps and bounds seemed certain to testify that a territorial increase, «the victory», is much more important for the inhabitants of Russian areas than any other essential problems inside the federation. Nevertheless, a lot of Ukrainians resolutely refuse to believe this.

Some tried to assure the government to negotiate with the dictator. And this strange and unreasonable by evidence as well as the political reality confidence had become one of the crucial factors that determined the results of the presidential elections in 2019.

I experienced my compatriots' unpreparedness «to look up» within own profession – every time I attempted to warn people about a large-scale war threat, they stared at me as if I was a dangerous provocateur. The same had been happening even for two-three weeks before the war when Ukrainians were proposed to celebrate the fact that Putin had not invaded yet when detailed alerts provided by western reconnoiters, politicians, and media were ignored. It is a bit embarrassing to mention today, but the expression «or else Putin will attack!» turned into a sarcastic meme in Ukraine.

But Putin ambushed – in the way even pessimists could not expect, to say nothing of realists. However, this attack caused not a fear, but the consolidation and radicalization of the Ukrainian community. Sociology demonstrates that most of Ukrainians – to 90% – deny a capitulation while desiring to liberate all seized in 2014 lands. This topic is covered in Volodymyr's Zelensky appeals to fellow men.

This is precisely why regardless of the unprecedented number of air alarms Independence Day of Ukraine was a true feast for almost all its re-

sidents, the indication of not simple existence of the state that they had aimed to destroy «in 3 days», but the carrying on the struggle and hope to clear its areas of the enemy. And «the parade» of demolished Russian military equipment in Khreshchatyk posed a genuine atmosphere of the procession.

Russia has passed the fast track from authoritarian to totalitarian country. Leonid's Slutsky, Russian chauvinist deputy's, exclamation at the funeral of Darya Dugina, warfare propagandist, «one state, one president, one win!» is considered a symbol of the analogy of putinism and nazism.

In «pre-Crimean» Russia the political controversy and the extra-parliamentary opposition were a bit allowed, besides, the parliamentary system accepted performing with its own political agenda. In «post-Crimean» Russia the extra-parliamentary resistance was crushed when parliamentary was ultimately transformed into Kremlin's appendage and «United Russia». After February 24, ordinary indifferent people there, not even activists and strikers, were repressed and thrown behind bars whenever they referred to the war as «the war». Even if they do not speak out against the conflict and genocide, just identify concepts with their names.

The ability of Russia to terrify the planet by nuclear weapons does not amaze anybody. Moreover, in August they add the menace to provoke an accident at the occupied Zaporizhya NPP to their blackmail plan.

The state of affairs around the plant which has been supervised by forces of the adversary since the first weeks looks gradually more and more troubling. And we question not the possibility of an accident because of the next shelling by invaders.

The concern is that the disaster can happen as a result of people's with bullets control, hectic chaos, and incompetence. Then the main consequence of this war for decades will be follow-ups not on rocket fire and battles, but exactly this unpleasant event.



Ukrainians do not need to be told about this. The country which survived the horror of Chornobyl realizes the meaning of a nuclear catastrophe very well. Now the view on it is close to observing fresh trying to achieve the surrender – this time by such big accident blackmail.

A similar criminal strategy contributes to our upgraded comprehension of the war's nature. By all accounts, it is the struggle for the territory and against the nation. We catch definitely that if Russia cuts off the electricity in Ukrainian cities and villages either by raids, accidents, or MPP seizure, the government would be obliged to deport their population.

A good portion of confusion appeared immediately: will people return to these cities and towns in the spring and in what amount? How many people will join the millions of Ukrainians who have been hosted in Western countries during the first months of the war? Will the Russian army use the situation to attack the depopulated regions and then prevent the population from returning?

These are by no means theoretical questions – all the more so since the Vice Prime Minister of Ukraine Iryna Vereshchuk is talking about mandatory evacuation not only from the Donetsk region but also from other districts. And this reminds us of Putin's tactics, of the concept of «territorial empire» – to expel the population further and further from the east and south to the western regions, from the country in general.

We cannot say that such tactics were crowned with visible success. Ukrainians not only do not leave the

big cities, such as Dnipro and Odesa, not only stay in the long-suffering Kharkiv but return to Kyiv after the Russian troops left the outskirts of the Ukrainian capital. Thus the Kremlin is betting on a protracted war, on our exhaustion and expulsion. That is why they want to steal Ukrainian energy. That is why they are threatening a nuclear accident a few tens of kilometers from Zaporizhya. And that is why they are turning into an outcast country for the civilized world.

It is the reason why the community, which until recently believed in the possibility to come to an agreement with Putin, understands the danger he faced, helps Ukraine, and strengthens sanctions against Russia.

As a demonstrative example, let's mention Germany which went the way from an objector of supplying weapons to the Ukrainian army to a state where politicians argue about the scope and timing of getting new guns and where assistance to Ukraine has become an important part of the public debate. All these months we have been talking about the «resurrection of NATO», testing the strength and effectiveness of the European Union, about the fact that humanity will have to learn to defend itself and look for tools to fight the crisis.

Obviously, the universes of authoritarianism and the Global South are changing, too – but not so quickly. And their future depends on exactly what the outcome of Russia's war against Ukraine will be, whether democracy will prove its effectiveness on the battlefield and whether the West will be able to help Ukraine in the war and rebuild the country. Yes, it is paradoxically, that the fate of the West, the future of China, and the future of India will be decided in this war. Anyway, of course, first of all, the future of Ukraine itself and its people will be defined. Putin wanted to destroy both our state and the right of the Ukrainian people to live on their land. But here he has already been defeated in half a year.

HOW HAS UKRAINE CELEBRATED INDEPENDENCE DAY IN 2022

Liza Hots

Probably everyone has experienced disappointment. When you, for instance, looked forward to something, but eventually everything went awry, not according to your plan.

Let's simulate a situation where there is an important event coming soon to your life. It may be a job interview as well as a stereotypical birthday.

So, suppose it is your birthday either sweet 18 or a long-awaited jubilee, it doesn't matter. Let's imagine you have begun the preparation one month before. You have booked a table in the luxurious restaurant, invited all the guests, and now you are excited to a great extent. Last year the celebration was fascinating and unforgettable, so you expect this year's event will be not worse, but maybe even better. And suddenly due to certain circumstances, you have to cancel everything. The result is the absence of both the holiday and a positive mood.

A similar situation occurred in Ukraine this year for Independence Day [P.S. If someone has forgotten, I will remind him/her: 24.08.1991 – the historical event that altered the lives of billions of Ukrainian residents. The Supreme Council proclaimed Ukrainian absolute independence. This date is enormously essential for my nation. At that moment WE chose the path of free and sovereign, having left behind pain, misery, and all those oppression of our culture.

24.08.1991 WE triumphed with the victory over totalitarianism and dictatorship. WE have become independent, independent of the opinions and instructions of "friends-neighbors". WE got the right to choose and the opportunity to express our position. And it seemed that they had finally finished the work that our ancestors had begun centuries ago. It was on that day that Ukraine consciously chose the road to a bright future, and the countries of the West became our benchmarks.]

The previous year our mother Ukraine celebrated the 30th anniversary of its independence. Of course, it is only formally.

How did the celebration pass last year?

Memorably! All our cities were dressed in blue-yellow embroidered shirts and banners. Laughter, hund-



reds of joyful voices, and loud music rang out from every corner. Festivals, contests, and fairs with brand Ukrainian delicacies were held. Sure thing, there was a festive parade in the heart of our state, Kyiv. Thousands of Ukrainians came to watch the spectacle. And the parade itself was attended by dozens of units of military equipment and aviation, an orchestra, hundreds of Ukrainian sailors, soldiers, generals, majors, and even outstanding artists. And the

An-225 "Mriya" plane (the largest and most powerful transport plane in the world, created by the Kyiv Antonov Design Bureau), which, to my regret, could not "survive" to the 31st anniversary of Independence, became our business card.

So what happened in Ukraine on August 24, 2022?

To start with, I want to note that the day "traditionally" began with a minute of silence. First of all, a full-scale invasion took place exactly half a year

ago. And it is from that period to the present day that the genocide of the Ukrainian people has been taking place on the part of the Russian Federation.

Well, secondly, we had a "bomby" celebration. After all, on Independence Day, Russia and its "army" decided to congratulate us with a bunch of rockets. At least every hour, an air-raid alarm sounded throughout the territory of Ukraine, and everyone urgently had to run to a shelter. And how you understand a celebration cannot be when you spend the whole day somewhere in the basement/subway station, etc.

On 24.08.2022, a record number of alarms were announced in Ukraine – 189. So many sirens sounded only on Easter Eve: 109 alarms. But, despite this, we tried to continue working. Although the city streets were practically deserted, the national flag flew on every avenue, car, shop, and restaurant.

And, no doubt, I can say that the motto of Ukrainians on that day were the famous words of Lesia Ukrainka "as to not cry I laughed" from the poem "As a child I was, erstwhile...". Finally, the desirable parade took place in our capital. However, in a different interpretation. On the main square of the country, dozens of units of Russian equipment, fortunately already burned, were pulled up.

You wanted a parade on Khreshchatyk, "gentlemen of Russia", – you got it. The form of conduct was not specified :)

Ukrainian music was also played everywhere. In the breaks between alarms, Ukrainians had time to start round dances, in some basements, they even organized small stand-up shows. And in the evening, on the premises of the main metro station, Virka Serdyuchka and the dance ensemble named after Pavlo Virskyi performed. Because we all remember that sometimes you need to let your body relax a little, even in such a way.

So, we should draw conclusions: having taken away the people's opportunity to celebrate, the enemy will never be able to take away their patriotism, boundless love for the Motherland, thirst for freedom, and insubordination. Let's remember: together to victory!

September 10th, 6pm
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Photos by Yuri Banzai



Protesters gathered in front of San Francisco City Hall



A rally in the USA

[From San Francisco to Lviv] The beginning is on page 3

strated that it is necessary to proceed from proper help to one person, one unit. This is, doubtless, more effective than scattering, burning out, and suffering from maximalism.

When she was asked what feelings the word "war" evokes inside her, the 33-year-old beauty answered without hesitation: "Anger, hatred, and adoreness. I have never imagined that I would hate and love so deeply. It is necessary to be able to control these powerful emotions and direct them in a positive flow – otherwise, they will destroy and exhaust you. "Of course, even for a courageous person, there are things that scare, in particular, the brutality of the attackers, a lot of raped and killed children and women, broken and defenseless fate, and torture of civilians and captives. Tears well up when friends bury friends, bury whole families, when relatives do not get in touch for a long time. It is terrible that genocide reigns in the 21st century, and the world still has not recognized Russia as a terrorist country.

The heroine of the article escapes from nervous tension with walks in the Lviv park, street musicians' singing, communication, sports, and reading. The main thing for Olha is to allow herself not to open the news page for half a day which is almost impossible. She considers the inevitable outpouring of negativity among people to be the most difficult thing

in her vocation. At critical moments, she recommends remembering hours of happiness. Sometimes you have to step over principles because dozens of lives depend on your behavior. The girl reminds us that we should not forget: volunteering is altruism, not a place to satisfy selfishness or earn money. On the contrary, volunteers often donate their money to the front. In the final part of our conversation, the following words were heard, "If people do not remain silent, Ukraine's chances of victory will increase! Today, the topic of war is slowly disappearing from the media space in the West. The enemy in our neighborhood is a threat to the entire planet. Everyone should remember this." It is great that modernity offers a choice of ways to volunteer: you can join an established organization, you can pave your own path with like-minded people, as the resident of Dnipro was lucky to do.

Today the woman has no plans in advance connected with returning to the United States. She is sure about her readiness to stay in Ukraine as long as necessary: for a month or even forever. The girl looks for the victory achievement.

Having the last line typed, I glanced at the "Codex of a True Volunteer" poster above the table created after the dialogue with Olia. Most likely, we will never meet in reality, but the inspiration given to me by this lady and the understanding that any distance is only the power of desire, are forever imprinted in my head.

Not only Ukrainians gather for protests in the USA, but also Venezuelans, Americans, Belarusians, Georgians, and French. Having come to these events, you can see motorcades, children's shoe installations, clothing sales, and even skydiving.

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— Alexei B.

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A REPORT ON THE CHARITABLE CONCERT IN RENO

Dear friends! Our photo report on the charity concert, which took place on Sunday, August 21 of this year in Reno, Nevada and was organized by the non-profit organization Hromada in San Francisco and Mr. Paul Laub, who helped us organize the 3rd event!

First of all, many thanks to the co-organizer of the event, Paul Laub, and to the entire team of volunteer performers, talented artists and activists of the Ukrainian community of Northern California, namely:

- Ola Herasymenko/ bandura performer and leader of the bandura ensemble / Sacramento, CA
- Oleksandra Zabashta/ opera singer/ Sacramento, CA
- Oksana Stus and Svyatoslav Stus/ folk duo / San Francisco, CA
- Ivanna Taratula Filipenko / opera singer / Walnut Creek, CA
- Igor Veligan, violinist & Mira Veligan, piano / Sacramento, CA
- Roman & Olesia Ritachka/ singers



and musicians / Weaverville, CA

All present received great satisfaction from a wonderful concert, cozy atmosphere, seeing Ukrainian traditions, and most essentially, they supported an important event for Ukraine with their coming!

Together, friends, we managed to collect \$2,700. THANK YOU!!!

These funds will be sent as a help to children and those who needs more help in Ukraine.

Together we WILL WIN!

Glory to Ukraine! Glory to heroes!

You can support our initiatives by making a contribution via the link:

<https://www.paypal.me/Hromada>

[Freedom of speech that is worth fighting for]

The beginning is on page 1

railways and trains because their task is to exterminate Ukrainians as a nation, to burn our land to desolation. Each piece of such information leads to a certain psychological stupor, you cannot engage in routine at some point, albeit necessary activities.

I got into a similar situation with my last book. On February 24, I stopped publishing the book "Ukrainian Dream. 25 steps to social happiness". When Russian helicopters and tanks stormed the suburbs of my native Kyiv, it seemed impossible to have another dream, apart from the victory over Russian fascism. But every subsequent month emphasized that we, Ukrainians, have the right to dream personally, that all 25 steps of the Concept work and should be asked regardless of the Russian fascists. Nevertheless, I squeezed the one-and-a-half page preface for this book out of me for six months. I have never written an article as long as that preface. The book will be edited in September.

Now I have invented to hold a Forum of public opinion leaders in Kyiv. The only "national marathon" created by the authorities on the basis of the leading television channels has become a virtual monopoly in conveying information to Ukrainian society. With obvious pluses from this, and likely minuses. The advantages are cutting off the influence of TV channels and figures who are reasonably suspected of working for the enemy on Ukrainians. So, in particular, the TV channels of the "Medvedchuk-Kozak group" died: 112, ZIK, News one, and their "gray cardinal" Medvedchuk himself went into custody, the "Nash" TV channel also died, and its head Murayev fled to Russia after having published pro-Russian posts on Telegram in the first days of the invasion. The delivery of balanced information about the situation at the front to society can also be called a positive side. The next plus is the departure from small-party intrigues and confrontations, which used to flourish on TV, often provoking intra-community self-righteousness. A blow that was struck at the media impacted the oligarchy. Proving that he does not want to fall under the "law about bourgeoisie", Rinat Akhmetov announced the closure of the TV channels of the SCM group. And this touched the influen-

tial "Ukraine" and "Ukraine 24". However, TV channels associated with the previous government (Petro Poroshenko's group): "Pryamiy", "Channel 5", and "Espresso" also came under broadcasting restrictions. Although they continue broadcasting, they have significantly lost their share of coverage. And for all the ambiguity of criticism of the government, which succeeded on these TV channels, and the expediency of continuing such media and political pressure during the new invasion of fascist Russia, questions or fears still arise: will everything be okay with freedom of speech after our victory? Won't the objective monopolization of the media lead to excessive self-censorship in society?

Ukraine is a free country. Not only according to the Constitution but also according to the essential need of Ukrainians. Actually, that is why the war between fascist Russia and us is going on. For them (fascist Russians), our democratic values are unacceptable. Well, we must be able to cherish our values. Primarily, the creation of alternative information and social discussion platforms.

It explains the roots of the necessity to organize the Forum of Leaders of Public Opinion.

We managed to arrange an informational and educational site that provided an opportunity to publicize alternative concepts and positions, at the same time without confronting their representatives, and transitioning into the party-political plane with all its obvious shortcomings (excessive ambitions, excessive criticism, social contradictions, etc.).

The purpose of the Forum is to create a non-political, non-partisan, but intellectual site.

That is why the list of invitees was so wide. The taboo was only for one group: those who despise Ukrainian statehood and want the destruction of Ukraine. Those who betrayed the Ukrainian state and went over to the side of the enemy, the Russian fascists, have two paths: if they took up arms, they should be punished on the battlefield, if they work for fascist Russia, they should be convicted according to the law.

The rest of the citizens should be talked to appropriately. 47 speakers, 10 different blocks.

- Block 1 – Domestic political
- Block 2 – Military
- Block 3 – Humanitarian
- Block 4 – Geopolitical
- Block 5 – What to do with Russia?

- Block 6 – Worldview
- Block 7 – Local self-government
- Block 8 – Economic
- Block 9 – Media
- Block 10 – Social

There were people from the government: the first deputy chairman of the Verkhovna Rada O. Kornienko, the Minister of Culture and Information Policy O. Tkachenko, as well as political and public opponents, for instance, A. Pavlovskiy, O. Popenko, M. Tomenko.

There were representatives of various parties: O. Kornienko – "Servant of the nation", A. Pavlovskiy – "Batkivshchyna", P. Rozenko – "European solidarity", S. Sukhomlin – "Propozyziya", D. Bilotserkivets – "Udar", M. Tomenko – "Homeland", M. Davydyuk was on the list of "Voices" to the Verkhovna Rada, and O. Solontay, V. Tryukhan, R. Rokhov belonged to the leadership of "People's power".

There were leftists (M. Chaplyga – advocated for trade unions), and rightists (Y. Romanchuk – an ideologue of the most liberal reforms or P. Gai-Nizhnyk who once belonged to UNA-UNSO and "Right Sector").

There were representatives of local self-government bodies: S. Sukhomlin, mayor of Zhytomyr, D. Bilotserkivets, deputy of the Kyiv City Council. And those who had previous experience at the local level: V. Kuybida – mayor of Lviv in the past, O. Solontai – a deputy of the Uzhhorod Town Council in the past.

In addition to the current government, there were representatives of the former government: P. Rozenko – ex-vice prime minister, M. Tomenko – ex-deputy chairman of the Verkhovna Rada, A. Pavlovskiy, T. Steckiv, V. Kuybida – ex-people's deputies, O. Chaly – former First Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, O. Kochetkov – former Deputy Minister of Internal Affairs.

There were active journalists: D. Tuzov, A. Batsman, and V. Gerasimovych. There were those who either belong to the management of international funds: O. Sushko, executive director of the "Renaissance" fund, those who know how to work with funds like O. Solontay, and ardent critics of "grant organizations" like M. Tomenko.

There were inclusions from other cities (not to be limited only to Kyiv). Me. Valetov from Dnipro, S. Sukhomlin from Zhytomyr.

There were those who struggled for the Independence of Ukraine back in the 80s and 90s: D. Tuzov, P. Gai-Nizhnyk, T. Stetskiy, and M. Tomenko.

There were also those who are fighting at the front now, such as S. Dubina (AFU), and G. Druzenko (medical hospital). There were those who have new worldview theories: such as O. Tolkachov, S. Datsyuk, O. Novokhatskiy, A. Yakymenko, and K. Doroshenko. There were economists with different opinions, such as P. Sebastyanovich, Ya. Romanchuk, and O. Kush.

However, what to do with Russia, natives of Russia I. Ponomarev, M. Feigin, and M. Maksakova were invited. And this is logical. They were not involved in the blocks of our internal Ukrainian problems, but rather in the block "What to do with Russia after our Ukrainian victory".

Surprisingly, before starting the Forum critics' voices sounded. By the way, from the side of our own "patriotic" environment. They criticized the possibility of involving certain personalities who seemed to be less than "patriotic". Such criticism was partly due to a misunderstanding of the need for national unity. Though the remarks about the gender imbalance were fair. There were critically few female speakers (E. Libanova, A. Batsman, M. Maksakova). There is a real problem here: many active women have moved abroad. And there is an even bigger problem: if you analyze the public Internet space, then almost exclusively men comment on socially relevant topics. That means a serious gender imbalance in the social sphere in Ukraine. And it should be fixed.

But even those who criticized the idea of the Forum before its holding kept silence after it. Because the Forum turned out to be of such high quality that there was nothing to complain about. But the very fact of the stormy preliminary discussion suggested that we already have significant problems with freedom of speech. Because each political group dreams of creating its own "monopoly on the truth". To sum up, we should understand more clearly what are our value advantages over fascist Russia, and develop, not spoil them. And there should be discussion platforms for this goal. We, Ukrainians, are a nation full of liberty, we are free people, and we have the right to our own thoughts, our own views, and their publication. After all, Ukrainians are fighting for this on the fronts. And we will not give up our right to freedom of speech to anyone!

FOR KIDS

THE TURNIP

Ukrainian folk tale from Poltavshchyna



Illustrations by Valentina Melnichenko

Many years ago an old man lived in a gorgeous village. He had a wife, a granddaughter Marushka, a dog Zhuchka, and a cat Murchik. The cat had a mouse-friend. When the warm spring came, the grandpa planted a turnip. The turnip grew bigger and bigger. In golden period of autumn the grandpa came to pick the turnip and saw that it had become enormously big. He walked around, pulled and pulled but couldn't pull it up!

The man called the grandma. The woman came to the vegetable garden. The grandma pulled the grandpa, the grandpa pulled the turnip. They pulled and pulled, but couldn't pull it up! They asked their granddaughter to help. The granddaughter pulled her dear grandma, the grandma pulled the grandpa, and the grandpa pulled the turnip. They pulled and pulled but couldn't pull it up!

The granddaughter shouted Zhuchka. The doggy came. The doggy pulled

the granddaughter, the granddaughter pulled the grandma, the grandma pulled the grandpa, and the grandpa pulled the turnip. They pulled and pulled but couldn't pull it up!

Zhuchka ran to find the cat. Murchik came. Murchik pulled the dog, the dog pulled the granddaughter, the granddaughter pulled her grandma, the grandma pulled the grandpa, and the grandpa pulled the turnip. They pulled and pulled, but couldn't pull it up!

Cat's friend came. The

mouse pulled the kitty, the cat pulled the dog, the dog pulled the granddaughter, the granddaughter pulled the grandma, the grandma pulled the grandpa, and the grandpa pulled the turnip. They pulled and pulled, and as soon as they hit, the turnip was on top. So big the turnip was!

I was there and saw that turnip. Whoever does not believe, let him check it.

Sonna Katerina Davydivna (1930). Poltava region, Chornukhinsky district, Lugoviki





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**[TeleHelp Ukraine]
The beginning is on page 1**

Bohdan Kamets is an activist of the Ukrainian Student Association of Stanford University and head of public relations at TeleHelp Ukraine. Mr. Kamets told Hromada about the arising of the idea for the project and the work of the platform and explained how you can join the volunteer team of TeleHelp Ukraine.

Everything started on February 24, when Russia launched a full-scale war against Ukraine. "That day after the demonstration in San Francisco, I was lucky to meet a group of students from Stanford," says Bohdan, "and it turned out that there are a lot of Ukrainians at Stanford." In the evening, everyone gathered on the campus and started working on how we can help Ukraine.

Solomiya Savchuk is a medical student at Stanford University and the founder of the project. Mrs. Savchuk worked in a free clinic run by Stanford students: there, during the 2 years of the pandemic, the girl gained experience in telemedicine. "She was approached by her teachers who physically could not go to Ukraine but wanted to help in some way. And Solomiya came up with the idea that something could be done with telemedicine.

Implementation of the idea began immediately: not only medical students but also computer technology learners, practicing doctors, translators, coordinators, and other people joined the project. The Australian company Cliniko granted the project with a license to use their platform, after which testing, one of the most difficult stages before launch, came. "We tried to simplify the site as much as possible so that every patient could make an appointment with a minimum number of clicks," continues Mr. Kamets.

An important achievement was the Ministry of Health's permission to work with patients located in Ukraine and Poland: "The fact is that it is a very complicated process in the USA: a doctor who has a license in one state does not have the right to care for patients in another state." So, after receiving permission and assembling a team, on April 22, TeleHelp Ukraine accepted its first patient from Ukraine.

"The sense of our project is to con-

sult patients online and give people who are sitting in bomb shelters, the opportunity not to risk and not to leave the shelter to look for a doctor. Initially, we had available consultations in general medicine, pediatrics, and psychological care. Over time, we received more and more requests from Ukrainians regarding specific specialties: many of our patients have such chronic diseases as diabetes, heart disease, and thyroid gland. Therefore, doctors specializing in endocrinology, gynecology, dermatology, cardiology, etc. gradually began to appear here.

But most Ukrainians ask for neurologists and psychological help – as soon as a free place appears, someone signs up for it," noted Bohdan. Also, TeleHelp is currently trying to add oncology to the list of its specializations, but there are difficulties with finding and setting up work with partner clinics on the ground in Ukraine and with certain limitations of telemedicine in this field.

"Furthermore, if there are people who return for psychological support, we try to make them communicate with the same doctor who was at the first appointment. We want the trust to be built between people, and everything to take place like offline therapy. We try to do the same with doctors of other specialties.

Our patients give a lot of positive feedback about our ability to help them. We are approached by discernable people: of different ages, genders, social statuses, and professions. It often happens that someone first makes an appointment with a doctor himself, and then recommends trying TeleHelp to his relatives and friends, makes an appointment with his grandmother or grandfather."

An important aspect of TeleHelp's work is privacy - the project does not collect information about the location of the patient. For example, if a person is in the occupied territory, then an attempt to find out his/her exact location can harm and expose him to even greater danger. Social networks assist us in expanding our clients' database a lot, but we can't rely fully on their security. So, we try to take all the measures of anonymity that we can.

Currently, TeleHelp Ukraine employs almost 90 doctors, about 40 of

whom actively conduct consultations almost every week. The schedule of consultations directly depends on the arrival of patients, because the project team does not want to waste doctors' time who agreed to become volunteers and help Ukrainians absolutely free of charge. In addition, the team has about 60 volunteers who search for new doctors: they invite colleagues, contact heads of departments, send e-mails to individual departments and find interested people through their acquaintances. Among them, many either have friends in Ukraine, are of Ukrainian origin, or their loved one is from Ukraine – everyone has his/her own reasons.

Now the project has many partners from different parts of the USA: New York, Boston, Chicago, San Diego, etc. Everyone is busy with something important: "For example, in Boston, the GMKA organization created the HealUA mobile application, but their format is different – doctor-to-doctor. It is more similar to a council of doctors, while we help patients. Sometimes it happens that the patient needs additional consultation from several specialists, so we try to contact other similar platforms that also have a medical direction.

The idea of TeleHelp is that people who do not have physical access to hospitals can get sufficiently professional help from doctors from any part of the world. Practically, the model of our work can be used anywhere – it is enough to find translators of the language of the desired country, and the same doctors who are currently helping Ukrainians will be able to work effectively in other circumstances. Our concept can be repeated in response to any extreme situation: a weather cataclysm or a military conflict. This is a good example of how in a globalized world we can find access to each other and qualified doctors despite the distance of thousands of kilometers, lack of infrastructure and access."

Bohdan told what plans the TeleHelp team has for the future after Ukraine's victory in the war: "If we have such an opportunity in the future, or if there are enough people who would be able to do it, then we want to help Ukrainians as well as doc-

tors – to train them, share their experience, maybe even join the reform of medical education. Medical education in Ukraine is significantly different from education in the USA, methods are very different. And even the war should not lead to the decline in Ukrainian medicine.

But for now, our main task remains TeleHelp Ukraine, and it will remain in the first place even after our victory. Because of the war many specialists went abroad, were killed, and many hospitals were completely bombed."

Since our conversation with Bohdan took place on August 25, we couldn't avoid asking about how TeleHelp Ukraine celebrated Independence Day. "Geographically, we are all scattered: we have volunteers from Tanzania, Ukraine, and the USA," says Bohdan, "and each of us took part in various activities to the best of our abilities." For example, I participated in the raising of the Ukrainian flag near the city hall in Boston, and several members of the Ukrainian Student Association went to Ukraine and brought a couple of ambulance cars with them.

At the end of our conversation, Mr. Kamets addressed the readers of Hromada: "We are always looking for Ukrainian translators who have knowledge of medicine, and just volunteers who are interested in helping us in other ways. I am currently looking for ways to get the word out about the existence of our platform to the frontline: there may be organizations that would like to communicate with us. If someone wants to learn more about our activities or to join and become a volunteer, you can visit our website <https://www.telehelpukraine.com/> and contact me in a way that is convenient for you. I will be glad for our cooperation!"



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ФІЛЬМ МИХАЙЛА УХМАНА

Ukhman & Co with Hromada West coast movie tour

“THE PATH OF GENERATIONS”

ВОГОНЬ ПЕРЕТВОРЮЄ ЗАЛІЗО НА СТАЛЬ
БОРІТЬБА ПЕРЕТВОРЮЄ НАРОД У НАЦІЮ

ШЛЯХ

ПОКОЛІНЬ

НА РЕАЛЬНИХ ПОДІЯХ

SCAN ME

“SACRAMENTO - JUL 30
SAN FRANCISCO - AUG 6
SAN DIEGO - SEP 10
LOS ANGELES - SEP 11
PORTLAND - OCT TBD
SEATTLE - OCT TBD

Stand with
Ukraine

Stand with
UCU Students

SAVE THE DATE

New York City Luncheon to Benefit
Ukrainian Catholic University

Неділя 6-го листопада 2022 р. | 1:00 год
Sunday, November 6, 2022 | 1 pm

The Yale Club of New York City
50 Vanderbilt Avenue
(At the corner of 44th Street, across from western
entrance to Grand Central Station)
For event sponsorship opportunities, please
contact Olha Zarichynska at (224) 258-3545
or ozarichynska@ucufoundation.org.

Please support Ukraine and Ukrainian students

SUNDAY
OCTOBER 9, 2022
2:00PM - 7:00PM

St. Andrew Ukrainian Orthodox Church
300 Army Trail Road,
Bloomington, IL 60108

FUNDRAISER
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IN CHICAGO

UKRAINIAN
CATHOLIC
UNIVERSITY

For the benefit of UCU students

TICKETS: Family ticket (couple with children up to age of 18) – \$250
Individual ticket – \$125
Student ticket (18-25 years old) – \$50
*Buffet and light drinks are included

For additional information, please contact UCU Foundation
at: 1(800) 599-3671 (Matthew Matuszak)

Family folk event

or visit
ucufoundation.org



LET UKRAINE FLOURISH

At the intersection of roads
that were flying to the future
Independence came to
Ukrainian borders,
promising wounds suture.

Hundreds of years
it was in the nation's heart.
We lost the calmness, with our bodies
and souls drifted apart,
while preparing for the fight.
We endured in prisons burning pain,
but knew that we would see
the winning light!
The sacrifice was worth the gain!
Freedom had a big chance
to come to fathers' land.

It came, but shortly waved a hand –
The Moscow horde
poured areas over with the blood,
pierced towns with the sword,
remained only ruins and mud.

My dear Ukraine wailed as a widow,
Hide your flow of tears, kiddo.



However, Russia, remember
about payback.
It will turn out your black day!
Battle skills are the thing
we don't lack.
Executioners, you will not be
saved by any pray.
Nothing will be forgiven!
Nothing will be forgotten!
Enemies will be driven out of our
gorgeous place to their bottom.
Cannons will keep silent forever,
our people will smile even when
living conditions are severe.
Nightingales will sing louder,
and the bloom of the state will
make us be prouder.

— Myroslav Grech
(Translated by O. Boklah)


ПЕС ПАТРОН
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ПАТРОН
MINES

УКРОШТА



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EVENTS 2022
SEPTEMBER

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	

10 SEP
THE FIRST NIGHT!
“THE PATH OF GENERATIONS” | SAN DIEGO

Hromada
Where: United Nations Association Hall Of Nations San Diego, 32 Pan American Rd W, San Diego, CA 92101
When: Saturday 6 PM
Dear Friends ! San Diego and outskirts !
We invite you to the Ukrainian premiere of the film directed by Mykhailo Ukhman "The Path of Generations"! This is a joint project, a tour around the towns of the West Coast of the United States organized by the company Ukhman & Co with the non-profit organization Hromada of San Francisco in support of the initiative – the purchase of transport and medical equipment.
“Fire turns iron into steel, struggle turns people into a nation!”
Be participants of cultural front, please support our initiatives with your participation! Come with your families so that our children can learn the history of the struggle for Ukraine's independence! This is an informative and patriotic feature film that will not leave anyone indifferent.
The film is dubbed with English subtitles.
Recommended ticket price:
adults – **\$30**
students – **\$20**
children (8 – 15 years old) – **\$10**
by 8 years old – **free of charge**
You can buy a ticket via the link:
<https://www.paypal.me/Hromada>
After the watching, online communication of the audience with the director Mykhailo Ukhman – a participant in the Russian-Ukrainian war.

<https://www.facebook.com/events/3199783166946779/>
10 SEP
CANDLELIGHT VIGIL FOR UKRAINE MARKING 200TH DAY OF GENOCIDAL WAR AGAINST UKRAINE

Hromada
Where: 1 Ferry Building, San Francisco, CA 94105
When: Saturday 6 PM
For all those thousands of brave and innocent, whose lives were cruelly taken in the war by putin's russia against Ukrainian people.
Purpose: We will gather to pay our respects and remember tens of thousands of Ukrainian soldiers, defenders, and innocent civilians whose lives were prematurely and cruelly taken in the genocidal, barbaric putin's Russia war against Ukraine. We will light the candles or use our phones to remember their innocent lives so abruptly ended and say a prayer for all Ukrainian warriors held in captivity by the vicious enemy.
We will also demand more weapons and support for Ukraine, official designation of Russia as State Sponsor of Terrorism, and recognition of this war as a genocide against the Ukrainian people.
Please bring Ukrainian flags, relevant posters and wear vyshyvankas.
<https://www.facebook.com/events/ferry-bldg-san-francisco-ca-94111-united-states/candlelight-vigil-for-ukraine/1796909123985266>

11 SEP
THE FIRST NIGHT!
“THE PATH OF GENERATIONS” | LOS ANGELES

Hromada
Where: 4315 Melrose Ave, Los Angeles, CA 90029
When: Sunday 1 PM
Dear friends! Los Angeles and outskirts!
We invite you to the Ukrainian premiere of the film directed by

24 SEP
HROMADA-LAUB UKRAINE INITIATIVE CHARITY CONCERT– ALL PROCEEDS TO BENEFIT UKRAINE

Hromada-Laub Ukraine Initiative
Where: Lawrence Jones Middle School Theater (5154 Snyder Lane, Rohnert Park)
When: Sunday 2 PM — 4 PM
Please come and enjoy a wonderful collection of Ukrainian folk songs, dances and special performances.
Purchase tickets:
<https://www.paypal.me/Hromada>
Pricing is as follows:
Regular tickets: **\$40** per person
Premium tickets: **\$60** per person
(includes after-party with the performers)
To buy multiple tickets, please click “Other” button and enter the amount to pay.
When purchasing tickets please indicate in comments “for September 24 concert”.

The lineup of performers is diverse and authentic:
Ola Herasymenko Oliynyk – famous Ukrainian musician, renown performer on bandura, a traditional Ukrainian string instrument. She will perform several songs and instrumental pieces.
Ivanna Taratula – mezzo-soprano, former singer of Lviv National Opera House, will perform the most famed pieces from her repertoire.
Oleksandra Zabashita – soprano, former soloist of Kyiv National Theatre of Operetta, will perform the most famed pieces from her repertoire.
Anychka – renown Ukrainian lemko singer (Iemko is a dialect of Ukrainian language), will sing several most popular songs.
Oleksandra Bobrychenko – Ukrainian folk and contemporary dancer, choreographer and dance teacher. She will share her dancing compositions based on classical Ukrainian dances.
Flutist **Oliha Shevchyk** and pianist **Natalie Kokhany**, as instrumental duo, will show the harmonious possibilities of flute and piano collaboration, as well as flute and bandura. Both musicians are alumni of Lviv National Musical Academy.
Folk Duet **Oksana and Svyatoslav Stus** will sing acapella a few traditional Ukrainian folk and patriotic songs.
The **vocal ensemble “Kolyada”** will present the Ukrainian anthem and several folk songs. Kolyada (means caroling in Ukrainian) performs classical choral works, folk songs and Christmas carols.
Our performers are frequent participants of many California music festivals and a wide variety of Ukrainian events.
<https://hromada.us/september-concert/>

**One evening I will show my grandson at the starry sky:
– Somewhere there is a satellite that your grandmother and I bought!
– You two?
– Not only we two – several thousand people joined us.
– Why did you need the satellite?
– We were struggling against Russian people.
– Who are Russians?
– It's good that you don't know who are they.**

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